



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. 5

Brighton, Mi. 48116
May, 1990

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board of Directors

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General Meeting

The next general meeting of the Historical Society will be Tuesday, May 8, at Scranton Middle School. A potluck at 6:30 will be followed by the meeting at 7:30. Chuck Bidwell, a native Brighton man will talk about the history of the fire department. It should be a very enjoyable time.

Make your plans to be there.

If you would like to go but are unable to drive yourself, please call Gary McCririe, 229-2191 and plans will be made to pick you up.

People and Places Along the Trail

Green Oak Township Historical Society maintains and operates "The Gage House" as a museum, library, and headquarters.

This state-owned farmhouse has a wonderful collection of artifacts which show life in early Green Oak history.

It also houses the Society's manuscript collections and resource library which is available to individuals who are conducting research.

The museum is open from May 31 to Labor Day on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. It is located at 6440 Kensington Road between Grand River and Silver Lake Road.

It would make a wonderful weekend adventure for those looking back at history in our area.

We will be talking about other museums and historical attractions worth visiting in future Trail Tales.

Thanks...thanks...thanks

to Colton Park for the donation to the Society of a copy of "A History of the Baetcke Family." The Society is developing a library of articles and books relating to the history of the area. Only with the help of others can it become complete.

to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for allowing the use of the church for touring and the use of the fellowship hall for the meeting April 2, of historical societies of the area. Also to Margaret Squire and Eve Bell for serving as tour guides and Ethel and Jack Gebben for handling refreshments. Sam Breck's talk on the "Development of Railroads in the Area" was very well received, as was the message brought by Tom Jones, Ex. Dir., Historical Society of Mich. This was one of the best attended gatherings of this group.

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Ann Arbor Area Preservation Alliance

1990 Second Sunday Old House Clinic
Calendar:

May 13 - Decorative Paving by Peter Pollack; landscape architect and environmental consultant.

June 10 - Brick Restoration by David Houck; master mason doing restoration work.

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

A3PA, 616 Brooks St., Ann Arbor,
48103

Help...help...help...is needed:

We need volunteers to serve on the Society's finance committee. Please call Mike Cuthbert, 229-4550 if you can donate some time.

The Society is seeking someone who can do calligraphy, who is willing to do printing for signs and posters for the Society.

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News Briefs from the Society

- * The replica bell for the Bell Tower in the Old Town Hall will be purchased with funds from the Zara Graham memorial fund.
- * Beginning in May, the Finance Committee will meet every other month in the media center at Scranton Middle School. The meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of the month and will begin at 7:00. May 17 is the first meeting. Everyone who is interested is welcome to attend.
- * The Home Tour Committee is wrapping up the necessary items for the May 12 home tour in Brighton. Have you volunteered your time to act as a guide? We need more people who are willing to help. If you can not be a guide, please support this important fund raiser by buying a ticket and enjoying the activities that day.

Historical Society of Michigan Membership Information

Join the Historical Society of Michigan at a 25% discount and at the same time help raise funds for the Brighton Area Historical Society.

By becoming a member of the Historical Society of Michigan, you will receive their quarterly magazine, Chronicle, the bi-monthly HSM Newsletter, the semi-annual journal Michigan Historical Review and the annual Burton Memorial Lecture. There are also discounts on books. New members will also receive a portfolio of lighthouse sketches by Michigan artist Leo Kuschel.

By becoming a member of the Historical Society of Michigan, you will be helping the Society in its efforts to promote the cause of state and local history. You will also be supporting such programs as the new Center for the Teaching of Michigan History at the Society's soon-to-be-restored Tuomy House in Ann Arbor.

Send your check for \$15 plus the coupon in the enclosed letter to the Brighton Area Historical Society. Deadline for this opportunity is June 20. The Brighton Area Historical Society will receive \$5.00 for each new membership received. Funds raised from these memberships will go to the Brighton Area Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund for local restoration projects.

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In this era of transient as well as fragile families, it is important that people - particularly young people - have a sense of place and where they fit into their community, their state, their country and their world.

Please send changes of address to the Society. Mail, such as Trail Tales, is sent under a bulk mailing permit and is not forwarded. Instead, the Society is charged 25¢.

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:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with spec. events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Pub., etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 (cont.)

Lest we believe that school in that distant day was all 'nose to the grindstone', we should be aware that during recess times the pupils found many ways to amuse themselves. Games such as Anti-I-Over, Pom-Pom Pull Away, Fox and Geese, Hide and Seek, Drop the Handkerchief, Winkum, Crack the Whip, Statue, Fruit Basket, etc., provided physical exercise in both good weather and bad. The really good teachers, then as now, included activities which kept school from being monotonous. Christmas trees and programs (asking the biggest, toughest boy to play Santa), spring picnics, spelling and deciphering contests, memorization, oral recitation, etc., were all in a caring teacher's bag of tricks.

Perhaps the fact there was more visiting of friends and relatives at which times religious, political, social, and local problems were emphatically debated with the children listening, that a more rounded education was achieved (than might be expected) with the exception perhaps, of math and science. Music, singing and drama groups organized. Farmers' clubs, Sunday School, family reunions, Memorial Day speakers, etc., all combined to broaden the outlook of the one room school pupil of the day.

The Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road, is one of the first rural schools in the area. The primitive log school was built on part of the original tract of land sold by President Andrew Jackson to Richard Lyons of New York City in 1835. In 1842, Lyons and wife, Martha, donated the site to the school officers of District 8, as a site for a school house for the use of the district, so long as it was used for that purpose. School records indicate construction took place that year. The log building was used as a school and a church until 1885, when the present frame building was constructed.

In the last quarter of the 19th century most farmers began to realize there would not be enough land for all the children to be farmers. They needed to learn other ways to make a living. But it must not be assumed that all parents felt the same compunction as to the necessity of an education. There was the occasional parent who needed the child at home to help with farm work: spring planting, fall harvesting, food preservation, wood cutting, etc. (This practice, in varying degrees, continued well into the 20th century.) The value of knowing how to read, write and cipher; the value of knowledge of a world beyond the surrounding corn and potato fields was not always realized. Of the fortunate children, many continued their education to become successful in political, professional and commercial endeavors. A test, given upon the conclusion of the eight grades, often enabled the student to pass university entrance exams. It cannot be denied that many who received their education in a one room school were well prepared; but one must assume there was an unacceptable rate of illiteracy also. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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