



Grand River Trail

TRAIL TALES

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. 5 May, 1986

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 13, 6:30

Beginning at 6:30 with a pot luck, the General Meeting of the Society will be at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road, Brighton. A drawing will be held for the table centerpieces. Tickets will be .50¢ or 3/\$1. A short business meeting at 7:30 is to be followed by a program by Robert Tuttle of the Commerce Township Area Historical Society, on headstones: the evolution of styles, engravings, materials from which they were made, etc., from the Civil War to date. An attempt is being made to include some from the Village Cemetery.

A visit to the cemetery reveals names of the Brighton Area's early settlers. Several buried there were born in the 18th century. Often the markers of children revealed a glimpse of the sorrow felt by the parents. The early history of the area is recorded with the names of Ackerman, Appleton, Bidwell, Bingham, Case, Clark, Conely, Collett, Euler, Hyne, Lee, McClements, Paddock and others, too numerous to list.

Guests are most welcome. Members are invited to attend Board Meetings: second Thursday, 7:30. 202 W. Main.

EDITORIAL

As can be noted, the Society is growing in membership. Its responsibilities are also increasing. The Board members can give direction, they cannot do all the work. Various committees must be formed.

Finance Committee: plan fund raising events and appoint chairmen to oversee these projects.

Program Committee: arrange for programs for General Meetings.

Lots of information (ideas and procedures) is available for these and other committees. By dividing the work among more members, the goals of the Society can be reached without causing the Board of Directors to suffer from 'burn out'. Area members must be willing to assume some responsibility. (Mr. Bair, Editor.)

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Since the last newsletter, the following can be included as members: Bill & Jacque Armstrong, Alice Anderson, Eric Astrup, Kaydawn Bender, Jean & Hardee Bethea, Marie Borst, Don & Lois Cole, Clara Dymond, Libby Eisenhardt, Joe & Irene Ellis, Ellouise Gibson, Eleanor Hornung, Fred & Bernice Hyne\*\*, Mark Linstid, Max & Dorothy Musch, George Prieskhorn, Lucille Prieskhorn, Margaret Goldstein, Mildred Shannon, Elsa Stegenga\*\*, Rita Vadasz, Jim & Shirley Wenzel, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen\*\*.

\*\* Patron members.

Eldred & Sons has paid business/professional dues. MANY THANKS TO ALL. YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL.

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

...Zara Graham for 1925 children's coloring book; 1935 "Rob's Cabinet of Curiosities"; several picture greeting postcards (c.1888); ticket to the "Green Ball" March 16, 1900, at the Opera House in Brighton; a tintype of her grandmother and grandaunt, pre 1914; J.G. Bætkke and Company Bank book 1901; 1950-51 Republican Candidate for governor card for Thos. L. Leith.

...Old Kent Bank for printing of this Trail Tales.

...Chamber of Commerce for not charging for use of copy machine.

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HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The committee is formulating various activities (including a picnic) for the July 4-6 weekend which will enable Brighton grads to renew old friendships and recall events connected to their high school days.

Publicity in area media is prepared and invitations are being sent those grads whose address are known to the committee. If you or a grad you know have not received one, let us know. The committee wants to include former teachers, board members, custodians, bus drivers, etc., in the reunion.

Please call the Community Ed Office, (313) 227-7450, with any information and help you can provide.

The committee will meet again, Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 at the Community Ed office, 7878 Brighton Road. The public is invited.

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WHAT? NO PARADE?

How can there be an Independance Day in this area without a parade in Brighton? Doesn't every small town have a July 4th parade? Isn't that part of the heritage we want to pass on to our children? The hoopla, the flags, music, marchers, laughter, friends, family, food, fun? The commemoration of the beginning of the greatest country on earth?

If you want a July 4th parade, make your wishes known to the City Hall, 227-1911 SOON.

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We are sorry to lose Allen Walblay as a Director. His schedule made it impossible for him to attend Board meetings. A new Director for 1986 will be appointed soon.

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

we need...

...people to serve on the Program committee.

... " " " " " Finance "

... " " " " " Farmers' "

Market committee.

...people to serve on the Lyons School "

...a dictaphone

...pictures of Lyons School.

...material to be used in this newsletter.

Contact a board member with your support.

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OLD TOWN HALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Goals being considered include the restoration of the building to its original characteristics (windows, doors, cupola, bell, etc.) It will house an active ongoing museum of Brighton Area history. Besides the display of artifacts it is planned to conduct various cultural and educational events.

To the benefit of the public the museum will bring a sense of discovery and awareness of those who initiated the settling of the area and those who have made it possible for us to live in a community that cares.

The committee will be researching grants and foundations and organizing a master plan incorporating restoration, funding, and programing. A meeting in June or July will present these goals to the City Council for their approval. At that time the committee will be looking for support from area residents.

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"Thanks to all the Historical Society members, our antique booth at the March Antique Show (Fiddler's Jamboree) was a success. We made approximately \$500 and have many fine donations that we can sell at future sales. (Even out-of-town members and business members contributed items.) Space is limited, so it is impossible to list all the donors and volunteers who helped with this project. Let me just thank all of you, donors, phone callers, show workers, lifters, and transporters. Special thanks to Ethel and Frank Gebben who helped store and collect items and to Marie-anna Bair who worked the show all day."

Charlene Kull, Society Booth Chairman

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BRIGHTON FARMERS' MARKET

June 7 thru October 25, the Brighton Farmers' Market will be in operation. Last year the Society held several successful bake sales. This is an opportunity for members who are unable to participate in other Society activities to show their support of the Society's goals. Needed is a committee to conduct this project. Contact a board member if you can help.

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FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MI.

Milton Charboneau has compiled a record book (7x9, 200 p. hardbound, printed on acid free paper) giving the name of the buyer, date, acres, description of the property. Cross indexed, it includes an early county map and a diagram of townships. It will go on sale June 1, for \$15. pp. until July 1, after which a shipping charge of \$1.50 must be added. A special offer has been made to members of the Society: from June 1 through June 15, they may buy this book for \$12.00. Check or Money Order payable to Milton Charboneau, 9040 Farley Rd., Pindney, Mi. 48169.

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In consideration of dues paying members of the Society, the mailing list for Trail Tales, which includes many whom we considered to have an interest in the aims and goals of the Society, must be reviewed periodically. To keep expenses in line with dues income, arbitrary delitions of non members must occasionally be made to the mailing list. It does not seem proper to expect to continue to receive Trail Tales and let dues paying members 'foot the bill.'

LYONS SCHOOL #1300 ON MICHIGAN  
HISTORIC SITE REGISTER

The Society has recently received confirmation from the Michigan Historical Commission that the Lyons School has been recognized as a site of historical significance to the community. The site is eligible for the placement of a marker denoting this designation. Your Editor has information regarding acquiring such a marker. Will someone come forward to assume this project?

At a recent meeting with Brighton Area Schools Supt., Dr. Dennis McMahan, plans were made to meet with the trades classes teacher and others to examine the site and discuss the purpose of the restoration as a living, working one room school. One benefit of such a meeting would be to make students and parents aware of the need for funds and encourage projects to raise these funds. Help in preparing grant applications was also offered.

Jim Dennis is reviewing current drawings in order to make recommendations regarding the restoration.

Bonnie Corrigan has drafted a letter to be sent former Lyons School students describing the restoration plans, requesting pictures of the school and the anticipated need for restoration funds.

The next meeting date has not been set. Please contact your Editor or Norma Jean Pless, Brighton Township Clerk, 229-0560 for any support of information you can give. This project will benefit the entire community.

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1986 dues are payable. If '86 dues have been paid, it will be noted on the mailing label.

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

## HISTORY NOTES - MEMORIAL DAY IN BRIGHTON

THE DATE: May 30, 1884 - THE PLACE: the Brighton Village Cemetery alive with the flutter of small American flags placed at each veteran's grave. THE PEOPLE: school children standing quietly, dressed in their finest; soldiers and veterans, hats in hand, heads bowed; and other residents of the area, all in reverent attention as the newly formed Samuel B. Appleton Post #179 of the Grand Army of the Republic conducts memorial services for their comrades who have fallen in battle during the Civil War.

Altho' it is almost two decades since that deadly event most of those in attendance remember or are aware of the missing family members. Every one has been planning for days to be involved in some manner in this most sacred of our national holidays.

All have just come from the street in front of the town hall where the children, soldiers and veterans had marched from the school to the music of the local band playing patriotic airs. Several of the local dignitaries had publicly expressed their hope that never again would brother fight brother. A reading of the Gettysberg Address was followed by more music and the march to the graveyard by the mill pond. Here a prayer for peace was said, a rifle volley fired and the children placed flowers on each soldier's grave.

Decoration Day originated in 1868, under an order issued by General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the G.A.R., to decorate the soldiers' graves and hold memorial services. Since that time that custom has been extended to include graves of all soldiers, and also the graves of relations and friends. It has become a day of personal and family commemoration.

With the passage of time, members of the G.A.R. Post No. 179 found it difficult to conduct these memorial services. The Jesse B. Cooley Post No. 235 (chartered in 1920) of the American Legion proudly accepted the responsibility to continue the tradition of a memorial service which now includes those who have fallen in succeeding conflicts.

THE DATE: May 26, 1986 - THE PLACE: the Brighton Village Cemetery. THE PEOPLE: Again ~~The~~ parade, the music, the children, the veterans (members of the American Legion, Post #235, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4357 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #110 of Livingston County), the flags, the grateful people, the memories.

The featured speaker of this day will be Robert Scranton, a WW II veteran and former prisoner of war. The parade will begin at the High School at 10 a.m., marching east on Main Street, to the Mill Pond Memorial. This year floats in the theme of showing honor to the Veteran, and political candidates for public office will be included. Those interested in participating should contact Harry Jenson, 229-9800. (Condensed and edited from "Chase's Annual Events, 1986," "Anniversaries and Holidays" and Harry Jenson of the American Legion Post #235. Editor, M. Bair)

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