



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  
Vol. VI, No. 8

Brighton, Mi. 48116  
August, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OFFICERS

Pres.	Zara Graham	229-2240
V.P.	Alice Krupa	227-2516
Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Treas.	Marieanna Bair	229-6401

DIRECTORS

Rudy Herrmann		229-7923
Mary Mathias		229-6900
Peg Siford		227-6056
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

EDITORIAL

"The town hall means so much to the community. If they ever knock it down, there will never be a building like it again. It's just like an old picture of my grandparents that we would never throw away."

The above is from a teenager who learned of the early history of a building in the community in which he lived. It is easy to visualize the dawning of a new respect for something other than the satisfying of one's own personal needs.

Every effort must be made to encourage the growth of realization that a building has a value to the community that cannot be measured in \$\$ & ¢¢. (Editor, M. Bair.)

+ + + +

1987 MEMBERSHIPS 1987

Bus/Prof.: Thomas & William Contractors, Inc.

Couple/Individual: Betty Adams, Rita Altenberg, Jean Bethea, Irene Conely, Fred & Phyliss Gruezeke, Isabella Milburn, Rosemary Moon, Al & Karen Wirth. Thank you, all.

Need a gift for someone who has everything? Consider a gift membership. They can be a part of a vital, growing organization interested in the preservation of the history of the area.

Memorials and gifts in honor or in memory of friends and relatives is a thoughtful way to remember them and is a tremendous help to the Society. A note to accompany the check is all that is necessary.

Remember the Society in your will? Not a bad way to ensure the perpetuation of the organization. Some thought should be given this possibility.

+ + + +

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Beginning with a pot luck at 6:30, a short business meeting of the Society will be held at 7:30. Dr. Martin Brosnan will be on the program with "I Think I've Heard That Name Before."

Room 22, on the first floor of the High School, 7878 Brighton Rd., is the location. (A map is being prepared for the next issue of Trail Tales showing the location and convenient parking.) The public is invited.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m., Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members welcome.

+ + + +

LYONS SCHOOL

When Norma Jean Pless moves to the north country soon her support of the Society and participation on the Lyons School Restoration Committee will be sorely missed. The search is on for a replacement.

+ + + +

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

to...

...Elenor Tabb for help in getting Trail Tales ready for mailing. And of course, to Jack and Ethel Gebben who do this job with such faithfulness.

...donors to the Antiqu<sup>e</sup>/Collectibles sale. The Gebbens for chairing this sale and their helpers. Alice Krupa and Mel Skeman for helping with transporting of donated items to the storage barn and to the donor of the barn. To Jane Tomlinson for having cookies at the sale (even with a broken foot.)

...the following Old Town Hall Restoration donors: City of Brighton, Gail Allen, Clara Dymond, Ken & Zara Graham, Michael R. Lowry, Ina Shannon.

...donors to Friends of the Society: Betty Adams, Brighton Big Boy, Marshall & Ellen Jean Cooper and Nancy Hackney.

...Tom & Audrey Leith for donating six months of utility bill payments for the Lyons School.

...Old Kent Bank for the printing of Trail Tales and the new brochure of the Historical Society.

+ + + +

OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION

By the end of the month bids will be let regarding the removal of exterior paint. Be watching for a sign to be placed near the Old Town Hall regarding funding of the restoration.

Donation incentives - a mug, a tote bag, a set of leather coasters and a pewter candy dish - are displayed at the Brighton Public Library. Not only will you donate to the restoration of the Hall, you will also receive a thank you gift from the Society. Those donating \$100. or more will be listed on a plaque which is to be permanently placed in the Hall.

+ + + +

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

August 8, Saturday, the Society will sponsor a booth, located by the Old Town Hall next to the Mill Pond.

Tiles of the Pere Marquette Depot and the Union School will be available for a \$7. donation. Stationery, the Michigan Historical magazine highlighting the Livingston County Court House restoration, members, refreshments and Subscription quilt flyers will also be available.

Helpers will be needed - Call Dick Davis, 229-8356, with help and your hours.

+ + + +

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

we need...

...people to serve as board members next year.

...people to help with the fund raising quilt projects.

...financial donors to the Historic Preservation and Restoration projects. (Old Town Hall and Lyons School.)

... chairman for Lyons School Restoration Committee.

...Lyons School insurance bill donors.

...Lyons School utility bill donors. (Can you pay for 6 months?)

...helpers at the Arts/Crafts fair booth.

Contact a board member if you can help with any of the above or have questions.

+ + + +

TREASURER'S REPORT

6-1-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$17148.31
RECEIPTS		
Dues		\$388.00
Fund Raising: Bake Sale, 244.; Tiles, 182.; Raffle, 42.		468.00
Friends of the Soc.		2500.00
Undesignated		12.00
Interest		79.33
		<u>3447.</u>
		\$20595.64

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm.: Trail Tales Post.	30.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:		
Lyons School: Utilities	10.43	
Old Town Hall: Contribution incentives, 328.77; error in crediting a donation, 25.		<u>364.20</u>
		<u>394.20</u>
6-30-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$20201.44
"	Sav. Acct. Bal.	\$19936.54
"	Chk. " "	264.90
		\$20201.44

M. Bair, Treasurer. (For a more detailed report, please contact the Treasurer.)

+ + + +

SESQUICENTENNIAL PIONEER CERTIFICATES

In commemoration of Michigan's Sesquicentennial those whose ancestors settled in Michigan before 1837, can apply for a Pioneer Certificate. It would be of interest to compile a list of those in the area who received a certificate. Contact the Editor please. There are stories of interest involved, to be sure.

+ + + +

QUILTS FOR FUND RAISING

"ORAL HISTORY FOR MICHIGANIANS:  
A CONFERENCE "

To raise needed Historic Preservation and Restoration funds for projects several quilts will be made. One will be a quilt which features signatures of those who donate \$10. to the H.P. & R. Fund. The signatures will be embroidered on the quilt. The quilt will remain in the Society's archives and will be displayed on special occasions.

Plan now to include your signature for future generations to view. Your descendants will say , "Look, there's Grandpa's (or Aunt Alice's) name." This would be a nice way to honor your senior friends and neighbors. The signatures of children and grandchildren can also be included.

Send your signature, not larger than 2"x6", and the \$10. donation to the Society, P.O. Box 481.

Also being considered are a nine patch and a crazy quilt (for which silks, satins, velvets [Clean and in good condition] etc., will be needed).

IMPORTANT!!!An organizational meeting of those interested in helping make quilts will be held Wednesday, September 9, 7 p.m., at Alice Krupa's, 6323 Kevin. (off Brighton Lk. Rd.) This will be a 'fun' session in which quilt talk will predominate. Alice has promised some refreshments too. Those wishing to help, but unable to attend that meeting, please call Alice, 227-2516 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

The Society has been awarded a pre-paid registration from the Oral History Council for the Conference on October 2&3, in Lansing. This will be an opportunity to share experiences with conferees from throughout the Midwest.

Beginning Friday a.m., with workshops on oral history, storytelling, folklore and poetry, the afternoon and Saturday seminars include 18 Great Lakes Area presenters on other important subjects relating to oral history.

For more information contact the Editor.

+ + + +

"IT'S GROWN IN MICHIGAN" DRAWING

The winning ticket was that of Nancy Hackney.

Over \$160. was earned for the Historic Preservation and Restoration funds. Thanks to the Brighton Argus and Moses Publishing for publicity and Alice Krupa who made and donated the basket and to all who sent donations for tickets. Your continued support is encouraging.

Again, thanks to the local merchants who donated the items. They are listed in the June and July issues of Trail Tales.

+ + + +

1987 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1987

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- |                  |                            |                            |                  |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| ( ) Bake Sale    | ( ) Help with spec. events | ( ) Newsletter Publication | ( ) Research     |
| ( ) Board Member | ( ) Hospitality            | ( ) Oral History           | ( ) Restoration  |
| ( ) Fund Raising | ( ) Meeting Programs       | ( ) Photography            | ( ) Video Taping |
| ( ) Genealogy    | ( ) Membership Committee   | ( ) Publicity              | ( ) Other work.. |

I'd be willing to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$25. Patron 25. Business/Professional 8. Couple 5. Individual	Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society P.O. Box 481 Brighton, Mi. 48116
---	---

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

By the time of the organization of Livingston County's governing board in 1836, most of the lower tiers of townships had been formed. It was several more years before all the townships in the north portion were politically organized.

County business was conducted at the school house in Livingston Center (Howell), in private homes, officials' offices and wherever it was warm enough in the cold weather. In 1842 the ballroom of Benjamin Spring's house was rented in which to meet. This was followed with an agreement with the Presbyterian Society of Howell and meetings were held there for several years. County prisoners were taken to Ann Arbor. The question of taxation to build proper facilities was often submitted to the voters who refused all of the Board of Supervisors' requests for a millage to build a courthouse and jail.

In 1843, the Supervisors appealed to the State Legislature for permission to levy a tax for building but were turned down. By the summer of 1845 it was obvious the supervisors had made up their minds to have a court house. On the basis of obviously apparent support at several township meetings (at which the Supervisors presented their case) they decided to go ahead with getting plans prepared. But by fall they decided, discretion being the better part of valor, to scrap the idea again and rented rooms from Enos Taylor.

Finally the Legislature of Michigan came through in 1846, with the O.K. to levy taxes for construction of a court house. In August the Board contracted with Cyrenus hall for \$5600 to get the job done. It was fall of 1847, before the building could be used for its intended purpose.

The local citizenry was invited to plant trees and shrubs for shade and ornamentation. Religious organizations were invited to hold services in the court house until their own churches could be constructed. This included most of them; and not without some occasional complaints of unjust discrimination.

By 1873, even with judicious care there became evident a need for new construction of offices for the County Clerk and Registrar. By early 1874 at a cost of \$3100 "good accommodations" were occupied. It was soon thereafter deemed proper to erect a similar building for the Probate and Treasurer's offices. The present Livingston County Courthouse in Howell, was built in 1889 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. By 1976, the residents of Livingston County voted to restore this building. It is still in use today in all its sturdy, colorful steadfastness, a symbol of those brave ones who preceeded us. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "History of Livingston County, 1880" & County Clerk, Joe Ellis.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

Printed courtesy:

OLD KENT BANK

300 W. North St.

Brighton, Mi. 48116

