



Grand River Trail

P. O. Box 481, Brighton, Mi. 48116
Vol. B, No. 6 June, 1986

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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Mae Schmadtke 227-7969
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Marieanna Bair, Imm., P. Pres. & Editor

RECAP MAY 13 GENERAL MEETING

Beginning with a pot luck and following a short business meeting, Bob Tuttle and John Moffat of the Commerce Township Historical Society presented a slide program showing the various styles of early headstones and the manner in which the fashions have changed.

Dismay was expressed at the vandalized condition of the Brighton Cemetery by the Mill Pond. Many of the Area's earliest settlers are buried there.

The next General Meeting will be September 9. Contact a board member with suggestions for programs. Next Board meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 7:30 at the Old Town Hall.

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OLD TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

The committee has been working on a presentation to bring to the Brighton City Council regarding the future of the Old Town Hall and the use to which it is to be put. Support of the committee's plans (in the form of warm bodies) will be invaluable. The exact date will be announced in the Argus. Mark the date and show the Council members this matter is important to you.

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EDITORIAL

The tolerance demanded of the readers of Trail Tales is considerable. Errors in grammar and typing would indicate a lack of concern for the quality of this newsletter. Such is not the case. This writer must take responsibility for last month's Editorial and not place it on Mr. Bair as indicated by the signature. With no guarantees of no more errors in the future, one takes consolation from the knowledge that only those who do nothing make no mistakes.

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Since the May issue, the following have paid 1986 dues: Rita Altenberg, David Apps, Sally Baldwin, David Z. Barton, Larry & Jean Clark, Irene Conely, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Harold & Eleanor Davis, Dr. Harry Davis, Fred & Phyllis Gruezke, Randall & Doris Hoadley, David & Shirley Hood, Elenora Knaus, Phil & Alice Krupa, David & Charlene Kull, Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Ray & Jean Lanning, David Lehman, **Richard & Helen Leitz, Joanne Marentette, Leota Mason, Jessie McDonnell, Joe & Irene Mike, Rosemary Moon, Jim & Marilyn Morgan, Bruce & Janet Owens, Lee Pawlak, James & Doris Petersen, **Charles & Norma Pless, Cliff & Shirley Ritter, Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Frank & Alice Seger, Jim & Phyllis Siford, Albert III & Karen Wirth. **Patron Members.

E. D. Ewing Furniture, E. F. Hutton, Michigan Bank-Livingston, Oak Pointe Development Co., and Rolison Pro Hardware have paid business/professional membership. MANY THANKS TO ALL. YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL.

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LYONS SCHOOL

1. An insurance bill of over \$500 will be due in a few months. Donations will be gratefully accepted.
2. Next meeting of the Lyons School Restoration committee to be announced.

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

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

...Brighton Argus and Station WHMI for their support with publicity.

...Rolison Pro Hardware for their extra donation.

...Muriel Bridal Shop for a display case and to Rudy Herrmann, Bert Bair, Gary Cole and Ron Dionne for moving it on Lloyd Murphy's truck.

...Mae Schmadtke for serving as Nomination Chairman.

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NEW BOOK AVAILABLE

Milton Charboneau of Pinckney has prepared a book titled "The First Land Owners of Livingston County; for sale June 1, at \$15.00. Brighton Area Historical Society members may purchase a copy for \$12. + 1.50 postage until June 15. 7"x9", 200 p. hard-bound, printed on acid free paper it consists of records from Livingston County, including names, dates, acreage and land description. Arranged alphabetically by names, township and sections. Order from Livingston County Genealogical Society, c/o M. Charboneau, 9040 Farley Road, Pinckney 48169 - check payable to Milton Charboneau.

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STATE AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATIONS

The Commerce United Methodist Church, 1155 W. Commerce Road, Milford, held a dedication service of the marker denoting its designation as a Michigan Historic Site, Sunday, June 1. Following the worship service at 11 a.m., a parade from the original site of the church to the present site began at noon.

The Western House, 500 W. Main, Brighton, has been given a National Historic Site Designation recently.

The Society extends its congratulations and best wishes to both these recipients.

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OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

South Lyon Museum, the "Witch's Hat" open Sundays and Thursdays 1-5 p.m.

Green Oak, Gage House, 4660 Kensington Road, Open Saturday, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

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

we need...

...people to serve on the following committees: Program, Finance, Farmers' Market, Memorabilia Room, July 5th parade, Alumni Band July 5, buggy restoration.

... photos of: Lyons School, Eastern House, Brighton Mills, Stuhrberg (Lee) House on Grand River next to Presbyterian Church.

...people to support the Old Town Hall Committee at the Council meeting.

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MEMORABELIA ROOM HOSTS NEEDED

Hosts are needed to spend a few hours during the Centennial Celebration at the Memorabilia Room at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road. These will greet alumni who come to reminisce. The displays are being planned by Lyle Powers. It is not necessary to be an alumnus to help host this portion of the celebration.

The room will be open July 4, 1-4 p.m, and July 5, 11-5 p.m. Volunteers will be asked to serve two-hour shifts. At least three are needed for each shift. Please call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, and tell her which day and hours you will be able to help. It takes lots of time to make lots of calls, please help.

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ROLISON HARDWARE ADDITION COMMENDED

The recent addition to the Rolison Hardware, 111 W. Main, prompts congratulations from the Society.

Recognition of the many fine architectural elements in the existing building has made the addition successful. With sensitivity to detail, traditional elements found in the original building are included in the new addition. The recessed entry and large plate glass display window; a transom window over the display window was tastefully added; brick detailing and the use of limestone for lintels and cornerstone are examples of traditional elements of classical main street store front designs not often found in modern construction.

Rolison's is to be commended for choosing this design over the many options available by keeping the new addition compatible with the original and with Main Street as a whole. The Society would encourage future changes to other buildings in the Area to recognize that good design is always in style.

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BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL JULY 4-6

You're an alumnus of Brighton High School (or know one) but haven't received your announcement of the celebration? Please go to Jarvis Men's Store, 205 W. Main, they have extras. The Invitation Committee can only send to those for which they have addresses. At last count the committee did not have lists for the classes of 1915, '16, '18, '19, '44, '46, '59, '62, '67, '79. If you have an address for those of any of the above years, please call Brighton Community Ed., 227-7450. Responses indicate alumni coming from Virginia, Florida, etc.

Activities being planned for the celebration include bus tours of the area, a family picnic, dance, Memorabilia room and a parade. (Parade participants should contact Dick Davis, 229-8356. Alumni Band participants should contact Janice Beach, 229-9678.) T-shirts, mugs, etc., commemorating the event have been ordered. These may be bought individually or as a package. Be sure to get yours.

Anniversary diplomas for those who graduated 50 or more years ago will be given at a special ceremony. Some class reunions are scheduled for the weekend.

Local businesses have been contacted for financial support. Your support of these businesses will be appreciated. The Post Office is planning a special cancellation in connection with the centennial. A printed tour guide is planned.

ADOPT A BUGGY WHEEL

In June Leo Sullivan will begin restoration of the buggy donated last fall to the Society by Michigan Bank-Livingston. Leo, 227-2590, will need help. Don't know how

A tentative schedule:
 Friday, July 4, 1-4 p.m. Registration at Sloan Field. Memorabilia Room at Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Rd., open.
 4-5 p.m. Opening ceremonies at Sloan Field.
 7:30-11 p.m. Get-together at High School, 7878 Brighton Road.

Saturday, July 5, 10-11 a.m. parade, Main St.
 11-5 p.m. Memorabilia Room open.
 11-3 p.m. Bus tours.
 11-3 p.m. Picnic behind the High School.
 7:30-11 p.m. Dance at the High School.

Sunday, July 6, 11-1 p.m. coffee honoring teachers, administration, etc., at High Sch.
 1:30-2:30 p.m. closing ceremonies at the High School Football Field.
 7 p.m. Gazabo concert at Mill Pond.

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1986 TILE

It is expected the 1986 tile of the Union School will be available at the time of the Centennial celebration. Hundreds of Alumni are expected to attend and it is assumed they will want to buy a tile. Contact Jane Tomlinson, 229-4360, if you wish to reserve some for yourself to add to your collection.

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to do this? No excuses, please. Leo will give instruction as how the work will be done. If four people each take a wheel it will complete the process much more quickly. Anyone who would like to help with the restoration of the body of the buggy should call Leo also.

Is it too much to dream the buggy will be finished in time for the High School Centennial Parade, July 5?

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1986 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1986

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

New () Renewal () Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ()

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Video taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Other work I'd |

How 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 UNION SCHOOL

The first schoolhouse in Brighton was built on the Grand River Trail in 1837, east of Hope Street. The small log cabin was built prior to the organization of a school district, which seems to have not caused any problem to the residents altho' it seems to put the cart before the horse. (Another source indicates it was built in 1835 by Maynard Maltby.) During the next ten years the Brighton-Genoa fractional district No. 5 was formed (with an irregular boundary containing about 5 square miles so only a few children had to walk more than two miles to school). As the village grew and the citizens became dissatisfied with the cabin, it was sold and a house on E. Main Street was rented and used for a school until 1850. At that time a new schoolhouse was built on the northeast corner of Spencer and East Streets. This building served through the Civil War years until the "Union" school was built.

The triangular site selected was located west of what was then Ann Arbor Road (Rickett just south of the Grand River Trail. It was purchased from Ira W. and Spaulding N. Case in 1867 for the sum of \$487.50. The next year the building, constructed of brick, was completed at an expense of \$10,400. There were not many furnaces in those days, but this school had one. There was a large register usually called the "big hole in the floor".

By 1879 the number of children in the district between 5 and 20 years old, increased from 46 to 267. The number of teachers employed increased from one or two to five. As the years went by the school developed a more elevated character, until it became a graded system and teachers capable of instructing in languages, sciences, etc., were employed. By the late 1800s it provided for a 10th grade high school education. As enrollment increased, grades one through twelve were taught. The first graduating class, 1887, consisted of two young ladies. It soon became necessary to rent vacant stores to accommodate grades one through four. Those rooms had been occupied by various ventures: saloons, wool storage and grocery stores and were in a sad state of repair. Understandably, parents of children attending were dissatisfied with such facilities, but those were difficult times and everyone knew it was beyond their means to do much about the situation. In retrospect it appears those beginning students did not suffer adversely from the lack of a proper facility; proving the old adage "you can dip water as fast from a pond as from the ocean."

Early in 1900, a state law required outlying districts (usually the one room schools) to pay the high school tuition for students in their districts. This brought several students from the surrounding townships. Not a large percentage of children went beyond the 8th grade. In 1907, an elementary schoolhouse was built north of the Union School for grades one through four. This has been known as Rickett School. (Edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless and the first Brighton High School Annual, 1930.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

Printed courtesy:

OLD KENT BANK

300 W. North St.

Brighton, Mi. 48116