



Grand River Trail

TRAIL TALES

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 Brighton, Mi. 48116
 Vol. VII, No. 3 March, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* * * *

OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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DIRECTORS

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Editor Marieanna Bair	229-6402

GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Alice Newcomb, a native born Brightonite, will share her memories of being a little girl in Brighton pre WW II.

A pot luck starts at 6:30 and a short business meeting will precede Alice's presentation. Questions? Be there and ask Alice.

The Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State Street will be the site of the meeting. The room we'll use is at the far west end of the building. The public is invited.

The Society would like to hear from any others with reminiscences of the area they'd like to share. Or is there someone you'd like to hear? Call a Board member.

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Board Meetings: 7 p.m., March 3, April 7.
 Finance Comm. Meeting; 7 p.m., March 7.
 Old Town Hall Restoration Comm. Meeting:
 7 p.m., March 14 & 28.
 All meetings at the Old town Hall, 202
 W. Main, upstairs.

EDITORIAL

This semi rural area, with its sense of history and stability draws newcomers looking for that feeling of a refuge from the perils of today's world. Most realize they have a responsibility to perpetuate the qualities that drew them here. By paying membership dues individuals interested in the Society's goals and purposes show their support. Many also are willing to help in other ways.

Merchants, professionals and service providers followed. They must also realize their responsibility to the community from which they draw their subsistence. One obvious way is to generously support the Society in its Historic Preservation and Restoration projects.

Several business and professional persons are very supportive. The Society would find it very difficult to function without them. But, of course, many more are needed.

We all need each other. Let's work together.

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

The following have paid dues since the last issue:

Patrons: Marlene Fonseca from California, Bob & Ruth Watson of Howell.

Bus/Prof.: Kitchen Suppliers, Inc., Lakeview Skateland.

Couple/Ind.: Chuck & Janice Beach, Eve Bell, Mildred Bender, Ken & Bernice Chappel, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Harold & Eleanor Davis, Jerry & Ann Dilloway, Doris Fay, Jack & Ethel Gebben, M/M Will Hampton of Dearborn, Lyle & Dorothy Hartman, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Ellen Hill, (Memberships continued on next page.)

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

- ...Spaghetti dinner donors - A&P, Bryans Market, Marve's Bakery, Marve's Meats, Health Nut, Sefa's, Dominos Pizza.
- ...Spaghetti dinner supporters - Station WHMI, Brighton Argus, Schaffer's House of Music, Brighton Fire Department, Cindy Ritz Seigle.
- ...Spaghetti dinner workers - they are legion.
- ...PDQ Printing for copying tables.
- ...Old Kent Bank for printing of this issue of Trail Tales.
- ...Mary Richmond for chairing the post card project.
- ...Francetta Peters and Kay Spangler for helping with the Signature Quilt.
- ...Brighton Lions Club, Ed & Connie Sherman and Ina Shannon for donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration Project.
- ...Floyd Fuller for making new sign boards.
- ...Brighton Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Citizen's Trust, Jarvis' Men's Store, Poor Richard's Bookshoppe and Uber's Drug Store for helping with tile sales.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION

The next item on the agenda for the restoration of this building, 202 W. Main, is the painting of the wood trim, first caulking and repairing where necessary.

Plans for the reconstruction of the bell tower were given a real boost with the recent Brighton Lions Club donation of \$2600. Other items for which cash will be required are the replacement of defective bricks and repointing.

More people are needed to work on this committee. Especially those interested in the fund raising aspect. Grants are being applied for but other activities need to be planned.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION

This group has been preparing the picture of the school for the 1988 tile. Hopefully when spring arrives the new windows will be ready to be put in to replace those installed when the building was remodeled.

Jerry Dilloway, Chairman, 227-2678, could use some more people on this committee. Call with your offer to help get this building restored so that it can again serve as a living, working one room school.

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HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP. needed

- ...more people on the Old Town Hall Committee. (2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m.)
- ...more people on the Finance Committee (1st Mon. 7 p.m.)
- ...More people on the Lyons School Committee. Call Jerry Dilloway, 227-2678.
- ...Someone to fix coffee, supply name tags, etc., for General Meetings.
- ...Chairman for the Nine Patch Quilt project.
- ...Donations to the Lyons School Insurance bill.
- Contact a board member if you can help with any of the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

1-1-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$26173.72
RECEIPTS		
Dues:	\$410.00	
Fund Raising: Sig-		
nature Quilt, 50.;		
Tiles, 448.	498.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:		
Lyons School, 200.;		
Old Town Hall: 117.		
Undesignated: 510.	827.00	
Interest:	<u>117.34</u>	<u>1860.34</u>
		\$28034.06

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: Mailing fee, 50.;		
Hist. Soc. Mi. dues,		
20.; supplies, 12.		
Officers, 15.40		
Newsletter, 106.22;	203.62	
Fund Raising: Tiles	929.85	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:		
Lyons School, 11.91		
Old Town Hall, 10.05;	<u>21.96</u>	<u>1155.43</u>
1-31-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	<u>\$26878.63</u>
"	Sav. Bal. \$26098.75	
"	Chk. Bal. 779.88	\$26878.63

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

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(Memberships, cont. from first page.)
John & Marilyn Homan, Harold & MaryAnn Leitz, Dan & Jeanette Madigan, Ed & Sherry Nyhus, Chet & Irene Pacquette, Greg Park, Fred Schiller, Dan Schmidt, Bud & Janet Schopp, Lavisa Seger, Ina Shannon, Ed & Connie Sherman, Jon & Kim Stoepfels, James & Marge White, Alice Wilson.

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When the Annual Spaghetti Dinner is planned each year one can be sure of bad weather that night. Despite the road conditions, brave supporters of the Society projects came and enjoyed an evening of good food, good music and good fellowship. Lots of delicious desserts were also available. About 40 volunteers were involved with the various tasks. The committee will hold the 7th Annual Spaghetti Dinner next year, but probably in the spring. If the weather kept you home you may still make a donation to the Society.

The 1988 Tile, of the Lyons School, is in the drawing stage. When the artist is finished and the board satisfied, the tiles will be ordered. In the meantime, tiles of the Western House, Pere Marquette Depot and Union School can be purchased from the Brighton Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Citizen's Trust, Jarvis' Men's Store, Poor Richard's Bookshoppe and Uber's Drugs. The price is \$7.

The Antique Sale in August and the Trash and Treasures Sale in October are dependent on donations from people in the area. Plan what you'd like to donate. Will someone offer to chair one of these sales? The board members are involved with the running of the Society. We can't expect them to also run all the projects.

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Four flags have flown over Michigan - French, English, Spanish and United States.

Signature Quilt - A second embroiderer is helping, Fransetta Peters. This quilt will be on display at various events. Be sure your signature is included for posterity. Send your signature or that of a friend or relative with a \$10. donation. Make the signature fairly large to assure its legibility.

The Nine Patch Quilt, material has been purchased. Needed are people to cut and stitch the pieces. When finished, this will be raffled to raise funds for Historic Preservation and Restoration projects. (As are all funds raised by the Finance Committee.)

Post Card Project Chairman, Mary Richmond, is working to get the descriptive wording ready for the back of the cards. These will be pictures of early area sites - homes, churches, schools, businesses, events., etc.

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VISIT TO PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Bill Amrhein, 227-7282, is organizing a group to visit this museum, Sunday, march 13, noon to 4 p.m. \$1. Call him if you'd like to join the group or want to ride along.

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Michigan was the first state to guarantee every child the right to tax-paid high school education.

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:	Brighton Area Historical Society
	25. Bus/Prof.		P.O. Box 481
	8. Couple		Brighton, Mi. 48116
	5. Individual		

EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISIONS

"The basket with the cooked chicken did you pack?" "Ya, und der jug of cider from the keller auch." "Karl, I thought the last jug at the Christmas party was drunk. August some of that gut wine for the ladies will have."

It's 1885. Thankful for the bright moon which makes driving horses much safer at night, we're riding in the buggy with a Genoa Township neighbor of August Westphal on the way up Weicker's Hill (Brighton Road, west of Bauer Road). We're going to the barn dance and pot luck held in celebration of the new barn August has recently built. Constructed of pit sawn beams with the most modern technology available it is a grand addition to the rough hewn timber barn built in 1868. It will hold all the feed needed by the sheep and cattle bring raised on the 160 acres August bought in 1855 from P. Donley. Charles Joseph, from Washtenaw, had originally purchased the property (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 35) from the U.S. government in 1837, when Indians, wolves and other wild game were plentiful.

August Westphal was 11 when he came to Genoa Township with his parents in 1844 from Germany. Now, at 52, he was a prosperous farmer with two big barns and a house built to last many years. A small house, in which 10 children were raised, had been built in 1868. The second, much larger house, still standing, had been built in 1875. (The home of David & Charlene Kull, 1988.)

Most settlers were quite young when they arrived in the township (25-50). A large percentage were children, of course. Coming from countries which had been in existence for hundreds of years, they brought with them their skills and customs. Having no one but each other on whom to depend, the settlers helped and supported each other. The dour pictures one views of early settlers in the area convinces one they had no sense of humor and certainly didn't enjoy life. Yes, hard work was a fact of life, but when it was time to have fun that was done wholeheartedly also. The completion of a new barn called for a celebration in which all would join. Can't you hear the fiddles, the wind instruments, the drums, the dancing feet and the laughter rolling over the hills of Prairie View Subdivision?

Just prior to WW I, Conrad Seim acquired the Westphal place. The steeply rolling hills caused some of his buddies to good-naturedly tease him about his limp. Charles Weatherly, aware of the natural attractiveness of the landscape, purchased the property from Conrad's descendents and began construction of Prairie View in 1972. Now instead of sheep grazing, lovely homes wander up and over the old Westphal place. (Edited from "Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Pless; "First Land Owners, Livingston County" by Milton Charboneau; and conversations with Charlene Kull and Helen Conricorde.)

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