The first settlers in this area lived in a primitive manner. Any tools they used were brought with them. When axes became dull, plows would break or a horse had thrown a shoe, the need for a blacksmith was acutely obvious.

As one early settler, Mr. Gardner Bird (1833) recalled, after the land was sufficiently cleared to admit of being broken, the plow became a necessity. To have the irons sharpened and repaired as necessary, Bird had to travel 22 miles to Dexter.

The earliest blacksmith in the area was Abram Farrick, who came from Plymouth in 1838. His shop was on the east side of the Grand River Trail between Main and St. Paul’s Streets. The shop was built by William Balch as part of a hotel called the Balch House. By 1845 Morrie Dubois was smithing in that shop.

Erastus A. Pratt came from Lapeer County in 1844, and followed the vocation of blacksmith in the Village of Brighton for 22 years, during which time he made most of the plow irons used in the surrounding country. His first shop was located on the present day site of the Presbyterian Church. David Thomson came to Brighton in 1843 and shortly after built a foundry on the site. In 1856 he built a brick foundry on the corner of Grand River Trail and North Street.

Many blacksmiths operated in Brighton over the years; too many to list here. At one time there were ten shops in the village. Most of them made wagons, carts, buggies and sleighs. Wheelbarrows, landrollers, “grasshopper” cultivators, spike toothed drags, scythes and grain cradles were built and repaired in addition to shoeing horses and oxen.

Many farmers did their own metal work. Iron was often brought with them since it was not readily available in the wilderness. A crude forge could be devised and tools and equipment made by hand.

Even though living in a dirt floored log cabin the homemaker had need for an oven for baking; and irons to hold the burning logs in the fireplace; iron hooks for holding cooking kettles; skillets, spiders, knives and other cooking utensils.

The corners of a log house were joined in such a manner as to not need nails but hinges, latches, shutter dogs, etc., were made of iron. The farmer needed scythes, sickles, ox yokes, harness fittings, horseshoes and other tools. Construction and logging called for axes, links, peaves, drawknives, crow bars, etc. (To be continued.)

Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair from writings of Wm. Pleas, Seth B. Jacobs, 1890 History of Livingston County and Foxfire 5)
Thanks...thanks...thanks...thanks

...for the cost of printing the Trail
talls to:
Old Kent Bank
Singer Press
Puritan Machine Co.
...people who worked on the spaghetti
...to the following people for donations to the historical society:
J. Ellis
E. Hornung
J. Hucal
S. Lowry
Ch. Pless
D. Prieskorn
...to the six families who have opened
their homes for the second annual home
tour:
Leeners, Qualls, Szczeszkowski, Sittaro, Sichillinger, and Camerons
...all the volunteers who will be giving
their time to help make the home tour
a success

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Treasurer's Report
March 1, 1989

TOTAL NET Worth
$3468.99

RECEIPTS
GENERAL FUND: Donor 1989
13 & $8.0 = 65.0
9 & $8.0 = 72.0
1989 & $8.0 = 74.0
$220.00

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION FUND -
Signature Quilt (Blight, Herbst) 30.00
Tile (80) 40.00
Lyons School 203.00
Interest 2-28-89 81.00 ch. 7.10
Donations (Watson, Schmidt) 4:00 322.75

DISBURSEMENTS
GENERAL FUND
Postage 12.50
Audit 100.00
T.T. postage 30.00

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION FUND -
Signature Quilt 2.90
Lyons School Utilities 10.49
Old Town Hall House/Daye D.J. deposit 75.00
88.99

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Dick Davis, Chairman 229-8356

The Seventh Annual Spaghetti Supper was a great success!
Many thanks to the bakers who donated such wonderful
goodies! And to Shirley Ritter for once again preparing the
salad and cooking the spaghetti. The Committee is
grateful to all the volunteers who helped: Nancy Hackney,
Paul and Alene Anderson, and Mariann Boll for setting up
the Fire Hall; to Rudy Hermann, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Susan
Myers, and Burton Davis for welcoming our guests; to
Virginia Hermann, Clara Nealy, Alexis Klein, and Alice
Newcomb for serving tickets, and to Bob Richmond and
Blanche Esper for selling tiles. Thanks also to the
food servers: Audrey Leith, Bill Amrhein, Leota Mason,
Gary McCreery, Hal Potts, and Steve Grove, and to the
kitchen help: Jack Smith, Mary Richmond, Penny & Jim
Szczeszkowski, Kathy Groves, Lillian Davis, Marian Carney,
Judy Dahlin, Kay Flynn, Shirley Jenks, Michael Cuthbert,
Genevieve Kampe, Val Potts, and Ethel Gebben. The
Committee also thanks Seta's Market for donating the
spaghetti and half of the lettuce; Shirley Ritter for
contributing the rest of the "salad stuff"; and Wendy's
for donating the salad bowls and plastic utensils.

******************************

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 ( ) Photography ( )
( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( )
( ) Other work I'd
be willing to do:

Dues $25. Patron Send to:
25. Business/Professional
Donor 2525.61; Honor 220.
P.O. Box 481
8. Couple
Brighton, MI. 48116
5. Individual
Thanks... thanks... thanks... thanks... 
for the cost of printing the Trail
tails to:
Old Kent Bank
Singer Press Puritan Machine Co.
people who worked on the spaghetti
...to the following people for donations to
the historical society:
J. Ellis
E. Hornung
J. Hocal
S. Lowry
Ch. Pless
D. Prierskorn
...to the six families who have opened
their homes for the second annual home
tour:
Lemners, Qualls, Szczesniak, Sittaros,
Schillings, and Camerons
...all the volunteers who will be giving
their time to help make the home tour
a success.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Treasurer's Report
March 1, 1989

TOTAL NET WORTH $38166.99

RECEIPTS
GENERAL FUND - Donors 1989 $330.00
1988 9 @ 8. = 72
1990 10 @ 8. = 80
TOTAL 382

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION FUND
- Finance Comm., Proj.
Signature Quit (Blight, Herbst) 30
Tile (80) 37.00
Lyons School 203.00
Interest 1-24-89 8@6.00, ch. 7.10 88.70
Donations (Watson, Schmidt) 8.00 332.70

DISBURSEMENTS
GENERAL FUND - Postage 12.50
Audit 100.00
T.P. postage 30.00
Lyons School Utilities 4.69
LYONS SCHOOL UTILITIES 10.49
Old Town Hall Mueseum/Office, D.J. deposit 76.00 88.09

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Dick Davis, Chairman 229-8356
The Seventh Annual Spaghetti Supper was a great success!
Many thanks to the bakers who donated such wonderful
goodies! And to Shirley Ritter for once again preparing
the salad and cooking the spaghetti. The Committee
is grateful to all the volunteers who helped: Nancy Hackney,
Paul and Alene Anderson, and Marianna Bahr for setting up
the Fire Hall; to Rudy Herrmann, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Susan
Myers, and Burton Davis for welcoming our guests; to
Virginia Herrmann, Clara Healy, Alexis Klein, and Alice
Newcomb for selling tickets, and to Bob Richmond and
Blanche Esper for selling tickets. Thanks also to the
food servers: Audrey Leith, Bill Amrhein, Leota Mason,
Gary McCreary, Hal Potts, and Steve Grove, and to the
kitchen help: Jack Smith, Mary Richmond, Penny & Jim
Szczesniak, Kathy Grove, Lillian Davis, Marian Carney,
Judy Dahlin, Kay Flynn, Shirley Jenks, Michael Cuthbert,
Genevieve Kampe, Val Potts, and Ethel Gebben. The
Committee also thanks Sef's Market for donating the
spaghetti and half of the lettuce; Shirley Ritter for
contributing the rest of the "salad stuff"; and Wendy's
for donating the salad bowls and plastic utensils.

1989 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 ( )
Brighton, MI 48116
5. Individual ( )
The first settlers in this area lived in a primitive manner. Any tools they used were brought with them. When axes became dull, plows would break or a horse had thrown a shoe, the need for a blacksmith was acutely obvious.

As one early settler, Mr. Gardner Bird (1833) recalled, after the land was sufficiently cleared to admit of being broken, the plow became a necessity. To have the irons sharpened and repaired as necessary, Bird had to travel 22 miles to Dexter.

The earliest blacksmith in the area was Abram Frailick, who came from Plymouth in 1838. His shop was on the west side of the Grand River Trail between Main and St. Paul's Streets. The shop was built by William Balch as part of a hotel called the Balch House. By 1845 Morris Dubois was smiting in that shop.

Erastus A. Pratt came from Lapeer County in 1844, and followed the vocation of blacksmith in the Village of Brighton for 22 years, during which time he made most of the plow irons used in the surrounding country. His first shop was located on the present day site of the Presbyterian Church. David Thomson came to Brighton in 1843 and shortly after built a foundry on the site. In 1856 he built a brick foundry on the corner of Grand River Trail and North Street.

Many blacksmiths operated in Brighton over the years; too many to list here. At one time there were ten shops in the village. Most of them made wagons, carts, buggies and sleighs. Wheelbarrows, landrollers, "grasshopper" cultivators, spike toothed drags, scythes and grain cradles were built and repaired in addition to shoeing horses and oxen.

Many farmers did their own metal work. Iron was often brought with them since it was not readily available in the wilderness. A crude forge could be devised and tools and equipment made by hand.

Even though living in a dirt floored log cabin the homemaker had need for an oven for baking; and irons to hold the burning logs in the fireplace; iron hooks for holding cooking kettles; skilletts, spiders, knives and other cooking utensils.

The corners of a log house were joined in such a manner as to not need nails but hinges, latches, shutter dogs, etc., were made of iron. The farmer needed scythes, sickles, ox yokes, harness fittings, horseshoes and other tools. Construction and logging called for axes, links, peavys, drawlives, crow bars, etc. (To be continued."

Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair from writings of Wm. Pless, Seth B. Jacobs, 1830 History of Livingston County and Foxfire 5)

---

**A Stroll in the Past**

The year is 1885. Now I love the sound of the church bells. I know Aunt Josephine will soon be here. She promised me that she would teach me needlepoint tomorrow. Maybe she will bake fresh bread and let me help churn butter. I pray that morning will arrive soon.

These are a few of the memories that might be stirred up as you stroll in the past at the second annual historical home tour on Saturday, May 13, from 10:00 until 4:00.

You can just imagine: swinging on the swing in the cool of the shade on the Szczesnacki's wraparound porch; elegantly dressed ladies gathering for tea in the Lerner's front parlor; quiet Sunday suppers in the Schluniger's dining room lemonade and croquet in the side yard at the (Juell's); a pleasant rent in the warming room at the old Leith home (being restored by the Camerons); or a Hartman family reunion all gathered at the home on Main Street (which is restored by the Sittaro family).

We hope you will come away from the home tour with a sense of the past and an appreciation for what our forefathers left for us to enjoy.

---

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres.</th>
<th>Rudy Herrmann</th>
<th>229-7923</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V.P.</td>
<td>Bob Richmond</td>
<td>229-6268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec.</td>
<td>Shelagh Klein</td>
<td>229-6571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Marce White</td>
<td>227-3968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIRECTORS**

| Bill Amhein          | 227-7282 |
| Marianna Bair        | 229-6402 |
| Chuck Beach          | 229-9678 |
| Dick Davis           | 229-6356 |
| Audrey Leith         | 229-6165 |
| Rae-Lynne Lerner     | 227-1148 |
| Leota Mason          | 546-4159 |
| Gary McMurray        | 229-2191 |
| Finance Comm. Dick Davis | 229-8356 |
| Lyons School Herb. L. Warner | 229-6504 |
| Old Town Hall Sheila Kiehn | 229-6571 |
| Penny Szczesnacki editor | 229-7323 |
| Cathy Qualls editor  | 229-3555 |

**General Meeting**

The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at Lindsber Elementary school. The potluck begins at 6:30. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Decaf. coffee is furnished and there is hot water for tea. Dress is casual. Everyone is welcome.

The meeting begins at 7:30 followed by a program. The program for the May meeting has not been set as yet.

---

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**HOME TOUR ON SATURDAY, MAY 13. VISIT THE HOMES AND GET OUT AND ENJOY THIS DAY.**