

## BRIGHTON'S OLD TOWN HALL LIVES

To commemorate the recent progress in the restoration of the old building, it was felt that a summary of the work of the Society's Old Town Hall Restoration Committee and a short review of the building's history was appropriate.

The Society has been conducting fund raising projects to restore the Hall for future use as a place to display the many artifacts donated, relating to the history of the Brighton area, and a meeting place for that organization. To expedite these efforts the Old Town Hall Restoration Committee came into being.

In 1984, the building was listed on the Michigan Historic Site Register and a marker installed. October, 1987, saw the stripping of red paint from brick and trim, which had been applied to conceal alterations were made to accommodate those using the building: removal and changing of windows, doors, etc. Caulking and repainting of trim was accomplished in 1988, also the building of a replica of the tower. September 23, 1989, the tower was dedicated following its raising to its original position atop the Hall.

The Restoration Committee is a dedicated group, not resting on their laurels. Plans for future fund raisers are underway. The support of the entire area is vital to complete the task.

Several small communities, with a post office, blacksmith shop, mill and small stores were scattered throughout Brighton Township at the time of its organization in 1837. However, many of those in the southwest corner of the township felt they'd get a better allocation of tax moneys and under that aegis a charter for Brighton Village was prepared March 7, 1867.

Within three weeks the village council was formed: president, clerk, treasurer and trustees. For 30 years the council met in rented rooms; some at .50¢ per month, some at the cost of lighting (candles and oil lamps.) The treasurer was bonded, record books and, eventually, some chairs with "wood bottoms" were purchased. These village officers did their best to conduct the business of the community in a manner which would be in the best interests of the residents and merchants.

Early ordinances regarding the treatment of riotous persons were written, as were those prescribing no liquor on Sundays, no shooting, no ball playing on village streets, animals were not to be hitched to trees, livestock was not allowed to roam the streets.

Other concerns the council encountered included selection of fire fighting equipment and storage space for this equipment. A village lockup was needed and a permanent place to meet. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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