



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, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1985

The General Meeting of the Society, will host as its speaker, David D. Finney, Civil War Historian and Lecturer. He will speak on The History of Early Photography-1840-1860. Included in his presentation will be information on daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, wet-plate (collodian) processes, albuminized paper and tin photographs. He will also speak about the early photographers, their studios and techniques. In addition a selection of slides of early 19th century personalities, events and locations will be shown.

Mr. Finney holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees from Indiana Univ. and the Education Specialist degree from Wayne State University, Michigan. He is chairman of the history department at North Farmington High School, where he has taught since 1969, and also teaches evening classes at Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

The Michigan Historical Marker Program is one of the several Michigan historically oriented boards on which he has served. He has published articles in the Michigan History Magazine and the Michigan Antique Arms Collectors Journal.

(cont. next column, please.)

EDITORIAL

Local business owners and professional persons have been most generous with donations of articles when asked.

An invitation was recently extended to many to become corporate members of the Society. Their continued support is most necessary to the expansions of the activities of the Society in accomplishing its goals. Readers are encouraged to remember these businesses when they are shopping or in need of services.

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Those attending are encouraged to bring old photographs. Mr. Finney will provide information regarding methods of identifying and dating artifacts of this nature.

The public is sincerely encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at the former Miller Elementary School, 850 Spencer Rd. Refreshments will be served.

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Charles & Janice Beach, Evangeline Bell, Dr. Hardee & Jean Bethea, Elizabeth Bindenagel, Richard & Elaine Blight, James & Pauline Buchanan, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Lenore & Charles Fink, Harry & Mary Griffith, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Randall & Doris Hoadley, John & Marilyn Homan, Josephine Hyne, Walter & Marilyn Jollitz, John & Beverly LaBelle, Mary Layton, Herbert Munzel, Roland & Jane Owens (patron), Edna Peach, Mary Pearsall, Mae Schmadtke, Lovisa Seger, Margaret Squire, Laura Thompson, Lee & Allene Tunell, Robert & Ruth Watson. WELCOME, WELCOME.

If your mailing label has an 85 on it your 85 dues are paid. The Society cannot exist without members. Thanks for your support.

(cont. page 2, please)

2.

MEMBERSHIPS (cont. from page 1)

By virtue of their extensive donations the Board of Directors has bestowed membership to Rita Altenberg and Domino Pizza. Bill Pless has a life time membership. We welcome E.D. Ewing Furniture as Corporate Member. Many thanks.

The Budget committee anticipates dues payments to cover Society administrative costs. Thus everything earned at fund raising events can be designated to various projects undertaken by the Society.

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RECAP, GENERAL MEETING FEB. 12

The winter weather did not cooperate but those who braved it were well rewarded for their efforts. Susis Braund, local quilt maker and collector brought dozens of quilts for display.

Very few quilts of Colonial days remain. They were used regularly and probably made of used materials. The evolution of quilting in America covered the change from using scraps in a hodge-podge fashion (basically for warmth) to pieced quilts, appliqued, embroidered, and the crazy quilt. How to date a quilt and the significance held by some of the patterns were also part of her presentation.

We learned that when Susie makes quilts she intends them to become heirlooms; they are created with great care and attention to detail.

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UPDATE ON THE LES AMIES CLUB

In the November issue, page 4 was devoted to Persis Cook. In the article was a listing of members of this Bridge club. Other names have been added. The list now reads: Fae Birkenstock, Sylvia Bitten, Haidee Brady, Ruth Carter, Gladys Clark, Jean Edmonds, Carrie Francisco, Marjorie Garwood, _____ Grant, Ethel Leith, Mildred Mellus, Celia Newcomb, Zelma Newman, Hazel Phillips, Naomi Phillips, Geneva Pitkin, Louise Pinney, Lorene Pless, Edith Prosser, Mae Rolison, Mary Ross, Mary Snow, Bernice Taylor, Angie Weeks.

Are there more names to be added: Is it possible there might be a picture? Are there descendants of these ladies who might like to be on the Society mailing list? In what other groups did the residents of the Area congregate? Let us know.

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THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

....Carmine Wilson for her donation of support to the Society.
...those who expressed their opinion re: the Brighton City Council decision on the tax abatement allowed the planned renovators of the Brighton Hotel.

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HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

we need...
...a means for mixing and drawing tickets when a raffle is held. Anyone have a 'squirrel cage' for us?
...someone to get us started with a publication(s).
...someone to compile a Society History book.
...someone to do some research into the Lyons School (BrightonTownship) history.
...a contact person for those wishing to donate pictures, etc.
...folding tables and chairs. The City Library is using those which the Society was using for meetings.
...a person to help with publicity of Society activities.

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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.

The Brighton Senior Citizens and the Society will be cooperating in the selling of the tickets. This can be a profitable fund raiser for the Society. If everyone sells 5-10 tickets there will be S.R.O. Please set aside that evening and plan on a good time. More information on the ticket sales in the April newsletter.

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CENTENNIAL HOUSES IN THE AREA?

Do you know of a centennial house in the S.E. quarter of Livingston County? One which has been in the same family for 100 years? Pictures and the history of these homes should be recorded. Is this a project you'd like to help organize? Contact a board member or write, P.O. Box 481.

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TILES STILL AVAILABLE

Black and white, these six inch ceramic tiles picturing the Old Town Hall as it appeared originally are available for \$6. Jarvis' Store on Main Street, The Gift Shop at the Senior Citizen's Center, and Citizen's Trust Bank have them for you. Those who have already purchased their tile are anxious to purchase the next in this series, the railroad depot. The tiles are also available at General Meetings.

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SHAKERS AND MOVERS

Charles and Janice Beach are listed as charter members of the Society. Both were instrumental in its organization and give time and energy to its continued existence. Both have served in various positions on the board and assisted with activities planned by the Society.

Both graduated from Brighton High School in 1951. Chuck came to Brighton from Detroit in the mid '40s. Janice has roots in the Brighton Area which go back to 1875 when her great grandfather D. Pitkin, a builder, came from New York State. Several Brighton businesses were operated by descendants of his. Her father was Post Master of Brighton in the 1930s. Her mother's (Laneta Paddock) ancestors arrived even earlier in the area; 1830s.

A daughter, Cheri, will graduate from Brighton High School in 1986. Janice's parents graduated in 1926.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

New () Renewal()

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
- () Research
- () 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

LONG-TIME LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many local organizations presently in existence have a substantial history in the Area. It is hoped there is some written record of their activities. We'd be privileged to publish these histories. For one, the Fire Department has been in existence a long time in this Area. Also the Masons, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Garden Clubs; the list is long.

Several publications of years ago give glimpses of their activities and the people involved. A publication of the volunteer organizations of the Brighton Area could be prepared. It would be a record of which we could all be proud.

If you are a member or know of such an organization which served the Area in the past, please make certain this sort of record is compiled.

Also needed is someone to get the information organized. Is this something you'd like to do?

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FREEBIE - The Society has been given a Savin 200 copier which needs repair. It does not make the type of copy the Society can use. Can anyone take it off our hands?

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EDSEL FORDTOUR - Anyone with questions about their reservation may contact Mary Messerschmidt, 227-7433.

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BRIGHTON HOTEL - EASTERN HOUSE

Ben Cushing built the Brighton Hotel on the NW corner of Grand River and Main Street, in 1850, at the time of the completion of the planked toll road connecting Detroit with the newly built capital at Lansing. A continual procession of teams and vehicles traversed the road in both directions. Brighton, at the half way point, became a popular stop for refreshment, both solid and liquid.

The Brighton Hotel (after the coming of the railroad and the building of the Western House, 1873, on Main Street by the tracks, the name became Eastern House) had been designed to serve the community as well as the traveling public. A room on the second floor was especially constructed for square dancing. Its floor joists were laid in a manner that would allow the floor to spring with the rhythm of the dancing. The verandas along the front and one side provided cover and shade for those waiting or just loafing on the benches furnished.

Following Ben Cushing's death in 1860, others ran the business until Fred and Will Sturhberg, who had been raised on their father's (a blacksmith), small farm located just across Grand River from the hotel at what is now St. Paul Street, became proprietors.

Enterprising and energetic men of good reputation, the brothers kept the hotel (eight guest rooms) in good repair and added improvements, including telephone and electricity when these became available. A windmill was erected and an elevated tank supplied running water. While catering largely to locals, horsedrawn hacks were dispatched to the depot to meet travelers for transport to the Eastern House. The large livery barn erected east of the hotel also operated as a drivein 10¢ (including hay) barn to house rigs in inclement weather. Students at the local high school also left their horses during school hours. The hotel served three meals from food stuffs grown and preserved by the proprietors. Practically self sustaining, only sugar, flour, spices, coffee, etc., were purchased.

The hardworking Sturhbergs prospered: engaging in buying, selling and trading horses, they also stocked wagons, sleighs, buggies, carts, cutters, robes, horse blankets and harnesses. After Fred's accidental death on one of their several farms, his wife, Mary (Winklehaus) and Will continued to operate the hotel. In 1926 the hotel burned.

Various businesses operated on the premises until the area was cleared for a parking lot for a food market and a drug store. (Condensed from "A Scrap Book of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless and a program presented to the Brighton Area Historical Society May 10, 1983, by Katherine Sturhberg Hampton.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

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