



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. 3 March, 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
Allen Walblay	227-9101
Mae Schmadtke	227-7969
Marieanna Bair, Im..Past Pres, Ed.	

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 11

The evening will begin with a pot luck at 6:30 at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road. At 7:30 there will be a short business meeting. The program will feature Bob Hotaling from the Kensington Metropark, with the story of Jo Labadie, a former early resident of that area. It promises to be an unusual tale.

The public is invited. Bring your friends.

Board meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 7:30, upstairs at the Old Town Hall (former Library), 202 W. Main. Members welcome.

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	TREASURER'S REPORT	
1-9-86	Total Net Worth	\$5904.00
Receipts:	(Dues 439., Fund Raising	
544.75,	Interest 67.82)	1051.57
		<u>6955.57</u>
1-13-86	(Adm. 154.16, Fund Raising 39.87,	
	Hist. Proj. 25.60)	219.63
2-13-86	Total Net Worth	\$6735.94
"	Sw. Acct. Bal. 5446.35	
"	Ck. Acct. Bal. 1289.59	<u>\$6735.94</u>

EDITORIAL

The Brighton area has many old buildings. Like old friends they can be reassuring in times of change.

It has been suggested that 90% of the houses we will occupy in the year 2000 are already built. Restoration of older buildings, including retrofitting and updating of plumbing, heating and wiring, is therefore vital. This can be done while retaining the integrity of the original design and the Brighton Area can be proud of its variety of livable dwellings and profitable places of business.

The structures in which our forefathers worked and lived are a part of us. To lose them would be like losing a part of ourselves.

The Society can be one means by which we can work together to identify, preserve and encourage the reuse of these buildings.

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS

Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Sandy and Steve Bansch, Chuck & Janice Beach, Ev Bell, Richard & Elaine Blight, Kevin & Faith Brady, Rae Carmack, Florence Chase, Esther Clark, Dale & Doris Clixby, Frances Clore, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Doris Fay, Tom & Zara Graham, Mary Griffith, Will & Katherine Hampton, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, John & Carol Hills, Bill & Helen Hyne, Josephine Hyne, Arlene Jacob, Don & Shirley Jenks, Wally & Marilyn Jollitz, Al & Lois Krausman, Francis & Helen Michaels, Margaret Muir, Alice Newcomb, Sherry Nyhus, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Lovisa Seger, Margaret Squire, Franc Stokes, Leo & Iris Sullivan, Allen Walblay, Anna Westin, Trevor & Avinel Woodworth, John & Phyliss Wenzel. (Please turn to page 2.)

...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...
 ...Shirley Ritter and her crew for the well-prepared spaghetti supper.
 ...Domino Pizza, Sefa's, Jan Davies, Lisa Ritter, Uber's, Jarvis', Chamber of Commerce, DuQuets for their contributions and support of the spaghetti supper.
 ...those many hardy souls who braved a snowy, wintry day to come to the spaghetti supper.
 ...Brighton Fire Department for their continued, wholehearted support of the Society.
 ...those making a donation to the Society booth at the Antique Show March 22.
 ...(in advance) those making a purchase at the Society's booth at the Antique Show.
 ...the Charles Beachs and Charles Plesses for their memorials to Bill Pless.

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(1986. Memberships, cont. from page 1)
 Many thanks to Patron members: American Legion, Elizabeth Bindenagel, and Marlene (Collins) Fonseca.
 And again, many thanks to Business/Professional members: Citizen's Trust, Keehn Funeral Home and Mayday's Office Products.
 Most members have renewed for 1986. (Special thanks to those who became patron members as an extra measure of encouragement.) To those who have not renewed by March 31, the Membership Chairman will send a reminder note. This will be an unnecessary expense so please try to renew before then. Your continued support is vital to the accomplishing of the Society's goals.

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SOCIETY BOOTH AT ANTIQUE SHOW

In February all Society members were sent an invitation to donate an item(s) to the Society booth at the Antique Show at the High School Saturday, March 23. Charlene Kull, 227-9393, will give a tax deductible receipt for your donation if you wish. Even if you are not a member of the Society your contribution will be gratefully accepted. If everyone cooperates the historic preservation and restoration fund will get a big boost.

We're looking for furniture, books, tools, toys, pictures, glassware, quilts, etc. If you're not sure if an item will be acceptable, please call Charlene and she will decide. Transportation can be provided.

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Eighth graders from St. Patrick's School took a walking tour to observe and appreciate the wide variety of architectural styles in Brighton. Photos, pen and ink drawings and sculptures are displayed in the S.E. corner of the Library. Go and learn.

...HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP we need...
 ...a Financial Chairman. Someone to plan fund raising events and appoint chairmen to conduct each. (Our many projects need funding.)
 ...Brighton City Historic Research Survey respondents: Alice Krupa, 227-2516.
 ...antiques to sell at the Society Booth, March 23: Charlene Kull, 227-9393.
 ...someone to restore the buggy.
 ...picture of Lyons School.
 ...support from those who feel the Society's goals are worthwhile.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

As President of the Society, I wish to publicly thank all of the officers, the members of the Board of Directors, the committee chairmen and the many individual members that have given me so much help and support during my first weeks in office.

Marieanna Bair, whom I succeed but cannot replace, deserves a special thanks for her infinite patience while teaching me the workings of the office.

A big bouquet of roses for Shirley Ritter: she did an excellent job as chairman of our annual spaghetti dinner.

To each of our members, whether you live close by, in another city, or out of state, we would appreciate any suggestions or thoughts you have on making this a more productive organization. You would earn our undying gratitude if you would share with us any pictures or memories you have of the Brighton area.

Please feel free to contact me in connection with any society interests.

Yours for Brighton's Past, Present & Future,
 Zara Gibson Graham

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P. M. R. R. TILES

Available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store, Citizen's Trust and the Chamber of Commerce, for a \$7. donation, are tiles showing the depot. All receipts are placed in the preservation and restoration fund.

BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL CETENNIAL

The July 4th weekend has been selected as the date for the celebration. The Centennial Committee is meeting regularly to develop plans for the celebration. Norma Jean Pless is chairman.

The committee will meet again Wednesday, March 4, 7:30, at the Maltby Middle School Media Center on Bauer Road. For a successful event help will be needed. A display of memorabilia is planned in the media center at the Miller Community Center. Lyle Powers will be heading that committee.

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BRIGHTON POST OFFICE BEGINNINGS

Does anyone have a picture of the Post Office when it was located on Main Street? Can someone tell us where the Post Office was located before then? Any pictures? Post Master, Emil Engel, plans to prepare a display for the lobby of the Post Office with reproductions of pictures brought to him.

The late Bill Pless has done some writing on early mail delivery in the area. Contact this Editor, 229-6402, if you care to edit these writings and help prepare a concise history or story of postal service in the area. Additional "stories" will be of interest also.

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GREEN OAK DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

The Green Oak Township Historical Society will be celebrating their annual Green Oak Day with a quilt show at the Oddfellows Hall in South Lyon. They are preparing a quilt to be raffled. Contact Edna Peach, 437-1271, for more information and if you have a quilt to display.

BRIGHTON CITY HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

The Society is conducting a Historic Resource Survey of the City of Brighton. Alice Krupa, 227-2516, is chairman.

The survey will compile a complete record of older structures, still in existence or not. This survey will be important to the planning commission and to developers so they can better know the historical/architectural value of a structure and an area.

Survey sheets have been sent to City residents on the mailing list. Whether you received a survey or not, any information you could give Alice regarding early structures will be most appreciated.

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AREA SOCIETIES TO MEET APRIL 30

The spring meeting of area historical societies will be held in Northville, Wednesday, April 30. Beginning at 7 p.m. with a docent-conducted tour of the six buildings of Mill Race Village, the group will meet at the New School Church at 8 p.m. for refreshments and a short talk by their Village curator. Societies will share plans for the State Sesquicentennial.

The exchange of ideas which takes place at these meetings makes them worthwhile. Several members of the board are planning to attend. Contact the President or the Treasurer if you'd care to attend also.

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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:

- () 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 send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
 25.00 patron Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 business/professional

DR. ERNEST ADOLPH BUEK, A BRIGHTON PIONEER (cont.)

In the early 1840s, there were less than thirty families in the whole township of Hamburg; roads were mere trails through the woods, Indians begged at the door, bears carried off the little pigs, and the distant howling of wolves at night was a familiar sound. On one occasion, when the Doctor had gone to Brighton, a dreadful cry was heard by those at home from across the lake. They felt certain it was a panther or Indians on the war path. Mother and children sought shelter and refuge in the rootcellar, back in the hillside, and cowered in fear until a familiar and reassuring whistle announced that the head of the household had returned unharmed. The hidden came forth from their sanctuary and learned the maniacal clamor that had sent them scurrying for safety had been made by a harmless waterfowl, a loon.

Autumn days brought crops to harvest and nuts to gather. When storms sent the white-caps racing across the lake (present day Winans Lake) or when the north wind piled snow deep around the little cabin, they all gathered before the great fireplace and listened enthralled while their scholarly father read aloud of the fearsome ride of the Erl Konig, pages from King Lear or appropriately enough, chapters from the Last of the Mohicans.

Within a few years his devoted "Lizette" died in childbirth, 1846, leaving the three hour old baby and its older siblings entirely in his care. She was buried on "Holy Hill" overlooking the lake. (Later to be reinterred in St. George Churchyard in Genoa Township in April, 1850.) The Doctor and Lizette had nine children, of which the first five were born in Germany and the last four in Hamburg Township in the cabin on the lake.

In 1833, Michigan's first Lutheran pastor, Rev. Friedrich Schmid, from Basel, Switzerland, preached his first sermon in Michigan. Riding his horse, using his axe to clear a path, and carrying his blanket roll, Rev. Schmid preached his first sermon in Genoa Township in 1842. Due to the shortage of pastors in the wilderness, Rev. Schmid pressed into service every professional person he found in the area, of which Dr. Buek was one. By 1845, St. George Ev. Lutheran Church was organized with Dr. Buek as Secretary of the vestry. That year, he returned to Germany and solicited donations from classmates, friends and Lutherans for the construction of a building to house the new congregation. Along with \$600 in cash, he also brought back a communion set, baptismal font, church seal, offering plate and a register book. In April, 1849, the church was built. The several children were confirmed there and several of the girls married other German pioneers who located in the nearby townships. Dr. Buek served as Pastor (except for two years in Detroit) until he died July 2, 1860 on the farm in Section 28 in Genoa Township on land to which he had moved in 1850, now a part of Burroughs Farms. He and his Lizette are buried in the St. George cemetery in Genoa Township, where once stood the little church to which he gave his life's devotion. (Condensed and edited from "A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ernst Adolph Buek, compiled by Robert Lee Watson".)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

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300 W. North St.

Brighton, Mi. 48116