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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 bellow 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, burners, 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 it. 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 or your Farm-All 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 Marileanna Bair from writings of Wm. Pless, Seth B. Jacobs, 1800 History of Livingston County and Penfire 5.)

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.
Thanks...thanks... thanks

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.

Treasurer's Report
Board Meeting, May 11, 1989

April 1, 1989 Total Net North 3,940.67
Receipts General Fund-Dues 1988 48.00 20.00
Special Events 20.00 20.00
Newsletter Printing Donat. 125.00 349.00
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund
Finance Comm. Proj. 10.00
Signature Quilt Dr. Gerald Whalen 100.00
Spaghetti Supper 10.00
Baskets 10.00
Interest 3/1 Checking 10.34
3/28 Savings 74.40
10.00
22.00
749.94
1,002.29
5,958.41
Disbursements
General Fund Check Charge 26.51
Cash Dr. Tom Leith 125.00
Singer Press Repair 150.00
Total 1,002.29
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund
Spaghetti Supper Print. 100.00
Victoria Reprod. 60.00
Lynn’s School Edison 11.00
Windows Lynn School 1,080.00
Reproduction Photos 40.00
Total 1,779.12
April 30, 1989 Total Net North 36,379.43
Savings Account 14,492.70
Checking Account 2,193.45
Two C’s 122.95
6,379.65
General Fund
Historical Pres.Restor. Fund Old Town Hall Lyres School 1,200.40 879.45
Finance Comm Proj. Bake Sale 1,725.88
Home Tour 767.41
Post Cards 166.00
Raffles 1,057.18
Signature Q Llt. 226.00
Spaghetti Supper 2,490.89
Stationery 550.00
Baskets 500.00
Undesignated Donat. 1,341.66
Interest 422.92
Marg White Press. Total Net North 3,940.67 855.65
1,956.50
$36,379.43

Old Town Hall Restoration
Shelagh Klein, 229-8494

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 McCirrie 227-1261
or Jon Stoppels 227-1911.

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 buying 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, Lerners, Qualls, Schillingers, Sittaros, and Szczechowskis.

The 1989 title is underway. The Eastern House will be on this year's title. The Committee is also looking ahead to the 1990 title, 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 Lynn 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 Polk 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 McCirrie, 227-9370; or Marge White, 227-3968.

809 - 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. ( )

( ) Board Member  ( ) Hospitality  ( ) Oral History ( )

( ) Fund Raising  ( ) Meeting Programs  ( ) Restoration ( )

( ) Genealogy  ( ) Membership Committee  ( ) Photography ( )

( ) Genealogy  ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( )

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
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Treasurer's Report
Board Meeting, May 11, 1989
April 1, 1989                     Total Net North                     39401.67
Receipts
General Fund Donations          1988-89                      44.51
                                20.00
                                20.00
                                24.00
                                94.00
Newsletter Printing Donations   ...252... $349.

Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund
Finance Comm. P. M.
Signature Quilt Dr. Gerald Whale! 10.00
Spaghetti Supper                467.
Tiles                           77.
Interest 3/12 Checking 8.34
3/31 Savings 74.40
                                48.74
                                874.94
                                1630.28
                                39580.41

Disbursements
General Fund
Check Charge                    26.51
Mesh, Chp, Tom Leith            112.51
Singer Museum Repro.           155.
Down Town Market               1379.92

Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund
Spaghetti Supper Puh.          59.87
Victorian Reprod.              461.52
Lyon's School Edition          11.68
Windows Lyon School            1009.29
Reproduction Photos            6.30
                                1803.66
                                3200.78

April 30, 1989                  Total Net North                     36397.63
Checking Account               1584.85
                                 1582.85
                                 31677.65
                                 3318.09

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1989 - BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1989

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( ) 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
8. Single
5. Individual

Brighton, MI. 48116
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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 Burge 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 threshing, 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 Ann Arbor 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.