



TRAIL TALES

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. 3

Brighton, Mi. 48116
March, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 10

The General Meeting will be held at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer, beginning with a Pot Luck at 6:30. Following a short business meeting. Dave Finney will give a 'first person' historical rendition of a Civil War soldier's experiences in the camp and on the battlefield. In proper uniform he will be representing a young Lieutenant from Farmington who served in Company F, Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The Seventh Michigan served in many major engagements in the Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania theater of war. They performed outstanding duty at Antietam, Gettysburg and Friedericksburg.

Mr. Finney is a highly qualified educator with emphasis on American Civil War history; presently teaching at Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington. He is a nationally known historian and author on the American Civil War who has written for the Michigan History Magazine among other publications. He currently chairs the Military Affairs Subcommittee of the Michigan Sesquicentennial and is a member of the Historic Observances Committee.

(Please turn to page 2.)

EDITORIAL

The Society is a non profit organization in that no individual gains financially. But the Society must be a profit making organization in order to accomplish its goals.

The restoration of the Old Town Hall, the restoration of the Lyons School, the Historic Resource Survey, the Oral History project are presently the major thrusts of the organizations' efforts. (Any one of which would be sufficient activity for any group.) The Society is convinced these projects are important to the well being of the community.

Membership dues take care of administration expenses of the Society. Funds for the projects must be raised by various means, all of which entail a lot of work by Society members in order to encourage the community to also support these activities. When a committee chairman calls it must be assumed the member will support the endeavor. No one can assume the Board and committee chairs will be able to do all the work. (M. Bair, Ed.)

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MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last issue the following have become members: Rae Carmack, Florence Chase, Dale & Doris Clixby, Clara Dymond, Libby Eisenhardt, Peter & Cless Greenfield, Will & Katherine Hampton, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Harold, Jr. & Esther Jarvis, John & Mari Lynn Korte, Dave Lehman, Don & Kathleen McDevitt, Margaret Muir, Jim & Judy Murray, Richard & Judith Peck, Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Fred Schiller, Ina Shannon, Jim & Shirley Wenzel.

1987 business/professional members are: Colt Park Agency, E.D. Ewing, Keehn Funeral Home and Old Kent Bank.

Patron members: Lois Clark, Burton & Lillian Davis, Dick & Helen Leitz, Joan Rice, Ed & Connie Sherman, Bob & Ruth Watson, Ed Weber, Alice Wilson. MANY THANKS TO ALL!!!!

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

...Mary Van Pursen for the old records, tool catalogs and other artifacts from the attic of the former Ratz Hardware Store. ...Charles & Norma Jean Pless for donating the cost of the Lyons School furnace repair last December. ...Mildred Bender for a donation to the Lyons School utilities. ...Old Kent Bank for their continued support by the printing of this newsletter. ...Spaghetti Supper people---the committee, those who worked before, during and after; Sefa's, Domino's Pizza, Cindy Seigle (her music ensured the joyous atmosphere of the evening), Lois Cole, Brighton City, Brighton Fire Department, Brighton Chamber of Commerce and, of course, the diners.

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(cont. from page 1)

The public is invited and urged to be with the Society to hear Mr. Finney.

A 1987 appointment book has been donated by Pres. Zara Graham which will be raffled at the General Meeting. Hard Bound with silver edges, it includes all holidays, planning calendar, monthly expense record, weights and measures, gift log and many other features. Tickets are \$1. ea. or 6/\$5. They can be purchased at the meeting or by sending a check to the Society to Sandy Bansbach, 8667 Tamarack, Brighton, in time for the drawing. You do not need to be present to win.

Next Board Meeting: 3-5-87, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall. Members welcome.

Next Finance Committee Meeting: 3-9-87, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall. Members welcome.

Next General Meeting: 5-12-87, Miller Community Center, Public welcome.

Fiddlers' Jamboree: 3-28-87, 1-5 and 7-11 p.m., Brighton High School. Public welcome.

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FIDDLERS' JAMBOREE, SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Fiddle players from all over Michigan will be congregating at the Brighton High School to perform old time fiddle music, 1-5 p.m. Other stringed, non electric will be heard also. Beginning at 7 p.m. the musicians will play for square and round dancing. About 800 dancers, musicians and others are expected. The Historical Society will be selling light refreshments during the evening. (Pies will be needed. Please call Jane Tomlinson, 229-4360 or 229-6435.) (cont. next col.)

HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP....HELP we need...

...people who don't wait to be called on to help. ...people who say 'Yes' when called on to help. ...donations to the fuel bill at Lyons School to provide some warmth for the students working there. ...(desperately) a place to store donated items for auction or sale. ...people to help with a house tour this summer by serving as organizers, hosts and offering their home. This can be a good fund raiser.

To answer any of the above, please contact a board member.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

1-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$5727.78

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$288.00	
Fund raising: Rocking Horse Raffle, 7.;		
Flower Raffle, 16.;		
Spagh. Supper, 5.;		
Tiles, 56.;		
Lyons School, 105.	189.00	
Other donations	10.00	
Interest	23.12	510.12

\$6237.90

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm.	40.11	
Officers	37.61	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.		
Lyons School, elec.,		
19.17; fuel, 372.99	392.16	469.88

1-31-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$5768.02

" Sav. Acct. bal. 5273.28*

" Chk. Acct. bal. 494.74 \$5768.02

*\$1000 trans from chk acct. 1-15-87

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

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The entire day is open to the public. String instrument musicians are invited to participate as are people withing to join in the dancing or as spectators. Reservations not necessary.

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Northville Hist. Soc. P.O. Box 71, Northville 48167, is offering classes - "Genealogy Workshop", "History of Interurban Railways", "Prepare for Summer Auctions!", "Blacksmith Class", and for children "Jugband Workshop."

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The donation sheet enclosed is to encourage everyone to help support the projects in which the Society is engaged. Before support from government entities can be expected it must be proven that sufficient financing is forthcoming from the community.

No donated funds are used for the administration of Society business. 100% is directed to the projects. It is hoped many will respond in a favorable manner.

Other fundraising endeavors the Committee is organizing include bake sales, dinners, sales, raffles, shows, and donation and pledge drives will be conducted.

(Correction from February issue - \$4000 was given the Brighton Area Schools for the Lyons School restoration. Not \$400.)

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WITH OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Novi - "A good way to celebrate the Michigan Sesquicentennial is to join your local historical society."

Livingston County Hist. Soc. - The Michigan Artrain will be west of the depot May 20-24. Also - looking for a copy of the GAR Post Book of Howell and newspapers of the area of 1860-80. Call Mary Reed, 546-1041.

Plymouth Hist. Soc. - March 12, "Milling Around Michigan", George DeAngelis. Michigan's old mills, illustrated with slides.

Green Oak Hist. Soc. - March 3. "10,000 years in Green Oak" with Henry Wright, University of Michigan Museum curator.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

The Society has purchased "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects with Guidelines for Applying the Standards."

Anyone interested in the protection, stabilizing, preservation and restoration of older property will find this easy to read booklet valuable. Contact the Editor if you wish to borrow this booklet.

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Michigan Oral History Council will hold an "Oral History for Michigianians" conference, October 2-3, 1987, at the Sheraton Lansing, 925 Creyts Rd., Lansing. Included will be workshops on oral history, and oral traditions. Also a forum on techniques, uses and value of oral history in preserving the heritage of Michigianians. Contact President Genevea Wiskemann, 5580 W. State Rd, Lansing, 48906 for more information.

Patricia Ward D'Itri, ATL Dept., 229 Bessey Hall, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, 48824 has information on a Michigan Women's Studies Association meeting May 8-9 at the Ralph McMullen Conference Center, Roscommon, Mi. Of particular interest will be the emphasis on historic women of Michigan. Phone, 517-355-6654 for more information.

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Sincere sympathies of the Society are extended to the families of H.B. Lorence and Ula Clark.

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: \$25.00 Patron
- 25.00 Business/professional
- 8.00 per couple
- 5.00 per individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

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

Following the War of 1812, Congress decided that the Territories of Michigan, Illinois and Louisiana should be surveyed and set apart as military tracts, out of which each soldier serving in the army should be entitled to receive one hundred sixty acres of land fit for cultivation. But the surveyors of Michigan Territory reported to the surveyor-general that the land was so poor there would not be more than one acre out of a hundred "that would in any case admit of cultivation." These stories were then spread by land speculators who had acquired large tracts for profit. So Congress passed a new law, April, 1816, authorizing the locating of soldiers' lands to Missouri Territory in order to properly repay these brave men.

There were those who believed that this judgement of the land was false and chief among those was Governor Lewis Cass. Resolving to disprove this bad reputation of the fitness of the land he set out from Detroit with several other friends on a tour. Although the first 25 or so miles seemed to confirm the dismal tales of the surveyors they emerged upon higher ground and into a more open and desirable country. From that point their journey continued over a dry and rolling country (present day Oakland County), through green groves of oak and along beautiful lakes. One of these lakes they named Wing Lake, another they called Cass Lake and another Elizabeth, the governor's wife. Their reports soon dispelled the idea that Michigan was a worthless desert, "but instead a beautiful and fertile land, awaiting only the touch of the settler's axe and plow, and ready to yield an abundant increase to reward his toil."

Immigration to the Territory slowed during the summer of 1832 due to the epidemic of cholera, brought by the soldiers sent to fight the Black Hawk War, and the Black Hawk Indian War, of which only the apprehension reached Michigan Territory. By the end of the year tho', the epidemic cleared and Black Hawk was defeated.

It was on Portage Creek in today's Putnam Township, in 1828, that Col. Salmon Peterson settled as Livingston County's first white land owner. Lee and Benjamin Curtis came to Green Oak in 1830, Col. Samuel Mapes to Hartland Township in 1831 or '32. Jesse Hull settled his family in Hamburg Township in October, 1831. Brighton Township's first residents included Elijah Marsh, Job Cranston, Maynard and Almon Maltby in the fall of 1832 with Gardner Bird arriving the following February. What did they find on their arrival? A wilderness of heavily timbered land, with open areas of heavy sod, thick with matted grass roots. Streams and lakes were abundant and usually surrounded by swampy, marshy areas. Pitching a tent on dry ground or building a temporary lean-to, the felling of trees for a cabin was started. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless, "A Short History of Michigan" by John Kern, "History of Livingston County, 1880," and "Michigan, From Primitive Wilderness to Industrial Commonwealth" by Quaife and Glazer.)

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