



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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• Dick Davis		• 229-8356
• Floyd Fuller		• 231-2415
• Jack Gebben		• 227-5375
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APRIL 9, GENERAL MEETING

We've been invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grueke to view their collection of doll houses. The buildings are set up to depict a street with homes interspersed with a school, church and grocery store.

Phyllis and Fred made the buildings, some of the furniture and decorated appropriately.

Admission will be by ticket only, for which there is no charge. Meet at the Old Town Hall (former Brighton Library) Tuesday, at 7:30 to register. After a short business meeting. You will be given a ticket and directed to the Grueke home. The public is welcome.

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TILES OF THE OLD TOWN HALL FOR SALE

Jane Tomlinson, tile sale chairman, has less than 100 tiles remaining to sell. These would make welcome gifts to children or others who have moved from Brighton; parents who still remember the building as it appeared years ago; or use them as decorative and useful items in your own home.

These are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Senior Citizen's Gift Shop and Citizen's Trust, \$6.00 + tax.

EDITORIAL

Occasionally the Society is described as the "hysterical" Society. While that charge cannot be completely denied (hardly a good use of time and energy) one must give credit that the Society is trying to work towards its goals: the creation of an awareness of those who have preceded us; of their contribution to the Area (may ours be as valuable); of the attempts to restore a delapidated building to its former status; of making visitors to our area aware that we know from where we've come and know where we're going. The stability of neighborhoods will be enhanced, our self-sufficiency reaffirmed and cultural identity reinforced through these efforts.

All of us know of incidents of toppling of still useful structures in the area. Members of the Society are trying to make others aware of the need to preserve the physical, social and human fabric of the community. Members of the Society can be confident we are making an effort to restore, not destroy.  
 (ed. M. Bair)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Ben & Kate Bidwell, Pat Borst, Charles & Doris Case, Dale & Doris Clixby, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Dr. Harry Davis, Mildred Harrington, Albert Hazard, Mary Hubert, Fred & Bernice Hyne, Harold & Esther Jarvis, Genevieve Kampe, John & Mari Lynn Korte, Al & Lois Krausman, David & Charlene Kull, Francis & Helen Michaels, James & Marilyn Morgan, Dorothy Musch, Margaret Siford, James & Phyllis Siford.  
 WELCOME, WELCOME.

Herrmann Funeral Home and Keehn Funeral Home are now corporate members. Many thanks for your support.

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RECAP, MARCH MEETING

David Finney, historian, photo memorabilia collector and Civil War buff had a fascinating display of early photos and slides to illustrate his talk.

Old pictures can be quite accurately assigned a date if one knows for which clues to look. Did you know a Civil War tax of 2¢ was applied to each picture sold?

Photographers, aware of the fact that change is always present, traveled all over our US taking pictures in the 1840s - 60s, which now are a vital link in our country's history. They braved the elements and the chemicals of their occupation in order to record how we lived at that time.

Several members of the audience brought pictures of sites of early Brighton.

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100 YEAR OLD HOMES SOUGHT

We are looking for information and locations of the many Centennial Farms and homes in our four townships area in the SE portion of Livingston County. If you'd like to share historical events and pictures of your homestead with us, contact: Mae Schmatke, 227-7969. The Society feels this is a project long overdue.

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1985 TILE - RAILROAD DEPOT

To be as authentic as possible the search in on for an early picture of Brighton's railroad depot. Dick Davis, 229-8356, is depending on area residents to help make this tile as attractive as the one produced in 1984. Please call him as soon as possible if you have or know of a picture he could borrow.

While researching this subject it would be beneficial to get some history of the railroad in the Area. Who made use of this mode of transportation?...what was shipped?...how was the railroad of importance to the development of the area?...what are some of your memories of the sights/sounds which accompanied the railroad? Don't let these questions limit your thoughts. Write them down and send to the Society, P.O. Box 481.

THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS

...Anna Westin for her donation.  
...Cars & Concepts for offer of 'squirrel cage' when drawing raffle tickets.  
...Duquets Jewelers in the Mall for handling the selling of tickets to the Meadow Brook presentation April 19.  
...Lois Cole for printing signs, etc., for us.

HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP....

We need...  
...someone to gather materials (which are already available) into a Society scrap book.  
...someone to help put together a driving tour of the Area, giving details and highlights of past and present sites, activities, events.  
...ideas for programs. What would interest you?  
...person to help with publicity.  
...a name for this newsletter.

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MEADOW BROOK PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATION  
COMING TO BRIGHTON

Friday, April 19, 7:30, the Meadow Brook Performing Arts group will present "Taking Steps" by Alan Ayckbourn at the High School Auditorium.

Several London newspapers described the play as a "farce of riotous delight"..."Hilarious"..."Wonderfully funny."

One thing is certain - Taking Steps is a delightful situation comedy, wherein much action (frequently all at the same time) takes place in rooms, passages and stairways of an old Victorian house, once a brothel.

The cast includes a frustrated dancer, hard-drinking tycoon, a fiancée shut in an attic cupboard and other equally unusual characters. Never a dull moment.

The Society and the Brighton Senior Citizens are cooperating in the selling of the tickets. This can be a profitable fund raiser for the Society. Duquet Jewelry in the Mall is handling the ticket sales \$7., for the Society. If we each take a friend along there'll be Standing Room Only.

LYONS SCHOOL

To restore the Lyons School, Buno Rd. (between Van Amberg and Pleasant Valley) pictures of its appearance of years ago are necessary. Surely there are some pictures in the Area. Contact a board member or write the Society if you can lend the committee a picture. Historical research on the building is to be done in order to apply for designation as a Michigan Historic Site.

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The annual Spaghetti Supper is in the works. Planned for a Friday in May, the location is still being determined. Watch for more information in the May newsletter.

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The program committee is planning the programs at the General Meetings for the next several months. Ideas and suggestions are always most welcome. Please contact a board member..

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CORRECT IONS... A typing error in the first line of the March issue article on the Eastern House put the hotel across the street. It was, of course, located on the NE corner of and River and Main.

...Director Fuller's phone number on the first page is finally the correct one. Sorry, Floyd.

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BRIGHTON AREA'S GHOST TOWNS ?

When one looks at old maps of the area one can find names of communities which don't exist any longer. Those of Green Oak Township have been well described in the "Early Years in Green Oak 1830-1930" (\$22.50 + tax and shpg \$1.50, Green Oak Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 84, Brighton.) Genoa, Brighton and Hamburg townships also had their share of these long gone communities. Who were the settlers and why were they gathered into a community?...why are they no longer in existence?

The need to record and consolidate the answers to these and other questions is obvious. Collect your thoughts, write them and send to the Society, Box 481.

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Survivors of an older parent, or relative, often are puzzled as to what to do with the pictures, books, letters, papers, items of a bygone day.

We respectfully suggest these not be discarded. The Society may be able to display these in a pleasing manner or use them for historical research.

A lasting gift in memory or honor of a loved one may be a historic research book for the Library (they'll help with suggestions) or a donation to the Society's memorial fund.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ( )

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- ( ) Meeting programs
- ( ) Interior Decoration
- ( ) Help with special events
- ( ) Board member
- ( ) Membership Committee
- ( ) Photography
- ( ) Genealogy
- ( ) Restoration
- ( ) Cleaning
- ( ) Other work I'd be willing to do \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Newsletter
- ( ) Publicity
- ( ) Reaearch
- ( ) Video taping
- ( ) 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

## CROOKED LAKE

The history of Crooked Lake, along with that of all the SE section of Michigan, properly begins about 30,000 years ago when the last glacier slowly retreated, leaving in high heaps the enormous amount of material it had scoured off the Laurentian Range in Canada. These heaps left hit or miss over this area, penned up water from the melted ice and formed the hundreds of lakes that dot the entire area of the county.

Thousands of years later these raw, barren heaps of rock material were covered with trees and other vegetation. The Sauk and Ojibway tribes had their permanent villages mostly in the forests of the Saginaw Valley, but came here in the summer to hunt and fish and plant some of their meager crops. Following their attack which completely wiped out these tribes, the Ojibways also came to the area in the summer. Crooked Lake was, as it is today, a summer resort.

In the eyes of early settlers any lake in the sections 'taken up' from the government was just so much worthless acreage. It could grow no wheat and could pasture no cattle or sheep. Its fish were appreciated for a change of diet, but there was little time for fishing and anyhow one could fish anywhere without having to own the waters.

A lake was pretty to look at, but almost none of the early settlers built a home on the shores of a lake. Fever and ague were rife all through the newly settled regions. They believed this sickness came from the miasma and vapors of the lakes and marshes, so early homes were built usually on high ground.

Around the turn of the century sparse frame structures called 'camps' began to be built by various owners of land around the lake. The train brought parties of young people for a week or so of camping, duly chaperoned by their elders. By that time the farms of Genoa were owned by second and third generation descendants of the pioneers. Many had married the offspring of the farmer whose land joined theirs. Everyone seemed to be related.

World War I; changing economic conditions; the auto industry; roads being graveled to meet the demands of the thousands of new auto owners who wanted to get out of the cities and go places at the breakneck speed of 25-30 mph; all created a tremendous interest in the lake as sites for summer homes. Lake frontage was lotted and soon most of the property was sold at good prices to 'outsiders.' As shore property was sold this meant the end of camping at the old swimming hole.

In 1927 the Burroughs Adding Machine Company purchased the property on Brighton Road as a place of recreation for their employees. This has since been purchased by a group who have continued the recreational appeal of the 'Farms' and are planning construction of facilities which will enable hundreds more to take advantage of the pleasant surroundings of Crooked Lake. (Condensed from "A Scrap Book of Michigan Memories" by Wm. Pless.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 481

BRIGHTON, Mi. 48116

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