THE BRIGHTON AREA AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF MICHIGAN (Cont.)

Altho' the French king had abandoned his nation's forts at the southern ends of Lakes Michigan and Huron in 1698, it was but three years later, 1701, that Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac received permission to establish Fort Pontchartrain as the first permanent French settlement in the Lower Peninsula. The fort was to serve as a means of defending the French-claimed territory against the British; promote friendly trade with the Indians and organize a colony of farmers.

Altho' persuaded by the British to attack Fort Pontchartrain in 1704, Chief Pontiac, leading the Ottawas, failed. Again, in 1712, the Fox Indians tried in vain to capture or burn the fort by shooting flaming arrows. In general the French treatment of the Indians encouraged their support and until 1760 Fort Pontchartrain remained in French hands. During these years Robert Navarre established the first civil jurisdiction in the area, and the town of Detroit was inaugurated. Numerous farming grants were made of narrow strips of land fronting on the river and running back as far as the owner wanted. Detroit prospered and the Indians were satisfied and felt secure with their hunting grounds in the interior.

During these same last 71 years (1689/1760) the French and British were engaged in wars in Europe and elsewhere all in the name of their respective empires. In 1757, England determined victory would be hers in North America. Capable generals, large numbers of soldiers and the alliances of her American colonies, enabled England to capture Quebec in 1759; Montreal and Fort Pontchartrain in 1760. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 sealed the fate of French rule in the New World. All other French outposts in Michigan (including those at the Straits of Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie), the Great Lakes and all of French Canada came under British control.

After having been treated as friends by the French and having come to depend on European utensils, cloth, ammunition, etc., harsh treatment meted out by the British soon caused the Indians, under Chief Pontiac, to engage in open warfare in 1763 with the whites. When a surprise attack on Detroit failed, a lengthy siege was begun. While unsuccessful in the siege, Indian warriors attacked white settlements from the Great Lakes to Virginia. Ft. Michilimackinac fell to the Chippewas in June when the soldiers were tricked into allowing the Indians into the Fort to retrieve a ball. The entire Ohio Valley was in the process of being laid waste by Pontiac's troops until he finally received word of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, and realized he could no longer depend on his French allies. The siege of Detroit was lifted, British troops again occupied Ft. Michilimackinac and a peace returned to the frontier. The Indian during the next 30 years developed a cooperative relationship with the British. (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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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ANNUAL MEETING
The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society will be at the Miller Community Center 650 Spencer Road, Tuesday, November 11. A pot luck at 6:30 will be followed with a 7:30 business meeting. Approval of the 1987 budget, annual reports on the Society's activities and election of members to the Board will be included.

The following nominees will be presented: Marianna Bair, Sara Graham, Shalagh Kinin, Mary Mathias, Peg Siford and Mel Skornak. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

November 30: Open House at the Chamber.
December 11: Board Meeting at the Old Town Hall, 7:30.

The Society is planning its Sixth Annual Open House at the Chamber of Commerce building, 131 Hyde St., Sunday, November 30, time, program, etc., to be announced. Plan to drop in for fun and refreshments. Watch the Argus for more information.

TRAIL TALE
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.

EDITORIAL
That is how it is with many old places. Old buildings have often blended in so well, so long, they become a part of our lives. We look at them every day without seeing them, but we feel their presence. We feel a sense of security from having something familiar, substantial and well established existing beside us.

New functional concrete, steel and glass structures can be erected, but let's always leave room for the old buildings. In different ways they speak to us. In different ways we need them. They provide visual pleasure, a setting for the present and a heritage for the future. They are gifts from the past. (Karen Griffiths, Pres., Douglas Co. Hist. Soc., Sedalia, Colorado. Jan/ Feb. 1980 Historic Preservation magazine.)

MEMBERSHIPS
Since the last issue the following have paid dues: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Amelhein, and A.J. & Helen Southwell.
1987 dues have been paid by: Ken & Sara Graham, Nancy Hackney, Martin & Rae-Lynne Lerner, Kathleen Lowry, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, A. Colton & Dorothy Park, Rev. John G. Park, and James & Doris Peterson. ** Patron membership, WELCOME to all and thanks for your support.
1987 memberships are due and payable from now until April 30, 1987. It is hoped the membership chairman won't have to send reminder letters at that time. The address label on Trail Tales will indicate for which year dues have been paid.

FOR SALE....
.....the case in which the buggy, donated by Michigan Bank-Livingston, was displayed. It is in the Lyons School yard, 11455 Bono Road.

Contact a board member if interested.

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