BLACKSMITHING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (cont.)

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Lewis Dorr, Sr., was a very early settler in the area (Genoa Township). He operated a tavern and stage coach stop on Grand River Trail northwest of Brighton at Kellogg Road. Dorr also had a blacksmith shop there to cater to the needs of stage coach and freight wagon operators, et al. John Keener (probably born in Germany) worked for Dorr (c. 1850-56) as a blacksmith, wagon maker and tin smith. He and Louisa Dorr, Lewis' daughter (born in Genoa Township) were married. (Both are buried in the Village Cemetery in Brighton along with their two year old child.)

In 1874, Henry Katz bought Lewis Dorr's farm and tavern including the blacksmith shop. Henry's son, George B., finished his growing up years in that location and learned some about the blacksmith trade in that shop.

Anticipating the expansion of the west side of Brighton with the coming of the railroad shortly after the Civil War, Main Street was extended westward across the south end of the millpond. The street was low and muddy most of the time, so a footbridge was built next to the pond, over the water, for pedestrians. It spanned a distance of about 300', from the village hall (Old Town Hall) to where the D. & C. Store is now located (314 N Main). At that time a livery barn and a blacksmith shop stood on wood pilings with the millpond water beneath the buildings.

(To be continued. Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair from writings of Mr. Pleus, Seth B. Jacobs, 1890 History of Livingston County and Fire Fire 5.)

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

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gebben
618 Franklin
Brighton, MI 48116

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P.O. Box 481
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Vol. VIII, No. 7
July, 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Sec. Shelagh Klein 229-6571
Treas. Marge White 227-3960

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Lyons School Herb. L. Warner 229-6504
Old Town Hall Shelagh Klein 229-6571
Penny Szczesnoffski editor 229-7324
Tafiy Qualls editor 229-8656

Calendar of Summer Events

July 21 - deadline for donations for Antique Sale
call Ethel Gebben 227-5375
or Janet Schopp 227-6824
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August 12 - Brighton Arts and Craft Fair
Historical Society booth
call Rae Lynne Lerner 229-7324 to volunteer your time
July 18 - Monthly meeting of the Lyons School Restoration committee at the Lyons School. All members are urged to attend.

People Along the Trail
Every once in a while we hear of something that makes us realize that Brighton is made up of some very special people, one of them being Blanche Esper.

We received this letter and thought it would be nice to share it with you.

June 3, 1989

Dear Editors,

I have a bit of info you may’ve missed the Thank you column of the Trail Tales. Thanks to Blanche Esper for her donation by purchasing several tickets for the home tour and giving them to people who would not have made the tour otherwise. A very noble way to donate.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hackney
Brighton

Congratulations
to Jack and Ethel Gebben on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Many more of them to these two who do so much "quiet" work for the Society.

to Shelagh Klein and Dick Davis. Everyone sends their best wishes for you on your up and coming wedding.

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Thanks...thanks...thanks

...Cars & Concepts for their donation to the Old Town Hall Restoration project.

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

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Old Town Hall Restoration Committee

Shelagh Klein, Chairman 229-8494

The erection of the bell tower reproduction is still "on hold". There have been a number of delays with regard to transporting it from the City's D.P.W. to the Old Town Hall. However, it should be up sometime in July. (We hope). Check the Argus for details.

* * * * *

Finance Committee

Dick Davis, chairman 229-8356

The Antique Sale is being chaired by Lillian Davis, 227-7610. (Thank you Lillian). Call her if you have items to donate, or Marge White 227-3968, if you can help with the sale. The Antique Sale is July 29, from 10-4, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot, during the Brighton Sidewalk Sale Days.

This sale will take place only if enough antiques and collectibles are donated. Give your old furniture, books, tools, toys, dishes, jewelry, linens, etc. the once-over. Then call Ehtel Gebben 227-5375, or Janet Schopp 227-6824 by July 21. If each of us could donate one item a successful sale could be held.

* * * * *

Nominating Committee

Bill Amrhein, 227-7282, is chairman this year. Officers and directors' positions are to be filled at the November Annual Meeting, to take office in January, 1990. Call him and offer your services.

Membership 1989

The following have paid dues since the last issue:

Patrons: Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Whalen, Ed & Connie Sherman, Patrick & Marlene Fonseca, Rae Carmack (Calif.), Elizabeth Herbst, John & Win Allen, Harold Jr. & Esther Jarvis, Alice Wilson

Bus./Prof.: Thomas & Williams builders

Couple/Ind.: Libby Eisenhardt, Dorothy Much, Celia Schaffer, John & Mary Lynn Korte (OH), Mr. & Mrs. John Linahan, Robert & Ruth Watson, Bob & Marie Carr, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Schmidt, Dorothy R. Foster (Calif.), Eleanor Hornung, Don & Shirley Jenks, Richard & Helen Leitz, Fred A. Schiller, Barton Hellmuth, Margaret Muir, Arlene Jacob, Lois Clark, Randy & Joyce Wilson, Frances Clore, Charles & Janice Beach, Doris Pay, Kathryn Hodgin, Edwin & Sherry Sybus, Christina Cohl, Mary Pearsall, Hal Val Potts, Larry & Rita Schilinger, Frank & Alice Segger, Rev. & Mrs. John Park, Don & Lois Cole, Whitney & June Kimble, A.J. & Helen Southwell, Joe & Irene Ellis, Mildred Bender, Bill & Betty Amrhein, Bud & Janet Schopp, David Barton, Alice Anderson.

* * *

Annual Christmas Raffle

Quilt

The Rail Fence version of the Log Cabin pattern has been selected. Fabric purchases are in the works and soon people to cut and sew will be needed. A quilting expert you need not be. Can you wield a pair of scissors? Can you machine stitch a 1/2" seam? Do you want to donate toward the cost of the fabric? You're the one needed.

Call 229-6402, with your offer to help.

Lyons School

The Lyons School has been listed as a Michigan Historical Site by the Michigan Historical Commission.

Educators, once again are discovering the inherent virtues of the one-room schoolhouse educational process: individualized instruction, learning by repetition, a deliberate mingling of grades, all resulting in one of the greatest learning mechanisms ever devised.

The Brighton Area School System is interested in the restoration of this building to a living, working, one-room school for the enlightenment of present and future pupils.

I would like to help preserve our heritage! I enclose:

☐ $100  ☐ $75  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ Other

☐ I would like to pledge $  per ☐ month ☐ quarter.

My donation is to go toward restoration of the Lyons School.

NAME ___________________________

ADDRESS _________________________

Your donation is greatly appreciated!

Make checks payable to: Brighton Area Historical Society.

Mail to: Brighton Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116

--- 1989 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1989 ---

NAME ___________________________

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
5. Individual

Brighton, MI. 48116
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TRAIL TALES

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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