



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

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GENERAL MEETING, MAY 14

"The History of Ice Cream Making and the Impact of Ice Cream Socials on the Social Life of Early America", will be presented by Naomi 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.

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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.

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The City of Brighton has placed two historic Marker signs 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 individuals. 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 evidences 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 livelihoods, 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, all are problems which can be addressed by an historical society. (ed. M. Bair)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

- Eric Astrup, Marie Borst, Florence Chase, Libby Eisenhardt, Homer & Evelyn Dothager, Joe & Irene Ellis, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Arlene Jacob, Andy Krogstad, Dennis Krogstad, Dave Lehman, Dan & Jeanette Madigan, Joanne Mars, Colton & Dorothy Park, Elbert Seger, Wm. & Gloria Spencer, Allen Walblay, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen. WELCOME, WELCOME.

(cont. page 2)

(Memberships, cont.)

Rolison Pro Hardware is now a corporate member. Many thanks for your support.

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please let us know.

Most of those receiving this newsletter have had it sent them now for over a year.

Many have expressed their interest and indicated their support of Society goals and aims by paying annual dues. It is hoped others would wish to share in this effort also by following this example.

We would be grateful to those who do not wish to receive this newsletter to let us know. Altho' we have a bulk mailing permit there is still expense involved. It hardly seems fair to dues paying members to continue sending to those who are not interested. Thanks.

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RECAP, APRIL MEETING

After a short business meeting at the Old Town Hall, those in attendance drove to the home of Phylis and Fred Gruezke to examine and admire their collection of doll houses. The miniature buildings were made and furnished by the Gruezkes. Many thanks to them for this opportunity to experience their hospitality.

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SOCIETY'S ANNUAL BAKE SALE

When the Brighton Framer's Market opens Saturday, June 1, 8 a.m., the Society will be present and conducting its annual bake sale.

Since all contributions are donated, this is a good fund raiser. And gives an opportunity to all to participate either with an item(s) to sell or a cash contribution.

Janice Beach, 229-9678, will need help that day and also to make some phone calls. Please let her know you will be making baked goods, or candy, etc., donation so her committee doesn't have to make so many calls.

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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, Ewing Furniture, 217 W. Main St, and at the door. Adults \$3., 5-12 years, \$1.50.

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

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

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AFGHAN RAFFLE MAY 24

The afghan kit donated by Betty Herbst, 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 a donation of \$1. are available from board members and at the supper.

Society members will find, attached to this 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 Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

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INDEPENDANCE DAY

Festivities 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 is most necessary.)

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

...Marianne Comiskey, Dick Davis and Mark Lind for help with taking tickets at the Meadow Brook Performing Arts Presentation April 19.

...Janice Beach, Catherine Hellmuth, Mari Lynn Korte, Bev LaBelle, Mary Layton, Leota Mason, and Mary Messerschmidt (and others) for distributing posters for that presentation. ...and to Bernice Hyne for her super ticket salesmanship.

...E. D. Ewing Furniture for printing of Spaghetti Supper tickets.

...D. Krogstad, 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 (6-1-85)

...workers to help with the Lyons School restoration.

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1985 TILE - RAILROAD DEPOT

Still 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 Citizen's Trust. These could be a nice gift for Mother's Day, etc.

Five members of the Society attended a recent meeting of representatives from historical societies of surrounding counties. State Sesquicentennial plans were discussed. Several Societies told of plans for their areas in regard to this event which takes place in 1987.

What kind of celebration should the Brighton Area plan? Can representatives from Brighton Township, Brighton City and Genoa Township work together to commemorate this event.?

Only if residents of the area direct their governing bodies to develop plans for a Sesqui-celebration will this be done.

Several of those present told of Historic Commissions working in their communities. In this manner they hope to work with builders, developers, and property owners to conserve, reuse and protect architectural and historic resources. Is the Brighton Area in need of historic commissions? in Brighton Township, Brighton City, Genoa Township?

Only if residents of the area direct their governing bodies to develop plans for historical commissions will such groups be organized.

The Society will gladly support any action along these paths, but area governing bodies need to hear it from their constituents.

Contact the Society with your offer of support or contact your local governing bodies with a request for action regarding the development of an historic commission and/or the Sesquicentennial commemoration.

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
 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
 25.00 business/professional Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 patron

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EDUCATION BEGAN IN A ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN

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 1842 was there free public education in Michigan.

Devoutly 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.

Oak Grove, Lyon, Bethel, Bird, Bitten...all are names 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 1895. (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.

Genoa Township presents somewhat of a problem regarding identification. In 1875, eight schools were in existence. On the NE corner of Kellogg and Grand River is a church which was the Kellogg School. The Baetcke School on the SW corner of Bauer and Challis Road, is now a house. For a while Beurmann School, on the S side of Brighton Road, E of Clifford Road, was used as a private school.

The school which stood at the NE corner of Latson and Grand River burned some time ago. The NW corner of Beck and Chilson 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 N side of Crooked Lake Road, E of Nixon (formerly Latson Road) is a very delapidated, 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. Hagman.)

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P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

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