



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
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GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 7:30

A guided tour of Mill Race Village in Northville is planned. At 7 p.m. we'll leave the parking lot behind Bucky's Pharmacy. Rides can be shared.

This is a well-done restoration with several buildings moved into the area.

Following the tour a short business meeting will be conducted and refreshments will be served.

As usual, the public is welcome.

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General Meetings, open to the public, are held the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, unless other plans are announced.

Board meetings are the second Thursday, same place. Society members are always welcome. Or contact board members with our comments.

EDITORIAL

Recent meetings with the Brighton City Council regarding the future disposition of the Old Town Hall, Main Street by the Mill Pond, resulted in the passing of a resolution that it will not be sold. The Society appreciates this action but finds it an insufficient guarantee on which to base a fund raising drive. (A future Council can rescind the resolution.)

Architects Myron Serbay and Rory McDonald have already presented a proposal regarding the restoration of the Bell Tower, but before the Society can continue making plans for the restoration of this building and its development into a History Center, some sort of long term lease was requested of the City Council. Members of the Council doubt the Society's ability to complete the restoration of this building. The Council has asked for evidence of sufficient pledges of support. (Is there a mutual lack of confidence here?) Are there enough members of the community willing to make a pledge? The Board hesitates to even have the architects do any more work, since it may be for naught if the Council cannot make a more permanent commitment.

(Ed. M. Bair)

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PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue the following have paid 1984 dues:

Marlene Collins, Bernice Chappel and DuQuet Jewelers (Margaret Cabaj, rep.) WELCOME!!

The Society needs your support as a member. If you'd like to help with its goals please use the form you'll find in this newsletter. Your membership is essential. A receipt and membership card will be sent.

The mailing list is growing through the cooperation of readers in sending us names of relatives or descendants of former residents of the area.

THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!!! THANKS!

- ...Brighton State Bank for the printing of this newsletter. This support is much appreciated.
- ...Chamber of Commerce for allowing the Society to make copies at no charge.
- ...Bill Pless for research regarding the St. Paul's Episcopal Church article of several months ago. (and for his support.)
- ...Libby Eisenhart for volunteering to make the afghan from the kit donated by Betty Herbst. Raffle tickets will be available when it's finished.
- ...Robert Hotaling for the information sent regarding the Labadie family who settled on that area known as Kensington Metro Park. This will be included in a future issue.
- ...Domino Pizza for lunch for the workers at the Lyons School.
- ...Janice (Carmack) Collins for cash donation.

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OLD TOWN HALL FIRE BELL

In 1883 the Village purchased a 100# Fire bell for \$80.00, which was placed in the bell tower atop the newly constructed Town Hall.

Can someone bring us up to date as to when and why the tower and bell were removed from that spot?

Thanks to the Fire Department the bell is still in existance. The Society does not agree with their plans to install the bell in front of their new fire hall on Grand River. However they have a good argument that to install it in the Old Town Hall bell tower (which will hopefully be reconstructed) with no more than a resolution by the City Council to never sell the building, could result in its loss. The Society is not alone in its concern about a possible future sale of the building.

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BYLAWS AMENDMENTS TO BE ADOPTED

A first reading took place at the August 14 General Meeting. A vote to accept will be taken at the September 11, General Meeting.

Members wishing a copy of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 481, or pick up a copy at the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, 131 Hyne. 9-5 Monday/Friday.

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

See Lyons School article.

Do we have to give up on the possibility of developing a cross stitch kit of a local site? This newsletter reaches many talented people; we have confidence one of them will help with this fund raiser.

Several are assisting with various aspects of this newsletter. A Chairman is still needed.

There are lots of historic sites in the area; can someone begin setting up a means of identifying and recording these before they're gone?

The Annual Meeting in November will include the election of Directors for 1985. When the Nominating committee contacts you, try to accept the challenge of helping direct this organization. The people who have been on the Board (some for three years) also are busy people (just like you). Take your share of the responsibility for a two year term.

Condensed histories of several of the oldest congregations in the area have been printed in this publication. We'd welcome similar material from other congregations.

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CERAMIC TILES TO BE FOR SALE

A 6" ceramic tile with a picture of the Old Town Hall will be available soon. Only 300 of these will be made. To be sold at \$6.00 these will soon become collectors' items. It is planned to develop a series of these for the future. The Society is acquiring more responsibilities continually. This will be one more source of income.

ALSO FOR SALE ARE Society cards and stationery and the Michigan History Magazine issue relating to the Court House restoration.

These are available at all General Meetings of Ethel Gebben, 227-5375.

September 23/24, the Society is sponsoring a trip to Elora, Ontario. The tour includes round trip transportation via bus, one night accomodation at the carefully restored Elora Mill Country Inn, American breakfast at the Inn, lunch at "The Loft", four course prime rib dinner, cocktail party with live entertainment on night of arrival, guided tour of Mennonite area, time to shop and browse.

The Elora Mill is a five-story grist mill, its 100-foot stone walls rising from the edge of the Grand River. The "Tooth of Time" a narrow jut of rock and cedar located beside the Inn, divides the river, which then roars into the Elora Gorge.

Wednesday, September 12, 7:30 at the Council Chambers at the City Hall, Brighton, there will be a slide presentation of the tour. A \$50.00 deposit is due now, balance, \$74. at the September 12, meeting. Checks payable to Corporate Travel Service, Inc., 23527 Ford Road, Dearborn, 48128. (Sounds like a lot of fun.) One does not have to be a member of the Society to participate.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE AUGUST 14 MEETING

The settling of the Territory of Michigan was accelerated by the opening of the Erie Canal. Its use saved much labor, time and expense in the movement of settlers from the East. The mountains of New York and Pennsylvania became less enormous obstacles to those heading west for a new beginning.

As with all dreams, that of DeWitt Clinton required persistence and courage to become a reality. Many thanks to Laurie Chall for her concise, awareness-raising presentation.

In order for the Society to retain ownership of this historic building, certain requirements are to be met: among them to bring it up to State and Brighton Township codes. A time limitation of 12 months (or receiving appropriate variances) is also required to comply. The process to comply with these requirements is in motion but each Society member must assume some responsibility.

With winter coming before long, the oil tanks will need filling. To avoid deterioration, the building must be kept above freezing. Anyone wishing to make a \$50. donation toward the oil bill can do so. The address is on page 1. The Electric bill also must be paid. If you can't work, your donation will be gratefully accepted.

September 8 and 29, 9-1, are work days at the school. Go North and East on Spencer to Buno (just over the overpass.) then left on Buno approximately 1 1/2 miles to the school. Paint scraping, caulking, painting, interior cleaning, are but a short listing of the work that needs to be done.

Come in your work clothes. Bring a paint scraper, ladder, etc. To assure the building looks as tho' someone loves it, the Board wants to get it painted this year. Pizza will be donated by Domino Pizza for lunch. Beverage provided.

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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
- Genealogy
- Restoration
- Cleaning
- Other work I'd be willing to do _____
- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Research
- Membership
- Fund Raising
- Bake Sale
- Hospitality
- Oral History

Dues: \$8.00 per couple Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
 25.00 business/professional Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 patron

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

According to available documents and letters from early immigrants, the nucleus of a Roman Catholic Church was in existence upon their arrival in 1832. Children were instructed and services held in private homes until completion of a log church, built in the center of Green Oak Township in 1838. Rev. Father Patrick O'Kelley for many years walked his mission area which included Oceola, Deerfield, Beneker Hill and Brighton. Eventually his means permitted him to purchase a horse and saddle offering him a much more comfortable mode of travel.

In the late 1850s Rev. Father Lambert, who lived in Deerfield, for two years held services at the homes of Thomas Kennedy and John Collins in Brighton. The Congregation increased in size and it became necessary to have more room. In 1864 one acre of ground was purchased from Ira W. Case as a site for a church (its present location on Rickett Rd.). Names of some of the subscribers to that first church were: John Long, Patrick F. McCabe, John Duane, John Laughlin, Brian Timmons, Nicholas Kennedy, J. B. Lee, Ira W. Case, W. R. Cobb, Lyman Judson, L. C. Pratt, Moore, Foot & Company and Rev. F. X. Pourett. The latter helped, tirelessly, with the actual labor, and his zeal and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the success of the undertaking. Bricks for the interior were purchased from John Hartman who had a brick kiln in Genoa Township. The date on the small corner stone of the present church records the date of 1864.

By 1876, a residence for the parish priests was completed. During the early 1880s the remodeled church acquired stained glass windows, improved landscaping and a steeple and bell. It was 1920 when the original rectory, with all existing records, was destroyed by fire.

In 1936, Father Maurice W. Kissane arrived. Church remodeling was undertaken and the old public school building across the street secured to establish the first Catholic Grade School in Brighton. A house was acquired to provide a home for the Dominican Nuns who came to staff the school. Since then a new school has replaced the original and in 1963, a new Convent was constructed near the school. By the early 1960s the present, larger church was built to accomodate the ever increasing number of worshippers, plus a new rectory.

St. Patrick's has inspired many Brighton residents to dedicate their lives to the service of God. Several organizations within the church give opportunity to assist the priests in their task of providing spiritual help and guidance. While much has changed in the world, that basic living faith still inspires to build and plan for future generations. (From history of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.)

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