



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.12 December 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Sec.	Shelagh Davis	229-8494
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

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Finance Comm.	Dick Davis	229-8494
Lyons School	Herb. L. Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall	Shelagh Davis	229-8494
Penny Szczechowski	editor	229-7324
Cathy Qualls	editor	229-8656

SIGNATURE QUILT

Thus far, this year, 20 new signatures have been added to the quilt.

During research on other projects, signatures of several deceased Brightonites have been located: Carrie Cushing Hacker, P.G. Hartman, E.R. Hyne, F.T. Hyne and Carmen E. Wilson. Interested persons may select one of these signatures, make a \$10 donation and it will be included.

This quilt can become an historical directory of the area for future revelation. Be sure you're included too. Questions? Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

Please prepare the check to the Society and send to P.O. Box 481, noting it's for the Signature Quilt. Thank you for your support.

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CALENDAR

December 2, 9, 16 - Society members will be at Brookside Mall, selling raffle tickets for the Christmas quilt. Raffle drawing will be at 2:00 p.m., December 16.

December 5, Old Town Hall Committee Meeting.

December 28, Board of Directors Meeting, Old Town Hall.

January 9, 1990 General Meeting, Scranton School.

January 25, Board of Directors Meeting, Scranton.

February 22, Board of Directors Meeting, Scranton.

February 23, Spaghetti Supper.

March 13, General Meeting, Scranton.

March 22, Board of Directors Meeting, Scranton.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

February 23, 1990 - Spaghetti Supper. May, - Bake Sale, and Home Tour. July, Antique Sale. August, Folk Art Fair. October 27, Trash and Treasures, Bake Sale, and Old Town Hall Committee's fourth Annual Dinner Dance. November 24, Christmas Open House. December, Raffle. What do all of these dates have in common? They are the Society's 1990 fundraisers, and they all need your help! Chairmen, and volunteers are needed for the Spaghetti Supper, the Antique Sale, Folk Art Fair, Trash and Treasures, Christmas Open House, and Raffle. To help with the Bake Sales, call Jane Tomlinson - 229-4360; the Home Tour - Cathy Qualls, 229-8656; Dinner-Dance - Shelagh Davis, 229-8494. To volunteer, either as chairman or to help on the committee, for any of the fundraisers without chairmen, please call Gary McCririe, 229-2191. We know there are many of you who would like to help. You know who you are, so please call now to volunteer. We appreciate everyone's help!

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Rail Fence Quilt

Quilt raffle tickets are attached to this issue of Trail Tales. The intent is not to presume but to encourage your support with this fund raising project.

Because tickets were printed by Citizens Insurance Co. of America, materials donated by "Somewhere in Time", 416 W. Main, and labor by Kay Spangler and Committee, all proceeds will go to the Society's historic preservation projects, the Old town Hall and Lyons School.

Tickets are also available at Uber's, Somewhere in Time, The Salt Box, Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Library, by calling 229-6402, and at the Brookside Mall, December 2, 9, and 16. Drawing will be December 16.

Joe Chenoweth has donated an additional prize to the raffle - a hand made child's doll cradle. Many thanks, Joe.

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(Continued from page four.) On the way to the Christmas eve services at the country church a mile away, Papa wondered aloud if the occasional clouds which hid the moon meant more snow was on the way. "I hope so," said Bucky, "so we can play Fox and Geese with our cousins tomorrow!" "And Sally and I can make angels in the snow," chirped Bonnie.

Once again at home, still busy in the kitchen making dressing for the goose and keeping an eye on the progress the pies were making in the wood stove oven, Momma occasionally peaked into the parlor to give advice on the tree decorating project in progress by the children while her husband finished his barn chores.

A tired family went to bed early. The children, on pins and needles, planning to be the first down stairs to see what was in those packages and the parents fully aware of the busy day ahead. Much more than the normal barn and house-keeping chores. Parents, siblings and families would be arriving soon enough - glad to leave the city for the country Christmas of their childhood memories. (Researched and compiled by Marieanna Bair.)

OLD TOWN HALL COMMITTEE, Shelagh Davis, Chairman - 229-8494

This Committee has been taking it easy the past month. However, we are still actively pursuing getting a bell and carillon system for the bell tower. The carillon system will cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000, so please think of us if you are looking for a tax write-off for this year! Remember, also, that we have incentives for donating toward the Old Town Hall restoration: \$25.00, a mug; \$50.00, a tote bag; \$75.00, a set of leather coasters; \$100.00, a pewter snack bowl. Donors of \$100.00 or more will also be acknowledged on a plaque, when the renovation is completed. If you have donated more than \$25.00 toward the Old Town Hall restoration, and have not received an incentive, please call Dick or Shelagh Davis, at 229-8494.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE, Dick Davis, Chairman - 229-8494

This is the last month for Shelagh and I to serve on the Finance Committee. We would like to thank all of you who have donated your time and money, these past three years, whenever we have called upon you to help us. Your willingness to help the Society is exemplary. You have made our jobs a lot easier! Even though we will no longer be on the Board, or the Finance Committee, we will still be involved with the Society and the Old Town Hall restoration, and the new Finance Committee Chairman will be able to call upon us to help with all the Society fundraisers!

----- 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		

A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN THE BRIGHTON AREA c. 1900

"Aren't you two ready yet? I've got old Brownie hitched to the cutter. If we don't hurry it'll be dark before we get back. I don't want to have to be on the lookout for wolves," Papa teased.

"Papa, Bonnie's putting on her mittens and I'm tying Elmer's scarf so it'll cover his ears. Don't you dare leave for the woods to get the tree without them," warned Momma.

Cuddling down in the cutter under the buffalo robe, the children excitedly told their father of the popcorn and cranberry strings they had made to decorate the tree. They were delightedly anticipating placing the tiny toys, which the rest of the year were safely stored in a wooden box, among the branches of the table top evergreen in the parlor, normally closed during the winter. "Last Saturday Momma bought 12 new candles for the tree," said Bonnie. "And we'll fill the two buckets of water to stand nearby too," Papa enjoined. "Won't little Bucky be surprised to see his first tree?" piped Elmer.

Following the tracks of other sleighs on the snow filled road, the group in the cutter found the trail often left the road and went through a neighbor's field when an unusually large drift was encountered. Upon reaching the woods the children directed their father to a large pine they had spotted during summer explorations. "No, that's too big. We'll find a small spruce that will still leave room for us in the parlor too," replied their father.

Sure enough, the tree seemed to grow once it was brought indoors. "Did you brush off all the snow?" asked Momma. "I don't want big puddles on the table like last year."

The tree completely filled the corner by the organ, where the children knew their grandma would play Christmas carols for the entire family to sing. Before another week passed, wrapped packages began to appear under the tree and the table. Secret explorations convinced the children that several looked and felt suspiciously as if they contained clothing or books - not necessarily their hearts' desire. The day before Christmas each placed the gifts they'd made for their parents in back of the tree, certain they would be surprised. Bucky, with his father's help, had whittled a wooden spoon for his mother and he'd made a one legged milking stool, under his grandpa's supervision, for his dad. Bonnie, finally having learned how to knit well, wrapped a pair of mittens for her father and a crocheted dish cloth for her Momma. For Bucky she and her mother bought a rubber ball he'd admired at the hardware store the month before. (Continued on page three, please.)

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED
PLEASE

