



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.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Gary Cole	227-6116
Treas.	Wally Jollitz	229-9832
Sec.	Judith Peck	227-6491
<u>DIRECTORS</u>		
Bert Bair		229-6402
Chuck Beach		229-9678
Dick Davis		229-8356
Floyd Fuller		231-2415
Mae Schmadtke		227-7969

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EDITORIAL

The purpose of the Society, as briefly outlined above, is rather far reaching and much encompassing. Thanks are extended to the many who support the Society's goals physically, financially and intellectually.

A lot of fun and satisfaction is derived from being an active member of a worthwhile organization. While there is not always initial agreement on which job should be done nor on how a job should be done, the various opinions add to the possible ways of getting the job done.

Because they believe the Society and its purpose are important to the area the members work together to get the job done. They are indicating a real concern that the past has value worth preserving.

To accomplish the purpose and goals of the Society, more people than those presently in the fore are needed. The Society welcomes all who care, all who realize that the documentation of our past indicates a faith in the future.

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Mary Collins, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Margaret Goldstein, David & Shirley Hood, Lyle & Dorothy Hartman, Willard & Frances Heinig, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Michael & Jennifer Hill, Bob & Shirley Knight, Tom Longworth, Henry & Barbara Lorence, Jim & Sally Noeker, Lola Reetz, Mildred Shannon, Melvin & Ila Skeman, Helen Seim, Gerald & Gwen Swann, Maxine Tucker, Joan Warner, Albert & Karen Wirth III. WELCOME. WELCOME.

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An early picture of the Lyon School is needed.

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GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The first fall General Meeting of the Society will begin at 6:30 with a pot luck. Bring a dish to pass, your own plates, etc. We'll meet at the Senior Citizen Center, the former Miller School, 850 Spencer Rd. The Society will provide coffee, etc.

Following the pot luck a short business meeting will be held. School bells are ringing again...at 8 p.m. a program on the 1986 Centennial of the Brighton High School will be presented. Everyone is invited to bring school day memorabilia, or a school chum. An exciting and entertaining meeting is planned.

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FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL, AUGUST 10 & 11

Stationery, tiles, magazines, afghan raffle tickets and Society memberships will be on sale at the Society booth August 10, 9-9 p.m. and August 11, 12-6 at the Brighton Folk Art Festival.

Thel Gebben, Chairman, 227-5375, will be calling on members for a three hour session in the booth. Please give her your support, or better yet, call and tell her which three hours would be best for you.

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THANKS, THANKS, THANKS, THANKS....

...Evangeline Bell for a 1949 Index from the Old Brighton Cemetery; a note pad holder from Murray Service and also from the Brighton State Bank; and a picture of Bethel School students of 1945 in which most of the students are identified.

...Frances Clore for an 1898 souvenir booklet listing Brighton merchants in verse form, printed by the Brighton Argus.

...Charlene Kull for serving as Society booth Chairman at the Antique Show.

...Meijers Thrifty Acres for \$10. donation to frames for commercial membership certificates.

...Alice Newcomb, Shirley Jenks and Susie Braund for serving as Nominating Committee.

...Old Kent Bank for printing of this newsletter.

...Jane Tomlinson for copy of the 1978 book commemorating the 50th anniversary of Brighton Rotary Scout Troop #350.

...those who have donated cash to the bake sale.

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FLEA MARKET SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

The fourth annual flea market will be held 9-2 p.m., Saturday, August 17. It will be located at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, rain or shine. (Take Spencer north east to Buno, just over the 23 overpass.)

Donations of items to be sold (no clothing) can be brought on Friday, 2-7 p.m. An income tax deduction receipt will be given upon request. Please list the items.

Chairman, Wally Jollitz, 229-9832, Chuck Beach, 229-9678, and Bert Bair, 229-6402, will arrange for pick up if necessary. These fellows will be needing help pricing these items on Friday. Mark your calendar and come for an hour or so. Garage sale leftover, attic and basement treasures will be welcome.

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Research on the St. George Lutheran Church is proceeding in regard to application for registration as a Michigan historic site.

Members of other churches can apply to the Society for assistance and direction in applying for registration also.

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HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP

We need....

...donations and workers for the Flea Market.

...customers to the Flea Market.

People to take pictures of area sites, and Society activities for the Society scrapbook.

...people to research the Blue Lantern, Brown Hotel, military encampments at Island Lake.

...pictures of Lyon School and other country schools in the area.

...antiques to the antique booth at the Show.

People to help at the antique booth.

...people to attend the General Meeting.

...people to help with the Society booth at the Brighton Folk Arts Festival.

...someone to join a committee to write a history of the Brighton Area.

...someone to help set up a local house tour for 1986. (Perhaps during the Folk Arts Festival.)

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WINTERFEST CANCELLED

ANTIQUÉ SHOW TO GO ON

With the cancellation of Winterfest 86, the antique show sponsored by the Society and Brighton Area Senior Citizens, will still be held but probably on another date. Chairman Rita Altenberg, is checking things out and will recommend another date soon.

Donations of antique items will be necessary if the Society is to have its booth at the show. Charlene Kull, 227-9393, is chairman of this project. Income tax deductible receipts will be given. It is hoped area residents will be willing to donate antique items to this sale; proceeds of which will go to the Society for historic restoration and preservation projects. The Gebben's, 227-5375, will help with storage of items, etc.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Nominating Committee, Chairman Alice Newcomb, 229-9373, will be making contacts with members soon. Three directorships (2 year terms) need to be filled. Following the election at the Annual Meeting in November, the directors will appoint officers for one year terms. Many chairmen of various projects have been appointed and are willing to continue for another year. This should ease the way for new officers.

Please be aware the present officers are busy people, just as you. Because the Society is important to them they find time to participate. You can also.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK???

LIVINGSTON COUNTY ARCHIVES

In 1880 the Livingston County History book was printed. In 1976 another was printed as a Bicentennial project. It is time for a history of the Brighton Area to be written.

At the Carnegie Library on W. Grand River in Howell, are located the Livingston County Archives. Not many counties in the U.S. have such an excellent facility for the storage of books, papers, pictures, etc. The archives are humidity and temperature controlled for the proper storage of information of Livingston County. Persons wishing to use the facility for research may do so each Wednesday a.m.

Other areas, in compiling a publication such as this, have urged each household to submit a 500 word synopsis and a photograph. Is there someone in the area who will serve as a collector or compiler of such a collection? A publication such as this would be of interest to many and a valuable source of income to the Society.

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Many are receiving the newsletter because Society members believed they would be interested in learning of the Society and its activities. To stay within the self imposed limit of mailing 500, it is necessary to remove some names in order to include others on the mailing list. To help eliminate some of the arbitrariness involved, please let us know if you don't wish to be on the mailing list.

Longtime residents of the Area often have records, pictures or other paper items which include history of the Area. An understandable reluctance exists to give up these articles until the Society has a proper place for storage and display. In the meantime we would recommend, as an alternative, that copies be made which could be given the Society for research; the better to promote the purpose of the Society to preserve, advance and disseminate the knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

It is hoped the newsletter is sufficiently important that purchasing membership should assure continued delivery. Let us know of address changes.

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1986 BUDGET

A budget of \$5225. has been prepared by the Society Board. Attendees at the Annual Meeting in November will vote on the budget. It is projected that membership dues will pay for all administration costs. All receipts from fund raising projects will go to the preservation and restoration fund. Those wishing a copy prior to the Annual Meeting may request one.

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TRIVIA

1. What was the Blue Lantern?
2. Where was the Brown Hotel located?
3. What is the population of Campbelltown?
4. Who was the propietor of the Dutch Grocery?
5. Who wrote the official song of the Brighton Centennial?

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         | ( ) Photography                     | ( ) Board Member | ( ) Fund Raising |
| ( ) Interior decoration      | ( ) Genealogy                       | ( ) Publicity    | ( ) Bake Sale    |
| ( ) Help with special events | ( ) Restoration                     | ( ) Research     | ( ) Hospitality  |
| ( ) Newsletter publication   | ( ) Cleaning                        | ( ) Video taping | ( ) Oral history |
| ( ) Membership committee     | ( ) Other work I'd be willing to do | _____            |                  |

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

## THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL

Only close observation when traveling I-96 with its gentle rises and filled-in valleys, reveals any indication of the steep hills, many streams and rivers, and the ever present swamps through which a team struggled to pull a wagon load of humanity. It is very difficult to imagine the fields of corn and pastures full of cattle as thick wood of massive trees in the early 1800s.

The homesteader's route northwest from Detroit toward the interior of Michigan, to locate and choose a farm, followed a ditch-bordered, rutted road of clay. About ten miles out the road crossed the Rouge River at what is now Redford (named for the Rouge crossing.) Near this point there were two early taverns: Hannabel Tavern (Botsford Inn) and Ten Eyk's Tavern which was well known as a meeting place of early day politicians.

Here the trail divided, and the traveler had to make a choice, one trail continued in a westerly direction and was known as the southern route, while the other went northerly.

The southern route passed through Farmington, Novi, New Hudson, Kensington and Ore Creek (Brighton). Here it turned north for a few miles, then northwesterly. About a mile beyond that turn the trail passed through the center of the land Great Grandfather Pless purchased in 1841. It also passed the edge of the land adjacent, which was located and settled by Great Grandfather Euler in 1835. The trail continued along the south side of Long Lake (renamed Chemung about 1916) then on to Howell which was called Livingston Centre before the village was organized.

The road ended at Howell, but the Indian trail continued through the low, swampy land where Fowlerville and Webberville are now located and through the Red Cedar River swamp at Okemos. The part of the trail from Howell to Ionia was not open to wagon travel until Lansing became the Capital of Michigan about 1847.

After the southern route was completed to Lansing, the northern route fell into disuse, lost its identity as Grand River Road and is remembered only in history and legend. In fact no continuous, modern road follows the original northern route of Redford to Ionia. Most of the early day inns along that route closed and even towns that started along the route withered and all but disappeared. This withering away also occurred along the southern route when the railroad was built between Detroit and Lake Michigan in the 1870s, and the stage coaches stopped running.

The Detroit to Howell plank road on the Grand River trail was completed in 1850, and by 1852 it was planked from Howell to Lansing. Toll gates were erected and toll was charged. The plank roadbed was eighteen feet wide and the planks were three inches thick. When new it provided a smooth, firm surface for the wagons, stage coaches, and carts of those early days. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia by William A. Pless.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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