



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. VI, No. 12 December, 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	229-6402

DIRECTORS

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

RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING

Proposed revision of the Bylaws was accepted; the Annual Reports of Officers and chairmen were presented; the 1988 Budget accepted; and the 1988 Board of Directors elected at the Annual Meeting held November 10, 1987.

The 1988 Board is as follows:  
 President - Rudy Herrmann  
 V.P. - Bob Richmond  
 Secretary - Shelagh Klein  
 Treasurer - Marieanna Bair  
 Directors - Bill Amrhein, Dick Davis, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Peg Siford and Mel Skeman.

Dozens of pictures of the early Brighton area were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Next General Meeting will be January 12, 1988, at Lindbom Elementary School, beginning with pot luck at 6:30.

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EDITORIAL

What is America without Main Street? That's where the July Fourth Parade and fireworks were held; the carnival was there each summer; the bank, post office and city hall were located there. A degree of comfort and security was present. One knew where one stood. It was the center of things.

It seems desirable to perpetuate the Main Street concept through preservation of the architecture and traditional activities.

People of today aren't different than those who settled the Area. Just as in the old days, there are those who care and those who do not. (M. Bair, Editor)

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Since the last issue the following have paid dues:

Patrons: John Curry, Bob & MaryAnn Gardella, Bill & Helen Hyne, Steve & Kathy Lowry, Bob & Mary Richmond.

Couple/Individual: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Amrhein, Robt. & Ruth Bostedor, Susie Braund, Marian Carney, Gary & Ruth Ann Cole, Hazel Cole, Clayton Epley, Mrs. Jack Hathaway, Clara Healy, Jo Hyne, Mary Mathias, Alice Newcomb, Marie O'Dell, Marty & Lee Pawlak, Doris Prieskorn, Andy & Lila Robertson, Sherrel Rutter and Margaret Squire.

Many thanks to all for the continued support. Many of us really care about the Society but find it difficult to provide time and energy. The patron memberships are truly appreciated.

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

...Bob Watson for the donation of dozens of pictures he has taken of contemporary Brighton area, all well identified.

...Trash & Treasures Sale people - Bill Amrhein, Marieanna Bair, Marian Carney, Dick Davis, Mildred Harrington, Shelagh Klein, Alice Krupa, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Lathy Lowry, Carol Kerr, Peg Siford, Mel Skeman and his brother-in law.

...donors and buyers at the T&T Sale.

...Bake Sale people - Janice Beach and Jane Tomlinson and their helpers and the baked goods donors.

...Open House people - the Gebbens, the Fullers, Dick Davis, Betsy Herbst, Helen Hurst, Shelagh Klein, Mary Mathias, Alice Newcomb, Marieanna Bair. A job well done.

...people who exhibited their quilts at the Open House.

...Chamber of Commerce for the use of the building for the Open House and the four spaces at the Farmers' Market for the Trash & Treasures Sale and the Bake Sale.

...Mary Layton for beginning the embroidery on the Signature quilt and Jackie Chenoweth for donating the material.

...Dr. Harry Davis for his description of Brighton's Yesterdays at the Old Town Hall Benefit Dinner, November 7.

...Dr. Gerald Pelkey, Jim & Marjorie White and Ken & Zara Graham for Old Town Hall Restoration donations.

...Citizens Insurance for printing of the Christmas raffle tickets.

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

...1987 retiring board members - Zara Graham, Mary Mathias and Alice Krupa.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

A good response made the November 7, Benefit Dinner at the Road House a fine evening, remembered by all. The support of individuals, business and professional people of the Area is especially appreciated and absolutely necessary.

A good start has been made on the restoration of this 109 year old building. Help is needed to keep the momentum going. This committee is anxious to gain a few more members. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday at the Hall. Give 1988 President, Rudy Herrmann, a call offering your support.

LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT

These folks are engaged in the restoration of this building on Buno Road. A bell has been purchased, the furnace is being put into running condition, a sign telling of the project has been hung and fund raising events are planned. Contact Jerry Dilloway, 227-2678 with your support.

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

we need....

...a host or hostess for General Meetings. (Prepare coffee, etc., name tags, etc.)

...donations to the Lyons School fuel bill and furnace repair bill.

...people to pay 1988 dues.

...people to work on the Nine Patch quilt.

...people to work on the Finance Comm.

Call a board member if you can help with any of the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

10-1-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$24775.77
RECEIPTS		
Dues		16.00
Fund Raising: Old Town		
Hall Rest., 10125.;		
Sesqui Flags, 25.;	Sig-	
nature Quilt, 60.;		
Tiles, 56.		10266.00
Misc. - refund		4.00
Interest:		<u>107.98</u>
		<u>10393.98</u>
		\$35169.75

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration		138.41
Fund Raising		229.59
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:		
Old Town Hall	10847.38	
Lyons School	<u>85.22</u>	
		<u>10932.60</u>
		<u>11300.60</u>

10-30-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	<u>\$23869.15</u>
"	Sav. Acct. Bal.	\$23787.05
"	Chk. Acct. Bal.	82.10
		\$23869.15

M. Bair, Treasurer (For a more detailed report or a copy of the Annual Report presented at the Annual Meeting, please contact the Treasurer.)

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SEVENTH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE REPORT

Dozens of visitors oohed and aaahed at the display of quilts, old and new, which were shown at the Chamber of Commerce Building, decorated inside and out, November 29. Lots of cookies, cupcakes, candies, etc., were available to all. A nice afternoon was missed by those unable to come. If you have ideas about what should be exhibited next year let a board member know.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

In the past only two tickets have been attached to the Trail Tales. Because of requests for more than two, five tickets are attached this year. This is for your convenience, feel free to purchase only as many as you wish. You may consider selling the rest to friends. Your response and support in the past has been very encouraging.

The drawing will be 12-19-87, 3 p.m. at the Mall. Be sure to get your stubs in on time. All proceeds will go the Society's Historic Preservation and Restoration projects.

Altho' not noted on the tickets, second and third prizes, a candy cane and a wreath made of yarn have been donated by Ruth Ann Cole.

The wooden sled, well built and nicely decorated, can be seen at the Mall on Saturdays, 11-3 p.m. when Society members will be offering tickets to the public. Should you win and not wish to keep the sled it can be donated back to the Society or some other worthy organization.

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SURVEY FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS

Sent out with last month's Trail Tales, the return of this form would be a big help to project committee chairmen. Take time to review and return soon. Lost yours? Call Shelagh Klein, 229-6571.

CHARLES HOWELL BOY SCOUT CAMP

An inquiry has been received from Giffels-Webster Engineers, Inc., regarding the historical background of the Scout Camp on Brighton Lake. Can someone give names, addresses of whom they might contact? Call the Editor with your information.

The 1987 Tile project will have a picture of the Western House. The order for 300 has been placed. Hopefully in time for Christmas, they will be available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store, the Chamber of Commerce and at Citizen's Trust. This is the fourth of the limited edition series of early Brighton scenes.

The Signature Quilt project is gaining momentum. This quilt will remain with the Society as a directory of people who were connected to the area and felt it important to make a donation. Consider sending someone's signature and the \$10. as a Christmas gift. And be sure your children and grandchildren are included.

Material for Nine Patch Quilt, which is to raffled has been purchased.

The Sixth Annual Spaghetti Supper is being planned for next February. Consider attending this fun event.

The Annual Trash & Treasures Sale always turns out well. People donate items, buy items, sell and work in many ways. Besides the proceeds from this event, the goodwill and publicity generated is very valuable. Be planning your donation for next year and plan to help. It will probably be held October 29, 1988.

The Second Bake Sale this year was, again, a real treat. Of those unable to donate to the sale many sent a check to show their support.

1988 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1988

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society  
 25. Business/Professional \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box 481  
 8. Couple \_\_\_\_\_ Brighton, Mi. 481216  
 5. Individual \_\_\_\_\_

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

Social and religious organizations have been a part of the fabric of the area for many years. The Livingston County Bible Society was organized in Howell, 1843, for the distribution of "Bibles to the destitute throughout this county...." Before the establishment of congregations, worship was conducted in settlers' homes. Not all embraced the missionaries sent out by the Catholic and Protestant groups. Brighton, like many other villages in a new country, had an unenviable reputation both religiously and morally.

"...to collect and keep in remembrance the many interesting incidents connected with the early settlement of Livingston County and...handing the same down to future generations..." was the reason for the formation, in 1850, of the Livingston County Pioneer Association. Research indicates this organization continued at least to 1880.

Lodges, gun clubs, musical groups, social organizations and the fire department were all in existence by 1880. Wars did not leave the area untouched; the cemeteries give ample evidence of that.

The Livingston Courier originated in Brighton 1-10-1843, where it existed for nine months before moving to Howell in October. The Brighton Bulletin began publication 1-18-1872, in Brighton and the Brighton Weekly Argus and Gazette, Vol 1, No. 1 first appeared Tuesday, April 6, 1880. (The parent of today's Brighton Argus.)

In 1835, Dr. F. Curtis was located in Kensington. If patients couldn't come to the office, doctors traveled through openings in the woods guided by marked trees and Indian trails. It was 1836, when Dr. Wilber Fisher came to Brighton followed in 1841 by Dr. Ira P. Bingham. In 1876, the Livingston County Medical Association was organized with 31 doctors listed. The two from Brighton were Wm. J. McHench and Cutting B. Wiley.

Attorney Daniel C. Marsh settled in Brighton in 1839, becoming the Prosecuting Attorney of the county in 1841. He was followed by Fred C. Whipple in May, 1841. (First editor of the Livingston Courier.) After moving to Howell, in 1846, he served in several County positions. George Peck, his partner, was a member of the Michigan legislature in 1846 and of Congress in 1855-57. The County Prosecuting Attorney in 1850, Wm. A. Clark came to Brighton in 1848.

As Michigan's Sesquicentennial celebration nears its end we are reminded that settlers were in this area by 1832. marriages were consumated, babies born, hell raised and heaven praised by people not any different than we of 1987. The press, professions, businesses, farms and the ordinary laborer (on whom all the others depend) were then, and are still, keeping their "shoulder to the wheel, etc..." The discovery of oil, the development of electricity, the railroad, the gas engine, etc., etc., all continue to reduce the labor but certainly add to the complexities of life today. (Condensed and edited from "Livingston County History 1880".)

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