In 1805, when Gen. Wm. Hull was appointed Michigan Territorial Governor, the area encompassed included part of Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. How to govern a city still smoldering from the devastating fire shortly before his arrival was not Gov. Hull’s only problem. He was confronted with French Canadian residents resisting the code of laws he initiated (they’d been living without organized law and order); they objected to the registration of land titles (most had received land as feudal grants from France’s king some time earlier); and defied a uniformed militia. Also Indian resistance to treaty negotiations was very evident.

Somehow by November, 1807, Hull brought together some of the chiefs of several of the Indian Nations who held all the lands except for the towns of Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac and Detroit. They were paid $10,000 and future promises for a large portion of southeastern Michigan. However not all Indians agreed to the plan and agitated against the white man.

Americans charged Indians were receiving guns, ammunition and encouragement from British agents across the Detroit River. Altho’ at war with France on the Continent, England interfered with American shipping which caused concern for industries, established merchants everywhere. By June, 1812, the culmination of national and international events caused President Madison to declare war on England. Altho’ the provocation was great, the young nation was unprepared to wage another war.

Gov. Hull, named commander of the Western Army, was unable to prevent the capture of Ft. Mackinac nor that of Detroit August 16. Ft. Dearborn (Chicago) was abandoned to the British the day prior. This left the upper great lakes entirely in the hands of the British again as they planned the next phase of the war against the Americans with the push into Ohio. Hull became the scapegoat for the nation’s shortcomings and was relieved of his Governorship to be replaced by Wm. H. Harrison. A decisive defeat was inflicted on American forces at the River Raisin by the Indians who broke a pledge of protection after the British left the area January, 1813.

The outstandingly deplorable conduct of the war in the west is incomprehensible. The Canadian Gen. Brock found it not difficult to press his course at his own discretion. The lack of military training of the American soldiers and insufficient supplies and provisions was constantly displayed in every battle. Not until Gen. Harrison held Ft. Stephenson in Lower Sandusky (Ohio) in 1813, was there any indication of a possibility that the British might not win the war. (The war was not going well in the east either where the nation’s Capitol was burned.) (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: “A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia” by Wm. Flesco, “A Short History of Michigan” by John Kern and “War 1812” by George S. May.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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TRAIL TALES
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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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GENERAL MEETING COMING UP
Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m., the first General Meeting of the year will begin with a pot luck at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Rd. Following a short business meeting at 7:30, the program will feature Marija Jenkins, Director of the Livingston County Planning Commission. This county body is responsible for the planning, zoning, information collection and economic development. The Commission is in the process of developing a historic preservation plan for Livingston County. Ms Jenkins will help us understand the importance of a County plan and particularly the importance of a historic preservation plan for the county.

Residing in Howell, Marila has been County Planning Director since April, 1986. Previously a member of the Saginaw County Planning Commission she has experience in preparation of state and national register nominations, historic district ordinances and educational materials and administration of two local historic districts. She has experience in the preparation of grant applications and historic site surveys. Participation in the Michigan Historic District Network and owning a historic home reaffirm her concern for historic preservation.

The public is invited.

What is significant about the present?
What is significant about the future?
Only with a good understanding of the past; people, events, architecture, etc., can we gain a better perspective on the present and future.

But there is more to it than just the preservation of a building, a skill, a vocation or a way of life.

It is based on a rather slippery concept, one that has to do with values, identity and the spirit of the people of our community and our country. People deprived of a cultural past have no frame of reference on which to base values, either social or spiritual.

The Society exists to help develop this frame of reference. The support of the residents and commercial interests of this community make the existence of the Society a possibility. While financial support is a most necessary entity, human resource is what makes the Society thrive. (M. Fair, Editor.)

MEMBERSHIPS
Since the last issue the following have paid 1986 membership fees: Willard & Frances Beining, Herbert Munzell and Dan Schmidt.

1987 Pledge drive includes: Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Bert & Marianna Bair, Mr. & Mrs. John Cartwright, Charles & Doris Case, Homer & Evelyn Dothinger, Mr. & Mrs. WM. Fishbeck, George Hackert, Willard & Frances Heindl, Randy & Doris Hoadley**, Kathryn Hodgkin, Bill & Helen Hyne, Mary Mathias, Jerre & Kay Michaels, Herbert Munzelli, Roland & June Oxens, Barry & Lee Pawlak, Andy & Lisa Robertson, Randall & Gail Samuels, Mac Schadtke, Gene & Dorothy Schatz, Mildred Shannon & Margaret Goldstein, Dan Schmidt, Laura Thompson. **Patron Memberships. WELCOME to all and many thanks for this expression of confidence in the efforts of the Board.