



Grand River Trail

TRAIL TALES

Brighton Area Preservation News

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 this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

P.O. Box 481
Vol. VII, No. 4

Brighton, Mi. 48116
April, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

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Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Bill Amrhein		227-7282
Dick Davis		229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

ALICE NEWCOMB SPEAKS AT MARCH MEETING

Playing Odd or Even, performing school programs at the Rialto Theater on Main Street, eating lunch while sitting in the window wells at the little school were some of her childhood memories.

The construction of the new school on the hill, playing basketball in a cheese box of a gym, ice skating on the mill pond, checking the clock in Rickett's Jewelry store on the way to school and earning money for the Senior trip during the depression recalled an earlier day in Brighton when the surrounding area was farming country.

Thank you, Alice, for an entertaining time.

May 10, at Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State, Mary Mathias will speak of a childhood in Brighton. Hope to see you there too.

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MEETINGS

Board - Thursday, April 14, 7 PM.
Finance Committee - Monday, 4, 7 PM.
Old Town Hall Restoration - Monday, April 11 and Monday, April 25, 7 PM.
Lyons School Committee - Wednesday April 20.

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EDITORIAL

The area has commercial properties which still retain, or have been given, the historical character which helps make it unique. Not much new, especially commercial, construction appears planned to last more than 20 years.

Owners of older homes often try to restore the building's original character by eliminating the remodeling which seemed so proper 20-30 years ago.

A visit to the library and study of architecture and restoration procedures would be of great benefit to those wishing to take advantage of the feeling of stability and security which is present in a building which has been around a while. (M. Bair)

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Since the last issue dues have been received from the following:

Patrons: Lois Krausman, Tom & Audrey Leith, Richard & Helen Leitz and Joan Pinney-Rice.

Bus/Prof.: Dr. Harry Davis, Keeehn Funeral Home and Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Whalen.

Couple/Ind.: Bill & Jacquie Armstrong, Eric Astrup, Chuck & Janice Beach, Esther Clark, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Carol Hills, Arlene Jacob, M/M Jack Linahan, M/M Francis Michaels, Roland & Jane Owens, Judith Peck, Mae Schmadtke, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Jim & Vicki Vichich, Jim & Shirley Wenzel, Jim & Gorla Winchel.

362 paid memberships in 1987. Can this good response and show of support for the Society's goals continue in 1988? Many thanks to all for your encouragement.

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

...Carol Gitre King for photos of early Brighton she sent the Society.
 ...Katherine Stuhrberg Hampton for the 1910 souvenir of Brighton Schools listing students of the 1st and 2nd grades and officers.
 ...Lois Cole for preparing the Bus/Prof. membership certificates and the spaghetti dinner flyers.
 ...Doris Cuthbert, Shelagh Klein, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Michaels, Douglas & Carol Rearick, Dr. & Mrs. G. E. Whalen, George & Phylis Winter for their donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund.
 ...Eric Astrup, Arlene Jacob, Tom Manning, Joe & Toni Mullany, Roland & Jane Owens for their donations to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.
 ...Nancy Hackney, Francetta Peters and Carol Spangler for their work on the Signature Quilt and to those who have supported the quilt project with their donations.
 ...Burt & Lillian Davis, Eve Bell and Jo Hyne for sitting with the quilt at the show.
 ...Old Kent Bank for printing Trail Tales.
 ...PDQ Printing for label copying.
 ...Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their generous support.
 ...Jane Tomlinson for chairing the tile sales.
 ...Ethel Gebben for serving as hospitality at General Meetings and helping with distribution of Trail Tales.

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HISTORIC RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

The Lyons School Committee is refining the sketch for the 1988 Society tile.

Old Town Hall Committee is planning a fund raising dinner/dance in November.

Both these committees need more people. Call a board member if you'd like more information on their activities.

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HICKORY NUT COOKIES

Crack enough hickory nuts to make a quart. Roll finely. Beat 8 egg whites adding two cups sugar and enough flour to stiffen dough. Drop on buttered tins and bake in a quick oven. (From Eastern House Cookbook, Alene Anderson.)

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Ninety species of trees are indigenous to Michigan, more varieties than are native to the entire continent of Europe.

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

we need...

...donations to and workers on the Old Town Hall Restoration Project. Committee meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 PM.
 ...ditto above for Lyons School Project. Meet 3rd Wednesday.
 ...Finance Committee could also use some help. Meets 1st Monday, 7 PM
 ...Chairman for Nine Patch Quilt.
 ...help with the Home Tour. 227-1148.

All donations to Preservation projects are income tax deductible.

Contact a board member if you can help.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

2-1-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$26878.63

RECEIPTS

Dues	294.00		
Fund Raising			
Spagh. Din.	387.75		
Stationery	7.25		
Tile Sales	276.00	671.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.			
Old Town Hall	2677.00		
Interest	123.65	3765.65	
			\$30644.28

DISBURSEMENTS

Adminis.	29.18		
Newsletter	33.93	63.11	
Fund Raising			
Sig. Quilt	4.00		
Spag. Din.	33.16	37.16	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.			
Lyons Sch.	9.83		
Old Town Hall			
Adm.	20.59		
Other	158.40		
	178.99	188.82	289.09

2-29-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$30355.19

" Sav. Act. Bal.	\$26217.05		
" Chk " "	4138.14	\$30355.19	

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

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RESTORATION CRAFTS DIRECTORY?

Many moving into older homes in the area are looking for plumbers, carpenters, decorators, masons, etc., who are capable of restoration work.

The Society often receives requests regarding these kinds of workers. Might a listing be compiled for the use of those planning restorations?

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Home Tour, May 14, 10-4 PM, Chairman, Rae-Lynn Lerner, already has four homes and three churches on the agenda. Needed will be hosts in the rooms and to take tickets. Histories are being prepared for each. Plans are being made for a local organization to serve lunches. Give Rae-Lynn a hand. Call 227-1148 to help. If all goes well this can be an annual event. (If we don't work her to death.)

Bake Sale, June 2, 8-1 PM at the Farmers' Market. Be thinking now what you will make. Chairman, Jane Tomlinson, will be contacting members for donations to this first bake sale of the year.

The Signature Quilt now has three people embroidering. Nancy Hackney is also helping. It was on display at the recent quilt show. This month 14 more signatures have been received - 52 thus far. A donation of \$10 will assure you and/or yours are included. This quilt will remain with the Society for posterity.

The Post Card Project Chairman, Mary Richmond, is readying the decriptive blurb for the back of the card.

The Nine Patch Quilt is still looking for a chairman. The material is here. Needed are cutters and stitchers. This quilt will be raffled.

The 1988 Tile, Lyons School, should be ready in a few months. Tiles from '85, '86 and '87 are available at the Brighton Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Trust, Jarvis Mens' Store, Poor Richard's and Uber's Drugs at \$7.

The Antique Sale in August and the Trash & Treasures Sale in October are still looking for chairmen. AND..are you planning what you'd like to donate?

Wrapping Paper Project. It is planned to make sheets of wrapping paper, 24"x30" with a picture of 1875 maps of Brighton Village and the four southeastern townships of Livingston County on each. The maps available for copying are approximately 9" square. Some means of enlarging these to 20" is necessary. Any ideas or suggestions to accomplish this? Please call Chrmn., Davis if you can help.

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What Other Societies Are Doing

Milford Historical Society will be hosting the spring meeting of area societies, Wed., April 21. Meet at the Museum, 124 E. Commerce at 7 for a tour of the Museum. At 8 we'll go to St. Mary's Church, 1851 E. Commerce for a viewing of the Milford Folk History movie, an exchange of ideas and activities and refreshments.

Green Oak Township Historical Society will be holding its 8th Annual Museum Yard Cleanup, Saturday, April 16, 9-2 PM. Bring rakes, clippers, etc., and gloves. The Museum is at 6440 Kensington Road, approx. 1/2 mile south of Grand River. Come, help. It's work but a lot of fun also. We'll have Domino Pizza for lunch!

Berrien County had a Log Cabin Day last June as a Sesquicentennial event. Another is planned for June 26, 1988.

The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National RR Soc. has two steam train rides planned: April 23 & May 7.

Interested in learning more about these events? Call the Editor, 229-6402.

1988 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1988

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 Send to:
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

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EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISIONS

It's Easter morning, 1875; "Dolly" is easily pulling the shiny carriage full of excited children in their best 'bib and tucker.' We're on our way to the new church to celebrate the first Easter within its walls - the Wesleyan Methodist Pleasant Valley Church on the northeast corner of Pleasant Valley and Labadie Roads across from the cemetery in Brighton Township.

We've come past the log Lyons School on Buno Road where the children are taught the three Rs. With spring plowing soon to begin the two oldest boys will have to stay home and help Pa. (But they don't really mind.) With the bright oil lamps now available they can study in the evening. Hopefully a frame school can soon be built. The old log cabin, erected in 1842, is small, drafty and not well lighted. (Richard and Martha Lyon donated land for the school 33 years ago.)

"Easy, Dolly," as we drive over a wet spot in the road after crossing the bridge over Mann Creek. Passing through the swampy areas often makes one remember the November day in 1841, when five year old Mortimer Doyen got lost in the woods and swamps. Altho' his cries were heard, in the early darkness it was impossible to find him. Three days later his body was found. It makes us all the more careful with the little ones even now that forests are cleared and roads laid.

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Since that Easter Sunday over 100 years ago, the 160 acres owned by Willard Beach in Section 22 (which was first taken up by Smith Beach from Ontario, New York, in 1833) and that owned by John Hacker in Section 15 (which was taken up by Cyrus Jackson from Wayne, New York, in 1836) has passed through several other hands. In 1958, a plat was prepared by an attorney from Farmington, Percy Guardhouse, who purchased the property from Al and Madge Dunk and from Bert and Minnie Newman.

He put in the dam that formed the lake and has quieted the stream which rises from the northeast out of Oakland County; supported by overflow from Beach Lake. The undulating land, having been left by the retreating glaciers many centuries ago, today has been tamed by roads on which one finds many beautiful homes. Oak, hickory and walnut stands had been replaced by hay fields, corn fields, pastures and orchards, which, in turn, have given way to those searching for the place they call home - Lake Moraine. (Edited from: "First Land Owners, Livingston County" by Milton Charboneau, "Livingston County History 1880" and assistance from Livingston County Register of Deeds Office.)

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