



P.O. Box 481 Brighton, Mi. 48116  
 Vol. VII, No. 12 December, 1988

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

\* \* \* \*

OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
V.P.	Bcb Richmond	229-6268
Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Treas.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

DIRECTORS

Bill Amrhein		227-7282
Chuck Beach		229-9678
Dick Davis		229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
Finance Comm.	Dick Davis	229-8356
Lyons School	Herb L. Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall	Shelagh Klein	229-6571

RECAP - ANNUAL MEETING

Elections at the Seventh Annual Meeting resulted with the following board for 1989: President, V.P. and Secretary will remain the same. Treasurer will be Marge White. Directors will be: Bill Amrhein, Marieanna Bair, Chuck Beach, Dick Davis, Audrey Leith, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Gary McCririe and Leota Mason. 1989 looks good for the community again with these people on the Society Board. Many thanks to the 1988 Board and to Mel Skeman who is retiring.

The highlight was the showing of the video of the 1988 home tour shown by the Lerner's. 1989 plans include: spaghetti supper, home tour, antique sale, Trash & Treasurers sale, continued restoration of the Old Town Hall and the Lyons School. (Lots of work for lots of people.)

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EDITORIAL

The announcement of the temporary retirement of the Editor has caused some concerned comments (which are very much appreciated) and deserves explanation. No, we're not moving, just taking on some other responsibilities for a while.

Upon review of the membership list it is obvious this Editor can be easily replaced.

We'd like to try to continue the local history notes on the back page. Let us know what interests you and research can be done in that direction.

How about some guest editorials?  
 (Editor: M. Bair)

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 1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989

Bus/Prof.: Bogan Agency, Inc., Robert H. Chesky, M.D., His Bible & Book House, Jarvis' Store, Inc., K Mart 7081, and Yum Yum Tree.

Patron: Josephine Hyne, Martin & Rae-Lynne Lerner (1988).

Couple/Indiv.: Jeanette Bailey, Harry & Carol Davis, Mrs. Wm. (Betty Hall) Franklin (Arizona), Fred & Phyllis Gruezeke, Clara Healy, Don & Linda Lund, David Pomerville, Doug & Carol Rearick.

The semi annual review of the mailing list will take place soon. Many issues are sent to those recommended as being interested in its activities (or they should be) but are not members. However there is a limit to the number of copies printed. It will be necessary to remove some of those from whom no response has been received so others can be added. Membership will ensure continued delivery. If there is no wish for Trail Tales to continue being received let us know. Please consider a membership. Don't let someone else foot the bill. The date on the mailing label indicated the year for which dues are paid.

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

- ...John & Mathilda Bitten, Tom Manning, Peaker Services, Dr. Gerald Pelkey and Evelyn Stevenson for contributions to the Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund.
- ...Craig & Marilyn Farley for contributing to the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund.
- ...Elizabeth Bindenagel for contributing to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.
- ...Citizens Insurance for printing the tickets for the Nine Patch quilt raffle and to Carol Spangler for her help in putting it together.
- ...Nancy Hackney and Carol Spangler for help on the Signature Quilt.
- ...Station WHMI and George Moses Company for help with publicity of Society projects and events.
- ...Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.
- ...PDQ Printing for copying of labels.
- ...A. Colton Park who donated a book "A History of the Park & Colton Families".
- ...Mel Skeman for serving as director for two years.
- ...Audrey Leith, Leota Mason, Gary McCririe and Marge White for consenting to serve on the board for 1989.
- ...The Jack Gebbens and the Floyd Fullers for serving as hosts at the Open House.
- ...Committee Chairmen for continued support and cooperation.
- ...Chamber of Commerce for their cheerful assistance.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

10-1-88      TCTAL NET WORTH      \$36202.66

RECEIPTS

General Fund			
Dues		\$89.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Fund Raising Proj.			
Bake Sale	132.25		
Tiles	14.00		
Trash & Treas.	431.15		
Signature Quilt	10.00	587.40	
Lyons School		75.00	
Old Town Hall		1021.00	
Donations		15.00	
Interest 9-28-88		<u>168.80</u>	<u>1956.20</u>
			\$38158.68

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund			
		58.98	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Fund Raising Proj.			
Lyons School		10.94	
Old Town Hall		<u>41.00</u>	<u>161.92</u>

10-30-88      TOTAL NET WORTH      \$37996.94

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

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

needed...

- ...someone to begin an Historic Resource Survey in Genoa and Brighton Townships and complete the Survey begun in Town. (This is the documentation of buildings and properties in the area c. 1840-1940 to preserve the history and raise awareness of their historical significance. It is important to continue this documentation (begun two years ago by Alice Krupa who has since moved) for the edification of planners and developers; while there is still something to document.
- ...people to conduct Oral Histories and to transcribe tapes. (A verbal record of the past, usually first hand knowledge, is an important part of the Society's activities. Learning of the everyday lives of ancestors enables us to better assess our own lives. A continuity from one generation to another is formed. Oral History is not a substitute but a complement to written history.)
- ...a transcription machine.
- ...people to serve on the Finance, Home Tour, Lyons School and Old Town Hall Committees.
- ...a person to deliver batches of newsletters each month to local business sites, i.e. medical centers, township halls, real estate offices, etc.
- ...someone to put Trail Tales together. Various chairmen will provide information, and folding and mailing will be done.

Please contact a board member for more information on the above.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

Next meeting will be Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. at the chairman's home, L. Herb Warner, 229-6504. The planned brochure is coming together as are restoration details such as windows, bell tower, etc. Wording for the Historic Site marker is in the works.

OLD TOWN HALL

Work is progressing on the stabilization of the foundation for the bell tower. This committee will meet Monday, December 12, 7 p.m. Contact Shelagh Klein, 229-6571 for more information and to offer your help.

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The 1989 tiles, showing the Lyons School are here! These, and the previous tiles (Pere Marquette Depot, Union School and Western House), are at Jarvis', Uber's, poor Richard's, Trustcorp, Library and Chamber of Commerce. The Lyons School tile is limited to 300.

Picture post cards with scenes of early Brighton can be purchased from Jarvis', Uber's and the Chamber of Commerce. These come in sets of six each, showing early modes of transportation and early Brighton street scenes. In the future, sets of other scenes will be printed. All are limited editions.

The Second Annual Home Tour is set for Saturday, May 13, 1989. Several of last year's homes will be open again plus several more. It is planned to have seven. Rae-Lynne Lerner, 227-1148, will chair this event again and will need your help. Note this date on your calendar please.

The Signature Quilt is on its way to being half full. There's still room now for your signature or someone you want to honor (or memorialize). But don't dally too long. Send \$10. with each signature and be sure to be included. This quilt will remain with the Society for posterity to view.

The Nine Patch Quilt raffle tickets are enclosed with this issue of Trail Tales. The intent is not to presume but to encourage your support. A lot of work has resulted in a fine quilt. It will all be worth while if a generous return is realized. Tickets will also be available December 3, 10 & 17 at the Brighton Mall. The quilt will be on display there also.

All proceeds from these fund raisers go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration projects. Thank you for your support. Call Dick Davis for more information or to help on this committee. Meets First Monday, 7 p.m.

EVOLUTION Cont from page 4....

From Indian Trails to super highways; from swampy, muddy routes, fording streams and circumnavigating steep hills in rough wagons and stage coaches to traveling at high speed on limited access roads in comfortable air conditioned vehicles with power steering, etc., the people still come to build their homes in the area. In the late 1960s, Clarence Johnson is instrumental in developing the Woodland Hills #1,2, and 3 subdivisions. Duane Hyne, in 1973, sees to the beginning of the Air Way Hills area.

None of us contend with wild animals or fear the Indian but most of us have to contend with overcrowding and the fear of the unknown is still with us. The 1980s folks living in E½ Section 18 work just as hard, suffer just as much heartbreak and discouragement as the first settler. The early pioneers made it; they supported each other in times of trouble and sorrow. Today's folks will also. (M. Bair, Editor. Compiled from "Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless, Liv. Co. Reg. Deed office and conversation with Duane Hyne.)

1989 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1989

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 Pub., etc. | ( ) 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		

## EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

The 1839 map of Michigan is crisscrossed by Indian trails; mainly for foot travel, often not wide enough for a horse and rider. Within 11 years the Detroit to Howell Plank Road on the Grand River Trail was completed and by 1852 it was planked from Howell to Lansing, the newly located State Capitol.

The plank roadbed was 18' wide, the planks 3" thick. A fine smooth surface was provided for wagons, stagecoaches and carts when the road was new. Toll gates were erected - toll charged.

And so we find ourselves in the last  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the 19th century in a horsedrawn sleigh on our way to the Frank Hyne farm (on present day Hyne Road) in Section 18 of Brighton Township for a day of quilting. With a heated stone at our feet and a buffalo robe covering us, it's quite cozy for the five mile ride ahead of us. We're on the trail going north out of town, over Ore Creek, past the brick yard on the east side of the road, stopping at the toll gate (at present day Cross Street).

"They sure have a nerve, charging toll on this road to the local people," mutters our driver. "Now that the rail road goes through town we sure don't need a toll road to haul produce into Detroit. Yeah, gravel has replaced the planks but in wet weather it's still not worthy of a toll. They ought to be ashamed."

"Well, it won't be long and the tolls will end when the gravel franchise runs out", we answer.

"Then each farmer in the township will have to help when the 'Pathmaster' sends the call to work out the road taxes by grading and filling", is the reply.

At the corner of present day Hacker Road the sleigh turns north on the town line between Genoa and Brighton Township. In less than a mile we turn east on today's Hyne Road for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the house.

"It'll be fun to visit with the others as we quilt. It seems so long since I've seen the ladies. I'm anxious to see Louisa's baby."

Ownership of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18 in Brighton Township has changed several times since being taken up by Wm. S. Conely from New York City in 1837, with Frank Hyne taking possession in 1881. The first owner of the W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  was Abram Pietch, also from NYC in 1836. The E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  was sold by the U.S. Government to George Post of Washtenaw that same year. By 1845, Charles Prosser owned the entire SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . By 1895 John Hunter owned the E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . Their names, along with Hyne, were still on the records by 1915. The difficult times of recession and the Great Depression are reflected in the records at the County Register of Deeds office. (Please turn to page 3.)

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