



Grand River Trail

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.

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Mi. 48116
 Vol. V, No. 1 January, 1986

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Pres. Zara Graham 229-2240
 - V.P. Gary Cole 227-6116
 - Sec. Gloria Spencer 229-5839
 - Treas. Marieanna Bair 229-6402
- DIRECTORS
- Floyd Fuller 231-2415
 - Rudy Herrmann 229-7923
 - Alice Krupa 227-2516
 - Mae Schmadtke 227-7969
 - Allen Walblay 227-9101
 - Marieanna Bair, Imm. Past Pres.

GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 14, 1986

Beginning with a Pot Luck at 6:30, the first General Meeting of 1986 will be held at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road. Following a short business meeting at 7:30, Jim Dennis, local architect, will present slides on historic preservation of significant structures.

Director, Alice Krupa, 227-2516, will describe the plans she is making to conduct a historic resources survey of Brighton City. She will be taking pictures and compiling historical records of City structures, both commercial and private residences. She will inform us as to how we can assist her in this effort.

Board meetings, open to members, are held the second Tuesday, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall (Poor Richards Book Store).

+ + + + +

EDITORIAL

'Most every week the names of longtime area natives are found in the Argus Obituary columns. One notes a sense of loss of another part of the history of the Brighton area. There are many area residents who, we hope, are recording their feelings and memories of their lives in this area. It takes time to record these experiences and yet we are the only ones who can do that.

Are you a long-time resident who needs help getting started? Perhaps you can begin by writing how you spent holidays when you were younger. Is there one specific holiday which sticks in your mind? How was Christmas commemorated in your elementary school? None of these questions jog your memory? What is your earliest Christmas memory? What did your parents tell about theirs? Write and tell us about it. Can we prepare a Christmas tradition book? (Ed., M. Bair)

+ + + + +

MEMBERSHIPS - 1986

Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Boylan, Albert & Hazel Cole, Gary & Ruth Ann Cole, Dick Davis, Homer & Evelyn Dohager, Al Dunk, Tim & Kathleen Flynn, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Clara Healy, Robert & Betsy Herbst, Mary Hubert, James & Judy Murray, John & Dorothy Pennala, Elbert Seger, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Harold & Beryl Wilt. George Hacker and Bob & Mary Richmond are patron members and the Bogan Agency has joined as a business/professional member. WELCOME.

This newsletter is mailed to members and others who we assume would be interested in the Society and its activities. Paying dues indicates a desire to continue. We are grateful to those who, because of distance and other factors, become patron members in order to support it. Please let us know if you do not wish to receive the newsletter. Copies are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

+ + + + +

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

...Shirley Ritter for chairing the Spaghetti Supper, Friday, February 7.

...Bert Bair and Dick Davis for closing up the damaged windows at the Lyons School.

...Norma Jean Pless for chairing the Lyons School Restoration Committee.

...those who will be serving on the Board of Directors for 1986.

+ + + + + + + +

LOCAL HISTORIAN DIES

William Pless, born in Genoa Township, February 21, 1896, died December 16, 1985. While the Society's sincere condolences are expressed to his family, the Society and the community also will miss Bill greatly. Bill was one of those who observed and remembered the changes taking place in this area. His recorded memories are a continual source of inspiration to those who support the purpose of the Society.

We would encourage others who also have observed and have memories of their life in the area to emulate Bill by recording their observations. While Bill recorded early activities, not much is recorded of happenings for the more recent past 20, 40, 60 years.

The Society is anxious to compile these memories into publications. Can you write what you remember? or contact a board member if you'd like to talk? Don't feel what you remember is unimportant. Let the Society determine that.

+ + + + + + + +

SPAGHETTI SUPPER, FEBRUARY 7

Friday, February 7, 5-8 p.m., the Society will be sponsoring its fourth Annual Spaghetti Supper. It will be held at the Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River, parking in the rear.

Shirley Ritter, 548-2391, chairman, will be contacting members to serve on the various committees. Give the Society your support by responding affirmatively when you are called to help with donations or as a worker. All funds raised will go the preservation and restoration fund for the Lyons School and the Old Town Hall.

+ + + + + + + +

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

we need...

...someones to do a historic resource survey of Brighton and Genoa Townships.

...lots of someones to buy tickets to the Spaghetti Supper.

...picture of Lyons School.

...people to work with Lyle Powers on the High School Centennial committee. 229-2149 Contact him to learn what needs doing.

...donations of antiques for sale at the Society's booth at the antique show.

...some answers to our trivia questions and some more trivia questions. Send to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton.

...someone to restore the buggy.

+ + + + + + + +

LYONS SCHOOL

The windows of the Lyons School were attacked by vandals last month. There is little evidence to indicate who did this. Dick Davis and Bert Bair covered the damage with boards. If anyone knows who caused this vandalism please contact any of the board members. It is assumed that residents of the area would help keep a protective eye on the building in order to avoid future harm to this historic building.

Norma Pless of the Lyons School Restoration Committee reports that no funds from the Michigan Equity Program will be received for 1986 for restoration purposes. The committee has been meeting and setting priorities for proceeding with restoration, fund raising and eventual use of the building. The committee will next meet March 3, 1986, 3:30 at the Brighton Township Hall, 4363 Buno Road. Interested persons are welcome.

Elizabeth Bindenagel, great granddaughter of Richard Lyons, has inquired as to the existance of any photos of them. Can some one help with this?

+ + + + + + + +

HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

Lyle Powers, 229-2149, is in need of people to help him get the 1986 Centennial celebration of the Brighton High School underway. He already has lots of pictures and other material but is looking for more. Activities centered on the Independence Day events in Brighton must be coordinated. Call Lyle and let him know with what you can help.

+ + + + + + + +

ANTIQUÉ SHOW

The Antique and Craft Show, cosponsored by the Society and Sr. Citizen Center, will be Saturday, March 22, at the Brighton High School. Antique dealers from three states are being invited to participate.

The Society is also planning to sell antiques but only if people of the area donate items to the Society booth. Chairman, Charlene Kull, 227-9393, will be giving income tax deductible receipts for all contributions. Contact her regarding your item. All proceeds will go to the Society for its preservation and restoration projects.

+ + + + +

DEPOT TILES AVAILABLE

The second in the series of tiles produced by the Society is available for \$7. donation. Picturing the Pere Marquette Railroad Depot in Brighton, the tiles are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drugstore, Citizen's Trust and the Chamber of Commerce.

A few of the 1984 tiles of the old Town Hall are still available at Jarvis' for \$6. donation.

+ + + + +

SHAKERS AND MOVERS

Wally Jollitz, retiring Treasurer of the Society, was born and raised in Detroit. He and wife, Marilyn, came to Brighton in 1957. They take justifiable pride in the restoration of the Woodruff's miller's house in which they live.

Since moving to Brighton Wally has been involved in many civic projects and benevolent organizations. As a charter member of the Society he has served since its incep-

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Many fund raising projects were on the agenda in 1985: antique show and sale, theater presentation, raffles, bake sales, art fair booth, stationery, tile and garage sales and a spaghetti supper.

In order to place all funds raised by these projects into the restoration fund, the Budget committee plans that all administration costs will be covered by memberships.

Other events included the fifth Annual Open House, the formation of committees to promote the restoration of the Lyons School and the old Town Hall, distribution of a monthly newsletter, beginnings of a historic resource survey and considerable membership growth.

Future activities include the designation of several sites in the area as Michigan Historical Sites, support of the High School Centennial Committee, preparation of publications of pictures and history of local sites, development of an education committee to help Brighton Area students become aware of their community's past and continued cooperation of members and non members in the many fund raising activities as planned in 1986. (Marieanna Bair, Imm. Past Pres.)

+ + + + +

tion as Trustee and Vice-President. Altho' retiring from the Board his continued support will be in evidence and much appreciated.

+ + + + +

TRIVIA ANSWERS

Hornung Elementary was named after Elenor Hornung, who is still in the area. We hope she soon will send us a biography to be included in the Society's files.

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 () Video taping
- () Fund raising () Newsletter publication () Research () Hospitality
- () Genealogy () Oral history () Restoration
- () Other work I'd be willing to do _____

Dues: \$8.00 per couple
5.00 per individual
25.00 patron
25.00 business/professional

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

DR. ERNEST ADOLPH BUEK, A BRIGHTON PIONEER

While not a famous man, nor a great one, nevertheless Ernest A. Buek typified the dedicated, devout (his family were members of St. Michael's in Hamburg, Germany), often forgotten common people whose sturdy leadership gave our rural areas the strength to grow and flourish.

The eighth of eleven children, born October 28, 1802, to Kaspar Henrich Buek (a gardner, florist and insurance agent) and Friederike (Voight) in Hamburg, Germany, Ernest received a complete education in history and law. Beginning secondary school at the age of 15 in 1817, his diligent, continued efforts resulted in the conferring of honors in Canon and Civil Laws, together with the degree Doctor of Law, on May 21, 1826.

On October 28, 1829, he married Elizabeth Henrietta Knauth. In the 1800s many Germans immigrated to America because of compulsory military service, lack of available land and political reasons. Dr. Buek and his family were among them. By mid-June, 1838, the Plymouth was anchored off Sandy Hook, the approach to New York Harbor. On board were Ernest, Elizabeth and their five children, the eldest eight years old, along with prospective pioneers and soldiers of fortune.

Besides household belongings, Ernest brought along his law library, the works of Shakespeare, Schiller and Goethe, and his Heidelberg degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence. All these were loaded on a boat, floated up the Hudson, transferred to a barge, towed on the Erie Canal (during which time the children learned their first words of English, "Low Bridge") and by boat again from Buffalo to Detroit. A stagecoach from Detroit finally brought them to their destination - Hamburg in Livingston County.

Already many from Germany had settled in Hamburg and Genoa townships, which was perhaps an inducement to buy 40 acres in Section 15 of Hamburg Township in the 5800 area of present day Cowell Road on August 2, 1838. On the 40 acres of woodland running back into the high hills on the shore of beautiful Pleasant (Winans) Lake, a typical log house was built with the little family moving in on October 26. Over the fireplace, the German pioneer set a board in which he had carved "Frölich in Hoffnung, Geduldig in Trübsal, Haltaeam Gebete" (Be joyful in hope, patient in suffering, constant in prayer.) (During the years to come, he would have full need of this philosophic admonition.)

Dr. Buek knew both French and Italian in addition to his native German, but lacked a speaking command of the English language. He had come to America to practice his profession but found no law business for such as he. (Condensed and edited from "A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ernst Adolph Buek, Compiled by Robert Lee Watson". To be continued.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North St.
Brighton, Mi. 48116