



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. IX No. 4 April, 1990

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Dates to remember

Please mark your calendar for the following exciting and important events in the Society, Your help and attendance is both needed and appreciated.

- May 3 - Home tour meeting for guides; This will be held at 7:00 at the high school.
- May 8 - General meeting at Scranton Middle School; potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7:30; we would love to see you there; we need more active members at our meetings;
- May 12 - Brighton Home Tour from 10:00 until 4:00; plan to attend or help guide

Need Restoration Help?

The Ann Arbor Area Preservation Alliance, 616 Brooks St., Ann Arbor, 48103, is continuing its Second Sunday Old House Clinics, 2:00 p.m.

Write for information or call 665-2112.

Program are:

- April 8 - Garden Structures
- May 13 - Decorative pavings; to be followed by Foundations, Wallpapering, Windows, Furnaces, and Home Inspections.

Brighton Area Historical Home Tour 1990

The Brighton Area Historical Society welcomes you to the Third Annual "Stroll in the Past" Historical Home Tour.

Five families will welcome you into their homes along with two historic churches and the Old Town Hall where an historical display featuring historic clothing will be presented. Other special events, such as the 17th Michigan Volunteer Civil War Auxiliary, are being planned this year to go along with the tour.

Please join us, as a guide, or as a visitor, by taking a step back in time and by enjoying a stroll through Brighton. The date is Saturday, May 12, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at Ubers, Salt Box, Somewhere In Time, Brighton Library, and the Chamber of Commerce beginning May 3. The ticket price is \$7.00 presale, \$8.00 the day of the tour. Tickets can also be purchased at each home the day of the tour.

The following homes will be features this year:

The Maltby Farm, owned by Beth and Kevin Fuller. This home is at 7430 Rickett Rd. It was built in 1858. Beth and Kevin have done extensive renovation since purchasing the home two years ago.

The Linahan home owned by John and Jeannette Linahan. This home appeared on the 1875 Village Atlas. It is a frame construction home in the two story T shape style.

The Cheetham home owned by Frank and Bernice Cheetham. This home was built near the turn of the century. It has the original oak panel staircase with Eastlake type carvings.

The Gottschalk home owned by Russ and Betty Gottschalk. This home is a traditional Colonial home built in 1927. Original cherry woodwork and french doors grace the living and dining room.

The Tubbs Home owned by Toni and Harry Tubbs. This home is back on the tour this year under new owners. Toni and Harry have brought a formal style into this historic landmark. It was built by the Hyne family in 1914.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be on the tour this year. Patterned after a chapel in England, the cornerstone of the church was laid in 1880.

The First Presbyterian Church will also be on the tour. The original sturcture was dedicated in 1858. The newest addition was added this year.

Old Town Hall on Main Street is listed on the Michigan Historic Site Register and was built in 1879. A display of Brighton memoriabilia will be displayed on the second level of the building.

We are in need of a minimum of 85 guides for the tour. We have two shift, fron 9:45-1:00 and 12:45 - 4:00. If you can offer your time for one of the shifts, please call Cathy Qualls, or Ethel Gebben. If you receive a call asking for help, please say yes if you can. As in the past, several of the guides have come in old fashioned clothing which adds to the atmosphere. However, you do not need to do this.

Old Town Hall Restoration
Committee
Shelagh Davis, chairman

Preservation Week
May 13-19

To date, the following have donated to the Old Town Hall Fund in memory of Zara Graham: Bill and Betty Amrhein, Marion Carney, Alice Clark, Dick and Shelagh Davis, Jim and Karen Dennis, Ellouise Gibson, John and Charlene Gibson, Larry and Sally Gibson, Nancy Hackney, Dorothy Hartman, Lois Kujawa, Peggy Kujawa, Dr. Gerald Pelkey, Corey and Elsie Veno.

The committee is planning on erecting a plaque, to honor Zara and others who have made a significant contribution to the restoration of the Old Town Hall.

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IN MEMORIAM

Sympathies of all in the Society to the family of Irene Conely.

As more of the area's long-time residents leave us, it should waken us to the fact that much of the area's history goes with them. An oral history program should be started, yesterday.

Persons willing to help with an oral history project should contact Marieanna Bair; 227-6402

To underscore the importance historic preservation plays in safeguarding our heritage, the National Trust has chosen "Keeping America's Heritage Alive" as the theme.

The public attention drawn to the unique and lasting elements of our heritage and the importance of historic preservation can help protect those features of a community that make it attractive and livable.

Many in the area are aware of our local heritage and the continual danger of its destruction. This is a good time to work to assure our children know from whence they came.

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Many thanks to the support of all who have paid their 1990 dues. To find if you have paid, check the year on the Trail Tales label. If it is not '90' or more, consider renewing or becoming a member.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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. | () 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 | | |

EDUCATION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA PRE 1900 (cont.)

The teachers in these early one room country schools were often the daughter or son of a farmer in a nearby district or a resident of a village in the area. Quite young (sometimes only 16), most of them had only completed eight grades. These job applicants were examined at an interview with school officials, many of whom had not completed eight grades themselves. Witness the following copy of a teacher's certificate taken verbatim from the district's records: "The undersigned School Inspectors of the Township of Brighton Do Certify that A regular meeting of the Board of School inspectors on the 15 Day of April, Did personally Examen Miss Marrett Hoges (Mariette Hodges) in respect to Moral Charracter, Larning, and Co, And find her well qualified to teach A primery School in the township of Brighton for one year from the date here of, unles the inspectors for the tim Being Shal Sooner Revoke or Cansel this Certificate. Give under our hand And Seel this 15 Day of Aprile, 1844".

A majority of the female teachers married local men and remained in the general area. After marriage it was not considered proper for a woman to continue teaching. Male teachers were often hired for the winter term and to control the male pupils who would occasionally get out of hand and needed physical encouragement to behave. It was reasoned a man was better quipped to keep order when 'big boys', not needed for farm work, attended school. The men were paid about twice the wages paid women teachers. Often teachers 'boarded around' in the homes of farmers in the district, some of which were located more than two miles from the school. Sometimes there was no charge as the teacher would spend a few weeks in each home. Other times room and board and a laundry fee was paid.

The teacher usually had to walk, early in the morning, build the fire, sweep the floor, dust and carry out the ashes. More than once there was no school because the teacher's horse was stuck in the snow. Evenings were spent preparing lessons to teach eight grades the next day. In the early years paper and text books were scarce, so the teacher chalked lessons on the black boards, and pupils wrote answers on slates which were bound with felt to reduce noise.

This method of teaching was not all bad. There was a face to face relationship between teacher and pupil who stood up and recited orally, reading and spelling aloud, using the blackboard for arithmetic problems, diagraming sentences and to practice writing. It is believed that by being in the room where all eight grades were taught the younger pupils were given an opportunity to learn what to expect in the future. By listening and seeing the older ones recite they were challenged to do their best. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair. To be cont.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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