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. Meot 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 pestilence depression slowed the pace somewhat. The coming of the railroad in 1871 caused another short lived 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 1 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 boneyards 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 SE1/4 of Section 28 and the NE1/4 of Section 33, this area was first taken up by Wm. T. Tynes and Wm. S. Conely in 1834 and B.B. Kirkchval and J.L. Briggs in 1836. By 1857 Cyrus Morgan owned 104 acres in the NE1/4 of Sec. 28. In 1859 Eli L. Sorens bought 150 acres in the NW1/4 of Sec. 33 and W. S. Conely and A. Reiser owned 80 acres each on the SE1/4 of Sec. 28. In 1875 W.W. Wheedon and S. Grant owned 80 acres each in the NE1/4 of Sec. 33 and N.G. Morgan and Geo. W. Warner owned 80 acres each in the SE1/4 of Sec. 28. By 1915 C.B. Grant (a descendent of S. Grant?) owned all of the area of Lake of the Pines except that owned by Warner and Joe Leski.

Grant farmed the area which was low, moist, muddy 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.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI. 48116

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TRAIL TALES
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.

EDITORIAL
(Toughts 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 Polak, Charles & Norma Jean Priest, Miles Veehu.


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.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

The location of this first General Meeting of 1988 will be at Lindbrook Elementary School, 1010 State Street. (Main Street west to Church, then north.) The pot luck dinner will begin at 6:30. A brief business meeting at 7:30 will be followed by 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.