



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. 9

Brighton, Mi. 48116
September, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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V.P.	Alice Krupa	227-2516
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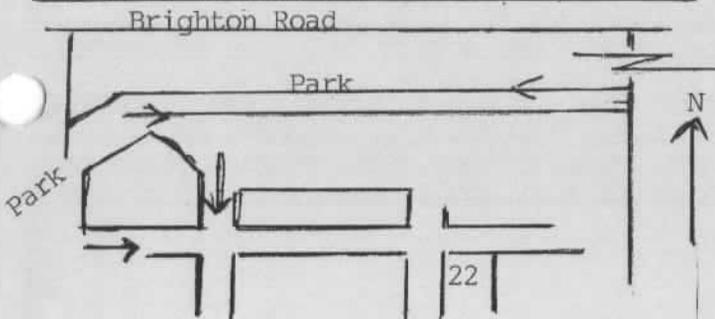
DIRECTORS

Rudy Herrmann		229-7923
Mary Mathias		229-6900
Peg Siford		227-6056
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

The Brighton Area Schools have made available Room 22 at the High School, 7878 Brighton Road. See map below. A short business meeting will be preceded by a pot luck at 6:30. The Booklover's Birthday Book has been donated by Shelagh Klein as a raffle fund raiser for the Old Town Hall. It contains 108 illustrations honoring birthdays of well known novelists, essayists, playwrights, poets, historians, and politicians, etc.

The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Martin Brosnan, principal at South Lyon Centennial Middle School. A history buff most of his life, he thrives on first person re-enactments and will present "I've Heard That Name Before!"



EDITORIAL

"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found. They forgot where they came from. Carl Sandburg.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 3, 7 p.m., Board meeting.
- 8, 6:30 General meeting.
- 9, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Michigan Historical Commission Day, Lansing. "To Secure the Blessings of Liberty: The U.S. Constitution and the Northwest Ordinance". Bureau of History, Michigan Dept. of State, (517) 373-0510.
- 9, 7 p.m., Quilt committee meeting.
- 17, "We The People: Conference at Wayne State University. (In 1787 the Constitution was signed by 39 delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.) Call (517) 373-6741.
- Oct. 1, 7 p.m., Board meeting.
- 2&3, Oral History Conference, Lansing.
- 9, Brighton Area School Alumni Assoc. Annual Meeting - Brighton Home Coming.
- 31, Trash & Treasures Sale.
- Nov. 5, 7 p.m., Board meeting.
- 10, 6:30 p.m., Annual Meeting.
- 29, Annual Open House.
- Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Board meeting
- 7, (1778, Delaware was the 1st state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.)
- 19, Christmas raffle drawing.

The public is invited to the General meetings held in room 22 in the High School. The members are invited to Board meetings, upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. For more information on any of the above, please contact the Editor.

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

...Chamber of Commerce for the use of the parking lot for the antique sale.
...donors, customers and workers at the antique sale.
...Judith Peck, Virginia Zurecki, Shelagh Klein, Dick Davis for working at the Society's booth at the Arts and Crafts Fair.
...Old Kent Bank for printing Trail Tales.
...PDQ Printing for label copying for Trail Tales.
...Old Town Hall Restoration donation by Shelagh Klein.
...Historic Pres. & Rest. Fund donation by Ellouise Gibson.
...Lyons School insurance donation by Florence Chase.

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1987 MEMBERSHIPS 1987

Since the last issue the following have become members;

Patron: Harry & JoAnn Gibson, Steven & Kathy Grove.

Couple/Individual: Jim & Karen Dennis and Barton Hellmuth.

Welcome and many thanks for your display of confidence in the Society.

Trail Tales is sent via non profit bulk mail. There is no forwarding and no address correction at this rate. Let us know if your address changes.

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DETROIT EDISON FREE ENERGY AUDIT =
A \$4.00 DONATION

If you live in the service area of the Detroit Edison Company and send the enclosed card for a FREE Home Energy Analysis by September 30, the Society will receive \$4. for each analysis. There is NO charge to you; Detroit Edison donates to the Society. Schedules can be arranged Monday/Saturday during daylight hours. No purchase will be necessary. Edison's Energy Auditors will wear badges for easy identification. This program has value for each of you and for the Society. (Your Editor has already had an Energy Audit. It doesn't hurt.)

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BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting is planned-Friday, Oct. 9, 5 p.m., at BHS cafeteria. All Alumni welcome. Dinner, 6 p.m., lots of visiting and a football game too! Sept. 30 is the deadline for reservations. Write P.O. Box 1163 or call Pres. Tom Leith for info.

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

we need....

...nominees for next year's Board of Directors.
...workers for the October 31, Trash & Treasures Sale.
...donors and customers to the above Sale.
...donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration.
...donations to the Lyons School insurance bill. (\$749.)
...people to send in their Home Energy Analysis card by September 30.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

7-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$20201.44

RECEIPTS

Dues \$ 51.00
Fund Raising: Bake Sale, 10.; Mich. Raffle, 43.; Magazine sales, 50. 103.00
Friends of the Society 380.00
Lyons School - Insurance, 25., Utilities, 76.83 101.83
Interest 77.78 713.61
20915.05

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: TRail Tales 24.05
Officers 5.26
Hist. Pres. & Rest.
Lyons School Utilities 10.34 39.65

7-31-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$20875.40

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" Chk. " " " 866.24 \$20875.40

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, Our congratulations to you on your recent "Michigan 150 First Lady Award", one of two ladies in Livingston County receiving this honor. We are so very proud of you, and we are so happy that your volunteer work, for your church, your community, and our Society, has been recognized with this award.

We thank you for your dedication, your patience, your warmth, and your friendship.

With all of our best wishes, and our appreciation, Your friends, Brighton Area Historical Society. (Ed. note: A volunteer does not work alone. Thanks to all of you.)

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION

Sometime this month the paint removal will begin the restoration work on this 108 year old building which is so much a part of the community.

Active members of the Society are working diligently (and hard) to raise the funds for this restoration. The support of the community is the only way this can be done. For a \$25. donation you will receive a mug as a gift, \$50. will get you a tote bag. \$75-a set of leather coasters and \$100. a pewter candy dish. Go to the Brighton Public Library to see what fine articles these are. Those donating \$100. or more will be listed on a plaque which is to be permanently placed in the Hall. Join us?

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ORAL HISTORY FOR MICHIGAN: A CONFERENCE

The Conference will take place in Lansing, October 2 & 3. Two from the Society will be going. "Oral History and the Michigan Sesquicentennial", "The Circle is Unbroken", "The Lawyer looks at Oral History", "Interviewing Prominent People", "Plane, Trains and Weathervanes", "True Lies and Other Stories I've Heard", "Michigan Pioneers As Oral Historians" are some of the titles of some of the workshops. Entertainment is planned also. Registration must be postmarked September 10. Space is limited to 300, however. For more information please contact the Editor.

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TRASH AND TREASURES SALE

Everyone has items that are still useful but of no use to you. Plan to donate them to the Society's sale, October 31 at the Farmer's Market. (Then come buy a treasure for yourself. You can donate it next year.)

If one doesn't see it for sale one doesn't need it. Anything and everything will be displayed. All proceeds will go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Garage sale leftovers can be donated. Get your fall house cleaning done. Either bring things that morning or check next month's issue for a phone number to call.

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QUILTS FOR FUND RAISING

Wednesday, September 9, 7 p.m., Alice Krupa, 6323 Kevin, will be hosting an organizational meeting of those interested in helping make quilts as fund raisers. She and Marieanna Bair are planning to chair this committee but will step down if someone requests that position. Want to help but can't make the meeting? Call Alice, 227-2516 or Marieanna, 229-6402, and let them know of your interest.

The enclosed signature quilt flyer gives one an opportunity to have one's signature preserved for posterity. Want to honor a senior friend or neighbor? Get their signature and send in with the donation. This quilt will be retained by the Society for display at special events. (Such as the Society's 50th anniversary in 2031.)

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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. Patron
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

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

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

The formation of Livingston County in 1837, confirmed the stability and determination to survive of the early settlers.

Saw mills and grist mills were constructed following the damming of streams flowing through the area. Ore Creek and Woodruff Creek furnished the water power necessary for the operation of these mills.

Log houses were the first shelter for the settlers. When a saw mill was in operation the settler transported many wagon loads of tree trunks to the mills and took home flat planks. The laborious hand sawing was eliminated. Now lumber was available for the construction of a home and furniture similar to that which had been left in the East. Often the expense of sawing the logs into planks was paid for on a barter basis in that a number of logs were cut for the farmer and then some for the mill owner.

The availability of lumber encouraged several to settle in the vicinity of the mill. Soon those owning the surrounding land surveyed their property and platted villages with streets and lots for houses. Not all those platted were destined to become permanent villages; some showed promise for a while but then fizzled. One of those to survive was the village of Brighton.

In 1833, Maynard and Almon Maltby cleared six acres, planted wheat and built the first log cabin and a dam across Ore Creek in the vicinity of Third Street. They erected the first saw mill in the area; cutting most of the material with which early houses were built.

In 1850, with the construction of the plank road between Detroit and the new capitol at Lansing underway, the Grand River Trail had become one of the major thoroughfares in the state. Brighton was mid way between the two cities and travelers in the continual procession of teams pulling wagons, coaches and buggies found it a convenient place to stop for refreshments.

Among the earliest buildings in the settlement was the log tavern built by Wm. Dutcher, located on the southeast corner of Spencer and Grand River, on the hill in the "upper town". Ben Cushing, having been the first proprietor of that first log tavern purchased a site in "lower town" at the corner of Grand River Trail and Fitch (Main) Street. There he built the Brighton Hotel in 1850. (This building burned in 1929.) His son, George, was a successful grocer for many years. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless.)

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P.O. Box 481
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