SERVING AS ACTING GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN BEFORE HE WAS 21, STEVENS T. MASON, IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE CONVENING OF THE TERRITORIAL COUNCIL IN 1832, ENCOURAGED THE MEMBERS TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN. LINES PASSED ALMOST A QUARTER CENTURY EARLIER HAD NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. EVEN IN DETROIT, THE FEW SCHOOLS IN EXISTENCE WERE ONLY FOR THE PRIVILEGED WHO COULD AFFORD TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN ONLY THE BASIC EDUCATION AVAILABLE. NOT UNTIL 1962 WAS THERE FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN.

DECEIVINGLY BELIEVING AN EDUCATED PUBLIC WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO ENSURE GOOD GOVERNMENT, MASON'S FORTUATE SELECTION OF JOHN D. PIERCE OF MARSHALL, AS SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN 1836, GAVE MASON MUCH SUPPORT IN HIS GOAL OF EDUCATION FOR ALL. GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE AND Diligent inquiry into school systems in the east enabled Pierce to provide not only instructional guides but also detailed directions on how a one room school should be built in each primary school district: temperature, stove, placement of windows, furniture, water supply (bucket and dipper) and separate sanitary facilities for the sexes were included.

Oak Grove, Lyon, Bethel, Bird, Bitten...all units of one room country school houses in Brighton Township. The latter four received their names from the property owners on whose land the school was built. All were built prior to 1875 except for Bethel, which was built prior to 1875. (Altho School Lake was listed in 1875.) Oak Grove has been torn down. Lyon has been given to the Society for restoration. Bethel has reverted to the owner of the church campgrounds on whose property it was built. Bird is a private home and Bitten is now a dental office. This writer is familiar with the Brighton Township schools since that is where she was raised.

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The school which stood at the NE corner of Latson and Grand River burned some time ago. The SW corner of Rock and Chilton Roads, is the site of another school. There is a house on that location now. Was the school used as a basis for the house or torn down to make room? What were the names of these two?

The Atlas shows a school on the SW corner of Golf Club and Kellogg. Also one on the SW corner of Richardson and Coon Lake Rd. On the SW side of Crooked Lake Road, E of Nixson (formerly Latson Road) is a very dilapidated, rundown structure, used to store hay, etc., which is shown as a school site. The names of these and their conditions we don't know. (Compiled from Livingston County Atlas, 1875, 1895, 1915 and "Bright Michigan Morning" by Harlan C. Hagan.)

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

Printed courtesy
OLD KENT BANK

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRES. Marianne Bair 229-6402
- V.P. Gary Cole 229-6166
- TREAS. Wally Jollitz 229-9832
- SEC. Judith Peck 227-6491

DIRECTORS

- Bert Bair 229-6402
- Dick Davis 229-8356
- Floyd Fuller 231-2415
- Jack Gebben 227-5375
- Max Schmidtke 227-7969

LEGAL MEETING, MAY 14

"The History of Ice Cream Making and the Im p ert of Ice Cream Socials on the Social Life of Early America", will be presented by Macdonald Donaldson of Ann Arbor. The program will include musical selections about ice cream.

The public is invited to the meeting and to bring their examples of ice cream making memorabilia. And, of course, ice cream will be served.

The meeting will be held at the Senior Citizen's Center (former Miller School), 850 Spencer Rd, 7:30 p.m.

SOCIETY SCRAP BOOK

Janice Beach, 229-9678, is beginning to compile a scrap book for the Society. She will be keeping an ongoing history of our organization and its activities. If you have pictures, newspaper clippings, or other memorabilia of our functions and purposes, she will be anxious to hear from you in order that these may be included and a complete history compiled.

The City of Brighton has placed two historic markers on Grand River, directing visitors to the markers at the Old Town Hall on Main St. and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

EDITORIAL

What is the value of an historical society to a community?

An historical society can serve as a rallying point for concerned citizens. As a guiding organization it can help meet our community's unique needs with new approaches. To give a person the chance to become an active participant rather than just a bystander to what happens in our little corner.

When our children ask what we did to protect fragile evidence of the past we want to be able to point to restored buildings, identified sites of structures and events, books and pictures describing how life was lived, artifacts exhibiting various lifestyles, genealogical records of our hardy forefathers, some sign that we have been.

Yes, also a museum, in which items are made available to a caring population showing this and future generations how another generation lived. Will the residents of 2035 know us? Will we leave any evidence of having been here? The demolition of irreplaceable structures which hold a cultural identity for a community, the discarding of pictures and other records of those who have preceded us, are problems which can be addressed by an historical society. (ed. M. Bair)

MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Eric Astrup, Marie Bost, Florence Chase, Libby Elenhardt, Homer & Evelyn Dothager, Joe & Irene Ellis, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Arlene & Virgil Hogue, Dennis Krogstad, Dave Lehman, Dan & Jeanette Madigan, Joanne Mars, Colton & Dorothy Park, Libert Seger, Wm. & Gloria Spencer, Allen Walby, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen. WELCOME, WELCOME.

(cont. page 2)
THIRD ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The date is Friday, May 24, 5:30-7:30 at the Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. Many local merchants have donated supplies for the supper. The Society is most grateful for this support. A complete list will be in the June Newsletter.

Tickets are available from Board members, Doug Furniture, 219 W. Main St., and at the door. Adults $3.50, 1-12 years, $1.50.

This has been a successful fund raiser in the past. Support of as many residents will make this year’s supper another winner.

Chairman, Gary Cole, 227-6116, will appreciate offers of help for that evening.

AFGHAN RAFFLE MAY 24

The Afghan kit donated by Betty Harbort, has been completed by Libby Eisenhardt. (Does anyone have another for her?) This will be raffled the evening of the Spaghetti Supper, May 24. Tickets, for an attendance of 501, are available from board members and at the supper.

Society members will find, attached to the newsletter, two raffle tickets. It is hoped everyone will want to have a chance at winning the afghan. (If you win and don't need an afghan, it can be given as a gift or donated to the Society.)

Your donation may be sent to the Society or brought to the Spaghetti Supper. Those who wish to help by selling tickets please contact Marleana Bair, 229-6402.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Activities in connection with this annual event will soon be in full swing. It seems appropriate the Society should be involved.

There must be several who receive this newsletter (member or not) who would be willing to help with ideas, planning and execution of such an undertaking. Please contact a board member with your offer to help. (It takes a lot of time to make a lot of phone calls.) Your support will be most appreciated. (And most necessary.)

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

...Rob Herbst of Uber's Drug Store for offering window space to help publicize the Society's aims and projects.

...Marianne Coniskey, Dick Davis and Mark Link...for help with taking tickets at the Meadow Brook Performing Arts Presentation April 15.

...Janice Beach, Catherine Hallsmith, Mary Lynn Korte, Beverly LaBelle, Mary Layton, Leota Mason, Shirley Messerschmitt (and others) for distributing posters for that presentation.

...and to Bernice Hyne for her super ticket salesmanship.

...P. D. Dining Furniture for printing of Spaghetti Supper tickets.

...B. Frosgard, a local photographer, for printing of raffle tickets.

HELP...HELP...HELP...HELP...HELP...We need...someone to help with publicity of our society, its programs and activities...people to record their memories of how life was lived in the past...helpers at the spaghetti supper...helpers with the bake sale (6-8) ...workers to help with the Lyons School restoration.

1985 TIDE - RAILROAD DEPOT

built in the research stage is a tile (second in the series) with a picture of the depot, which was located a short distance behind the Brighton Hotel. Those with knowledge of its history and/or pictures, should contact Dick Davis, c/o the Society, P.O. Box 481, or call.

The first tile, picturing the Old Town Hall (former Library) is still available for a donation of $6. At Jarvis Men's Wear, Brighton Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Sr. Citizens' Center and Citizens' Trust. These could be a nice gift for Mother's Day, etc.

Barbara N. Heidenreich

Brighton Area Historical Society Membership Form

NAME: ________________________ PHONE: ________________________

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 ( ) Newsletter ( ) Membership committee ( ) Other work I'd be willing to do

Dues: $ 8.00 per couple 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
25.00 business/professional Brighton, MI 48116
25.00 patron
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Marlaine Comiskey, Dick Davis and Mark Linz for help with taking tickets at the Meadow Brook Performing Arts Presentation April 19.

Janice Beach, Catherine Hallsmith, Marlynn Korte, Bev LaBelle, Mary Layton, Leota Mason, and others (and the others) for distributing posters for that presentation.

...and to Bernice Hyne for her super ticket salesmanship.

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Dues: $5.00 per couple 5.00 per individual 25.00 business/professional 25.00 patron

send to: Brighton Area Historical Society P.O. Box 481 48116

Brighton, MI

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Serving as Acting Governor of Michigan before he was 21, Stevens T. Mason, in his address at the convening of the Territorial Council in 1832, encouraged the members to consider legislation in support of education for the citizens of the Territory of Michigan. Laws passed almost a quarter century earlier had not been implemented. Even in Detroit, the few schools in existence were only for the privileged who could afford to give their children only the basic education available. Not until 1862 was there free public education in Michigan.

Severely believing an educated public was absolutely necessary to ensure good government, Mason's fortunate selection of John D. Pierce of Marshall, as Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1836, gave Mason much support in his goal of education for all. Great personal sacrifice and diligent inquiry into school systems in the east enabled Pierce to provide not only instructional guides but also detailed directions on how a one room school should be built in each primary school district: temperature, stove, placement of windows, furniture, water supply (bucket and dipper) and separate sanitary facilities for the sexes were included.

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