



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. 11

Brighton, Mi. 48116  
November, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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\* \* \* \*

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Lyons School	Herb L. Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall	Shelagh Klein	229-6571

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Doesn't everyone have a "What's It?" among their possessions? Bring it to the Annual Meeting and either find out what it is or stump everyone. A 1989 membership to the best 'stumper'.

The evening will begin at 6:30 with a pot luck at Lindbom School, 1010 State St. The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30 and will include election of members of the Board, acceptance of the 1988 Budget and Annual Reports.

A video presentation of the First Annual Home tour is also planned. If you missed it, this is your chance to see it. The public is welcome.

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Thank you for your patience when an error is made in the recording of dues payments.

Please continue sending address changes - otherwise Trail Tales goes into the circular file at the Post Office.

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EDITORIAL

The Society is convinced that development of an environment of security and stability is essential today and that a knowledge of those who preceded us is vital to that environment.

The entire community benefits as a result of the Society's activities, namely Historic Preservation and Restoration.

Encompassing more than buildings, HPR also includes the less tangible evidences of our predecessors. An awareness of the history of the area, including its inhabitants, encourages a caring response for the future.

The foundation for a good life is here. Learning about that foundation is important. (Marieanna Bair, Editor.)

MEMBERSHIPS

1988: Bus/Prof: Colt Park Agency.  
Couple/Ind.: Joe & Irene Mike

1989: Couple/Ind.: Sandy Bansbach, Clayton Epley, Nancy Fredenberg, M/M Steve Hucal (Northville), Bob & Shirley Knight, Bill & Barbara McCririe, Peter McNenly, Frank & Alice Seger, Ina Shannon and Helen Wilkinson.

YES, 1989 DUES CAN BE PAID NOW

The Trail Tales Postage budget is not unlimited. These mailing fees are part of the administration expense of the Society, all of which are funded with dues receipts. Your continued support is vital to the operation of the Society. (And your encouragement is vital to the Board on its way to fulfilling the goals of the Society.)

Members' dues allow proceeds from all other fund raising projects to be set aside for Historic Preservation and Restoration projects.

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

...Donors to the Trash & Treasures Sale.  
AND the workers that day - Marge White,  
Bob Richmond, Alice Newcomb, Shelagh Klein,  
Virginia & Rudy Herrmann, Nancy Hackney,  
Kathy Grove, Ethel & Jack Gebben, Dick  
Davis, Marian Carney, Bill Comiskey, Viola,  
Ed & Stephen Berchert, Andy, Tim & Marie-  
anna Bair. Ken Graham for his help with the  
tables and Millie Harrington for helping  
take care of the leftovers.

...American Legion for use of tables  
for the Sale.

...Janice Beach and Jane Tomlinson for  
running the Bake Sale and to all those  
who were so generous with donations to  
the Bake Sale.

...Dick & Katie Chrysler for donation of  
the helicopter ride for the Old Town Hall  
raffle. It was a beautiful day.

...Margaret heller for her donation to  
Historic Preservation and Restoration fund.

...D.M. & Guyle Doumanian, and Beulah  
(Knight) Fox for donations to the Lyons  
School Restoration project.

...Nancy Hackney for her donation to the  
Old Town Hall Restoration project.

...supporters of the Old Town Hall Dinner/  
Dance, November 5.

...Zara Graham for pictures and other  
memorabilia of the area.

...Anna Westin for a mantle clock for the  
antique sale next year.

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

...PDQ Printing for copying of labels.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 16,  
7:30, at the School, 11455 Buno Road. The  
furnace is working so there will be heat.  
Work on the security system is underway.  
Windows and doors have been secured. Details  
on restoration costs are being pulled  
together. A logo has been selected for this  
committee's brochure. Wording for the Michi-  
gan Historic Site marker is being prepared.  
Donations for the insurance bill (almost  
\$600.) are being accepted. This committee  
meets the third Wednesday at 7:30. Interes-  
ted persons are most welcome. Call Chrmn.  
Warner, 229-6504 for more information.

OLD TOWN HALL

This committee will meet Monday, November  
14 & 28, 7 p.m. Call Shelagh Klein, 229-  
6571 for more information. Plans for the

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

needed are:

...people to do Oral Histories.

...people to transcribe oral history  
tapes.

...a transcription machine.

...homes for the house tour next spring.

...helpers for tying the 9 patch quilt.

...people to bring "What's Its?" to  
the November 15 General meeting.

...volunteers to serve on the Board of  
Directors; Old Town Hall, Lyons School  
and Finance committees, etc.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

9-1-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$35721.91

RECEIPTS

General Fund:

Dues: 87.00

Refund 4.01 91.01

Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:

Old town Hall 280.00

Interest: 158.65

438.65 529.66

\$36251.57

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund: 14.00

Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:

Lyons School 10.21

Old Town Hall 23.70

33.91 47.91

9-30-88 TCTAL NET WORTH \$36203.66

Sav. Acct. Bal. \$35207.18

Chk. Acct. Bal. 996.48 \$36203.66

Gen. Fund Bal. 2950.84

HPR Fund Bal. 33252.82 \$36203.66

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

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November 5, Dinner Dance are complete.  
Besides determining the course of resto-  
ration of the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main,  
This committee also conducts fund raising  
events. Whatever help you can give will  
be welcome.

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HELP FOR HISTORIC HOUSE OWNERS

The Center for Historic Houses, a divi-  
sion of the National Trust for Historic  
Preservation, encourages the proper  
stewardship of historic houses. Owners  
of historic and older houses recognize  
their homes are part of the heritage of  
our country. For more information please  
contact the Editor, 229-6402.

Over \$400 was raised at the recent Trash & Treasures Sale. Next October will see the Society doing this again. Begin now saving donations for 1989 for this sale and the Antique Sale next summer.

Bake Sale Chairmen Jane Tomlinson and Janice Beach and their crew did another fine job. Cash donations can still be sent in if you weren't able to participate.

Post cards showing street scenes and modes of transportation of early Brighton are available at Uber's, Poor Richard's, Brighton Chamber of Commerce and the Library. Two sets of six cards each can be had for a \$3. donation.

A drawing of the Lyons School, Brighton township, will be on the 1988 tile. These and the earlier tiles are at the same places as the post cards - plus at Jarvis' Men's Store and Trustcorp.

MT. BRIGHTON SUBDIVISION, Cont.....

In the early 1960s Percy Gardhouse and associates purchased the 1/4 section from Gerald Bauer, nephew of Albert Bauer. The ski lodge was a large hill which had surrounding soil graded upon its slopes to increase its height. The woods are gone and Bauer's barns - now one finds fine homes of more recent immigrants to the Brighton area. (M. Bair, Editor. Compiled and condensed from "Pioneer Ancestor of Michigan, Wm. Pless; 1st Landowners by M. Charboneau and conversation with L. Herbst.)

This year's Christmas raffle will be the 9 patch quilt. People to tie the quilt will be needed December 3, 10 and 17 at the Brighton Mall where tickets will be on sale. If you have a couple of hours but don't know about tying a quilt, we will have someone show you. Next month five tickets will be in each issue of Trail Tales. More can be purchased at the Mall. Donations for materials (fabric, filler, etc.) can be made.

Someone for whom you need a gift? Send in their signature and a donation of \$10. for embroidering on the Signature quilt. This quilt will be retained by the Society. People 50-100 years from now will find it very interesting.

1989 House tour committee is being formed. Homes and bodies will be needed.

All proceeds from these projects go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. For more information about any of the above, please contact Dick or a board member.

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8th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

A special invitation to all Society members to attend this 8th Annual Open House, Sunday, November 27, 12-4 p.m., at the Brighton Chamber of Commerce building, 131 Hyne St.

This is an opportunity to see a nicely done renovation of an early home into office space. A display of Amish quilts is planned. Refreshments will be available. The public is welcome. There is no charge.

Northville Historical Society

Mill Race Village Christmas Walk. November 19, 20, 26, 27. A Victorian Christmas with basket and candle makers, the weavers' cottage and other crafts. Adult \$5., Children \$3., Family \$15.

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. | ( ) 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

It's late November and the ground already has several inches of frost. Enough to support the horses pulling the large, low-slung wagon. That morning, right after chores, the two early-teenage boys and the hired man had gathered their equipment, some food and coffee and started out to the big woods. Heading west out of town, past Lime Lake, then turning north on the section line road between sections 25 & 26 (Bauer Road) in Genoa Township, they passed the fine farm of Emil Bauer.

During 1836-39, this SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 25 had originally been 'taken up' by Grace Thompson (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ); Hiram Olds (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ); Truman B. Worden (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) and Almon Maltby (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ). It was Maltby's piece which was acquired by Smith/McPherson when they bought up most of the area on the west side of the railroad in Brighton in 1871. By 1859, Emil Bauer had purchased Hiram Olds' and Grace Thompsons' property. (Mrs. Amelia Bauer owned 75 acres just east, next to several 9-10 acre strips which fronted on Brighton Road, part of the Smith/McPherson Addition.)

Since the hired man and his employer both depended on wood for heating and cooking, many cords had to be cut each year. Not all trees felled were used for fire wood. Many were taken to the local sawmill for cutting into various shapes and sizes for construction (barns, corn cribs, tool sheds, etc.) and general repairs around the farm; such as wagon tongues. When a new tongue was needed two pieces of wood were taken to the blacksmith. One fitted with the necessary hardware, the other serving as payment for the work.

When they got to the shanty in the woods, the horses were stabled and fed, a fire started in the stove and the food placed on the rough table which was surrounded by several old chairs. By the window was a 6' long wooden vice to hold the saw while it was sharpened with a hand file.

Proper use of the axe, crosscut saw, wedges and maul were taught. The hired man would take one end of the saw and the boys the other. "I don't care how much you ride the saw, just don't drag your feet!" Before too long the boys realized the saw would not be 'spoiled' if they rested before the cut was completed.

After determining which way the tree would likely fall a neat wedge was cut out of that side with an axe. Cutting with the saw on the opposite side, iron wedges were driven in to keep the tree from tipping back and binding the saw. At the first sound of cracking wood, the boys sprang back and the hired man pulled out the saw as the gap opened. He liked to set a stake where the tree was to fall and have the tree drive it into the ground - to demonstrate his aim.

Driving home in the early dusk, seated on a pile of firewood, they waved to the Bauers starting evening chores. They would be totally unable to comprehend today's Mt. Brighton skiing facility and the dozens of homes clustered at its west base; the Mt. Brighton Subdivision. (Please turn to page 3, column 1)

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