



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. 1 January, 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989

Business/Professional: Bloomers Floral Design, Brighton Animal Hospital, Brighton-Howell Appliance Service & Parts, Champ's Pub, E.R.A. Griffith Realty, E.W. Ewing Furniture Galleries, Keehn Funeral Home, Dr. Kim M. Kinsley, Kitchen Suppliers Inc., Lavan & Hegarty, Refrigeration Research, Rolison Pro Hardware Inc., Zemper Studio (Howell).

Patron: Elizabeth Bindenagel (S.D.), Burton & Lillian Davis, Richard Davis, Mary Ann & Robert Gardella, M/M Norman Guest, Kathy Lowry, Steve Lowry, A. Colton Park, Bob & Mary Richmond, Alice Wilson.

Couple/Indiv: Aaron Beard, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Alice Clark, John & Margaret Dunleavy (Milf.), Blanche Esper, David & Terri Fisher (Pinckney), Tim & Kay Flynn, Wm. & Elenor Garrett, Ellouise Gibson (Okemos), Margaret Goldstein, David Hacker (Maple City), Nancy Hackney, John & Marilyn Homan (PA), Jeff & Debbie Hucal, Carol King (TX), Shelagh Klein, Harold & Mary Ann Leitz, Jere & Kay Michaels, Joe & Irene Mike, Rosemary Moon, James & Judy Murray (Dexter), Roland, Jane & Scott Owens, Judith Peck, Doris Petersen, Charles & Norma Jean Pless (Roscommon), Tedd R. & Linda Potter, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Elbert Seger (AZ), Giovanni & Suzanne Sittaro, Gerald & Gwenn Swann, Don & Alice Wyland.

In recognition of their assistance the Board of Directors voted to give 1989 memberships to: Brighton Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Fire Department, Brighton Lions Club, Citizens Insurance Company of America, George Moses Co., Old Kent Bank and Trustcorp.

The support demonstrated by all those listed is very encouraging to the Board of Directors and committee chairmen. To know others stand behind their efforts is inspiring.

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

The first General Meeting of 1989, will be held at the Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State St., 7:30 p.m. A pot luck will begin at 6:30. The public is invited.

A video of the helicopter ride by the winners of the Old Town Hall Committee raffle, October 15, will be shown. They took off from Dick and Katy Chrysler's tennis court after being provided a very nice lunch by the Chryslers. The afternoon was perfect for the ride to the Detroit River and back. Bring your friends to the meeting. They will enjoy the colorful trip also.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon. Jan 9, 7 p.m. - Finance Committee.  
Thurs. "12, 7 p.m. - Board Meeting.  
Tues. " 17, 6:30 - General Meeting.  
Mon. " 23, 7 p.m. - Old Town Hall Comm.  
Fri. Apr. 7, Spaghetti Supper.  
Sat. May 13, Home Tour.

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

...Paul & Alene Anderson, Alice Clark and Burton & Lillian Davis for their contribution to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.  
 ...Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.  
 ...PDQ Printing for copying of labels.  
 ...the many who helped sell tickets on the Nine Patch quilt.  
 ...the many more who purchased tickets.  
 ...Ethel Gebben for serving as Distribution Chairman of Trail Tales.  
 ...Warner's Orchard and Cider Mill for paying expense for Lyons School brochure.  
 ...William Green Company for time and labor in reinforcing the foundation for the bell tower for the Old Town Hall.  
 ...City of Brighton for donation for materials for this foundation.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

11-1-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$37996.94

RECEIPTS

General Fund			
Dues	366.00		
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Finance Comm. Proj.			
Bake Sale	10.00		
9 Ptch Qlt	31.00		
Sig Qlt	100.00		
Tiles	28.00		
Tr & Tres.	5.00		
Lyons Sch.	25.00		
Old Twn Hall			
Din/Dnc	307.00		
Other	25.00		
Donations	240.00		
Interest	<u>174.42</u>	<u>945.42</u>	<u>1311.42</u>
			\$39308.36

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund			
Adm:	149.56		
Newsletter	77.28	226.84	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Lyons Sch. Utilities	10.02		
Old Twn Hall			
Adm.	10.83		
Din/Dnc			
Band	400.00		
Dinner	<u>870.00</u>	<u>1290.85</u>	<u>1517.69</u>

11-30-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$37790.67

Ch. Acct. Bal.	\$ 2250.16		
Sav. " "	15540.51		
Two C.D.s	<u>20000.00</u>	<u>\$37790.67</u>	

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

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

needed...

...a person to deliver 5-10 newsletters each month to local business sites, i.e. medical centers, township offices, real estate offices, etc. This is an important form of publicity.  
 ...people to conduct a Historic Resource Survey in the area. Consider surveying building on your road or in your neighborhood.  
 ...people to take oral histories.  
 ...people to transcribe Oral History tapes.  
 ...a transcribing machine.  
 ...someone to put Trail Tales together. Ethel Gebben will do the mailing, committee chairmen will provide information and, if there's no objection, Marieanna Bair will prepare the local history page.

Please contact a board member for more information on the above.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

A deposit has been sent to Oxbowindo for the construction of six windows for the school. These will be as historically accurate as possible.

The brochure, telling of restoration plans for the school is at the printers. Thanks to Warner's Orchard and Cider Mill for covering the cost of the printing. These will be sent to those considered interested in the restoration of this school, giving an opportunity to participate in the process.

If you don't receive a brochure but would like to help, contact the Society, P.O. Box 481; Herb Warner, 229-6504; or Bonnie Corrigan, 229-6511.

OLD TOWN HALL

Monday, January 23, 7 p.m., is the next meeting date for this committee. Contact Shelagh Klein, 229-6571 for more information and your offer to help.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

These projects need your support. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, for more information.

The 1989 tiles, picturing the Lyons School, are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's, Poor Richard's, Trustcorp, Library and Chamber of Commerce, as are the earlier tiles. (Pere Marquette Depot, Union School and Western House.)

Picture post cards of early Brighton are available from Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's, and the Chamber of Commerce. These limited edition show early modes of transportation and street scenes.

Spaghetti Supper date is Friday, April 7. A chairman is needed. Shirley Ritter has again agreed to handle the food.

The Nine Patch Quilt was won by Betty Herbst! Herbst! Congratulations! This quilt earned almost \$500. A project like this will be done again.

The Signature Quilt is slowly filling with embroidered signatures. For a \$10. donation your signature, or anyone else' can be included for posterity. This quilt will not be raffled.

The Second Annual Home Tour is in the works. Saturday, May 13, is the date. Can we expect as beautiful weather as in 1988? Rae-Lynne Lerner, committee chair, 227-1148, will need your help.

All proceeds from these fund raisers go to the historic preservation and restoration projects. Call Dick Davis for more information and/or to help on any of these or other projects.

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EARLY SAWMILLS....continued from page 4.

In 1867, Thomas Woulds, in company with Timothy Warner bought the Woodruff grist-mill and changed the name to Pleasant Valley Mill. After expending considerable money in repairs, Woulds operated it about five years. Connected with the mill was a farm of 110 acres. In 1872, the partnership was dissolved with Woulds retaining the mill while Warner got the farm. In the spring of 1878, Mr. Woulds sold the mill to Mr. Nye. By 1934, William Ford (a brother of Henry Ford) owned the deteriorating gristmill, had it torn down at that time. The Fords used the miller's house as a summer home until he sold it in 1957. It is now a private residence.

The construction of these kinds of mills usually resulted in other settlers and merchants locating nearby and before long Ore Creek Village was in existence. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from: "Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless, 1880 History of Livingston County. This writer requests more information on any subjects relating to local history, i.e. brickyards, foundries, merchants, etc.)

----- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ues: \$25. Patron	Send to:	Brighton Area Historical Society
25. Business/Professional		P.O. Box 481
8. Couple		Brighton, Mi. 48116
5. Individual		

## EARLY SAWMILLS OF THE BRIGHTON AREA

Prior to the advent of sawmills in the area lumber, glass, sash, etc., was drawn by ox team from Ann Arbor or Detroit. A case in point being that of Lewis B. Fonda who, in 1832, entered the  $W\frac{1}{4}$  of the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32. In 1834 he erected on it a framehouse, said to have been the first in the county and at that time was regarded as a dwelling of considerable pretension. The timber with which it was built was drawn from Ann Arbor, a distance of 20+ miles, with ox teams. The family did not move into it until 1837.

Altho' brothers Almon and Maynard Maltby arrived in Brighton Township in the summer of 1832 and Maynard bought 63 acres of land in section 31 (Brighton City), it was 1834 before the brothers built the dam across Ore Creek in the vicinity of Third Street. This supplied power for the Maltby sawmill. One of their customers was Chester Hazard of Genoa Township. During the winter of 1836-37, Mr. Hazard drew whitewood (tulip) tree logs, cut on his own farm, to Maltby's mill below Brighton and had them sawed into lumber. It was principally of this lumber that the house was built. This was probably the first frame house erected in Genoa.

Aaron H. Kelly, entered 63 acres in Section 6 and 208 acres in Section 7, Brighton Township, in 1833. He soon built a substantial house and then a sawmill in 1837. This mill, operated by water power (upper Ore Creek), was known far and wide in those early days and furnished lumber for many of the first buildings erected in the county. About the last work done by this pioneer mill was sawing a quantity of plank for the Detroit and Howell Plank Road. Further upstream, in Section 5, Rev. Wm. A. Clark, by 1839, had also erected a sawmill.

In early spring of 1833, in Brighton Township, Evert (and Ruby) Woodruff entered 160 acres of Section 34, and by the last day of May he and his family took residence (probably a log cabin). During the summer an earthen dam was built approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the north section line. That fall he built a sawmill by the dam from which ran a sluice about one mile long. A three story gristmill, with an undershot wheel, was erected the next year near the end of the sluice. Both mills were supplied with water power from the stream known generally as Woodruff's Creek on what is now Pleasant Valley Road about four miles east of town. By 1835, the sawmill was producing lumber for boards to lay two floors in Benjamin Blain's cabin in the northwest corner of the Township. (This writer has not learned what happened to the sawmill.) Describing Woodruff's business acumen and reliability, the 1880 History of Livingston County states: "To Mr. Woodruff the township is largely a debtor for the enterprise he manifested in the erection of mills, which aided greatly in its development." (cont. on page 3.)

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Brighton, Mi. 48116

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