



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. 7 July, 1990

Brighton Area Historical Society
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PEOPLE AND PLACES ALONG THE TRAIL

Fenton has two historical museums which are worth viewing this summer.

The Fenton Museum, 310 South Leroy Street, is administered by the Fenton Historical Society. It is on the National and State Register of Historic Places.

Special interest displays include: furniture and utensils from the 19th and early 20th century kitchen; tools of agriculture and woodworking; samples of clothing from the 1930's back to the 1879's; a Victorian room featuring pictures, furniture, and other items of the era; and changing displays highlighting a theme of current interest.

The museum is open from 1:00-4:00 p.m. each Sunday.

The Pioneer Memorial Association of Fenton and Mundy Townships maintains and operates the Podunk House, 11429 Main Road, just off N. Long Lake Road.

The house is maintained as a pioneer museum. It contains displays pertaining to the pioneer life of the area.

It is open Sundays 2:00-5:00 p.m. June through Labor Day.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 11,12 - Brighton Folk Art Fair
Brighton Area Historical Society
booth at the Old Town Hall

August 18, 19 - Howell Melon Festival
Antique Market

September 11 - General Meeting of the
Brighton Area Historical Society

September 14 - Brighton Area Historical
Society Spaghetti Supper

JUNE MEMBERSHIP

PATRON AND BUSINESS DUES:

Alice Newcomb; Golden Acres Senior
Citizens Retirement Organization

INDIVIDUALS:

Larry and Jean Clark; Don and
Shirley Jenks; Celia Schaffer

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Brighton Area Historical Society
will be participating in the Brighton
Folk Art Fair on August 11 and 12.

The Society will have a booth to sell
cookies and drink; postcards, tiles,
and will have information about the
Society available to the public.

The booth will be set up outside the
Old Town Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help set up,
and work during these two days.

Two tables and a rain tarp are also
needed for these days.

If you are willing to help, please
call Michael Cuthbert, 229-4550;
or Gary McCririe, 229-2191 and let
them know.

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MICHIGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Only 15 people took advantage of the
offer to join the Historical Society of
Michigan at the special discount rate
that was being offered by the Brighton
Historical Society.

The Society wants to thank these people
and hopes that they will enjoy all the
special privileges they will receive
by becoming a member.

By joining the Historical Society of
Michigan you have contributed to the cause
of Michigan's history.

ANN ARBOR AREA PRESERVATION

ALLIANCE

1990 Second Sunday
Old House Clinic Calendar

July 8: Foundations by Russell
Payeur; will review
preventive maintenance of
older foundations including
sealing, drainage, patching,
and repairing.

August 12: Wallpapering by
Rolland Frey, will discuss
selecting reproduction
wallpaper and how to mix
colors and patterns. Cindy
Mallery will share tricks
of the trade in wall
preparation and how to
measure and hang wallpaper.

Tickets: \$4.00. To order:
send check or money order
with a stamped, self-
addressed envelope to:

A3PA
616 Brooks St.
Ann Arbor, Mich.
48103

Include your work or home
phone number.

For more information call
MaryJo Wholihan, 665-2112

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"It's important to study
history for perspective...
so people do not somehow
feel that everything is
happening for the first time."

From the Oregon Historical
Society. Dir. Thomas J.
Vaughan

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The Brighton Historical Society will be organizing a spaghetti supper for this fall instead of in the late winter.

The date has been set for Friday, September 14, from 5:00 until 7:00.

Tom and Audrey Leith, 229-6165, will be organizing this fund raiser for the Society.

It is hoped that a fall spaghetti supper will get more people out to enjoy the event than in the dark, cold days of February.

If you would like to volunteer your time, ideas, or supplies, please contact Tom or Audrey.

By starting early to promote and organize this event, it can become a good fund raiser, as well as a delicious one.

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"A man building his house in England with the expectation of living in it and leaving it to his children; while we shed our houses in America as easily as a snail does his shell."

Harriet B. Stowe, 1853, visiting England.

FALL GENERAL MEETINGS SET

Audrey Leith, the program chairman for the Society has scheduled two exciting programs for the September and November general meetings.

On September 11, Donald Schwark, a school teacher in the South Lyon school district, will be the speaker. His topic will be "The Life and Times of General George Custer". Mr. Schwark has done an in depth study of General Custer.

On November 13, Joe Mike, a local artist, will be the speaker. Mr. Mike will speak on "Our Community", along with how he does his research, how he got started, and steps on how to do a graphic poster. Joe is a long time resident of Brighton and has an art gallery on Brighton Road.

Mark your calendars. The Society looks forward to seeing you at these meetings.

The meetings begin with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 and the meeting beginning at 7:30.

Further information on place for the meeting will be coming.

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

Many historians take the view that one room schools provided the optimum in elementary education. While it is true that children who attended one room schools received the best education their parents could provide, it should be realized that parents with sufficient wealth to be able to afford it, did send their children to academies, business schools, finishing schools, etc.

Sometimes the retrospective eye cannot discern the truth. One account, and there is some validity, suggests that the practice of 'boarding around' (teachers living in students' homes) made all concerned (parents, teachers and students) more aware of each other and promoted cooperation on the part of every one involved. But the statement that all the teachers were dedicated, fair, helpful and caring is suspect. This generalization, as most, must be taken with a grain of salt. A review of old school records proves that some who attended the one room school could not read any better than some who attend classes in this age. The present unacceptably high rate of illiteracy is not new to today's generation. As always, the cooperation of parents, teachers and students is vital to the educational process.

When this writer began this series, a lack of awareness (education ?) caused it to be titled in a very limiting manner. An attempt will be made to rectify this oversight by including the results of research in post 1900 "Education in the Brighton Area."

ERGO: By 1906, within 20 years of its construction, enrollment in the Union School increased to the extent that more space was needed. A few hundred feet to the north, on Rickett Road, a school was built to house the Kindergarten through fourth grades. The basement of the Union School was made into a laboratory and a 12th grade was added.

Continued growth in enrollment at the high school was very likely the result of a state law, enacted early in 1900, which stipulated that outlying school districts, instead of parents, were to pay the high school tuition for graduates from their districts. Students enrolled from surrounding townships, including Hartland and Oceola. Expanding enrollment forced the use of other facilities for several years. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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P.O. Box 481
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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED