



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. 8 August 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
V.P.	Bob Richmond	229-6268
Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Bill Amrhein		227-7282
Marieanna Bair		229-6402
Chuck Beach		229-9678
Dick Davis		229-8356
Audrey Leith		229-6165
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Leota Mason		546-4159
Gary McCririe		229-2191
Finance Comm.	Dick Davis	229-8356
Lyons School	Herb. L. Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Penny Szczechowski	editor	229-7324
Cathy Qualls	editor	229-8656

People Along the Trail

Singer Press celebrated 75 years of family service in downtown Brighton this year.

G. Eric Singer founded the Press in 1914. Mr. Singer was born in Freeport, PA. and came to Brighton in 1909 with his father. While in high school he worked for the Brighton Argus and then went into business for himself. He used a small tabletop press with metal type, which was all set by hand.

Singer Press continues today with second and third generation family members.

We congratulate them on their long and loyal service to Brighton and we thank them for their continued support of the historical society through their printing of Trail Tales and other society brochures.

* * * * *

Mark Your Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Volunteers needed</u>
August 12	Folk Art Fair Historical Society Booth 10:00-4:00	Rae Lynne Lerner 227-1148	6
August 22	Finance Committee Meeting	Dick Davis 229-6571	anyone who is interested
Sept. 11	Old Town Hall Meeting	Shelagh Davis 229-6571	anyone who is interested
12	General Meeting 6:30 potluck 7:30 meeting at the Old Miller School		Everyone is urged to attend

Thanks...thanks...thanks

- ... Old Kent Bank, Singer Press, Puritan Machine Co, and Kitchen Suppliers Inc. for providing financing for the printing of Trail Tales
- ...Lilian Davis for chairing a successful Antique sale
- ...the volunteers and contributors to the Antique sale
- ...Ethel Gebben for folding, stamping, and sending the Trail Tales
- ...Marianna and Burt Bair for transporting all the items to the Antique sale
- ...Steve and Kathleen Lowry for the use of their storage barn for society use

* * * * *

General Meeting

The September general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 12. The potluck begins at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30.

Beginning in September, the general meeting will be held in Room G and I of the Inter-generational Center, 850 Spencer Road (formally Miller School).

We would love to see all of you there. The publicis always welcome.

* * * * *

Folk Art Fair

Rae Lynne Lerner
chairman 227-1148

The historical society will have a booth at the Folk Art Fair in Brighton on Sat, Aug. 12 from 10:00 until 4:00. We will be selling lemonade, historical tiles and post cards. We will also be promoting the society and encouraging people to become new members. If you are able to help that day, please give Rae Lynne a call.

Antique and Collectibles Sale

The Antique and Collectibles Sale was a huge success. The day was beautiful - sunny and warm. There was a steady stream of interested buyers. Many went home with treasures they couldn't live without. Over \$700 was made at the sale.

This sale was made possible because of the items donated by many of you. Thank you.

A sincere thank you to Bill Amrhein, Marieanna Bair, Viola and John Berchert and sons, Shelagh and Dick Davis, Ethel Gebben, Tom Leith, Leota Mason, Janet and Bud Schopp, Vicki Vichic and Marge White for their work in making the sale a success.

Lilian Davis
chairman

* * * * *

Trash and Treasures Sale

Mike Qualls has volunteered to chair the Trash and Treasures Sale. It will be held Saturday, October 28 at the Brighton Farm Market from 8:00 - 1:00.

We need donations of items you have stored in your attic and basement that you don't want but just can't throw away. Remember: your trash may be someones treasure.

There will also be a bake sale at the sale.

Please contact Mike 229-8656 to donate items, baked goods and your time to work that day.



Lyons School

The monthly meeting of the Lyons School Restoration Committee will be held Tuesday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyons School.

Please note that the meeting is usually held on Wed. but will be changed to Tuesday for this month.

The new front door will be hung by then plus other jobs are being planned. Bob Smail will be installing the belfry. They are also accepting bids on a picket fence and a gas furnace.

* * * * *

Signature Quilt

The Signature Quilt is up to date - only more names need to be sent in.

This quilt is a means of raising funds for the Society's Preservation projects. Send your signature (or that of a friend, relative, etc.) with a \$10 donation and it will be embroidered on the quilt.

The quilt will not be raffled. It will remain with the society as a part of its archives. It will be a record of those who support the projects in which the Society is involved. Posterity will have a valuable historical resource.

Annual Christmas Raffle

Quilt

The work on the Christmas Raffle Quilt is ready to begin. The Log Cabin pattern has been selected. People are needed to cut and sew. Remember, you do not need to be an expert. All you need to know is how to sew a seam.

Call 229-6402 with your offer to help.

The tying will be done during the selling of the tickets at the Mall before Christmas. All proceeds go to the Society's restoration projects.

* * * * *

Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall Committee is waiting for brackets to be installed in order for the tower to be erected. Stay tuned for further information.

* * * * *

Help support the small town atmosphere of historic Brighton by supporting the Historical Society in all its projects and by attending the meetings.

----- 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., 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		

BLACKSMITHING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

When the railroad came to Brighton in 1871, the Smith/McPherson Addition was platted, well promoted and lots sold. Hiram H. Smith, President of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad and Edward G. and Wm. Jr., McPherson, Howell businessmen, purchased land west of Ore Creek from Elizabeth Cushing and Elijah Fitch (who originally settled there in the early 1830s.

Among the many who took part in this development of the west end of town, along W. Main, were John Becker and Wm. Pipp, who built the Pipp & Becker Hardware Store, c.1871 (SE corner W. Main & Hyne St.). Pipp lived on the SE corner of Grand River and Beaver and Becker on the SW corner of E. Main and East St.

A few doors east of the Pipp & Becker Hardware Store, Henry Herbst built a blacksmith shop on W. Main. He also built a house behind it facing North St. (Opposite the present Post Office site, 315 W. North.) Herbst, whose father lived on Euler Road, a quarter mile east of the Henry Ratz farm (corner Grand River/Kellogg), married Theresa Behrens, sister of Mary Behrens (Mrs. George B.) Ratz. Lots of family connections, which often helped local businesses survive.

George B. Ratz and Henry both worked in that shop and George B. continued to operate there after Herbst bought a farm out Brighton Road, near Lime Lake.

Other blacksmiths known to have worked in the "Henry Herbst and George B. Ratz Wagon, Carriage and General Blacksmith Shop" were: Arthur Lanning, Robert Phillips, Wally Cook, Will Shannon, and brothers Conrad and Adam Weber.

The Weber Brothers owned the business at one time followed by the "Cook & Shannon Wagon, Carriage and General Blacksmithing" c.1895. The building just west was Charles Cushing's harness shop and next was Alice Jolly's millinery shop, and then the George B. Ratz Hardware Store which he bought from Pipp and Becker in the late 1800s.

At this same time one could find on the north side of Main Street, west of the mill pond, Charles Belding's Livery and Dray Barn and Henry Rohn's Blacksmith Shop. Further west, Pipp and Bitten's saloon, with the Macabee's Lodge upstairs, and a blacksmith shop behind it on First Street. (This series on "Blacksmiths in the Brighton Area" will conclude next month. These installments were written from writings of Wm. Pless and S. B. Jacobs, materials available to the author. In order to compile a more complete record anyone with more information on the subject should please contact Marieanna Bair. Also anyone with information on the earlier articles which related to saw and grist mills.)

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

