EDUCATION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA PRE 1900

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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.

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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 Osceola. Expanding enrollment forced the use of other facilities for several years. (Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

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

ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board of Directors

* * * * *

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
Marianna Bair 229-6402
Michael Curtbert 229-4550
Rudy Herrmann 229-7923
Audrey Leith 229-6165
Leota Mason 546-4159
Suzanne Sittaro 227-5714
Penny Szczeschowski 229-7324

Finance Comm., Mike Curtbert 229-4550
Lyons School, Herb Warner 229-6504
Old Town Hall, Shelagh Davis 229-8494
Editors-Penny Szczeschowski 229-7324
Cathy Qualls 229-8656

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

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.

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.
**JUNE MEMBERSHIP**

**PATRON AND BUSINESS DUES:**
Alice Newcomb; Golden Acres Senior Citizens Retirement Organization  

**INDIVIDUALS:**
Larry and Jean Clark; Don and Shirley Jenkins; Celia Schaeffer  

**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 drinks; 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.

**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 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.

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**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: Wallapering by Roland 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 Mary Jo Wholihan, 665-2112

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**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.

---

**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 potluck 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  

**Dues:**  
$25. Patron  
25. Business/Professional  
8. Couple  
5. Individual
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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.

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