



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. 6 June, 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

May General Meeting Recap

The last general meeting until fall took place. Following a pot luck dinner and short business meeting, Clara Healy related memories of growing up in Brighton. See the article People Along the Trail to read about some of her enjoyable memories.



People Along the Trail

Clara Healy's parents homesteaded in Northern Wisconsin in 1903. The family moved to Brighton in 1923. They came in at the old depot in town. They lived on the old Borgan Farm on Kellogg Road. It was owned by the city of Detroit and her father ran the farm. As children, they helped out with chores. They helped with the haying, feeding the animals, and weeding the garden, a job Clara said she hated doing. Her mother raised chickens.

In those days, the neighbors were always helping each other with thrashing, filling silos and other big farming jobs. She said the men always tried to be at her house at midday because there was always a first class dinner ready for them with ham, potatoes, vegetables, and wonderful homemade pies. Her mother was a wonderful cook.

Some of her special memories included going to the "new" school Scranton. It had central heating, a science lab and a library. Her senior class was the first one to put out an annual in 1930. She also remembers special trips to Howell to see the elephants at the Howell Fair and to AnnArbor to visit Santa.

She finished her wonderful stories by singing a lovely little song that she learned from her father who had sung in a quartet when she was a child.

Everyone who listened to her was taken back to a memory of long ago.

Thanks...thanks... thanks

Old Town Hall  
Restoration

Shelagh Klein,  
229-8494

To Old Kent Bank, Singer Press, Kitchen Suppliers, and Puritan Machine Co. for donating to the printing of the newsletter.

To all the wonderful volunteers who helped make this year's home tour a huge success.

To Rae-Lynne Lerner for her chairmanship of the home tour.

Plans for erecting the restored bell tower are temporarily on hold. We are now looking toward July 4th for an official dedication. The tower has been completed; we are working out the logistics of getting it moved from the city's D.P.W. garage to the Old Town Hall.

If you have donated \$25.00 or more to the Old Town Hall restoration and have not yet received your incentive, please call Shelagh Klein.

Committee members Jack and Bonnie Bean are working on the booklet and door prizes for the third Annual Dinner Dance, October 28, at Lakelands. If you would like to donate a door prize, please call any of the committee members for further information:  
Jack Bean 229-2757  
Gary Cole 227-5152  
Dick Davis 229-8356  
Shelagh Klein 229-8494  
Gary McCririe 227-1261  
or Jon Stoppels 227-1911.

Treasurer's Report  
Board Meeting, May 11, 1989

April 1, 1989	Total Net Worth	38481.67	
Receipts			
General Fund-Dues 1989-	4@ \$5. 20.		
	3@ 8. 24.		
	2@ 25. 50.00		
		94.	
Newsletter Printing Donat.		<u>252.00</u>	\$349.
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund			
Finance Comm. Proj.			
Signature Quilt (Dr. Gerald Whalen)		10.	
Spaghetti Supper		464.	
Tiles		70.	
Post Cards		18.	
Interest 3/31 Checking	8.34		
3/26 Savings	74.40		
		82.74	
		85.	
		<u>20.</u>	749.74
			<u>1098.24</u>
			39580.41
Disbursements			
General Fund			
Check Charge	26.51		
Memb. Chg. Tom Leith	125.21		
Newsletter Postage	82.40		
Singer Press Print.	145.		
Down Town Devel.	1000.00		
			1379.12
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund			
Spaghetti Supper Publ.	29.87		
Victorian Reprod.	683.52		
Lyon's School Edison	11.08		
Windows Lyons School	1090.29		
Reproduction Photos	6.90		
			<u>1821.66</u>
			<u>3200.78</u>
April 30, 1989	Total Net Worth	36379.63	
Savings Account 14426.78			
Checking Account 1582.85			
Two C D'S 20370.00			
			<u>36379.63</u>
General Fund 3318.09			
Historical Pres.&Restor. Fund			
Old Town Hall	11914.50		
Lyons School	878.55		
Finance Comm Proj.			
Bake Sale	1325.44		
Home Tour	767.61		
Post Cards	-140.		
Raffles	1947.18		
Sales	4568.28		
Signature Q ilt	936.		
Spaghetti Supper	2498.69		
Stationery	555.38		
Tiles	458.28		
		13416.86	
Undesignated Donat.	2823.71		
Interest	4027.92		
		<u>6851.63</u>	
Marge White Treas.			<u>33061.54</u>
	Total Net Worth		\$ 36379.63



FINANCE COMMITTEE - Dick Davis, 229-8356

Many thanks to Jane Tomlinson and Janice Beach for selling baked goods for the Society, at Farmers' Market, May 20. And to the many members who contributed to the bake sale by baking or buying.

Thank you's are also in order to Rae-Lynne Lerner, Chairman of the 1989 Home Tour, and her Committee members, for their work on this very successful event. More than 500 tickets were sold - compared to 200 last year. The Committee is also very grateful to the churches and homeowners who worked so hard in cleaning and scrubbing and painting: thank you to St. George's, St. Paul's, and to the Camerons, Lerner's, Qualls, Schillingers, Sittaros, and Szczechowskis.

The 1989 tile is underway. The Eastern House will be on this year's tile. The Committee is also looking ahead to the 1990 tile, which will be of Mellus Hospital.

Our artist for the past three tiles, Vianna Szabo, is moving from this area, but we hope to have her continue doing sketches for us. Her sketch of the Lyons School, for the 1988 tile, is very popular. We wish her much happiness in her new home, and with her new baby.

Upcoming events include the Society's Antique Sale, to be held July 29 in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot (we still need a chairman for this event), and the cookies and lemonade booth, outside the Old Town Hall, during the Folk Art Fair, August 12. Please call Rae-Lynne Lerner, 227-1148, chairman for this event, if you would like to help.

For information regarding any of the Society's fundraisers, please call any of the Finance Committee members: Dick Davis, 229-8356; Shelagh Klein, 229-8494; Sara McCririe, 227-9370; or Marge White, 227-3968.

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:

- |                                       |   |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale    | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with spec. events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Pub., etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Research       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History          | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Programs       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography           | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other work I'd |

be willing to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$25. Patron

25. Business/Professional

8. Couple

5. Individual

Send to:

Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

## BLACKSMITHING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (cont.)

The blacksmith was generally regarded with respect. He often learned his trade at a young (10 years) age from his father or grandfather. Much practice and experience was needed to learn to judge how hot the metal should be in order to be worked properly; or in knowing how long to temper the hot iron in the tub of water to make a tool which wouldn't shatter when used, as when a plow point suddenly hit a submerged rock. Only practical knowledge could tell how to measure (by the use of a "traveler") and then cut the material for a wagon wheel rim before drawing it out; or how to weld two pieces together by hammering the hot metal on the anvil and bending to the desired shape on the horn. It took skill and a good eye to prepare the opening for the handle of the froe in such a manner that the tool would not fly off when in use. The presence of a good blacksmith eased the crude circumstances in which early settlers of the Brighton area found themselves.

Blacksmiths also were expected to be farriers, to know how to trim the hooves of an ox or horse and make shoes that fit properly on these animals. Not only the farmer, lumberman and builder made use of the blacksmith's expertise. An accurate gun barrel was required by the hunter. Much produce was stored and shipped in wooden barrels with metal hoops, made by the smith. In return for making life a little less primitive he was often paid in produce, meat, eggs, etc.

The shop was often a place for local farmers to congregate; a welcome change from plowing, logging or hoeing corn. The floor was usually dirt, fireproof, with the forge and its bellows the center of attraction. Surrounding it were work tables, the anvil with a rounded horn for forming curved pieces and the water tub for cooling the metal to the proper temper. This was determined by the color of the metal. Hanging from wrought iron hooks, one could view an astounding variety of tools: tongs, hammers, cleavers, chisels, punches, files and drills, all of many weights and shapes. A grindstone, hack saws, several vises and mandrels would also be evident. Containers of fuel, charcoal made from the abundant forests in the area, in later years, hard coal brought on the train.

Often he'd make a tool for a particular job. One could take a pattern or just explain what was needed and he'd make the item. Often smiths built wagons, buggies, etc., which involved doing their own woodworking. This would include the nuts, bolts, pins, washers, etc. After the turn of the century you could take the broken axle of your Ford and have him repair it. Today the smith is busy making decorative hinges, handles, fireplace tools and often works as a farrier. (To be continued. Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from writings of Wm. Pless, Seth B. Jacobs, 1880 History of Livingston County and Foxfire 5.)

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

