



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  
May, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

\* \* \* \*

OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Treas.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

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Dick Davis		229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, MAY 10

Mary Mathias, born in Brighton, will tell about her childhood in this area. She was a daughter of the Stewarts who owned the grain elevator at 400 W. Main. The latest enterprise in this building is the Periwinkel Restaurant. Mary has a fine sense of humor. Those attending will have a good time.

A pot luck, beginning at 6:30 and a short business meeting will be followed by Mary's presentation. She will try to answer questions relative to her time in Brighton.

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

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DATES

Monday, May 2, 7PM. Finance Committee.  
Thursday, May 5, 7 PM. Board Meeting.  
Monday, May 9 & 23, 7 PM Old Town Hall Comm.  
Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 General Meeting.  
Saturday, May 14, 10-4PM Home Tour.  
Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 PM Lyons School Comm.  
Saturday, May 21, 8-1PM Bake Sale, Farmers' Market.

EDITORIAL

The Society has two restoration projects underway.

Your Editor believes the funding of these projects should spring mainly from the local community. It is, after all, this Brighton area which will most benefit from the establishment of an attitude of preservation which is being instilled in our thought processes.

Altho' grants are being applied for, the community must not depend on outside sources for the funding of the restoration projects underway. If grants are received, fine; but let's remember these are our babies. All of us must continue to donate local time, energy and funds. (Editor: M. Bair)

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Patrons: Elizabeth Bindenagel (South Dakota), Stephen & Mary Grove, Betty Herbst, and Harold & Esther Jarvis, Jr.

Bus/Prof: Bell Plumbing Supply and Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Whalen (Frankenmuth).

Couple/indiv.: John & Winifred Allen (Davisburg), M/M Wm. Amrhein, Alice Anderson, James Bayes (Lansing), Florence Chase (Fowlerville), Lois Clark (Midland), Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Eugene & Judith Dahlin, Libby Eisenhardt, Madeline Johnson, Gary & Sara McCririe, Frank & Alice Seger, Jim & Penny Szczechowski.

The financial support of all is very encouraging. Many who find it impossible to contribute time and energy pay patron dues. And many who pay patron dues also contribute time and energy. Many thanks.

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

- ...Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.
- ...PDQ Printing for copying of labels.
- ...Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their cooperation.
- ...Brighton Post Office personnel for their assistance.
- ...Lois Clark and Betty Herbst for their donations to the Lyons School Restoration project.
- ...Bill & Kathleen Barlow, Bob & Ruth Bostedor, Betty Herbst and Harold & Esther Jarvis, Jr. for their donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration project.
- ...Bob & Elfrieda Schulert and Jim & Marge White for their donations to the HPR Fund.
- ...Alice Newcomb for speaking at the March General Meeting.
- ...Chuck Beach for filling a vacancy on the Society Board.
- ...the many who are working on the May 14, Home Tour.

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

The Lyons School Restoration Committee will sponsor a flea market in the near future. Watch for further details.

All donations may be taken to the Lyons School on Buno Road between Van Amberg and Pleasant Valley Roads, on Sat. May 7, 14, or 21 between 12 and 4 PM. Clothing or large appliances cannot be accepted. For more information call 229-4788.

Work is progressing on the windows and a sketch of the proposed tile is being evaluated.

The next meeting of this committee will be Wednesday, May 18; for more information please call Chairman Jerry Dilloway, 227-2678.

OLD TOWN HALL

Selection of colors for painting the trim and windows has been made. Painting will begin June 4. Support from Northern Windows as well as the many others who have made financial contributions is much appreciated.

Plans for the dinner/dance benefit in November are underway. Contact Shelagh Klein, 229-6571, for more information.

Designs for construction of the bell tower are progressing. Prior to installation, on top of the Hall, members will be invited to help apply a paint brush to the tower.

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

- we need...
- ...people to work with the Old Town Hall and Lyons School restoration committees and with the Finance comm.
- ...more signatures for the Signature Quilt.
- ...people to help with the bake sale, Saturday, May 21 (first day of the Farmers' Market).
- ...donations to the Lyons School Flea Market.
- ...donations to the Antique Sale and the Trash & Treasures Sale.
- ...someone to cut fabric for the Nine Patch Quilt.

Contact a board member if you can help.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

3-1-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$30355.19	
RECEIPTS			
Dues		\$281.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:			
Old Town Hall		2735.00	
Fund Raising:			
Tiles, 49.; Sig-			
nature Quilt,			
150.; other, 5.;			
Dcnations, 160.		364.00	
Interest		<u>100.73</u>	<u>3480.73</u>
			\$33835.92

DISBURSEMENTS

Adminis.	142.32		
Newsletter	<u>72.50</u>	214.82	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.			
Lyons School		<u>9.97</u>	<u>224.79</u>
3-31-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$33611.13	
" Sav. Acct. Bal.		\$32314.16	
" Chk. " "		<u>1296.97</u>	<u>\$33611.13</u>

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

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Applications for grants have been sent to several foundations interested in this kind of project.

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These restoration committees need more people willing to put in the time needed to administer such projects. All of the people on these committees are fully occupied but, since this is important to them, they push themselves to this extra effort. They meet regularly and welcome you to join them.

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Home Tour - May 14, 10-4PM. Ethel Gebben, 227-5375, is helping schedule people to serve as doormen and guides at the sites of the tour. Shifts will be 10-1PM and 1-4PM. Information cards are being prepared. If you haven't been contacted but you want to help please call Ethel or Rae-Lynne Lerner, 227-1148. To add to the atmosphere it is hoped doormen and guides will dress in period attire. Have you a garment you might lend? Call Rae-Lynne. The fine cooperation of the hosts is very much appreciated.

Bake Sale, Saturday, May 21 (not June 2), 8-1PM, at the Farmers' market. Chairman Jane Tomlinson, 229-6435, will try to contact everyone. If you aren't notified, you can be sure your contribution will be well received.

Signature Quilt: Already 53 signatures have been embroidered on this quilt which will be retained by the Society as a type of directory of those supporting the Society. Send a donation of \$10. and your signature so your name can be included.

Post Card Project: When the cards are printed, Chairman Mary Richmond, 229-6268, will need help with sorting and packaging. Let her know you'll help.

Tiles from 1985 (Pere Marquette Depot), 1986 (Union School), and 1987 (Western House) can be purchased at the Brighton Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Trust, Jarvis Mens' Store, Poor Richard's Books and Uber's Drugs at \$7. The 1988 Lyons School tile sketch is being evaluated prior to manufacture.

The Nine Patch Quilt needs someone to cut the fabric into strips. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 if you can do this.

The Antique Sale will be Saturday, August 6, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot. Please be considering what you might be able to donate.

The Trash and Treasures Sale will be the last day of the Farmers' Market. Among other things, your garage sale leftovers can be donated to this. We can't handle large items or clothing.

Wrapping Paper Project: Still looking for a way of enlarging early township maps to 20" sq. for an original for the printer to use. Any ideas?

Call the persons listed or Chairman Davis if you have questions. All proceeds from these projects are directed to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. All donations to the Society are Federal Income Tax deductible.

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OEDS 'N ENDS

Fourth of July will soon be here. Call a board member with your ideas for Society participation.

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Canton Hist. Soc., P.O. Box 87362, Canton, 48187, has a book "Cornerstones: A History of Canton Township Families" available @ \$39. Order before May 15 and pay \$35.

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The University of Michigan is the oldest state university in the United States. Michigan State University was the first land grant college in the nation.

----- 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. Business/Professional	P.O. Box 481
8. Couple	Brighton, Mi. 48116
5. Individual	

SMITH/MCPHERSON ADDITION

FEATURED IN HOME TOUR, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1988, 10 AM to 4 PM

Three churches and four home owners have graciously consented to open their doors to the public during the first home tour sponsored by the Society. All the homes and the St. George Lutheran Church are in the Smith/McPherson Addition to Brighton. St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church are in the "old" town. The residences of Rae-Lynne and Marty Lerner, Cathy and Mike Qualls, Rita and Larry Schillinger, and Penny and Jim Szczchowski are the homes on the tour.

The day of the tour tickets will be available at any of the sites for \$6. Children under 6 are not encouraged. Tickets purchased before the tour are \$5., available at Ubers Drug Store, Brighton Chamber of Commerce, the Brighton Public Library and Somewhere in Time store.

A lunch will be available, noon-2PM at St. George Church, 803 W. Main.

Land in the southwest corner of Brighton Township was first taken up from the US Government by Maynard Maltby in 1832. Between 1832 and 1835, Anthony Gale, Elijah Fitch, John & Elizabeth Cushing, Wm. Noble and others also filed claims to land in this area. Some of these folks stayed and developed the land; others bought only to speculate.

The area east of Ore Creek, along Fitch (Main St.) and the Grand River Trail saw the building of log structures such as homes, barns, stage stops, churches, a school, saw and grain mills, offices, stores, distilleries and a post office. By 1867, sufficient development had occurred for Brighton Village to be incorporated.

There was more to celebrate in Brighton July 4, 1871, than the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The long awaited railroad tracks had arrived. Those celebrating had good reason - every acre within 10 miles of the railroad almost doubled in value, farmers had a means to get their produce to market and since the economy was almost entirely dependent on agriculture, 'boom times' were anticipated.

With the advent of the RR through the west side of town, Hiram H. Smith, President of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan RR, and Edward G. and Wm. Jr., McPherson, Howell businessmen, purchased 3-10-71, all the land lying north of W. Main from Elizabeth Cushing and that south of W. Main from Elijah Fitch. Early in 1872, a well promoted sale of lots was held with a brass band playing, flags and banners flying. Several farmers in adjacent townships had reached a period in their lives when they had accumulated sufficient means to retire, and by 1875 at least ten houses were built. Lumber and livestock yards, elevators, Western House Hotel and several new stores were built on W. Main Street. It looks like Brighton is here to stay. (Compiled and edited from "1880 History of Livingston County" and "Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Pless.)

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