



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. 6

Brighton, Mi. 48116
June, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MAY GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Following a pot luck and short business meeting, Louisa Pieper, Staff Director of the Historic District Commission of Ann Arbor, offered a slide presentation of structures in the various historic districts. She also described the mechanism for retaining the flavor of bygone times in a historic district.

No General Meeting is planned for July.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.

Members welcome.

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1987 MEMBERSHIPS 1987

The following have recently paid 1987 dues.

Patron: Elsa Stegenga.

Couple and Individual: John & Win Allen, Jeannette Bailey, Ted & Doris Carmack, Alice Clark, Mike Cuthbert, Homer & Evelyn Dothager (88), Bob & Betsy Herbst, Elenor

EDITORIAL

The Brighton Area is fortunate to have several well-constructed, older buildings still in existence - farm houses, barns, Lyons School and the Old Town Hall among them.

There are also many structures, built in the last 25 years which have much to commend them. (Also many built in incredibly poor taste, in a very 'temporary' mood and a complete lack of architectural significance.) One also finds that not too many of these recently built structures have the unique features that give such appeal to the older buildings.

Preservation Week, recently observed, causes one to be more aware of the rich architectural past from which America has grown. These buildings, constructed by the people who would use them, can encourage us to carry on the legacy of those who preceded us. That is, they can if they have not been demolished in the name of progress, a.k.a. \$\$\$.

The Society, in cooperation with local political, educational and social entities is depending on the financial and physical support of all of us to assure future generations of Brighton Area residents these heirlooms will still be around to give us that emotional support of knowing from whence we've come. (Ed. M. Bair)

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Knaus, Phil & Alice Krupa, Jean & Ray Lanning, Bud & Janet Schopp, Maude Tunis, Herb & Arlene Warner, Marguerite Wenzel (88), Pat & Marge White.

Business/Prof: Rolison Pro Hardware.

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

...Jarvis' Men's Store for displaying the "It's Grown in Michigan drawing prize and having tickets available. ...Those who have purchased tickets to the drawing. ...donation to Lyons School restoration from Ted & Doris Carmack. ...Old Kent Bank for printing of this newsletter. ...Old Town Hall restoration donations: Adler Homes, Inc. American Legion Post #235, Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Brennan & Burns Law Office, Brighton City Council, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth (Boylan memorial), Richard & Katie Chrysler, Alice Clark, Richard Davis, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Judge David Gee, Peggy Goff, Ken & Zara Graham, Sharon L. Hayne, Keehn Funeral Home, Shelagh Klein, McCririe Law Office, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Nause, Alice Newcomb, Rolison Pro Hardware, Lovisa Seger, Alice Wilson.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION BREAKFAST

The OTH Restoration committee is sincerely grateful for the fine attendance at the April 29, breakfast. Committee member Jim Dennis presented the committee's plans and recommendations requesting the community's support. Mayor Criqui announced a matching funds grant in the amount of \$10,000 by the City of Brighton. Honorary co-chairmen Richard and Katie Chrysler really got the ball rolling by presenting the Society with a check matching that amount.

The Friends of the Society Fund has been well received with pledges and donations. The restoration process is on the way with about 1/5 of the amount considered necessary to complete the job.

To encourage contributions incentives are being offered. Donations of \$25. will receive a mug, \$50. a tote bag, \$75. a leather coaster set, \$100. donors will receive a pewter snack dish. These will be distributed shortly.

The supportive stance of the City, the High School Food Services class and the Brighton Fire Department is very encouraging. Thanks also go to Rev. Richard Cheatham and Rep. Susan Grimes Munsell for their participation.

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Know someone who should be or would like to be on the Trail Tales mailing list? Contact the Editor.

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

needed...

...someone to chair a Christmas home tour. We have a committee.

...someone to chair a committee to put together a small book featuring pictures of early Brighton. We have a committee, some professional advice, and pictures.

...a chairman for the Lyons School Restoration Project. A committee is in existence.

...response to the need for funds to the Preservation and Restoration projects.

..."It's Grown in Michigan ticket buyers.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

4-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$7149.83

RECEIPTS

Dues \$168.00
Historic Pres. & Restoration 280.00
Interest 27.39 475.39
\$7625.22

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: Paper 12., News letter postage 30. 42.00
HPR: Old Town Hall 290.10,
Lyons Sch. Utilities 12.88 302.98 344.98

4-30-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$7280.24

" Sav. Acct. Bal. \$6336.56
" Ch. Acct. Bal. 942.68
\$7280.24

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

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"IT'S GROWN IN MICHIGAN"

The raffle is underway. Many have responded by purchasing the ticket enclosed in the May Trail Tales. (Some have even bought more than the 2 enclosed.) The prize is on display in Jarvis' Men's Store window, on Main Street. They have tickets too.

Local donors to date are: Brighton Seafood Market -2 pkg each Elephant Garlic and Shallots; Busy Bee - 2 bottles non alcoholic wine; Chris' Fresh Fruit & Deli - a certificate for \$10.; Health Nut - 2 jars honey; Alice Krupa - hand made basket; Marve's Meats - certificate for \$25.; Sefa's - baby food, cherry pie filling, crackers, Pepsi, Jiffy mix, applesauce, sugar, apple juice, pickles and sauerkraut; Warner's Orchard & Cider Mill - certificate for 1 bushel apples; Yum Yum Tree - Certificate for 1 qt. hand packed ice cream.

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES SALE

The Finance committee is planning an antiques and collectibles sale in conjunction with the Brighton Sidewalk Sales Fri/Sat., July 31-Aug. 1.

The Chamber of Commerce parking lot will be the site. Begin collecting your donation to this fund raiser. Your help at the sale will be needed too.

If you need trucking for your items please contact Alice Krupa, 227-2516. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund.

Having a garage sale? Your leftovers can be given to the Society for this sale. A donation receipt will be given upon request.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

The resignation of Norma Jean Pless, who has been chairman of the committee has been received with dismay and much regret. A real beginning has been accomplished under N.J.'s guidance. A new chairman will be appointed in order that the work can continue. MANY THANKS NORMA JEAN!!

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PIONEER CERTIFICATES MARK SESQUICENTENNIAL

The Michigan Genealogical Council and the Library of Michigan are offering a commemorative Sesquicentennial Pioneer Certificate to anyone who is a descendant of a Michigan resident of 1837 or before. Applications are available from the Library of Michigan or the Michigan Genealogical Council, P.O. Box 30007, Lansing 48909.

GREEN OAK DAY, JUNE 7

Beginning at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, the Green Oak Township Historical Society is planning an all day celebration of the Township's and Michigan's Sesquicentennial. It will be held at Kent Lake Unite of the Island Lake Recreation Area. (Admission free for the day.)

A Spanish-American War encampment, a Boy Scout Encampment, Green Oak Firefighters, Model A Ford Club of Livingston Region, North American Indians, Historical Museum, music by many groups, etc., etc., are all on the agenda. A picnic area, food wagon and concession stand will all be available. For more information write Edna Peach, 10987 Silver Lk. Dr., South Lyon, Mi. 48178

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ORAL HISTORY FOR MICHIGANIANS
A Conference, October 2-3

The program will feature speakers who are nationally recognized oral historians and sessions focusing on methodology, technology, and uses of oral history in Michigan. Workshops on oral history, folklore, oral poetry and storytelling are also offered.

Sponsored by the Michigan Oral History Council, oral historians throughout the Michigan area will gather at Lansing's Sheraton Inn. For more information contact the Editor: 229-6402.

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Trail Tales would like to know of any of our readers who qualify.

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: \$ 25.00/ Patron Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
 25.00 Business?Professional P.O. Box 481
 8.00 Couple Brighton, Mi. 48116
 5.00 Individual

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

The rectangular shape of Michigan counties (and states from here on west) is due to the requirements set forth in the Land Ordinance of 1785. All lands were to be surveyed, before sale and settlement, into townships six miles square with one township in 16 set aside for maintenance of public schools. Only as surveyors completed their tasks were counties formed. The first county formed was Wayne which covered the southeast area of Michigan Territory. Macomb County was formed in 1818 from Wayne. What we know as Livingston was part of that division. Oakland County was 'taken' from Macomb in 1819 and included our county. When Washtenaw County was "laid out" from Oakland in 1822 it included the area of the southern eight townships of present day Livingston County. Those townships in the northern portion were part of Shiawasee County. Until Green Oak Township was formed in 1837, it included the area of present day Brighton Township. Genoa was at first a part of Hamburg Township.

Formed in 1836, Livingston County was named for Edward Livingston, Secretary of State under President Andy Jackson. Brighton and Green Oak Townships were named after some early settlers' home locations 'back east' or the 'old country'. Hamburg got its name from Hamburg, Germany, and Genoa is named after the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. Other townships in the county have similar yet different reasons for their names. Early names of several population centers in the area were changed after a few years. Brighton City was Ore Creek. (The story goes that one of the few who preferred "Brighton" offered to ride to Detroit to register the name of Ore Creek, but instead registered Brighton. Altho' some objections were raised it apparently was not of great enough importance to make the effort necessary to change. Probably mere survival held a higher priority.)

Lewis Cass, Gov. of Michigan Territory 1813-1831, believed wholeheartedly in government by the people. Guiding Michigan through the stages of becoming a state, Gov. Cass, continued to encourage the establishment of local governments by which people could annually elect officials from among themselves, vote on taxes and pass their own laws. Livingston County had a Clerk (F.J.B. Crane), Supervisors (6), Treasurer and Surveyor (Amos Adams), Register of Deeds (Ely Barnard), Sheriff (Justus J. Bennett), Judge of Probate (Kinsley S. Bingham), Associate Judges (Elisha W. Brockway, Elnathan Noble), Coronors (John W. Peavy & John Drake), constables and other officers. The setup of township and County government has changed little since the days of Governor Cass. The Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisors constituted the governing board. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "History of Livingston County, 1880" and "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless.)

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P.O. Box 481
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