



*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. 10 October, 1986

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 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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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

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

UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 9, MEMBERSHIP MEET.

Many items of local historical significance were brought and displayed at the recent Society meeting. Everything from baby spoons to top hats and more ensured an entertaining meeting.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, October 9, the Society Board will meet, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members welcome.

Tuesday, November 11, the Society's Annual Meeting will be held at Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer. Pot luck at 6:30. Business meeting, 7:30. The 1987 Budget will be presented, election of Directors will take place and Annual reports will be on the agenda. Public is welcome.

Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m., Historical museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. Meeting of area historical societies will begin with a tour of both levels of the Museum, with a program beginning at 8 p.m. Included will be an overview of the Educational Program of the Plymouth Historical Society, an update on area societies' plans for Michigan Sesqui-centennial and other activities. Contact the Editor if you'd like to join the group going.

EDITORIAL

"It's just an old house and will probably cost more to restore than it's worth." How often owners of old structures are tempted to take the easy way out and eliminate another acknowledgement that others existed before us.

Preservationists and others are duly concerned about the future of older buildings in the area which represent an architecture and history of our beginnings.

How to determine the importance of an old building? Try to consider the understanding of ourselves and the area's history if these buildings no longer exist. (Editor: M. Bair)

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 1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

The following have paid 1986 dues since the last issue: Marshall & Ellen Jean Cooper, John & Charlene Dunkelberger, Michael & Jennifer Hill, Kathryn Hodgkin, Janet Rorhabacher, Margaret Siford. (1987 memberships have been received for: Clayton Epley, Karen Goss and Carol Goudie.

Trail Tales should be sent to people who care about the history of the Brighton Area. Send name and address to the Editor so they can be included in the mailing list.

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 BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Following the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Brighton High School this summer, an Alumni Association has been formed. President, Tom Leith, V.P. Marieanna Bair, Secretary/Treasurer Mary Pearsall.

A Centennial yearbook is being planned: Larry Clark, Nancy Fredenberg and Kathy Lowry are the planning committee.

This Association will meet again Monday, October 6, 7:30 in the Community Education Conference Room at the High School. Welcome.

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

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

...George Winters family for booklet on history of Golden Lamb Inn in Lebanon, O. (Owners of building and/or businesses which have been in existance in Brighton Area for some time may consider a similar project. The sale of these kinds of items can be of financial help to the Society - which is always in need of funds.)

...those who notify the Editor of address changes/corrections. Nonprofit mail permit does not include this service. When the Editor makes this request to the Post Office each piece of returned mail costs .22¢. (The Society can't afford that.)

...Paul and Aline Anderson for the picture of the 1912 Brighton Home Coming parade.

...Marshall and Ellen Jean Cooper for their cash donation to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.

...Elizabeth Bindenagel for the picture of the J.H. Smith home c. 1877.

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Through the cooperation of the Society, the Brighton Public Library, the Senior Citizens' Center and the Alternative Education program, video taped interviews are planned of six longtime residents of the area. Lisa McBride, Ann Edmundson and Veronica Blackman will be conducting the interviews and Eric Barkham will be handling the video camera.

More interviewers could be used and names of people to be interviewed are needed. Not every interview has to be video taped, altho' that would be the ideal from posterity's point of view. Contact the Society President or Editor with your suggestions and offer of help.

November 1, 9a.m.-c:30 p.m., a workshop in Pontiac of the Michigan Oral History Council will focus on definitions and technical work, and using oral and video records of family history. Register by October 15. \$12.00. Contact the Editor, for more info.

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WHERE IS THE JAMES H. SMITH HOME? The Society has received a picture "The James H. Smith home near Brighton, Michigan, taken about 1877" from Elizabeth Smith Bindenagel of South Dakota (a descendant of Richard Lyon of Lyons School fame.) It will be displayed at the Annual meeting November 11, hopefully to be identified as to its location in the area and whether it exists today. It may be in Green Oak Township since J. H. Smith is located there in the 1880 History of Livingston County in the area of Maltby and Rickett Road. Contact the Editor if you can be of help or wish to see the picture before the Annual meeting.

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

We need...

...a financial chairman. There are people willing to help but a chairman is needed.

...a program chairman. We have lots of program suggestions but need someone to take care of details. The Board is already involved.

...restoration funds for the Lyons School and the Old Town Hall.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Typing errors made it difficult for our readers to verify the report in the September issue. The 7-1-86 total net worth should have read 8678.96. The 7-31-86 Saving Acct. Bal. should have read 7613.66. (Try again?)

8-1-86 Total Net Worth \$7705.32

RECEIPTS: Dues 41.; Fund Raising, 408.90; donations, 10.; interest, 42.75. 502.65

8207.97

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: Misc. 35.; newsletter 37.34

Officers: 4.40

Pres./Restoration: Lyons School - Insurance, 665.; Utilities 11.85; paint 35.09. 788.68

9-1-86 Total Net Worth \$7419.29

Sav. Acct. Bal. 9-1-86 7403.73

Chk. Acct. bal. 9-1-86 15.56 \$7419.29

Treas. Marieanna Bair

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The Michigan Family Reunion, Michigan on the Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1987; the designation of Michigan Historic Sites; Michigan Discovery Trails; the coming of the tall ships to Michigan waters in 1987; the Magic of Michigan festivities January 23-26, 1987 and dozens of other local and statewide celebrations will make it impossible for any to not be aware of the fact Michigan will be 150 years old in 1987.

Hundreds of ways to commemorate the event are suggested for local government leaders business people, chambers of commerce, tourist associations, educational facilities and individuals. Your Editor and the Brighton Area Library have these suggestions available. Happy Birthday, Mich.!

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SEARS HOUSES IN BRIGHTON

In the area of First, Washington and Franklin Streets in Brighton are located Sears mail order houses, many of which were erected by local builder Fred Pentlin. Alice Krupa, 227-2516, conducting the Historic Resource Survey, needs more information and confirmation regarding these homes. Call her if you can provide assistance.

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AUTHOR'S MEMORIES

A Book Talk by Billie Swarthout, author of SO MELTS THE ICE, will be October 21, 2 p.m. at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer. Sponsored by the Brighton Public Library.

Local author, Bernice Chappel, has another book published - LURE OF THE ARTIC. Write Great Lakes Books, P.O. Box 164, Brighton.

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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  
5.00 per individual  
25.00 patron  
25.00 business/professional

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

Through the cooperation of the Societ's Lyons School Restoration Committee and the Building Trades teacher and class of the Brighton Area Schools, progress is being made in the planned restoration of the Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd. At the recent school board meeting the Society presented a check for \$4000.00 to the school district.

This one room school, built in 1885, will be restored, as nearly as possible, to its original design. Local school children will be able to spend classroom time in an atmosphere of early Michigan education; learning also to appreciate the manner in which their ancestors participated in a learning process organized long before Michigan acquired statehood.

A brief perusal of the Treasurer's report convinces one that more funds must quickly be raised. Income tax deductible donations may be made to the Society noting the Lyons School Restoration Fund.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF HIST. SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

The 112th Annual Meeting and State Historical Conference of the Historical Society of Michigan will be at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills, October 17-19. Reservation deadline October 6, to Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104. Your Editor has more information.

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The Society archives is missing a copy of issue #5 of the Society's newsletter. Contact the Editor is you have one so copies can be made and the archives brought up to date.

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THE BRIGHTON AREA AND THE SESQUICENTENTIAL OF MICHIGAN

Altho' Brighton Area History begins generally around 1830 and Michigan became a state in 1837, the actual history of the white man's appearance in the area began over 200 years earlier. By 1608 the general area we know as Canada was occupied and governed by the French. The Governor, Samuel de Champlain, sent Etienne Brule' and a companion Grenoble, west with instructions to find a water route to the Pacific. Paddling their canoes it is believed they reached Lake Superior about 1622. Jean Nicolet, also sent by Governor Champlain, traversed the Straits and explored into Lake Michigan within the next several years.

These venturesome explorers, treated and supported as guests by the Indians, were soon followed by trappers and traders who brought rich cargoes of furs to Quebec, the center of French rule in North America. Missionaries accompanied the early trading expeditions which resulted in Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette establishing, at Sault Ste. Marie, the first mission in 1668. (Which means the 'Soo' has a history of over 300 years.) Just three years later, St. Ignace became the site of his second mission.

These two northern missions became the major sites at which the Indian and the white man, the French, had contact. Michigan history was shaped and bound to the French for almost a century and the life of the Indian was never the same again.

The British, traditional enemies of France in Europe, claimed all the land along the Atlantic from Maine to the Carolinas. Always vying for more lands and influence these two enemies tried to extend their territories in the New World. The French by being generous with gifts to the Indians were able to count on them as allies and therefore were able to keep English influence and control out of this vast inland empire until the mid 18th century.

The reliance of the Indians' way of life on the French technology forced them to depend on the missions, trapped furs for the French, became enslaved to alcohol, and fought successfully with the French in the battles against the British. In June, 1671, the French king claimed the Great Lakes and all lands "bounded on the one side by the Northern and Western seas and on the other side by the South Sea including all its length and breadth." Within the next 11 years, French explorers had descended by the Mississippi all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

To demonstrate more than a ceremonial possession of the land, forts were established at the southern ends of Lakes Michigan and Huron during the 1680s and 1690s. These military outposts were abandoned in 1698 because the French king feared a failing fur market and the Jesuit missionaries successfully argued against the alcohol to which the Indians had access. (to be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless; "A Short History of Michigan" by John Kern and "War 1812" by George S. May.)

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