



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. 5

Brighton, Mi. 48116
May, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		
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Preservationists must never be beguiled by the notion that we can rely on natural economic forces or...on the market. If we do... a large number of important art objects, artifacts and buildings will be sacrificed. ...the market works on a short time dimension, the people who respond to the market are different from those who ultimately gain from conservation or preservation.

The market works against social economic interest as well as the larger interest in the artistic and educational rewards of conservation. This is not a question of ideology and should not be thought of as an argument between liberals and conservatives. It is a simple fact that the market will always favor the short-run solution. (Tearing down to replace with new.) It will always favor the people who are in immediate possession, as against the larger social and economic interests of the community.

Any time it is suggested these matters can be left to the free play of private enterprise, it is the obligation of everybody associated with this movement, whatever the person's political faith, to rise up and say, "You don't know what you're talking about." This is not a question of ideology; it is a question of hard circumstance.

There also should be no doubt there are cultural, education and aesthetic values that are well beyond the range of economic calculation and that assures us we are right. (Editorial by National Trust Preservation President, John Kenneth Galbraith)

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MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last issue the following have paid 1987 dues:

Patron dues: American Legion Post 235, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Paul & Carol Spangler.

(Please see Memberships, Page 2.)

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MAY 12

Louisa Pieper, Staff Director of the Historic District Commission of Ann Arbor, since 1975, will present a slide talk on that city's eight historic districts, how and why they were established with their design standards and a brief look at districts now under study.

Mrs. Pieper has lived in Ann Arbor since 1968, receiving a Master of Landscape Architecture from U. of M. in 1974. She helped draft six of the ordinances governing the historic districts.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a pot luck supper at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Road. Following a short business meeting, Mrs. Pieper will present the program.

Bring a friend; it promises to be a worthwhile evening. Public is welcome.

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

Next Finance Com. meeting: 5-11-87, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall. Members welcome.

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

- ...Lyons School donation from Bill & Jackie Armstrong.
- ...Old Town Hall donations from Brighton Fire Department, Madelene Hathaway, & Ina Shannon.
- ...Hist. Pres. & Rest. donations from Chuck & Janice Beach, Bob & Tillie Bitten, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Chrysler and Jim & Marjorie White.
- ...donation of appointment book for raffle at General Meeting by Zara Graham.
- ...donations by local merchants to the "It's Grown In Michigan" raffle. Complete list next month.
- ...for the hand made apple basket by Alice Krupa to the above raffle.
- ...for printing of this newsletter by the Old Kent Bank.

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(Memberships, cont. from page 1)
 Couple and Individual dues: David Apps, David Barton, Charles & Janice Beach, Eve Bell, Richard Booth, Bob & Marie Carr, Frances Clore, Dr. Harry Davis, Elenor Hornung, Tim & Helen Hurst, Pete & MaryAnn Leitz, Marilyn Komon, Susan Urban, Alan Walblay, Richard Wolff.

Dues for 1987 should be sent in a.s.a.p. so the Membership Chairman does not have to send reminder letters. Approx. 1/3 of 1986 membership has not yet sent '87 dues. This means nearly 100 letters. This is an unnecessary expense. The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the Trail Tales address label. It is hoped the Society is worthy of your support. Be assured the Society is in need of it.

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INFO ON OTHER ACTIVITIES

Conference on the Northwest Ordinance, May 3-4, Kellogg Center, MSU, Lansing. \$15. for May 3, including the dinner. No charge for May 4, covering, Securing and Peopling the Old Northwest; Education in the Old Northwest. Contact Pres. Graham, 229-2240, for more information.

Green Oak Twp. Hist. Soc. is planning a fun day June 7 to commemorate the Sesqui-centennial. Watch the local news for more information or Write Edna Peach, 10987 Silver Lk. Dr., South Lyon, Mi. 48178.

South Lyon Hist. Soc. will host the spring meeting of area historical societies, Tues., May 19, 7 p.m. Contact Pres. Graham if you'd like to ride along.

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

- we need...
- ...organizers, helpers and hosts to set up a house tour this summer.
- ...chairman, 'gophers', sales persons, etc are needed to help with a sale this summer.
- ...a quilt committee to make a quilt for a raffle. Drawing during the Art Fair, August?
- ...items donated for an antique sale in July at the Brighton sidewalk sale days.
- ...helpers at the Toy Show and Sale Sunday May 17, at the Miller Community Center.
- ... people to put together a small book with old time pictures of the Area. The pictures are available. The book might concentrate on early businesses, farmers, residences, occupations, etc.
- ...support for the June bake sale.

All of the above can help raise funds for restoration projects in the works. Contact any Board Member or the Editor.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

3-1-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$6453.79
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RECEIPTS

Dues	200.00	
Fund Raising: Tiles, 14.; Raffle, Gen. Meet, 24.; Spaghetti Supper, 12.	50.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.: Friends of the Society	500.00	
Donations (undesig.)	4.00	
Interest	23.04	817.04
		<u>\$7270.83</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: 69.40; News-letter, 38.30	107.70	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.: Lyons School Utilities	13.30	121.00
3-31-87	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$ 7149.83
"	Sav. Acct. Bal.	\$5315.71
"	Chk. Acct. Bal.	1834.12
		<u>\$7149.83</u>

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

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INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS STATUS

A local accountant has been contacted regarding the 1987 income tax law regarding charitable contributions. The answer: If the tax payer itemizes contributions to registered non profit organizations, such as the Brighton Area Historical Society, deductions can continue to be taken as in the past.

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PRESIDENT'S MEMO

Being well into my second term as President of the Brighton Area Historical Society, I have made some observations that should be shared with you.

On the positive side, the work on the Lyons School House has progressed, more slowly than hoped for but there has been advancement. Both the finished flooring and the subflooring has to be replaced which is time consuming, along with other things which I won't go into now. With summer coming, we will lose the students who have been doing the work. Dr. McMahon, Superintendent of Schools, has assured me that they will continue to work on the project in the fall, as their time permits.

The Old town Hall restoration committee has been working very hard to get backing for their project. They have gone before the Brighton City Council on two occasions and have been told by the Council that when the committee can give them a plan for raising funds for the restoration, these funds will be matched by the city.

The Lyons School committee has been given donations of materials and money which has kept that project afloat, and for which we are ever grateful. The Town Hall committee has received some money and have also worked several fund raisers.

This brings me to the negative observations. When fund raisers are planned, it is the same small nucleus of people who show up to do the work. Although they are enthusiastic and dedicated, they are tired - very tired. Let me site an example. We had planned on

having a booth at the Fiddler's Jamboree on March 28. The plan was to sell pie by the piece and coffee or tea. Members were asked to donate pies or spend some time at the booth or both. When we received only four responses from our members we cancelled the booth. Yes, those calls came from the same small group we have relied on in the past.

I know you members who live out of town or out of state cannot send us pies or man a booth, and you must be as tired as I am of being asked to support every deserving endeavor that comes along. Please look at what we are trying to do from this perspective: "The only way we will learn from the past is by preserving as much of it as we possibly can."

If you will budget from one dollar a month up to whatever amount would be comfortable for you, and designate it for the project of your choice or the General Fund, it won't be long before our goals are met. It certainly would be a great morale booster for those who have carried the burden for so long.

If any of you can come up with ideas that will help get the membership actively involved, please send them to me. Thank you for listening, and please take time to consider what I have proposed.

Yours for Brighton's Past, Present and Future,
Zara Gibson-Graham.

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 per Couple Brighton, Mi. 48116
 5.00 per Individual



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

The exceedingly bountiful harvest of 1838 was complained of by many as a calamity, insofar as the resulting low prices prevented farmers from realizing a financial profit from their agriculture. But the distress of seeing their granaries bursting with stores of unsalable bread-stuffs was a light one to the settlers compared with that of seeing their families in danger of suffering for lack of provisions.

It is to the everlasting credit of these pioneers that they 'stuck it out'. As soon as shelter and subsistence had been provided for their families the new settlers turned their attention to the education of their children. A large portion of these pioneers were from New York and New England. They brought with them definite opinions on the need and value of a proper observance of educational and religious institutions.

Several families, which could consist of 12-15 children, would meet to organize a 'bee' to build a school. They had the 'know-how' since all had built the log cabins in which they lived. Fieldstone fireplaces provided some warmth and desks and benches were made by splitting logs, smoothing the flat side with a broad-axe, and driving round poles into holes bored in the under side to serve as legs. Occasionally there was a splinter in an uncomfortable place. The teachers were usually the daughter or son of a local family or a resident of a nearby settlement. Often the teacher would 'board around' with first one family and then another. This was often part of the teacher's wages.

Whether taught in the cramped quarters of the cabin or the single roomed log school house, there was laid the foundation of many an honorable and useful career.

Religious observances were also considered among the top priorities of these newcomers. Traveling preachers of both Protestant and Catholic persuasion were heard in various homes until places of worship were erected.

The first regular religious services in Brighton Township were held by Rev. Wm. A. Clark, DD, from New York City in the spring of 1837. Rev. Father Patrick Kelley became the first resident priest in Green Oak Township, holding services and instruction in private homes until the autumn of 1838 when a log church was built. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, still in operation, was one of the earliest churches in Hamburg, Township. The house of David Hight, during 1835-36, was the early site of Baptist services in Genoa Township. Rev. Freiderich Schmidt in 1842, came to the township to preach, as a circuit rider, to the German Lutherans who organized into a still existing congregation. (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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