EARLY SAWMILLS OF THE BRIGHTON AREA

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P.O. Box 481

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989

TRAIL TALE

Grand River Trail

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.

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Prior to the advent of sawmills in the area lumber, glass, sash, etc., was
drawn by ox teams from Ann Arbor or Detroit. A case in point being that of

T Lewis B. Fonda who, in 1832, entered the W4 of the SW4 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.

Althea's brothers Alonzo 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
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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 1837. 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 saving a quantity
of planks 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
5 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
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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.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI. 48116

Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North Street
Brighton, MI. 48116

OFFICERS
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V.P. Bob Richmond 229-6258
Sec. Shelagh Klein 229-6571
Treas. Marge White 227-3968

DIRECTORS
Bill Amshein 227-7282
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Dick Davis 229-8356
Audrey Leith 229-6105
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Leda Mason 546-4159
Gary McCardle 229-2191

Finance Comm. Dick Davis 229-8356
Lyons School Herb. L. Warner 229-6504
Old Town Hall Shelagh Klein 229-6571

THE GENERAL MEETING of 1989, will be held at the Lindsomb Elementary School, 1010 State St., 7-10:30 p.m. A pot luck dinner 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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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.

* = Date of Interest

1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989


Couple/Individual: Aaron Beard, Joe & Pauline Chemowetz, Alice Clark, John & Margaret Dunteway (Milf.), Thelma Espier, David & Terri Fisher (Pinckney), Tim & Ray Flynn, Wm. & Eleanor Garrett, Edward Gloson (Chemowetz), Delores Blankenship, Nancy Hackett, Nancy Human (PA), Jeff & Debbie Hucal, Carol King (TX), Shelagh Klein, Harold & Mary Ann Leitz, Jere & Kay Michaels, Joe & Irene Mike, Rosamary Moon, James & Judy Murray (Dexter), Roland, Jane & Scott Owens, Judith Peck, Doris Petersen, Charles & Norma Jean Pliess (Roscommon), Ted R. & Linda Potter, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Elbert Sieger (2), Giovanni & Suzanne Sittaro, Gerald & Owen 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.

**
HELP...HELP...HELP...HELP
...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 buildings 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.

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

PRESEVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS
LYONS SCHOOL

A deposit has been sent to Osbournino 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 on 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 Shielah Klein, 229-6571 for more information and your offer to help.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

These projects need your support. Contact Marianna Balr, 229-6402, for more information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

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 chairperson is needed. Shirley Ritter has again agreed to handle the food.

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.

EARLY SAWMILLS...continued from page 4.

In 1867, Thomas Wouds, in company with Timothy Warner bought the Woodruff gristmill and changed the name to Pleasant Valley Mill. After expending considerable money in repairs, Wouds operated it about five years. Connected with the mill was a farm of 110 acres. In 1872, the partnership was dissolved with Wouds retaining the mill while Warner got the farm. In the spring of 1878, Mr. Wouds sold the mill to Mr. Wye. By 1934, William Ford (a brother of Henry Ford) owned the deteriorating gristmill, had it torn down at that time. The Ford's 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 long before Creek Village was in existence. (Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair from "Michigan Memorabilia" by William Plais, 1880 History of Livingston County. This writer requests more information on any subjects relating to local history, i.e. brickyards, foundries, merchants, etc.)

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's, 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 LYNN Lerner, committee chair, 227-1148, will need your help.

1989 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME
ADDRESS

New () Renewal () Please send a copy of these bylaws
Activities in which I'd like to participate:
( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with spec. events ( ) Newsletter Pub., etc.
( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoraton
( ) Fund Raising ( ) Meeting Programs ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping
( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other work I'd
be willing to do:
Uses: $25. Patron Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
25. Business/Professional P.O. Box 481
8. Couple
5. Individual
Brighton, MI 48116
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......
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