



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

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Gary Cole	227-6116
Treas.	Wally Jollitz	229-9832
Sec.	Judith Peck	227-6491

DIRECTORS

* Bert Bair		229-6402
* Dick Davis		229-8356
* Floyd Fuller		231-2415
* Mae Schmadtke		227-7969

GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10

There will be no General Meeting during the summer months. The September 10, meeting will begin at 6:30 at the Senior Citizen's Center (former Miller School) at 850 Spencer Road. A pot luck will precede the program which is still to be determined. It is hoped the date will be noted on area residents' calendars. The public is invited.

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Board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month upstairs at the Old Town Hall (former Library) at 7:30. Members are invited.

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PROPOSED BUDGET PREPARED

The Budget committee has prepared a proposed budget for presentation at the next board meeting. It is planned that all administration costs (officer expenses, supplies, fees, etc.) be paid by members' dues. All proceeds from various fund raising events and activities can be designated totally to historic preservation and restoration projects.

EDITORIAL

Most members of the Society are cognizant of the need for an organized group which will make an effort to preserve that which tells where we've been.

These people are aware that a community must respect its resources in order to make sense for future generations.

Much can be accomplished by a small number of dedicated and enthusiastic people. Consider how much more effective this group can be when the community demonstrates its complete support. (Ed. M. Bair)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

David & Georgia Apps, Elenor Hornung, Phil & Alice Krupa, Bruce & Janet Owens, Stan & Adele Ozar, Lee Pawlak, Floyd & Lorena Pearson, Doris Prieskhorn, James & Penelope Szczechowski, Sally Baldwin. WELCOME WELCOME.

Many of our members from out-of-town or who are not able to participate in any way show their support by becoming patron members. This display of confidence is most gratifying.

Michigan Bank-Livingston has become a corporate member. Your support is most sincerely appreciated.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter please let us know. If you are not interested in receiving this newsletter please let us know.

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

...Bruce Owens for Lyon School yard care.
...Old Kent Bank for inviting the Society to display pictures of old Brighton and publicizing the Society's goals and projects in the lobby. Their continued support is very evident with each printing of this newsletter.

...Stroh's Ice Cream in the Mall for ice cream at the May General meeting. m-m-m.
...those who say 'yes' when they are asked for help..

...merchants who have donated to the spaghetti supper: DuQuets, Domino Pizza, Ewing Furniture, Bryan's Market.

...Brighton Fire DEpartment for use of the hall for the spaghetti supper.
...those who donated more than the cost of the raffle ticket sent them.

...donation of the afghan by Helen Hyne after having won it at the raffle.

...spaghe tti supper helpers. a complete list will be in the July issue.

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BAKE SALES

At the time of the printing of this issue the results of the June 1, bake sale were not available.

Chairman, Janice Beach, 229-9678, is considering having a sale in August and again in October. (Tentatively Aug. 3 and Oct. 5). Offer your help, either to make calls, bake lots of stuff (and buy some) or work on the day of the sale. (Don't hesitate to call just because you've perhaps not met her. She's very anxious to hear from you.)

If you find it impossible to help in any of the above ways, please consider making a cash donation.

If anyone has folding tables to donate, either for the day of the sale or to the Society; Let Janice know.

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BOTSFORD INN TOUR

Green Oak Township Historical Society is sponsoring a visit to Botsford Inn, Saturday, July 13. Lunch will be at 12:30.

The Inn is noted as an important stage-coach stop on the Plank Road. Present owner, John Anhut, will tour the building telling its history and describing artifacts. Choice of Pot Pie or Steak sandwich with salad, soup, etc. for \$7.25.

Tickets may be purchased from Bert Bair, 229-6402 or Mona Wenzel, 231-2584.

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

We need...people willing to give time to the Society when the Nominating Committee calls.
...someone to help plan an Independence Day activity.

...someone to share a collection or hobby

with us.

...etc., etc., etc.,

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SOCIETY BOOTH AT ANTIQUE SHOW

The Society will be participating with the Brighton Area Senior Citizens in conducting an Antique Show at the time of the Second Annual Brighton Winterfest, Jan. 25-26, 1986. This will take place at the former Miller School again.

Rita Altenberg, 231-3530, has acquiesced to our request that she again chair this event. Area antique dealers should contact Rita for information.

The Society will also have an antique booth at the show. We are asking members and area residents to consider what items they might donate to the Society for sale at the booth. It is preferred that flea market items be donated to the flea market. (More on that later.) All proceeds will be designated to historic preservation and restoration projects in which the Society is involved.

Contact Jack and Ethel Gebben, 7-5375, if you have something to donate. They'll keep the list of donors. A receipt will be given for the item for use as an income tax deduction. If you wish, they will store it for you. We will be needing a general chairman of this project and someone to help price the items donated. Contact a board member with your offer to help. (in any manner.)

Refreshments can also be sold at that time. The facilities at the school make it very convenient. Please contact M. Bair, 229-6402, with your offer to do this job. We have lots of people willing to help. We need someone to tell them what needs to be done.

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AREA SOCIETIES SPONSOR JUNE 23 TOUR

Leaving Brighton at 9 a.m., the day will include brunch, a tour of Greenmead in Livonia, the restored Redford theater, including a recital on the restored organ. Flyers are available at the City Hall. Contact Mary Messerschmidt, 227-7433. A portion of the ticket cost will be donated to the Society.

Several of our long-time residents were gracious and caring enough to make corrections and give additional information regarding the Genoa Township one room country schools described in the May issue.

1. On the NE corner of Kellogg and Grand River is a church which was the Ratz School, not the Kellogg as stated.
2. The school which stood at the NE corner of Latson and Grand River, which burned some time ago, was the Tooley School.
3. The house on the NW corner of Beck and Chilson Roads was the Beck School.
4. The Kellogg School was on the SW corner of Golf Club and Kellogg Roads. At some time it was moved to W. Grand River, next to the Meier's Farm Market and is now a party store.
5. On the SW corner of Richardson and Coon Lake Roads stood the Stone School.
6. The Benedict School is in a rundown condition E of Nixon (formerly Latson) Road on the W. side of Crooked Lake Rd.

Could someone take pictures of the schools listed in the May issue as they now exist or the sites on which they stood? Perhaps those who have pictures when the schools were in operation would share them with us.

What are your memories of primary school days? Last day of school, games played, classes, teachers, festivals, celebrations? It seems an interesting publication could be prepared showing before and after pictures and reminiscences of former scholars and teachers.

There must be several someones in the area with an interest in such a project. Let's get together and see what happens. Contact a board member and tell them you'd like to participate.

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Because of Prohibition during the early part of this century, the ice cream soda fountain became very popular as a substitute as a gathering place.

The history of ice cream making and the expensive background of this favorite food of today was described by Naomi Donaldson at the May General Meeting. Artifacts related to Ice Cream, including songs, cards, clothing, etc. were also displayed.

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ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 12

A Nominations Chairman will soon be appointed. Three Directorships need to be filled. For this Society to work toward its goals, area residents must be willing to support it with direct action. Yes, sacrifice will be necessary. Is the Society's future important to you. The term of office is two years.

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MICHIGAN HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Board has decided to pay the fees of a Society member who would be able to attend the Annual Meeting. October 4-6, in Grand Rapids. Contact a board member if you're interested.

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DIRECTOR GEBBEN RESIGNS

Director Jack Gebben has found it necessary to resign his position. He and Ethel will continue to participate as actively as possible; helping with the newsletter and with the Society booth at the Antique Show. Many thanks to both for their support.

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 | () Newsletter | () Fund raising |
| () Interior decoration | () Genealogy | () Publicity | () Bake Sale |
| () Help with special events | () Restoration | () Research | () Hospitality |
| () Board Member | () 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, P.O. Box 48
5. per individual - \$25.00 business/ professional/patron Brighton, 48116

4

WHY DID THE PIONEERS COME TO MICHIGAN?

1787 saw the enactment of legislation by the new U.S. government, which formed the Northwest Territory. (States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.)

By 1805 the Territory of Michigan was separated from the Northwest Territory as Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had been at earlier dates.

When General Lewis Cass became governor of the Michigan Territory he resolved to disprove the reports that the land was all swamp and sterile sand, with malaria, ague, chills and fever awaiting the first settlers. He was successful in his endeavor and soon hordes of eager and determined people from the New England and other Eastern states made their way into the area we know as Livingston County.

Surprisingly very few of the original pioneer purchasers of newly surveyed government land, only recently opened for homesteading, had any previous experience as farmers. Besides those wanting to acquire virgin land for homesteading, there were many land speculators. Groups of artisans and guilds of various professions pooled finances and sent representatives to purchase thousands of acres to be divided when they would arrive in the early 1830s. One such representative was Richard Lyon who came to Brighton Township.

One of the major forces driving them west was the attempt to escape a cholera epidemic raging in the Eastern states. As settlers arrived at New World ports in the early 1830s they were appalled to find men, with cloth covered faces, driving wagons through the city streets each day shouting, "Bring out your dead." Mass burials were the order of the day in an attempt to remove the many corpses.

Traveling in Flat boats by way of the Erie Canal, over land by wagon train, on horseback and on foot many were anxious to leave the plague behind. Soon the residents of Detroit and South Eastern Michigan were in the grip of the epidemic also as it spread from the east and out the Grand River Indian Trail with the settlers.

Besides those newly arrived from the Old World, there were among the settlers, those whose ancestors had been in the New World before the American Revolution. Some were descendants of passengers on the Mayflower, landing in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. Those who originally helped build New Amsterdam (New York City) also had descendants involved in the migration to the Michigan Territory. Included in the trek were professionals, skilled tradesmen, artisans, business men, the clergy; bringing civilization and Christianity to the wilderness. Making a home for their families, land was cleared and fenced, roads and bridges built, schools and churches erected, pain and sorrow endured, separation borne and joys shared. Many present residents of Livingston County are descendants of these brave, resourceful, hardworking, eager, determined (stubborn?) pioneers of the area. (Edited and compiled from writings by William Pless; a descendant of these early pioneers.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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