



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
•Sec.	Judith Peck	227-6491
•Treas.	Wally Jollitz	229-9832

DIRECTORS

•Bert Bair		229-6402
•Chuck Beach		229-9678
•Dick Davis		229-8356
•Floyd Fuller		231-2415
•Mae Schmadtke		227-7969

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

6:30 pot luck is planned for the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society. Bring the usual dish to pass and dinnerware. Coffee, tea will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road. The public is invited.

The Annual Reports of Officers will be presented, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of nominees for election of three Directors for 86-88, the 1986 Budget and a short program will conclude the evening's activities.

BAKE SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

At the Brighton Farmers' Market, off North First St., Saturday, October 5, 8-1 p.m., the Society will hold a bake sale.

Chairman Janice Beach and her committee will be waiting to receive all your goodies that day. Please have your items there by 10 a.m. If you need to deliver things the day before, or have any questions, please call Janice, 229-9678.

Can't make a baked contribution?...a cash donation will be most acceptable. Checks can be written to the Society. (And keep wishing for good weather.)

EDITORIAL

Does it seem the Society is always trying to raise money? You're right. Preservation and restoration activities don't just happen. There are lots of hard working volunteers but cold, hard cash is vital. Donors have been generous in the past, this is very much appreciated.

To accomplish the goals of the Society, fund raising is a continuing effort. The confidence exhibited by financial contributions is encouraging to the volunteers. The recent bequest of \$1000. from the Carmine (Case) Wilson Trust is gratefully accepted and taken as a sign of confidence in the ability of the Society to accomplish its goals and purposes (and its continued existence).
 (M. Bair, Editor)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Esther Clark, Samuel & Joan Deyo, Joanne Marentette, George Prieskorn, Lucille Prieskorn, Mary Walsh, Margaret Wennard. WELCOME.

By board action (unless specified for 1985) any dues paid after October 1 will be designated for the following year. To be a member in good standing dues are to be renewed by April 1 of any year.

Society Bylaws, Article II, Sec. 2 - Dues are renewable by December first of each year.

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RECAP, SEPTEMBER MEETING

Over forty people m-m-m-md the pot luck held at the September 10, General Meeting. Margaret Siford informed the group of Brighton High School Centennial plans for 1986. Questions were answered and several names were added to her list of people helping with the plans. Lots of community support is needed.

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THANKS, THANKS, THANKS, THANKS.....

...Dick & Joyce Juipe for the large picture "The Lion and The Bride". It originally hung in Weise's Bar-B-Que, then the Canopy, donated to Kiwanis and purchased by the Juipes.

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

...Wanda Partridge for pictures and Brighton Centennial memorabilia.

...Bill Pleas for his writings on school houses, organization of townships and early settlers in the area.

...Carol Watts for the 1941 Detroit News paper. (Virginia Herrmann sends this correction.)

...the Carmine Case Wilson trust for the \$1000. bequest (and display of confidence in the Society.)

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LYONS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

It is imperative that a steering committee be formed immediately to formulate plans for the restoration of the Lyons School.

A meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 16, 7:30, at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road, Brighton for interested persons.

On July 31, 1985, Michigan Senate Appropriations Bill 128 was signed into law. Funds are set aside in the Michigan Equity Program. Historic projects are among those eligible for application. A November 1, deadline forces immediate action by the Society in this matter.

Many in the Area are interested in the preservation of our heritage, of which the Lyons School is a part. There is an unsatisfied need to know our community has strong, deep, enduring roots to the past. There is a desire to be part of a community that includes the past as well as the present in its boundaries. It is believed the residents of the Area will respond if leadership is demonstrated. More must be left to future generations than suburban sprawl, shopping centers and three lane highways.

Please attend or contact a board member with your support.

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Heading south for the winter? Non-profit, bulk mail will not be forwarded. Please send us your winter address.

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

we need...

...bake sale donations for the Saturday, October 5, Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market.

...customers for the Saturday, October 12, Flea Market at the Lyons School.

...people to attend the Lyon School Meeting, Wednesday, October 16. (See article.) If more definite action isn't taken regarding the Society's restoration project, the Society may suffer the loss of this building.)

...photographers of local sites, activities, organizations, etc., for the next generation.

...someone (a librarian?) to set up a filing system of photos and writings of the Brighton Area.

...pictures of Lyons School and other country schools in this Area.

...someone to chair a house tour committee in 1986.

...someone to start a historic resource survey

...people to serve on the 1986 board of Dir.

...someone to identify the children of a Brownie Troop. Our picture was taken in 1981 by the Argus photographer by the Mill Pond.

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1985 TILE

When was the Pere Marquette depot in Brighton dismantled? Dick Davis, 229-8356, has not been able to determine, conclusively, that date. For the tile to be of historic value, that date should be included. In order to have the tiles for sale in 1985, the order must be placed soon. Call Dick with any information you might have before October 10. (The date determined by the Board that the order be placed.)

A few 1984 tiles (Town Hall) are available at the Jarvis Store, Uber's and the Senior Citizen's Gift Shop for a donation of \$6.00.

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FLEA MARKET, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

The generous donations of articles by Area residents makes it possible to hold a second Flea Market this year: 9-2 p.m., at the Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road. (Take Spencer to east of U.S. 23 to Buno and continue north approximately 1 1/2-2 miles.) May it be assumed most Society members will come and support the efforts of the committee in this fund raising venture? Even if you don't find anything you can't live without, a donation box will be there. Many thanks.

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BRIGHTON AREA'S EARLY HOMES

A book showing the early homes of the Brighton Area would be of interest to many. Pictures need to be taken and historic research done. If you have an early home (built prior to 1930) and would like it included, contact Mae Schmadtke, 227-7969, Mae is anxious to get started compiling this information (and it can be a good fundraiser).

Other books which need to be published could include area schools, early businesses, organizations, etc.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Total net worth 8-8-85 \$4592.82

Receipts

Dues	\$ 99.00	
Tile sales	204.00	
Raffle	29.00	
Flea Market	265.00	
Statny, etc.	59.80	
Int: chk.	2.97	
Sav.	22.11	25.08
Donations:		
C. Wilson trust bequest	1000.00	1659.77
		\$6274.60

Disbursements

Adm.	20.31	
Officer Exp.	18.35	
Newsletter	30.25	
Fund raising	60.76	129.67

Total net worth 9-10-85 \$6145.03

(Sav. acct. bal. 5465.61)

(Chk. acct. bal. 679.42) \$6145.03

(The proposed budget, to be accepted at the Annual Meeting, will be in the November Newsletter.)

AFGHAN RAFFLE

Society members receiving this newsletter will find two raffle tickets attached. It is hoped this will not seem presumptuous but instead an opportunity to make a contribution to the Society. More tickets may be obtained from Clara Healy, 229-9367, or the Senior Citizen Center Gift Shop where the afghan is on display.

The drawing will be held November 12, at the Annual Meeting.

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Area Historical Societies have been invited by the Green Oak Township Historical Society to a meeting Wednesday, October 9, 7 p.m. at the Gage House Museum on Kensington Road. Contact a board member if you'd like to attend and/or want a ride.

Salem Area Historical Society is holding a public auction of donated and consigned merchandise, Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m. Located on the corner of Curtis & N. Territorial Roads, approx. 7 miles E. of U.S. 23. Funds raised will help restore and maintain the South Salem Stone Schoolhouse.

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Livingston County Clerk, Joe Ellis, lives in Brighton Township.
2. Seims' hill is that portion of Brighton Road west of Bauer Rd., to the top of the hill. (The Westphall-Seim-Kull house is at the top.)
3. Frank Seger wrote the Centennial Song. It was played by the Brighton High School Band and sung on Brighton's birthday.

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:

- () Bake sale () Meeting programs () Photography () Help with special events
- () Board member () Membership committee () Publicity
- () Fund raising () Newsletter publication () Research () Video taping
- () Genealogy () Oral history () Restoration
- () Hospitality () 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 (Cont.)

The Federal government bowed out of road building in Michigan when it became a state in 1837. While the Grand River Road reached as far as Brighton by 1840 with bridges over the Rouge, Huron and various small streams, nothing more than a trail for a horse existed west of Brighton. (Funds for road building came from the sale of land, subscription and taxes.)

When the Government surveys were made in the 1820s there was no provision for a right-of-way for roads; it was left up to the local land owners to provide the land. Perusal of a township map will show the roads were usually laid out along property lines. A road 3 rods wide took a strip $1\frac{1}{2}$ rods wide off the property on each side of the line. Where swamps or lakes made it necessary to cross a farmer's land, he gave all of the land for the road. The new settler, having just claimed the land from the government for a small amount and needing roads, didn't object to this practice.

With the elimination of the toll houses along the Grand River Road c. 1880, (altho' the original contract signed in 1850 called for tolls for 60 years for the investors) it became a free road and subject to the same method of maintenance as other roads in the county. This was accomplished by the division of the townships into 'road districts' with an elected "pathmaster". In early spring the pathmaster would "call out" all of the men in his district to work out their road tax. (Each 60 acres of land owned meant $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per year of road work.)

Bringing their teams, wagons, plows, drags, shovels and picks, etc., the farmers would haul gravel or dirt into low places, smooth ruts by dragging with a harrow, drain holes by digging trenches to run water off into the ditches other farmers had plowed. Since it was a diversion from their usual solitary life in the fields we can hope the farmers enjoyed this road repair work. Those who didn't or could not work out their \$1.00 tax had to pay in cash. As a boy of 10, Bill Pless, as other boys his age, was credited as a man against his father's road tax, driving a team hauling gravel from the pit to the hole in the road.

The "pathmaster" system served well for the time. Farmers were able to transport their produce to market without much difficulty over the roads they had built. He also built the fence along the road and kept the road side free of obnoxious weeds and brush often planting rows of maples or evergreen trees along the road. These, along with the growth of native trees, all combined to shade the traveler and his horses besides making a pleasant landscape. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. A. Pless and "1880 History of Livingston County".)

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

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300 W. North
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