

BRIGHTON
AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 6

March, 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.

Contact a board member if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter.

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THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

Many of them to Mary Messerschmidt for her guidance in the forming and nurturing of this organization. We are pleased Mary will be serving on the board as Program Chairman. Her continued support and assistance will be most valuable. John Korte, the past Treasurer is also extended thanks for his efforts. We're glad to be able to count on your help as an active member, John. Ruth Ann Cole has served as Secretary of the Board for the past year. Many thanks, Ruth Ann; being secretary of a fledgling organization is not an easy task.

A hearty welcome to Richard Davis, who is new on the board as a director and Clara Healy, who is the new Recording Secretary.

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MARCH 13 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

While many counties tear down their old Court Houses, the people of Livingston County were aware buildings like this are not being built anymore. It was voted to restore it to its former appearance while including the changes necessary to fit today's activities.

Beverly LaBell, member Livingston County Historical Advisory Commission will show slides and speak on the restoration of the Courthouse. She was instrumental in the reproduction of the 'lost' frescoes which decorate the halls and ceilings.

The meeting will be held in the upstairs of the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main Street. at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments too.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pres. Marieanna Bair 229-6402
- V.P. Charles Beach 229-6878
- Sec. Clara Healy 229-9367
- Tres. Kay Flynn 229-9380
- 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

Paul and Alene Anderson, Thomas Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Charles & Janice Beach, Gary & Ruth Ann Cole, Richard Davis, Tim & Kay Flynn, Will & Katherine Hampton, Clara Healy, Wally & Marilyn Jollitz, John & Mari Lynn Korte, Al & Lois Krausman, Kay Kroth, Mary Layton, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, Stanley & Adele Ozar, Charles & Norma Pless.

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 you.

March, 1984

"BILL PLESS" DAY

Wednesday, February 29, is Bill Pless' 21st birthday. The Brighton City Council is officially proclaiming that day as "Bill Pless Day." Bill is one of those rare people who, at an early age, became aware of history in the making. Born and raised in this area he has been a long-time chronicler of the history of Brighton and its surrounding townships. He continually encourages today's citizens of the Brighton area to make note of events so those who follow will know from whence they came.

To help celebrate his 88th year, the Society is hosting an Open House that day at the Chamber of Commerce Building, 131 Hyne St., 7-10 p.m. This is an opportunity for his many friends to offer their congratulations. The Society Board urges all to come and greet Bill that day as he is honored by the community.

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SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, March 31, 5:30- 8 p.m., the Society will be holding its second annual Spaghetti Supper. Again the Masons are donating the use of their building and facilities. We are most grateful to them.

Can you spend a few hours helping the cooks (spaghetti, meat sauce, cole slaw), serving (and setting tables), or cleanup? The chairmen, the Gary Colos and the Bert Bairs, surely would appreciate your contacting them. Besides spaghetti there will be cole slaw, rolls and coffee, etc.

Tickets are adults, \$3.50 and those under 12, \$1.50. Many of you will be asked to sell tickets to help make this event successful again. The merchants of Brighton are generous with their support. The Society must prove itself worthy.

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BAKE SALE

Another activity for which we'd like you to make plans is the bake sale to be held at the Farmer's Market. A chairman, or two, is still needed for this event. Information on how past bake sales were conducted is available for your assistance.

FLEA MARKET THIS SPRING

The date is not set but the chairmen of this committee, Wally Jollitz and Chuck Beach, want you to be setting aside the items you wish to donate. If you have an item too large to handle they'll arrange for pickup. If you're not sure of an item, call them and they'll tell you if they can use it. Here too, a few hours of help will be needed from Society members.

Spaces will be available to rent to those who have their own items they wish to sell.

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?????RAFFLE?????

Is there anyone, or a group of anyones, who might make a quilt, afghan, some crafts or have some other item which might be raffled in order to increase the size of the balance in our treasury?

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

is needed in the preparation of this newsletter. Various officers and chairmen provide the information but the compiling, printing and mailing are other facets of this task with which help would be most welcome.

A Finance Chairman to promote fund raising activities is needed to ease some of the heavy work load which board members are now carrying. The position of Corresponding Secretary also needs to be filled.

Contact Pres. Bair, 229-6402, with your offer to help with any of the above.

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This issue may seem full of requests for help, but nine board members cannot keep this a viable organization. It is hoped you will join in the spirit of neighborly cooperation.

March, 1984

LYONS SCHOOL TO BE LEASED TO THE SOCIETY
BY THE BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

The Society has accepted, gratefully, the opportunity to lease the Lyons School on Buno Road, which had been used in recent years as the Township Hall. This offer by the Brighton Township Board gives us an opportunity to fulfill one of the goals of this organization. The Society will soon be in the process of restoring this building to the one-room schoolhouse it originally was. Many different kinds of abilities and talents will be needed; from paint scraping to replacing the windows to donating desks, etc.

We feel, very strongly, this action by the Brighton Township Board is evidence of their faith in us as a viable organization.

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FOR SALE

Brighton Area Historical Society cards and stationery, Michigan History Magazine issue relating to the Court House restoration and picture books of "Old Brighton Village" are available at general membership meetings.

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NON-PROFIT STATUS

Lots of paperwork is necessary to become a federally recognized non-profit organization. A local attorney and your board have been working on this for some time. Soon we'll be able to give a receipt for a tax deductible donation.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM
BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interior decoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Geneology | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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

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

HISTORY NOTES

As early as 1837, German Lutherans had settled in southeastern Livingston County. By 1842, they began meeting for public worship services, under the leadership of the pioneer Lutheran missionary in eastern Michigan, the Rev. Frederick Schmidt (born, Sept. 6, 1807, in Wuertemburg, Germany; died, August 30, 1883, at Ann Arbor). Pastor Schmidt was serving other groups of German Lutheran settlers, so was able to be present only every sixth or eighth Sunday. Services were held in cabins or barns, or at times out-doors. On St. George's Day, April 23, 1845, the settlers formally organized as a Christian congregation, choosing the name "The Evengelical Lutheran St. George's Congregation of Genoa, Michigan."

One of the charter members, Dr. A. E. Buek, had gone to Hamburg, Germany, (from which area the major portion of charter members had come) to solicit funds for the congregation's first church building. Lutherans in Hamburg, Germany, regarded St. George's of Genoa, Michigan, as their mission responsibility and contributed nearly \$600. plus a baptismal font and communion set. Richard Behrens, another charter member, donated a two acre site for the proposed building. Situated on the site of the present parish cemetery, this first house of worship was dedicated in April, 1849. The instruction and worship conducted in the new building (25 x 36 x 16) were entirely in the German language.

By 1861, land had been purchased at the intersection of Bauer and Crooked Lake Roads. (present Hubert and Herbst Roads) A new building (\$2,800 - 32 x 50) was dedicated April 20, 1884. In the spring of 1922, this building was disassembled, moved and re-erected at the corner of Fourth and Main St. in Brighton. This congregation is still ministering to the community.

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P.O. BOX 481
BRIGHTON, MI. 48116