



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
Vol. IX No.12

Brighton, Mi. 48116
December, 1990

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board of Directors

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Officers

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-2191
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Kathy Grove	229-7876
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

Directors

Bill Amrhein	227-7282
Marieanna Bair	229-6402
Mike Cuthbert	229-4550
Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
Audrey Leith	229-6165
Leota Mason	546-4159
Suzanne Sittaro	227-5714
Penny Szczechowski	229-7324
Finance Comm., Mike Cuthbert	229-4550
Lyons School, Herb Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall, Shelagh Davis	229-8494
Editors-Penny Szczechowski	229-7324
Cathy Qualls	229-8656

OFFICERS FOR 1991 CHOSEN

The election of officers for the Brighton Area Historical Society was held at the November annual meeting.

The following are the officers for 1991:

President: Gary McCririe
 Vice-President: Cathy Qualls
 Secretary: Ann Stratigos
 Treasurer: Marge White

Board of Directors

Marieanna Bair
 Mike Cuthbert
 Penny Szczechowski
 Rudy Herrman
 Pauline Chenoweth
 Leota Mason
 Susie Phillips
 Duane Phillips

We want to thank them for volunteering for these duties and wish them well.

We hope that you as a Society member will volunteer and help promote the Society's goals in the coming year.

The following committees need a chairman:

- Publicity
- Programs
- Hospitality

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these committees please let one of the officers or directors know.

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Have a safe and wonderful
Holiday Season!

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Brighton Area Historical Society has taken part in many local fundraisers and events in the past year. Some of these were:

- Folk Art Fair
- Spaghetti Supper
- Fourth of July Parade
- Home Tour
- Lyons School Restoration
- Old Town Hall Restoration
- Bake Sales
- Trash and Treasurers Sale
- Raffles

As a member of the society, please volunteer your time to help these important projects be successful in the coming year. You are important and you can make a difference.

THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...

- ...to Alice Seger for memorabilia related to the area
- ...to First National Bank and Society Bank for their contributions to the printing expenses of Trail Tales in 1990.
- ...Leota Mason for heading the nomination committee
- ...Joe Mike for his interesting talk about his life and our community
- ...the following volunteers who have donated their time to the Society. They will be stepping down from their positions, but will still be active in the society:
Kathy Grove- secretary
Bill Amrhein, Suzanne Sittaro, and Audrey Leith, directors
Tom and Audrey Leith, publicity and program chairmen

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SIGNATURE QUILT

The Signature Quilt is still in the process of completion. Over 100 names have been embroidered on the quilt top by volunteers. This quilt will serve as a unique directory of people who cared about the Society's preservation goals. They send their signature, or that of a family member, with a donation of \$10.00

Some have memorialized ancestors and early settlers with a copy of a signature. These are identified with a small cross.

The quilt will remain in the Society's archives. One does not have to be a member to be included. All donations go to the preservation fund. Send the signature and donation to the society.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dick and Shelagh Davis
chairmen 229-8494

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL AND COUPLE:
Bill and Jacque Armstrong;
Jeanette Bailey, Mr. & Mrs.
John Curry; Elmina Ellis
(Florida); Janice and John
Field; Jack and Ethel
Gebben; Susan Munsell;
Frances D. Potter (Florida);
Hal and Val Potts; Mr. & Mrs.
Robert Schaffer; Florence
Sullivan; Horace and Yvonne
Taylor (1990 & 1991 dues);

PATRONS: Robert W. Clark
(1991 dues);

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ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dec. 8 - McPherson Hospital
Auxiliary Holiday Home
Tour; 11:00 - 7:00;
\$8.00 advanced sale;
(517) 546-1410

Nov. 14-Jan. 27 - Santa Claus
a Tradition; Santa figures
from the Petz Collection will
be on display at the Plymouth
Historical Museum, 155 S. Main
St., Plymouth; 455-8940

Dec. 8,9 - Country Christmas
at the Cobblestone Farm in
Ann Arbor; 2781 Packard Road;
994-2928

Nov. 24-Jan. 27 - Antique Toys
From the Collection of Bob
Lyons; U of M Museum of Art;
525 S. State St. Ann Arbor;
764-0395

Nov. 24-Dec. 31- Ypsilanti
Festival of Lights; 6:00-
10:00 p.m. daily; Riverside
Park, West Cross and Huron;
Ypsilanti; 482-4920

OLD TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Shelagh Davis, chairman
229-8494

The committee has received some very generous donations this past month. Shirley Knight has donated \$500.00 toward the restoration, in memory of her mother, Marie Borst. Marie O'Dell, who donated the \$250.00 cost for Lakelands Country Club, (for the 4th annual Dinner-Dance) has donated that money toward the restoration. The committee is also grateful to Evelyn Stevenson for her donation. We want to thank all of you for your generosity.

Unfortunately, due to lack of ticket sales, the 4th annual dinner-dance was cancelled. We are looking at other fundraisers for next year. One of these will be a booklet, with advertising from local businesses, highlighting the history of Brighton.

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HOME TOUR COMMITTEE

Cathy Qualls, chairman
229-8656

The 1991 Home Tour Committee is looking for volunteers to work on the home tour which will be held in June. The first meeting will be scheduled for January.

Please call Cathy if you are interested in helping.

TILE COMMITTEE

Dick Davis, chairman
229-8494

The 1990 tile of Mellus Hospital is ready for sale at Uber's, Jarvis Men's Wear, and Society Bank. The tiles are \$8.00 each, or any three tiles for \$20.00. A very limited number of the 1985 tile, Pere Marquette Depot, and a very limited number of the 1988 tile, Lyons School, are still available, but almost sold out.

Other tiles still available are: 1986 Union School; 1987 Western House; 1989 Eastern House; and the 1990 Mellus Hospital.

The tiles are produced in a limited edition of 300. Once sold out, they are not reproduced. The first tile, 1984, of the Old Town Hall, has been sold out for a long time.

The committee has generally tried to issue a tile, alternately of an existing building and one that is no longer existing. We are still trying to find pictures of the Opera House/Theater, so please call us if you have any. They will be taken care of!

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		

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA?

Not all settlers in the Brighton area had background in the skills needed to survive in the wilderness. In the process of felling trees and shaping logs, with which a cabin could be built, an ax or an adz swung by a settler inexperienced in that kind of work, occasionally resulted in a broken bone, severed limb or deep flesh wound. If the skin was broken infection often set in and eventually the limb was lost or the patient died of blood poisoning. The bite of a massasauga called for deep cuts into the area of the wound and a tourniquet tightly fastened. The result often was extreme blood loss, damage or loss of the limb to gangrene (resulting from the tourniquet) which usually lead to loss of life also. Sometimes a poultice was applied to 'draw' the poison. In any event such an accident could be a disaster of considerable measure.

A burn was treated with various combinations of oils, waxes, salves and herbs. If healing took place, permanent disfigurement or crippling was usually the result.

If it was felt a doctor's assistance was required or would be valuable to the recovery of the patient, the nearest doctor was summoned. In the western part of the county, Dr. Cyrus Wells told of often traveling 20-30 miles through the forest and around the swamps on horseback to tend a patient. Dr. Pattison, (cited earlier) located in Dibbleville (later known as Fentonville and then Fenton) frequently tended the sick in Highland, White Lake, Grand Blanc, Deerfield and Hartland. A lot of territory to cover on foot or horseback.

Brighton's first physician (and first in the county) Dr. Wilbur Fisher from Ann Arbor, came in 1836. Described as a peculiar character "he was not the possessor of a finished medical education, but having good natural ability and still more tact, he secured an extensive practice, and was on the whole a successful physician", as narrated in the 1880 History of Livingston County. Perhaps the mere presence of a person who seemed to know what he was about, inspired a certain confidence in Dr. Fisher's patients. "His medicines were certainly given in sufficiently large doses to cure, if quantity were the desideratum."

Dr. Ira P. Bingham, (brother of Gov. Kinsley S. Bingham of Green Oak Township) located here as a physician in 1841. He had been here six years before, left and returned.) His practice continued for almost 40 years. A physician and surgeon of considerable skill and reputation, he served as the principal doctor of the village and surrounding country. Dr. Bingham also cared about the political structure of the county; serving as Judge of Probate in 1858, among other positions. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. The writer urges person with knowledge of medical practitioners in the area, since the turn of the century, to contact her. 229-6402)

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