



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. 1 January, 1990

Brighton Area Historical Society  
Board of Directors

\* \* \* \*

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
Chuck Beach	229-9678
Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
Audrey Leith	229-6165
Leota Mason	546-4159
Suzanne Sittaro	227-5714
Penny Szczechowski	229-7324

Finance Comm.,

Lyons School,	Herb Warner	229-6504
Old Town Hall,	Shelagh Davis	229-8494
Penny Szczechowski,	editor	229-7324
Cathy Qualls,	editor	229-8656

People Along the Trail

The election of officers for 1990 was held at the Nov.14 general meeting. We want to congratulate and thank the following people for volunteering their time and effort for the Brighton Area Historical Society.

President - Gary McCririe  
V. President- Cathy Qualls  
Secretary- Kathy Grove  
Treasurer- Marge White

Board of Directors:

Bill Amrhein  
Marieanna Bair  
Chuck Beach  
Rudy Herrmann  
Audrey Leith  
Leota Mason  
Suzanne Sittaro  
Penny Szczechowski

We also want to thank the following people for volunteering to chair the

following committees:

Hospitality- Jack and Ethel Gebben and Floyd and Ial Fuller  
Lyons School- Herb Warner  
Membership- Shelagh and Dick Davis  
Newsletter- Cathy Qualls and Penny Szczechowski  
Old Town Hall- Shelagh Davis  
Program- Audrey Leith  
Publicity- Tom Leith  
Home Tour- Cathy Qualls

We are still in need of a chairman for the following committees:

correspondence, finance,. These are very important positions for the successful running of the society. Please call Gary McCririe and volunteer your help. Committee members are also needed for all committees. A Society's success is based on the help and support of it s members. We hope you will do your part.

Thanks...thanks...thanks

1990 Home Tour

- ...for the support of dozens of people for making the annual Christmas raffle a fine success
- ...to Kay Spangler for making the rail fence quilt and to Somewhere in Time for donating the fabric
- ...Joe Chenoweth for the hand made Pilgrim style doll cradle.
- ...Uber's Drug Store, Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Library, the Salt Box, and Somewhere In Time for having tickets available
- ...Brookside and Brighton Malls for ticket selling space and H. & B. Carpets for storage of chairs, etc.
- ...Citizens Insurance for printing tickets
- ...Tom and Audrey Leith, Alice Newcomb, Mike Cuthbert, Vicki Sprague, Nancy Hackney, Blanch Esper, Bill Amrhein, Jack and Ethel Gebben for helping sell tickets
- ...Station WHMI, Brighton Argus, AnnArbor News and Columbia Cable for publicity
- ...And, of course, the many who bought tickets.  
    The Winners? Dick and Shelagh Davis won the quilt and Margaret Squires won the cradle.
- ...Thanks also goes to the following for their donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration Project:  
    Michigan Order of Questers  
    Douglas and Carol Rearick  
    Nancy Hackney  
    Blanch Esper  
    Dorothy Palarchio
- ...for providing financing for the printing of Trail Tales we thank:  
    Old Kent Bank  
    Singer Press  
    Puritan Machine Co.  
    Trust Corp.
- ...P.D.Q. for printing of labels for Trail Tales

Two meetings have been held for the 1990 Home Tour, to be held on May 12. Four homes have already been selected. The committee needs two more homes. If you know of a home that would be of interest, please contact Cathy Qualls.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 at Cathy's home. All interested people are invited to attend.

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Spaghetti Supper

The annual Spaghetti Supper is scheduled for Friday, February 23. Plans are underway but much help is needed. There is still need of a chairman for this fundraiser. If you are willing to chair or volunteer your time to help organize and work at the dinner, please call Gary McCririe.

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The Society was recently given an original of the Brighton Argus Souvenir Edition of the 1907 Brighton Home Coming. Plans for another in two years are mentioned. Did it take place? Does anyone have any information? We'd appreciate learning more about this event. Please call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

She is also attempting to compile an historical library of the area and needs your help. Newspapers, clippings, pictures, diaries, letters, etc. would be very helpful. Copies of these items will be made and the original returned if desired.



(A SHORT TRIP, cont.) Because of the lights in the windows of Stuhrberg's Eastern House, they knew they were at the corner of Grand River Trail and Main Street. The golden glow shone through the frosty windows. It was tempting to stop, put the horse in the barn and stay the night; but at home lanterns had to be lit, cattle and sheep to be fed and watered, the stove coaxed back to warmth-giving life and to thaw the water which was in the bucket by the sink.

Heading west on Main Street, Jennie needed no guiding; she soon found the barnyard gate and stood, not too patiently, to be relieved of her burden and led to her stall: the manger filled with hay and the grain box with ground feed. Buckets of water were placed at her feet (after the ice had been broken from the water trough).

Tomorrow a path through the snow would have to be cleared, sometimes on the road, sometimes through the fields, following the path of least resistance, to open the way for the post man and the milk wagon to get through - each property owner clearing to the next neighbor. But tonight it was good to snuggle under the down comforter in warm flannel gowns and bed caps to help keep warm. (Marieanna Bair)

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1990 Society Dues

We want to thank those who have paid their 1990 dues. Look at your address label on this issue of Trail Tales. If there is not a 90 after your address, your 1990 dues have not been received as of this newsletter printing. Dues cover all of the Society's administration expenses. All other income goes directly to historic preservation and restoration. Payment of your dues is an indication that you support the Society in it's goals.

We are always looking for new members who are interested in helping us preserve history.

If you have not done so already, please fill in the form below and send it with your check to the Brighton Area Historical Society. We appreciate your support!

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 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1990

January

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		

## A SHORT TRIP IN JANUARY, 1868

Altho' the distance from the young wife's parent's house to their home on the other side of town was only seven miles, the recently married couple knew the ride in the cutter would be slow and cold. The wind, during the day, had driven the remnants of the previous day's snow storm into deep drifts.

Placing the heated soapstones, which had been in the woodstove oven for hours, on the floor of the cutter to give warmth to their feet, the departing visitors climbed into the seat. Covered with quilts and the wind resistant buffalo robe they still knew they'd be thoroughly chilled before too long.

Jennie, the horse, had a blanket placed on her before the harness was laid on her back, and secured in an attempt to keep her warm while struggling through the snow drifts which would be encountered. The bells, fastened to the harness, would alert other drivers to their presence on the road since it would be dark before reaching home. (They also made a sound enjoyable to everyone.)

Clouds, promising more snow, obscured the sun, which had been shining in a blinding manner all day. Any warmth expected from Old Sol soon was like a broken promise - non existent. Drifts were especially deep where cleared fields allowed the wind a long sweep across the open land to drop its burden of snow in the road. In many areas it was easier to leave the trail and go through the farmers' fields around the snow drifts; always stopping to close any gate they'd opened.

Coming into town on the Grand River Trail, the Ore Creek bridge had to be crossed. Jennie never liked the sound her hooves made on the wood planks and often came perilously close to jumping sideways, dropping her freight into the stream. How would she react today? The previous day's snow was packed on the bridge and she never knew the difference, the sound was so muted.

A horse was often given its 'head' when it was dark and usually stayed on the packed path. Occasionally even they would flounder, sliding into a ravine or dropoff beside the road, spilling everyone and everything into the deep snow. More than one horse's leg was broken and more than one case of severe frostbite was endured following such an accident.

The clouds covered any possible light from the moon and stars; it was absolutely dark. The deep snow muffled any hoof sounds. Just after crossing the creek the sound of bells on another sleigh were heard. Both drivers carefully drew to one side, out of the trail which allowed only one sleigh at a time, and with expert maneuvering the sleighs passed each other safely, the occupants shouting greetings. It was suggest a lighted lantern might help avoid collisions in the dark in the future. (Please turn to page 3.)

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