



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. 3

Brighton, Mi. 48116  
March, 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 |

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|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bill Amrhein       | 227-7282 |
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| 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 |
| Editors-Penny Szczechowski   | 229-7324 |
| Cathy Qualls                 | 229-8656 |

General Meeting

The next general meeting will be March 13, 6:30 p.m. in Scranton Middle School Cafeteria. The speaker will be Gene Schutz.

Thanks

To AAA Kitchen Suppliers, Old Kent Bank, Puritan Machine Co., Singer Press and Trustcorp for donating toward printing of Trail Tales.

To K-Mart for providing folders and dividers for board members' use.

1990 MEMBERSHIPS 1990

Patrons: Elizabeth Bindenagel (S.D.), Bob & Betsy Herbst, Fred & Bernice Hyne, Douglas & Carol Rearick, Joan (Pinney) Rice (CA), Elsa Stegenga (AZ), Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen.

Bus/Prof: Advance Craft Builders, Bogan Ins. Agency, Keehn Funeral Home.

Indiv/Couple: Paul & Alene Anderson, Alice Anderson (91), Bert & Marieanna Bair, Eve Bell, Mildred Bender, Lois Bird, Leon & Marilyn Bonner, Susie Braund, Ted & Doris Carmack, Marian Carney, B.T.O. Clark, Lois Clark, Don & Lois Cole, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, John Curry, Burt & Lillian Davis, Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Homer & Evelyn Dothager (IL), Joe & Irene Ellis, Merle & Loretta Farley, David & Terri Fisher, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Mary Griffith, Steve & Kathy Grove, M/M Norman Guest, Mildredn Harrington, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Carol Hills, Kathryn Hodgkin, John & Marilyn Homan (PA), Mildred Jarvis, Genevieve Kampe, Dr. & Mrs. Don Kerr, Bob & Shirley Knight, Ray & Jean Lannign, (FL), Harold & Mary Ann Leitz, Tom Manning, Leota Mason (92), Jere & Kay Michaels, Roland & Jane Owens, Scott Owens, Irene Paquette, Marty & Lee Pawlake, Edna Peach (91), Judith Peck, Doris Petersen, John & Dorothy Pennala, Jerry & Judy Porman, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Doris Prieskorn, Andy & Lila Robertson, Sherrel Rutter, M/M Tim Ryan, Fred Schiller, Dan & Emma Schmidt, Bud & Janet Schopp, Gene & Dorothy Schutz, Alice Seger, Lovisa Seger, Jim & Penny Szczechowski, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, J.M. & Vicki Vichick, Bob & Ruth Watson, Anna Westin, Alice Wilson, Pat & Marge White.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1989 ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

|  |                   |                 |                 |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 1989                            | TOTAL NET WORTH   |                 | \$37450.75      |
| RECEIPTS                                   |                   |                 |                 |
| General Fund                               |                   |                 |                 |
| Dues                                       | \$2176.00         |                 |                 |
| Newsletter Printing donations              | <u>1185.00</u>    | \$3361.00       |                 |
| Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund |                   |                 |                 |
| Finance Committee Projects                 |                   |                 |                 |
| Bake Sales                                 | \$ 257.50         |                 |                 |
| Home Tour                                  | 2622.00           |                 |                 |
| Post Cards                                 | 321.00            |                 |                 |
| Raffles                                    | 420.00            |                 |                 |
| Sales                                      | 1210.37           |                 |                 |
| Signature Quilt                            | 120.00            |                 |                 |
| Spaghetti Dinner                           | 464.00            |                 |                 |
| Stationery                                 | 2.50              |                 |                 |
| Tiles                                      | <u>835.24</u>     | 6252.61         |                 |
| Lyons School Committee                     |                   | 1101.00         |                 |
| Old Town Hall Committee                    |                   | 7990.89         |                 |
| Memorials and Undesignated Don.            |                   | 148.00          |                 |
| Bank Accounts Interest                     | <u>2853.51</u>    | <u>18346.01</u> | <u>21707.01</u> |
|  |                   |                 | \$59157.76      |
| DISBURSEMENTS                              |                   |                 |                 |
| General Fund                               |                   |                 |                 |
| Administration                             | 1314.54           |                 |                 |
| Officer/Chairmen                           | 137.71            |                 |                 |
| Newsletter                                 | 2026.60           |                 |                 |
| Miscellaneous                              | <u>270.05</u>     | 3748.90         |                 |
| Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund |                   |                 |                 |
| Finance Committee Projects                 |                   |                 |                 |
| Home Tour                                  | 213.66            |                 |                 |
| Sales                                      | 157.92            |                 |                 |
| Spaghetti Dinner                           | 29.87             |                 |                 |
| Tiles                                      | <u>1163.40</u>    | 1564.85         |                 |
| Lyons School Committee                     |                   | 2882.44         |                 |
| Old Town Hall Committee                    |                   | 5433.47         |                 |
| Miscellaneous                              | <u>84.50</u>      | <u>9965.26</u>  | <u>13714.16</u> |
| December 31, 1989                          | TOTAL NET WORTH   |                 | \$45443.60      |
| "  | Saving Acct. Bal. | \$36839.41      |                 |
| "  | Chking " "        | <u>8604.19</u>  | \$45443.60      |

Cluster Meeting

On April 2, 1990, the Brighton Area Historical Society will be hosting a collective meeting of the area historical societies. This meeting will be held at St. Paul's Church in Brighton. There will be a guided tour of the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Following the tour, there will be a program in the fellowship hall. Sam Breck of Peaker Services will speak briefly about the development of railroads in our area. The rest of the evening will be spent exchanging ideas and hearing what the other societies are doing. All society members are welcome to attend. It offers to be a very informative and interesting evening.

Home Tour

The good news is- we have all six houses scheduled for the home tour, to be held on May 12, from 10:00 until 4:00. The histories are currently being written on each of the houses and the ticket should be ready to go to print by the end of March.

Now we need your help. We will need many volunteers to help at each house on the day of the tour. If you have helped in the past you know how much fun it is. If you can volunteer to be a guide, please call Shirley Sharp, 227-1890.

Old Town Hall  
chairman-Shelagh Davis  
229-8494

Gary McCririe is in touch with the carillon company, and the committee hopes to have the carillon system installed in the early Spring.

We have again signed with DJ Kurt Lewis, to provide the music for the fourth annual Dinner-Dance, at Lakelands Country Club, on October 27. The committee is looking for that one great door prize to be given away to some lucky person attending the dinner. If you have any suggestions, or would like to contribute to the Dinner-Dance, either with a door prize, or toward the cost of renting the room at Lakelands (\$250) please get in touch with me, or any member of the committee. In addition to our newest member, Hal Potts, the committee members are Jack and Bonnie Bean, 229-2757; Gary Cole, 227-5152; Dick and Shelagh Davis, 229-8494; Gary McCririe, 227-9370; and Hal and Val Potts, 227-1261. Dick and Katie Chrysler are the honorary co-chairmen of this committee.

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Many thanks for the response to last month's request to bring memberships up to date (or pay dues). Please bear with us if changes have not been made yet.

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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
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, Mi. 48116

History Notes

Many thanks to those who contacted Marieanna Bair with more information regarding the history notes found each month on page 4. The limited historic resources at her disposal are a deterrent to the accuracy of her research. It is hoped those who can help will continue to provide more information. Eventually, perhaps, a more accurate picture of the area's history will be the result.

In Memorium

Zara Gibson Graham  
Sympathy is extended not only to Ken and her family, but to the entire community.

A past president of the Society, Zara was deeply involved in the goals of the Society and especially in the Old Town Hall Restoration Project. Memorials to Zara may be made to that project in her name.

A correction to the February "In Memory" article. Marguerite Wenzel should not have been included. Our apologies.

## EDUCATION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA PRE 1900

Completion of the Erie Canal in the mid 1820s provided a cheap and safe water route to Michigan Territory for the eager settlers from the East. By the early 1830s this emigration became a steady stream.

Upon arrival in this area, after their arduous land passage west from Detroit, it is likely a tent on dry ground or a temporary lean-to in the roots of a fallen tree served as shelter until trees were felled for a log cabin. With no handy local lumber yard or hardware store, a blanket served as a door and oiled paper or greased buckskin was put into window openings. A stick chimney lined with wet mud served as the fireplace. Furniture consisted of chests brought on the wagon, rope or strings of raw hide supported a mattress tick stuffed with leaves, split logs served as seats and tables. The childrens' sleeping quarters were in the loft. It was not uncommon to find snow on the quilts and water frozen in the bucket by morning until the fireplace was revived. It can be cold getting dressed under those conditions in the winter.

Settlers in the several townships in this area were painfully aware of the fact that besides leaving friends, adequate lodging and food in their move they had also left any means of formal education for their children. After 'sticking it out' to provide shelter and sustenance for their families, these pioneers turned their attention to the children's instruction. A large portion of these pioneers were from New York and the New England states. They had strong opinions on the need and value of an education.

Altho' a half mile and more separated these families, several would get together and hold a 'bee' and by the end of the day a log school was standing on land donated by one of the neighbors. Clay, marl, sand and water was mixed to chink the spaces between the logs and to construct a field stone fireplace at one end of the building; two outhouses were placed at the back of the lot. Families sending children to school took turns supplying fire wood. Water, brought by one of the children, in a tin bucket with a long handled dipper, served as the drinking water supply. In the very early schools the teacher might have a small bell at her desk. Later construction included a bell in the belfrey. With 3-12 children in a family of an age to attend school it didn't take too many families to fill the log structure. A teacher was hired and provisions made for crude benches (split logs with pegs pounded into bored holes), desks, chalk and slates to take the place of unobtainable paper, and perhaps, a black board or some means for the teacher to display the lessons. Books, usually brought from home or donated by neighbors constituted the library. Maps on a rack on the wall rolled up and down like window shades. Much later an occasional piano or organ found its way into the school. Children and grandchildren of these early pupils often attended the same country school. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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