



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

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- Cor. Sec. Marion Carney 229-4554
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- 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.

- Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Richard & Elaine Blight, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Libbey Eisenhardt, Joe & Marilyn Fabits, Margaret Goldstein, Mary Griffith, Dianne Hamm, Bill & Helen Hyne, Josephine Hyne, David & Charlene Kull, Linda Latta, Don & Kathleen McDevitt, Fred & Belva Muller, Jim, Sally & Jill Anne Noeker, Edna Peach, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Mae Schmadtke, Celia Schaffer, Helen Seim, Mildred Shannon, Melvin & Ila Skeman, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Laura Thompson, Mary Walsh, H. L. & Arlene Warner, Al & Karen Wirth.

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.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

A coffee maker has been donated to the Society by the Ervin Bandkaus and Jim Glenn has given a file cabinet. Many thanks to these thoughtful people.

EDITORIAL

The growth of memberships in the Society are very gratifying. Dedicated, hard working officers and chairmen can accomplish a great deal but community support is absolutely necessary and most encouraging; especially when volunteers offer to help with specific tasks. If the residents in this SE quarter of Livingston County are waiting for leadership, they have it in these officers and chairmen.

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Not all members of governing boards of the area are committed to the aims and goals of this Society. It is vital that our members assure these elected officers of the memberships' desire to learn about and attempt to preserve evidence of our foreparents' lives.

Attendance at the meetings of our elected representatives and expressions of our opinions will help convince these officers of our commitment to the goals as stated above. (Ed.M. Bair)

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SPAGHETTI SUPPER SUCCESSFUL

Due to donations from local merchants, the use of the Masonic Temple and lots of workers, the Supper can be called a successful fund raiser again. Special thanks are given all of the above, most certainly to the ticket buyers, and especially chairman, Gary Cole. He has already reserved the Temple for next spring. Be watching for your chance to help.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE APRIL 10, MEETING

Jeanette Rohrabacher, co-founder with Milt Charbeneau, of the Livingston County Genealogy Chapter, guided those in attendance through "The Basics of Genealogy—Helping you get started."

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?????RAFFLE?????

A crochet afghan kit has been donated by a friend of the Society. If you can put it together, it could be raffled to raise needed funds. Can a quilt be made or other craft items, donation of which could be raffled.?

MAY 8, GENERAL MEETING

A field trip to the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor is planned. In the 10 years of its existence the library has developed into the home of the Michigan Historical Collections and houses many thousands of manuscripts including the papers of 27 Michigan governors as well as the University archives. Every county in the state is represented at the Bentley.

Perhaps the most appealing reason for its existence is that it serves as a repository not only for the famous but for the "thoughts, hopes, dreams, accomplishments and disappointments...of the citizens of the state. These range from settlers, farmers, and lumbermen of the 19th century to factory workers, housewives, and students of the present century," says the Library Director, Francis X. Blouin.

A reference archivist at the library will present an overview of original documents of use in local architectural history... records, manuscripts, maps, photos, newspapers and printed items. Whenever possible, sources from Brighton will be used. Ned Seger and Bill Pless have material included at the Library.

The entire membership, the general public and members of area historical societies are invited. It is planned to car pool from the parking lot behind Bucky's Pharmacy about 6:45 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7:30. The map at the right gives directions if you wish to go on your own. It might create more interest if you take several with you. Contact Mary Messerschmidt, 227-7433 if you need transportation.

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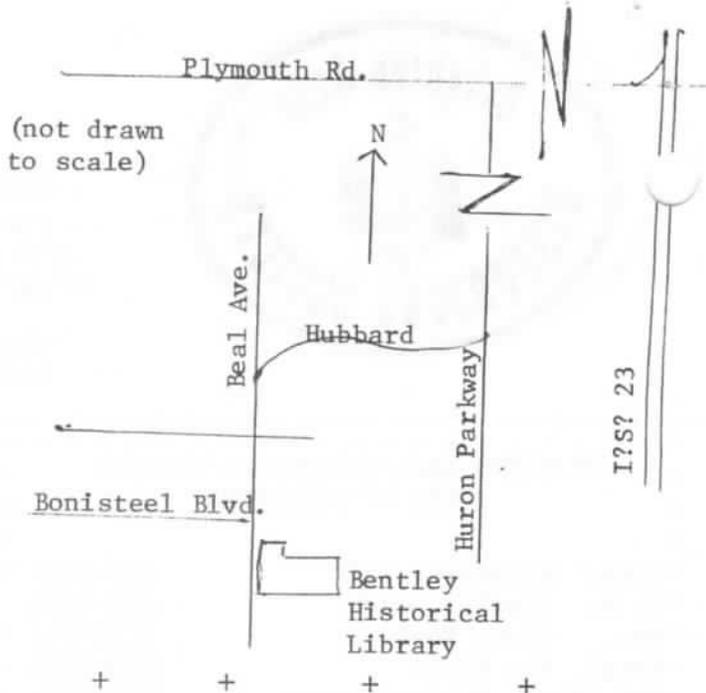
DEDICATION OF HISTORIC MARKER

The historic marker for St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to be dedicated Sunday, May 20, 11:15 a.m., at the church.

Descendants of Rev. Wm. A. Clark, D.D., the first minister and the person who donated the land on which the church stands, will be in attendance. Jerry Roe, member of the Michigan Historic Commission will assist with the ceremonies.

Refreshments will be served. The entire community is invited to attend the ceremonies.

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FLEA MARKET, JUNE 2

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

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 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 of this event.

BAKE SALE

A chairman for this project is needed, and, of course, lots of baked items. This will be held June 2, (same as the flea market) at the Farmer's Market. 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. This project can help with the Society's expenses.

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JUNE 12 GENERAL MEETING PLANS

A slide presentation by Barbara McGraw Beckstrom will show the possibilities of bus trips to locations of historic interest. Some of these would be one-day and others would be weekend tours.

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

OUR NON-PROFIT STATUS

On every side one sees buildings and sites, important to the history of the Brighton area, being changed, moved, destroyed. Needed is a listing of these structures and sites before all are gone. Also needed is someone to photograph them. We have some photos of early Brighton. What records are we compiling for those that follow? We need a Historic Sites Chairman.

Still the same as last month. The board is still working with local attorney, Dale Cooper, to achieve the federally recognized non-profit organization status this Society must achieve.

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TREE CONTEST THIS SUMMER?

Experience has proven the community will support this organization if the people are aware of its goals. The suggested job descriptions for Newsletter Chairman and Publicity Chairman are crammed with ideas for anyone who can help with these important tasks. Give the board a hand by assuming any part of these tasks.

We're looking for assistance from our membership. For those interested in working on a committee in setting up the criteria for the "Largest Tree" contest to be offered to the Brighton Area Community. The contest could continue through the entire summer and a final judging sometime in September. Dean Salomon of the Livingston County Extension Service is offering his assistance and guidance to this committee. Contact Mary Messerschmidt, 227-7433.

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

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEET IN WIXOM

Ceramic tiles with pictures of area sites would also provide income. Again, the person with 'know-how' is the key. Contact Finance Chairman, Gary Cole, 227-6116, or Jeanna Bair, 229-6402.

Six board members attended this gathering in April. We began with a tour of the Wixom/Wire House, their Historical Museum. The existence of this building is unusual; it represents the lower income family home. Most of this type has been bull-dozed out of existence. Various types of construction were visible and showed the process followed in adding on to the original. The extremely small bedroom and the equally extremely steep narrow stairs were much commented upon. The 3-holer in the back yard has also been restored.

The Savin 220 copier, which was donated to the Society, has not found anyone to take its pulse and tell us what's needed in the way of repair. \$50-75 is a lot to spend to have a repair person come to look at it.

Refreshments were served in the City Hall and a speaker on applying for block grants was heard.

If a Manual could be acquired, we have some handy people in our Society—they might make it go. We could print this newsletter and save a lot of money.

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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
- Geneology
- 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

Michigan Territory's first Protestant congregation was the First Presbyterian Church of Detroit, organized in 1826. From that beginning developed many other Presbyterian churches in the Southeastern Michigan area, including Brighton. Rev. & Mrs. Chauncey Osborne arrived in 1852, to form a new congregation. December 11, 1853, in their home, ten persons founded this First Church within the area which would become Brighton Village in 1867. Among the Articles of Faith originally adopted was the congregation's policy of being an "anti-slavery" congregation - a hot issue in the America of the 1850s.

By 1857, a parcel of land, part of the present site, was acquired on the Plank Road (Grand River Road). March 3, 1858, a white frame building, 32x48, was dedicated. Worshipers now did not need to make use of other buildings such as homes, schoolhouse, etc.

By 1882 membership included 65 adults. In 1915, apparently for economic benefits and to strengthen their Christian witness, this First Presbeyterian and the First Baptist churches decided to federate. Some awkwardness resulted since each kept their own property. For a while there were two sanctuaries and two manses.

This joint congregation used the Presbyterian sanctuary until 1927 when the 70 year old, much altered and enlarged structure, was sold and moved around the corner to W. North Street where it served as a warehouse for many years. On the original site was built the present 'Early English Country Gothic' brick sanctuary, the cornerstone laid January 1, 1922, with completion in July of that year.

During the wintry afternoon of March 2, 1943, a disasterous fire gutted the interior of the building. Damage was so severe the original balcony was torn down and the building not occupied for many months. Altered from the original on the interior, the rebuilding was completed after specific approval (because of wartime restrictions on non-military construction) of the U.S. Congress was acquired.

In 1961 it was decided to dissolve the federation begun 46 years before and the two churches became one, January 14, 1962. In that year the Mellus Hospital next door was purchased for a classroom and office facility. Population growth in the area beginning in the mid-1960s caused the congregation, in 1974, to buy the 4½ acre site to the south for future expansion. Enlargement of the education and youth ministries required the hiring of two associate pastors at the time.

Membership growth in the late 1970s determined a need for more facilities. In September, 1980, groundbreaking occurred for a 12,000 square foot addition. Corner stone laying ceremonies were held December 21, 1980, and dedication took place February, 1981. As additional funds are acquired the structure will be completed so this congregation can continue into its second century with its mission in the Brighton area.

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P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MT. 48116