



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 Brighton, Mi. 48116
Vol. VIII, No.4 April, 1989

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
Penny Szczechowski	editor	229-7324
Cathy Qualls	editor	229-8656

General Meeting

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, May 16. Potluck at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7:30 will be held at Lindbom School.

We would like to thank Doris Johnson for her interesting talk on Brighton at the last meeting.

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1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989

Bus/Prof.: Munzell Engineering, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen.

Patron: Rae Carmack (Calif), Betty Herbst, Val & Kathy Jacoby (Fl), Joan Pinney-Rice (Calif)

Indiv/Couples: Alice Anderson, Florence Chase, Libby Eisenhardt, Katherine Hampton, Dr. Donald & Carol Kerr, John & Mari Korte, Lois Krausmann, John & Jeannette Linahan, Celia Schaffer, Dan & Emma Schmidt, Franc Stokes, Robert & Ruth Watson, Dorothy Musch, Alicé Newcomb, Doris Prieskorn, Chet & Irene Paquette.

Take a "Stroll" in the Past

The 1989 Brighton Historical Home Tour is quickly approaching. The Home Tour Committee is very enthused and anticipates a very successful tour this year. If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar for May 13th, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

We have expanded our tour this year to include six homes and two local churches which were built in the 1800's. One of the homes featured will be a "designer" home which will be furnished and decorated by several of our local merchants. There will be special events planned throughout your stroll to the homes.

To make your trip to the past more enjoyable, we will have horsedrawn carriage rides available, which will be traveling down the residential Main Street area. All participants in the tour will be dressed in period clothing. We are also asking that anyone living in the areas where homes are on tour, to please get into the spirit by hanging out your American flags. Get into the true spirit by dressing in period clothing and sit on your porch or walk through town.

There is still time to volunteer to become a part of this Historic Community Event. We are in need of people to work as tour guides and ticket sellers for three hour shifts. We had great fun last year. Ask the people who volunteered! No previous experience necessary - we will train! Please contact Ethel Gebben at 227-5375.

Do your part to preserve Brighton's past! Rae-Lynne Lerner, chairman
1989 Brighton Home Tour

Thanks...Thanks,,,Thanks...Thanks

White Lake Historical Meeting

...Elizabeth Bindenagel, Joe & Irene Ellis, Elenor Hornung, Jeff & Debbie Hucal, Val & Kathy Jacoby, Steven & Kathy Lowry, Al & Jean Musolf, Charles & Norma Jean Pless, Doris Prieskorn for their contributions to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.

...Elaine Blight and Betty Herbst for their contributions to the Signature Quilt.

...PDQ for printing labels for Trail Tales.

...Old Kent Bank, Singer Press, Puritan Machine Co. for providing financing for the printing of Trail Tales.

...Kathryn Hodgkin for providing information for our first People Along the Trail story.

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Lyons School

This committee will next meet Wednesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Ellen Hill's home, 4342 Pleasant Valley Road. Interested persons are welcome. The windows should be finished by then and the final payment to be made. For more information, call Herb Warner, 229-6504.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

2-1-89 TOTAL NET WORTH \$38476.93

RECEIPTS

General Fund: Dues	\$253.00		
Hist. Pres & Rest. Fund:			
Finance Comm.:	105.00		
Lyons School	505.00		
Donations	10.00		
Interest	84.65	704.65	957.65
			<u>\$39434.58</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund:	67.19		
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:			
Finance Comm.:	44.12		
Lyons School	11.04		
Old town Hall	1107.04		
Other	36.20	1198.40	1265.59

2-28-89 TOTAL NET WORTH \$38168.99

Sav. Acct.	\$15770.78		
Chk. Acct.	2028.21		
Two C.D.	20370.00		<u>\$38168.99</u>

General Fund	\$ 4280.14		
Old Town Hall Fund	12653.02		
Lyons School Fund	1787.61		
Finance Comm., Donations,			
Interest, Etc.	19448.22		<u>\$38168.99</u>

M. Bair, Treas. Pro Tem. For a more detailed report please contact the Treasurer.

The White Lake Township Historical Society is holding a semi-annual Regional Historical Societies meeting on April 27, 1989.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. there will be a tour of the Fisk Farm House and outbuildings at 9180 Highland Road (M 59 at Fisk Rd.) . At 8:00 the meeting will be held at the historic Town Hall Community Center at 7500 Highland Rd.

Refreshments will be served with entertainment to follow.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Brief Definitions of Items on the Membership Form

So you are aware of just what each item means on the form you fill out when you become a member, here are brief descriptions of each area.

Newsletter Publications: Prepare monthly newsletter, publicizing the Society's goals and the efforts being made to reach them.

Oral History: Oral or video preservation of the recollections of area residents.

Photography: Photographing local scenes to serve as an historical research resource.

Publicity: Publicizing the Society's goals, activities and accomplishments.

Research: Develop an historical research resource for newsletter articles.

Restoration: Research on accurate restoration procedure of structures, sites, etc. toward preservation and registration as Michigan Historical sites. Serve on restoration project committee, and promote the establishment of an Historical Commission and Districts.

Video Taping: Development of Society archives by the taping of general meeting programs, social events, etc. Work with Oral History committees.

(continued on page 3)

Finance Committee

Dick Davis, chairman 229-8356

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the seventh annual Spaghetti Supper.

We welcome Sara McCririe to the Finance Committee. If any other members would like to join this committee, we meet on the first Monday of each month. Call Dick for details.

We are still looking for written material on the Eastern House, for the 1989 tile. Many thanks to Alene Anderson, and her daughter-in-law Pat Anderson, for providing photographs for our use.

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Brief Definitions of items on the Membership Form

Bake Sale: Assist chairman, baking, donating cash, making phone calls, help at the sale.

Board Member: Serve as officer, director or committee chairman, i.e. Finance, Lyons School, etc.

Fund Raising: Serve on Finance committee help with fund raising projects.

Genealogy: Work with Livingston County Genealogy Society to assist those researching their Brighton area homes.

Help With Special Events: Chair or serve on the committee

Hospitality: Welcome those who come to General meetings, open houses, etc.

1989 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1989

Old Town Hall Committee

Shelagh Klein, chairman
229-6571

We welcome Val Potts to the Old Town Hall committee.

Plans are continuing for the third annual Dinner Dance, to be held October 28, at Lakelands Country Club. We are working with a travel agent and hope to have a wonderful door prize for a lucky person attending.

The lightning rod for the Bell Tower has been ordered. We hope to have the restored tower, and the lightning rod erected in early May.

We are planning a celebration Memorial Day, in honor of the restoration of the Bell Tower. Additional information will be in the May Trail Tales.

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Hospitality (cont.) Prepare coffee and set up refreshment table at general meetings. Provide name tags.

Meeting Programs: Work with program committee, present a program for general meeting.

Membership Committee: Keep membership records, encourage membership by creating an awareness of the benefits/privileges of belonging to this society.

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., etc. | () 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		

EARLY GRISTMILLS OF THE BRIGHTON AREA (Conc.)

Brighton was not the only community in which the world of technology caught up with the formerly vital mills; they were closed. Immediately following WW I, and continuing for more than 20 years, Henry Ford began purchasing old mills in some of the smaller towns, planning to convert them into water powered plants that could supply his River Rouge complex with small automobile parts. His intentions were to provide work during the winter months for those living in rural areas and small towns. Perhaps because of lack of community cooperation, high prices on adjacent land, etc., Mr. Ford dismissed plans for the local mill.

In the summer of 1953, the sluice dam, which enclosed a quiet pond of stagnant, odorous, mosquito-infested water (across Main Street from the Old Town Hall) was disturbed (by a neighbor's shovel). Later that night, with a deep rumble and the "dangdest racket you ever heard", the mill pond was no more. Huge trees which grew in the cool, moist hollow which was the sluice way, came crashing down; a result of the suddenly released water. The pond on the north side of Main was again merely little Ore Creek. The surrounding shallow, marshy area soon made itself known to the nostrils in the warm sun. This objectionable condition forced local politicians into action. Before long the property was purchased and a small control dam built on the north side of Main, the following year. A large culvert was installed to carry Ore Creek under the street to the south side of North Street. The hollow was filled in and a parking lot constructed.

Various community organizations have endeavored to enhance the millpond and its surroundings through the years, making it a unique and desirable addition to the town and community. Brighton Kiwanians built a gazebo to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial. Sunday evenings, during the summer, hundreds enjoy concerts and the indescribable ambiance which comes as a result of people playing, working and living together. It has become a gathering place for the community just as the old mill was once the center of activity.

However, at the closing of the old mill, local farmers were not without a mill to grind their grain. A.C. Stewart & Son had, c.1900, leased an elevator by the tracks behind the Chilson Store in Genoa Township. After two years, he leased the elevator by the rail road in Brighton. About 1917-18 this business was sold to a cooperative and he bought the building on Main Street (now Mill Pond Pub) where an electric motor drove the grinding equipment. During the 20s, 30s and 40s, wagons and trucks could be driven down the alley behind the elevator. Ears of corn and other grains were dumped into the grated chute to be ground. After Stewart sold the business, those with grain to grind had to go to Howell. Today the family can visit the restored Greenoch Mill in Green Oak Township on Rushton Road between 9 and 10 Mile Roads. A living, working mill will give them a taste of yesterday and a glimpse of the energy of those who preceded us. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from: "Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless, 1880 History of Liv. Co., Mary Mathias and Charlene Kull. Corrections and additions are most welcome.)

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

ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED