



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. VI. No. 2 February, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- *Pres. Zara Graham 229-2240
- *V.P. Alice Krupa 227-2516
- *Sec.
- *Treas. Marieanna Bair 229-6402

DIRECTORS

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- *Mary Mathias 229-6900
- *Peg Siford 227-6056
- *Mel Skeman 229-6351

RECAP OF JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Another tasty pot luck followed by a short business meeting. Marlie Jenkins, Director of the Livingston County Planning Commission spoke on why the people of this county should support and encourage the development of a preservation plan to assist cities, townships, ect., in their efforts at historic preservation, including the continued and creative use of historic structures and areas.

Such a plan would coordinate action between public and private agencies in their efforts, develop civic pride through education, promote detailed review of county historical assets, provide preservation techniques with other construction techniques and continue to preserve and maintain the Livingston county Courthouse.

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Next Board Meeting, February 12, 7:30, Old Town Hall. Members welcome.

Next General Meeting, March 10, 6:30, Miller Community Center. Pot Luck. Public welcome.

EDITORIAL

Demographers insist the growth of the Brighton Area has not slowed. In fact the growth rate in the near future will be greater than ever. Where will they live, these 1980s immigrants? The increasingly fewer remaining acres which are available will soon become home and commercial sites.

It will take careful planning by local governmental boards to keep an orderly and harmonious plan of development in action.

We would hope that adaptive reuse to encourage the recycling of old structures will take place. Their wanton destruction can have economic, social and aesthetic consequences to the Brighton Area.

The protection and maintenance of unique architectural assets for our own enjoyment and that of future generations must be considered now. (M. Bair, Editor.)

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MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last issue the following have paid 1987 membership fees: Paul & Aline Anderson, Erv. & Dot Bandkau, Mildred Bender, Richard & Elaine Blight, Marie Borst, Susie Braund, Marian Carney, Rosemary Carusi, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Milton Charboneau, Richard Davis*Ula Davis, Tim & Kay Flynn, Marlene Fonseca**. Mildred Harrington, John & Carol Hills, Lois Huschke, Mary Hubert, Jo Hyne, Val & Kathy Jacoby, Genevieve Kampe, Shelagh Klein, Mary Layton, Tom & Audrey Leith. John & Jeannette Linahan, Don & Pat Lueker, Jere & Kay Michaels, Joe & Irene Mike, Greg Park, Edna Peach, John & Dorothy Pennala, Charles & Norma Pless**, Nellie Pullen, Bob & Mary Richmond**, Celia Schaffer, Peg Siford, Gerald & Gwen Swann, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Rita Vadasz, Anna Westin, Marguerite Wenzel, (cont. Page 2)

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

...Audrey Leith for her help with recording of dues and mailing receipts.
 ...Colton Park for sending his short compilation of early settlers in the area, "Livingston County's Pioneer Heritage".
 ...Brighton City for waiver of rental fees for the Fire Hall for the Society's Spaghetti Supper. Mary Mathias for her donation.
 ...Lyons School Restoration Project's donation for Fuel bill from Charles and Norma Pless; paying of the electric bill for the next six months by Tom and Audrey Leith, and donation from Milton Charboneau.
 ...Sandy Bansbach for donation to the raffle at the General Meeting.
 ...Elfrieda and Bob Schulert for donation.
 ...Jarvis Men's Store, Chamber of Commerce, Ubers and Citizen's Trust for stocking Society tiles for sale.
 ...Evelyn Hyne Dothager for donating a copy of the 1907 Brighton Homecoming Book and the program book of the 1920 Brighton Memorial Day observance. It lists living soldiers of the Civil War and the Brighton casualties.
 ...Old Kent Bank for the printing of this newsletter.

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(Memberships, cont. from page 1.)
 Ray & Marge Wilcox. **Patron Dues. Many pay Patron dues in addition to their committee service; others pay Patron dues because they are unable to serve in any other way. In any event Patron dues are welcome evidence of support for the society and its goals.
 MANY THANKS TO ALL.

Paid your 1987 dues? The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. If there's an '87' your dues are paid.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Various fund raising activities are being persued by the Finance Committee. This committee meets at the Old Town Hall, 202 W Main. Anyone interested in helping please contact Dick Davis, 229-8356. In September the Society presented a check for \$400 to the Brighton Area Schools in order that work could begin on the Lyons School Restoration Project. That project and the restoration of the Old Town Hall will need a 'lotta' money.

All administration expenses of the Society are paid from member's dues. All proceeds from fund raising projects and events are designated to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.

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

we need...
 ...a secretary for the Society.
 ...donations to the fuel bill at Lyons School. It's difficult for the students working on the restoration when it's cold.
 ...a place to store donated items for auction.
 ...help on the finance committee.
 ...people to help with a house tour this summer. Either allow the use of your house or serve as hosts in the rooms of other houses which will be open to the public.

To answer any of the above, please contact a Board Member.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

12-1-86	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$4909.56
Receipts		
Dues		\$171.00
Fund Raising: Rocking Horse Raffle 261., Tiles 77., Stationery, etc., sales	14.50	352.50
Donations - Lyons School Restoration		350.00
Interest		20.08
		<u>893.58</u>
		\$5803.14
Disbursements		
Newsletter		30.00
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Lyons School Utilities		
14.29, Hist. Resource Survey 31.07		45.36
		<u>75.36</u>
12-31-86	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$5727.78
Sav. Bal. 12-31-86		4254.31
Chk. Bal. 12-31-86		1473.47
		<u>\$5727.78</u>

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

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Brighton's Postmaster, Emil Engle has hanging in the Post Office a picture of the Brighton Post Office when it was at one of several locations on Main Street in earlier days. Have you noticed it? It would be interesting to display pictures of the Post Office when it was at the other locations. It's certain some these pictures exist. Do some digging in your old pictures of Brighton and perhaps a nice display can be prepared. Emil is anxious to have you get in touch with him.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Friday, February 20, 5:30-7 p.m., the Society's fifth Annual Spaghetti Supper will be held at the Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River (park in back). Attached are two tickets; bring a friend. Not able to attend? Your donation will help raise the funds needed for restoration projects. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. The menu (all you can eat) will include a salad, French bread (or rolls) dessert, coffee/tea/fruit drink. Adults \$4.00, under 12 years \$2.00. A piano is available. Will someone offer to help present some entertainment for the evening? Call Alice Krupa, 227-2516. (Dish washers will also be needed.)

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OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Wixom Historical Society is presenting "A Visit With Lincoln" with Dr. Weldon Petz, Monday February 18, 7:30, Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail.

Green Oak Township Historical Society is planning a Sesquicentennial celebration Sunday June 7. The party will be in cooperation with the Kent Lake Unit of Island Lake Recreation Area. A family picnic and many other events are planned which will make this a fun day. Entrance fees have been suspended for the day. For more information, contact Edna Peach, 437-1271, or John O'Dell, 229-7969.

Salem Area Historical Society is planning a book of historical facts, stories and pictures of that area.

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Sincere sympathies to Ken and Zara Graham on the passing of his brother, Myron.

SOCIETY DEPENDS ON AREA SUPPORT

The Society is grateful to Old Kent Bank for sponsoring the printing of Trail Tales. Some addressees have been receiving Trail Tales, even tho' they have not paid dues, because it has been assumed they would be interested in the Society's activities and would consider it important to support its goals. The Editor finds other persons also wish to receive the newsletter and since there is not an unlimited supply an arbitrary decision must be made, based on past experience of support and interest shown, to replace some addressees with new addresses.

If support of the Society and its goals is important to one but the time and energy of participating more fully is not possible, the paying of Patron dues seems appropriate. (The paying of regular dues is also appropriate.) The display of some sort of interest would be deemed appropriate.

If one does not wish to receive Trail Tales please notify the Editor.

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A picture of Lyons School still has not been located. It seems fitting to have the next tile display a picture of the School. Please contact Dick Davis, 229-8356, if you can give him a lead on a picture.

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Can a scenic historic tour of the area be prepared with a map showing locations of historic sites such as Old Plank Road tollgate locations, brick yards, saw and grain mills, early settlers' homes, etc.?

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 () Meeting programs () Photography () Help with spec. 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

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

- The holding of Ft. Stephenson by General Harrison and the winning of the Battle of Lake Erie by Commander Oliver Perry and the newly formed American Navy ended the British Naval supremacy in the North West. Only the signing of the Treaty of Ghent (Dec. 24, 1814) which returned all territory captured by either side during the war caused the British to lose control of the entire Northwest Territory.

The very poor condition of Detroit (its public buildings had been destroyed, records carried off, private property ravaged and near famine conditions) caused the army commander to recommend that the citizens be removed and the Michigan territory be allowed to revert into a wilderness.

But with peace restored and the arrival of Gen. Lewis Cass as Territorial Governor in 1815, a renewed hope was awakened and nourished. Many new arrivals from the east and those who had survived the war in Detroit indicated a bright future waiting in the wings for Michigan. (Cass had a hand in the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 which outlined the division of land and recognized the need of an educated citizenry by the setting aside of lands for schools and universities.)

The first public land office in Michigan opened for business in 1818. By 1819 Michigan sent its first Representative to the National legislature and by 1824 had a Representative Legislature in Detroit. By then the Treaty of Saginaw concluded by Cass with the Ottawa and the Chippewa Indians opened almost half of the Lower Peninsula to settlement. (By 1842 Cass had arranged treaties with the Indians to all of present day Michigan.) The completion of the Erie Canal in the mid 1820s, provided a cheap and safe water route from the East to Lake Erie steamers and Michigan Territory.

When Illinois became a state in 1818, Michigan Territory included all remaining lands of the Northwest Territory between the Mississippi and Lakes Michigan and Superior. The 4000 mile journey of Henry Schoolcraft exploring the region drew national attention to Michigan Territory.

Fur trading in the Territory, at its height in the early 1820s, declined as a result of overtrapping and the encroachment of pioneer farming by the end of the decade. Townships and sections were laid out by surveyors according to the Ordinance of 1785, and with the reduction of the cash price of an acre to \$1.25 for the 80 acre minimum, it was possible to secure a farm for \$100.00. The opening of the Erie Canal assured settlers of a safe journey and a means of sending produce to market. The number of immigrants swelled from 1820's 9000 to 1830's 29,000 and by 1840 to 212,000. The availability of the cheap transportation on the canal caused Michigan's population to be almost entirely from the northeastern states. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless, "A Short History of Michigan" by John Kern and "History of Livingston County, 1880.")

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