



BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 9

June, 1984

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

The membership is composed of people who feel the above purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pres. Marieanna Bair 229-6402
- V.P. Charles Beach 229-9678
- Sec. Clara Healy 229-9367
- Treas. Kay Flynn 229-9380
- Cor. Sec. Marion Carney 229-4554
- Directors
- Imm. Past Pres. -
- Mary Messerschmidt 227-7433
- Bert Bair 229-6402
- Gary Cole 227-6116
- Richard Davis 229-8356
- Wally Jollitz 229-9832

PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue the following have paid 1984 dues:

- Evangeline Bell, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Dr. Harry Davis, Harold & Eleanor Davis, Carrie Francisco, Bob & Elizabeth Herbst, Arlene Jacob, Bob & Shirley Knight, Richard & Toni Mullany, Frank & Alice Seger, Robert & Ruth Watson, Gloria Winchel.

If you don't find your name here, please use the form you'll find elsewhere in this newsletter. Your membership is essential. A receipt and membership card will be sent. Contact a board member if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter.

Apology and correction - In the April issue Dick, instead of David Lehman, was listed. Sorry Dave.

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EDITORIAL

The support of area residents, merchants and others interested in the activities of the Society is sincerely appreciated and most helpful. Be assured the board members and chairmen are depending on this support continuing.

Response to telephone requests is very good. It is most gratifying to have a volunteer contact us.

This causes a board member to begin thinking "...maybe this Society can fly." But a few volunteers doing a lot of work can become dismaying. Continued encouragement from the area is vital. (Ed. M. Bair)

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CHANGE OF DATE FOR GENERAL MEETING IN JUNE

The next general meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, June 5. We will meet upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main at 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Beckstrom, who specializes in trips to historic places, and is a former Greenfield Village guide, will give a lecture and slide presentation on various short trips of interest to history buffs. Your input and suggestions on other locations will be welcomed.

The Society is exploring the possibility of a group trip to a historical location in the Fall. No date as yet.

Please join us that evening and bring a friend or two. Refreshments following.

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Printing of this newsletter compliments of the BRIGHTON STATE BANK. (Very much appreciated.)

ST. PAUL'S HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, JUNE 2

The dedication of the historic marker at St. Paul's Episcopal Church was indeed a lovely event. Benjamin Clark, descendant of Rev. Wm. Clark, was unable to attend because of an unexpected illness in his family. Needless to say, all were disappointed.

The Chamber of Commerce parking lot (across from the Post Office) Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m., are the place and time for the Society's Annual Flea Market.

To those who assisted in the preparation and completion of this event a sincere thank you: Ina Shannon, assisting on historical facts stated on the marker; Gerry Roe, representing the Michigan History Division; Dick Davis, Bert Bair, Gary Cole, Wally Jollitz for placing and erecting the marker and signs; Dennis Dimhoff, for amplification equipment; Brighton Argus for printed programs and reporting of events; Brighton State Bank for publicity on the bank marquee, Lois Cole for her artistic signs; Bob Sweeny, Brighton Community Education for the platform; Brightones, Men's Quartet for music; Janice Beach, Marion Carney and Clara Healy for distribution of programs during event; those who contributed time, effort and financial assistance in the purchase of the marker and the Episcopal Church Women's Group for a lovely reception following dedication.

Only with the support of the members and the community can this event become a successful fund raiser. Items to sell need to be donated and warm bodies to help by spending a few hours there, are needed that day.

- If: a. you want to help...
 - b. you have an item to donate that is too large for you...
 - c. you want to rent a space to sell your own thing...
- contact Wally Jollitz, 229-9832, or Chuck Beach, 229-9678, chairmen for this event.

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BAKE SALE, JUNE 9

Janice Beach and Jane Tomlinson have people ready to sell baked items at the Farmer's Market June 9, beginning at 8 a.m. If you're not able to be active in the Society's events, this is one way you can help. Your donation of baked goods will be needed. To keep rolling, the Society has expenses which must be paid.

(This has been published in this newsletter as being June 2, please note the change of date.)

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FOR SALE

Brighton Area Historical Society cards and stationery - Michigan History Magazine issue relating to the Court House restoration - Picture books of "Old Brighton Village" -

all available at general meetings and other Society events.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE MAY 8, MEETING

Those attending the field trip to the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor learned of the many resources available when researching local history.

The librarians are always anxious and willing to help the seeker of historical material.

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IN THE PALM OF THE MITTEN

A Memory Book of the Early 1900s by Bernice M. Chappel of Brighton. A nostalgic look at mid-Michigan rural life for two families in the earliest years of this century. Recalling the attitudes and moral values of the era in the author's charming style. 271 pp. 5 1/4 x 8 1/2. Paperbound. \$6.00 including shipping. Order from Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, Mi., 48104.

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HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!

With so many sites in the area eligible for the erection of an historic marker, the Society Board is asking area residents to indicate which should be next. Attend a meeting or contact a board member with your suggestions.

Al Krausman has offered to photograph area sites to begin a collection of 1980s pictures. The Society has several pictures of sites in the area taken during the early 1900s. We also should be including contemporary pictures of the area. We appreciate Al's cooperation and support. If you have suggestions as to where pictures should be taken in the area, contact the board. The area includes the four townships in the S. E. corner of Livingston County and Brighton City. Or if you have pictures of any period you'd like to make available, contact a board member.

Then, of course, a filing system should be developed to properly store these photos. Will someone become a "Historic Sites" chairman?

Several members are most helpful by typing addresses on the newsletter. We still need a "Newsletter Chairman" to put this missive together.

To become a viable entity in the community, worthy of the support of the people,

this Society needs a "Publicity" Chairman. Someone to see to it that copy is delivered to local media on time and in an informative style.

The sale of cross stitch kits of local sites has proven a worthy fund raiser in other communities. Now all we need is someone with the "know-how" to put this project together.

Ceramic tile with pictures of local sites would also provide income. Again, the person with "know-how" is the key. Contact Finance chairman, Gary Cole, 227-6116, or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

A crochet afghan kit has been donated. Will someone call Marieanna and offer to make it so we can sell tickets on it?

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OUR NON-PROFIT STATUS

All the required documents to achieve the federally recognized non-profit organization status for our Society have been sent to the Federal Government by local attorney, Dale Cooper. Now we have to try to relax and wait some more.

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SEEKING DESCENDANTS OF LOCAL EARLY RESIDENTS

Baetke, Gitre, Bauer, Morgan, Cameron.... The people putting out this newsletter would like to send it to relatives or descendants of the aforementioned people. Please forward addresses to a board member.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- () Meeting Programs
- () Interior decoration
- () Help with special events
- () Board member
- () Video taping
- () Photography
- () Genealogy
- () Restoration
- () Cleaning
- () Other _____
- () Newsletter
- () Publicity
- () Research
- () Membership
- () Fund Raising
- () Bake Sale
- () Hospitality
- () Oral History

Dues: \$ 8.00 per couple
5.00 per individual
25.00 sustaining

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stephen Lee arrived in Green Oak Township from New York State in the fall of 1830. Benjamin Curtis and his family also arrived about the same time. In June, 1831, the Curtis family joined with the Lees at the Lee home (just south of town) and were led in a worship service by Rev. Moses Gleason, a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Gleason left the area because of the Black Hawk War but to him goes the distinction of having conducted the first religious service in the Brighton Area. Since there were no regular classes in the Area, many Methodist residents attended services when Rev. W. A. Clark, D.D., (of St. Paul's Episcopal Church fame) who was a resident since 1836, preached.

During the early 1830s the Methodists met in a part of a new store on Grand River owned by Wm. R. Cobb. By 1843 religious meetings were held at the newly constructed home of Daniel C. Marsh on the corner of Grand River and Ann Arbor Roads (Rickett Road). Worship services were conducted by local residents and circuit riders.

In 1854, the Brighton congregation was separated from the Milford charge and given a separate appointment, the Rev. Wm. Haviner. The Society organized itself under Michigan law as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Brighton. After a school house was erected on Grand River, services were conducted there until subscriptions were secured for a church building which was dedicated in September, 1856. The church contained a balcony and had a handsome steeple containing a bell and one large and four smaller spinacles.

Under the supervision of Wm. Walker Gray, pastor 1902-06, the original church was razed and a new one erected. This was a frame building with a seating capacity of 150. In 1915, approximately, the church was closed for several years and the parsonage rented. Following World War I, new interest arose and by June, 1920, the Ladies Aid Society had raised \$400 toward support of a pastor and improvement of the property. The minister served Oak Grove Methodist Church and later Novi Methodist Church in addition to the church in Brighton.

In 1962, the east unit of the present church was built. When completed, the wooden church and parsonage on Grand River in front of the new building was razed. The home and land immediately to the north of the church was purchased in 1963. The most recent addition has been a church school facility to the west which was completed in 1977. Additional property on Brighton Lake Rd., known as the "Green House" was acquired in 1981.

For the past 154 years, the Methodists have been worshipping in Brighton. In 1984, their Christian witness is still evident. (Excerpts from "History" of the church.)

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NO SUCH NUMBER

