



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. VII, No. 1

Brighton, Mi., 48116  
January, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICERS

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Editor	Marieanna Bair 229-6402

EDITORIAL

(Thoughts to preserve by from Historic Preservation magazine.)

Wide streets in small towns are memorials to expectations.

Vacant buildings are unfair game.

Someone should make a study of the buildings you never look at.

Architectural detail was developed in the days when people walked.

Many people spend their lives looking for a hometown.

The facts of history without the lessons are only curiosities.

Given enough time "old and worn out" becomes "historic and in need of restoration."

(M. Bair, Editor)

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1988	MEMBERSHIPS	1988	

Since the last issue the following have paid dues:

Patrons: George F. Hacker of Indiana, Colt & Dorothy Park, Charles & Norma Jean Pless, Miles Vieau.

Couple/Indiv: Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Benjamin Clark, Don & Lois Cole, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Engel, Jr., Bill & Elenor Garrett, Nancy Hackney, Whitney & June Kimble, Carol King of Texas, Barbara Lorence, Jere & Kay Michaels, Floyd & Lorena Pearson, Allen Walblay, Herb & Arlene Warner.

Patron memberships - usually paid by those who find it difficult to provide time and energy - are much appreciated. The receipt of annual dues demonstrates support for the goals and projects promoted by the Society. This is helpful.

GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

The location of this first General Meeting of 1988 will be at Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State Street. (Main Street west to Sixth, then north.) The pot luck dinner will begin at 6:30. A brief business meeting at 7:30 will be followed with a short talk by Tom Leith, a life long resident of the area, on some of his memories of life in Brighton a few years ago. Tom will conduct a question period following his presentation. The public is invited.

Tom is one of many area residents with prodigious memories and is willing to share them. All General Meeting programs this year are planned to take advantage of the wide variety of local talent available.

Have a preferred topic or person you'd like to hear? Would you like to make a presentation? Contact a board member.

Thurs., Jan. 7, 7 p.m., Board Meeting at the Old Town Hall.

Thurs. Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Board Meeting.

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

...Christmas raffle ticket buyers; Margaret Squire, Michael Cuthbert, Mary Mathias, Kathy Grove, Mildred Harrington, Nancy Hackney, Clara Healy, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Bob Richmond, Ruth Ann Cole, Elenor Garrett, Gary Cole, Dick Davis, Rudy Herrmann and Shelagh Klein for helping with ticket selling; Brighton Office Supply and Little Professor Book Store for storing the table and chairs.

...Ruth Ann Cole for making and donating the yarn candy cane and wreath to the raffle.

...Ina Shannon for her donation to the restoration of the Old Town Hall.

...Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pless for their donation to the purchase of the bell for the Lyons School.

...Herb & Arlene Warner for donation to Lyons School insurance premium.

...Mr. & Mrs. D.M. Doumanian for their donation to the fuel bill of Lyons School.

...Old Kent Bank for printing of this issue of Trail Tales.

...Donors to the Signature Quilt project.

...Peg Siford for her service as director for the past year.

...those who responded with information of the history of the Charles Howell Boy Scout Camp.

...Chamber of Commerce for their support.

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OLD TOWN HALL & LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION

As with most of us at this time of the year, the members of these committees have taken a bit of a break. However - if you have donated \$25. or more to the Old Town Hall and have not yet received your incentive award, please call Shelagh Klein, 229-6571. And...a bell has been found for use in the Lyons School bell tower when it is rebuilt. Work on making windows for the school is in progress.

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GENEALOGICAL BUFFS AND RESEARCHERS NOTICE

Milton Charboneau has presented the Society with nine bound early issues of the Brighton Argus. A notebook of obituaries and death notices from the Argus issues of 1881-1899 and 1911-1920 was also given by Milton. Those familiar with historical research can truly appreciate the long hours which have gone into this work. Many thanks, Milt.

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

we need....

...hosts for General Meetings. (Prepare coffee, etc, name tags, etc.)

...donations to the Old Town Hall restoration project.

...people to serve on the above restoration committee.

...people to help with the Spaghetti Supper, February 19, 1988.

...people to pay 1988 dues.

...people to work on the Nine Patch quilt.

...donations to the Lyons School restoration project, fuel bill, insurance bill and furnace repair bill.

...people to work on the Finance Committee.

Call a board member if you can help with any of the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

11-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$23869.15

RECEIPTS

Dues \$238.00

Fund Raising: Bake Sale, 206.75; Det. Edison Cons. Proj., 32.; Sesqui Flag, 25.; Sled Raffle, 60.; Sig.Quilt, 40.; Stationery, 6.; Tiles, 14.; Trash/Treasures Sale, 473.70 857.45

Hist. Pres. & Rest: Lyons School Bake Sale, 201.85; Old Town Hall dinner, 1315.; Friends of the Society, 250. 1766.85

Undesignated 25.00

Interest 110.62 2997.92

26867.07

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration 67.33

Officers 4.40

Fund Raising 6.85

Hist. Pres. & Rest.

Lyons School 193.94

Old Town Hall 980.78 1174.72 1253.30

11-30-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$25613.77

" Sav. Acct. Bal. \$23887.91

" Chk. " " 1725.86 \$25613.77

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

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Post Card project is underway. Two sets of six different sites each will be printed. The description of the picture to be printed on the back of the card must still be prepared.

The 1987 Tiles are here! With the Western House as its subject, this fourth in the series of early Brighton area scenes is a limited edition of 300. Available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store, Citizens Trust and the Chamber of Commerce for \$7. All proceeds go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Some 1986 (Union School) and 1985 (Pere Marquette Depot) are still available.

The Nine Patch Quilt to be raffled, needs someone to give it a boost. The material is available - cutting and stitching is next on the agenda.

The Sixth Annual Spaghetti Supper is set for February 19, 1988. Mark your calendar. Plan to promote this event and bring your friends. (Some help can be used in the supervision department also.)

The Annual Christmas Raffle really went well again. Many thanks to all who bought raffle tickets for the wooden sled made and donated by Joe Chenoweth. Eleanor Linsenmeyer was the delighted winner of the sled. The yarn wreath went to Phil Walsh and the yarn candy cane to Joanne Bellmard. These were made and donated by Ruth Ann Cole.

Wrapping paper with a picture of the four townships of southeastern Livingston County and Brighton City is being considered as a future fund raising project. Some work has already been done on this - a project chairperson is needed to complete it.

The Signature Quilt project needs your attention. Send your signature and a \$10 donation and it will be embroidered on a quilt which will remain with the society as an exhibit of those people who have some connection with the area. Be sure you and your loved ones are included.

Harrison Seger, Frank's grandfather, came to Brighton. Mayor of the town at one time, he was a plumber by trade, digging wells by hand. One well was 110' deep.

SESQUICENTENNIAL PIONEER CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO FRANK SEGER AND LYLE HARTMAN

Frank's forefathers arrived in this land on the Mayflower. Hiram, his great grandfather, received a land grant of 160 acres in the Redford area in 1831, as remuneration for having served in the Revolutionary War. Via the Erie Canal and Lake Erie he and his family of seven brought two wagons of possessions from New York state. Six more children were born after their arrival in Michigan. The youngest, Wm. Henry

Lyle's ancestor, Martin John, immigrated to the U.S. from Alsfeld, Germany in 1829, to New York. The family then settled on 80 acres in Genoa Township in 1836, when Martin Van Buren was president. His son, one of seven children, built the red brick house on Challis Road. This home, still standing, has been carefully restored. The Hartmans had a kiln at the back of their property by the railroad tracks off Bauer Rd. Bricks for the first Catholic Church were fired there.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

- Fees: \$25. Patron                      Send to:  
       25. Business/Professional  
       8. Couple  
       5. Individual

Brighton Area Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 481  
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## EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISIONS

The Indians were the first to feel the effects of the migration of people into the Brighton area, the first to be displaced by an influx of newcomers. Most who have lived here for the past 50 years are very aware of the changes which have taken place more recently. The flood of people moving to the Brighton area since the 1950s is not the first time its population has fluctuated since its formation in 1837.

When the Grand River Plank Road was completed in 1850, between Detroit and the new Capitol in Lansing, travel was made easier for new settlers. The Civil War and the post bellum depression slowed the pace somewhat. The coming of the railroad in 1871 caused another shortlived boom. The village, especially, benefited from the houses being built by retiring pioneer farmers. More stores, the Western Hotel and churches were built. The Panic of 1893, the Spanish/American War, WW I and the great depression all had an impact on the area's economic growth and progress. (These events caused an exodus of young people who sought work in more industrialized areas.) Following the Spanish/American War the auto and improved roads made it possible for people from the 'big city' to buy property on the area's many lakes for summer homes.

By the turn of the century, farmers produced crops which brought money into the economy from outside the area. Businesses, professionals, and tradesmen were almost entirely dependent upon the farmers' efforts for their livelihood. The white farm houses, red barns; plowed, fields; crops of corn, beans and potatoes in straight rows; waving wheat and oat fields, meadows of red clover and timothy hay; gardens, orchards, woodlots and pastures with fat black and white cattle all combined to give a picture book appearance of a prosperous community, of which anyone would like to be a part.

Today the era of the family farm in the area is about over. Woodlots and fields are becoming homesites for the many who want to be a part of this bucolic lifestyle (as it appears to the newcomer). Greenfield Shores #1, 2, 3 and 4 was one of the early subdivisions, being platted in 1958 by Lowell Marvin. How it came to be called by its popular name of Lake of the Pines is still a puzzle to this writer. Located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28 and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 33, this area was first taken up by Wm. T. Tunis and Wm. S. Conely in 1834 and B.B. Kirchival and J.L. Briggs in 1836. By 1857 Cyrenus Morgan owned 104 acres in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. In 1859 Eli L. Sowles owned 160 acres in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33 and W.S. Conely and A. Reiner owned 80 acres each on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. In 1875 W.W. Wheedon and S. Grant owned 80 acres each in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33 and N.G. Morgan and Geo. W. Warner owned 80 acres each in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. By 1915 C.B. Grant (a descendant of S. Grant?) owned all of the area of Lake of the Pines except that owned by Warner and Joe Leiski. Grant farmed the area which was low, moist, mucky soil, with celery, onions and other products which would grow well in those conditions. The lake which is there now was probably formed by springs in the area. (Condensed and edited from 1880 History of Liv. Co., "Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless and with the help of Joe Ellis, Livingston County Clerk. To be cont.)

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OLD KENT BANK

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Brighton, Mif. 48116