



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. XI No.10 October, 1990

Brighton Area Historical Society
 Board of Directors

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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 |
| Mike Cuthbert | 229-4550 |
| Rudy Herrmann | 229-7923 |
| Audrey Leith | 229-6165 |
| Leota Mason | 546-4159 |
| Suzanne Sittaro | 227-5714 |
| Penny Szczechowski | 229-7324 |

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

NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

November 13

The Brighton Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at 7:30 at Scranton Middle School.

A potluck will be held at 6:30. Come and enjoy the company and good food before the meeting. Bring a dish to pass.

Election of Officers will take place at this meeting. Leota Mason has been chosen to head the nominating committee. A slate will be presented by her at this meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor also.

The Society hopes that you will be present to cast your vote and show your support for the new officers and board who will guide the Society in the coming year.

There will also be an excellent program after the election of officers. Joe Mike, a local artist, will speak on "Our Community".

We look forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend.

The public is welcome.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL
 DINNER DANCE

There is still time to buy your tickets for the fourth annual Dinner-Dance, October 27, at Lakelands Country Club.

The Old Town Hall Restoration Committee, which is organizing this event needs your reservation and money by October 15. Tickets are available at Uber's Drug Store and Help-U-Sell Real Estate, in Brighton.

Call Dick or Shelagh Davis, 229-8494, for more information.

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP

PATRON AND BUSINESS DUES:

Dr. Gerald Pelkey

INDIVIDUAL DUES:

Bill and Jacque Armstrong;
Mr. & Mrs. Whitney Kinble;
Wally and Merilyn Jollitz

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ANN ARBOR AREA PRESERVATION

ALLIANCE

1990 Second Sunday
Old House Clinic Calendar

October 14: Furnaces by Richard Cromm, will present the history of heating systems found in older homes. He will explain what homeowners should and should not do, and the importance of using licensed contractors.

November 11: Home Inspections by Clint Driver, will discuss important system and structural issues to be aware of whether you are considering buying an older home or fixing up the one you have.

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

A3PA
616 Brooks St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan
48103

Include your work or home phone number.

Call Mary Jo Wholihan 665-2112 for more information.

THE OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

The Livingston County Historical Society has planned a series of three lectures for the Old House owner. This series is designed to help area residents to preserve and maintain their old houses and to develop an appreciation of other historic structures in the area.

The lectures will be at 7:30 and will be held in room L-8 at the Howell High School. Tickets are \$3.00. They are available at the door or through the Howell Community Education Office.

Participants should feel free to bring in slides or pictures for discussion to all sessions.

OCTOBER 2: What Style is My House?; Robert Schweitzer will discuss and identify a variety of styles of homes. He is an architectural historian from U of M and E.M.U.'s Historic Preservation Program.

NOVEMBER 6: Researching Your Home; Judy Burns will show you how to trace the history of your home, when it was built and who lived there. This is accomplished through Courthouse Records, Library Archives and other public records. Judy is a local historian.

NOVEMBER 27: Victorian Christmas; Susan Cooper Finney will present a program on the Victorian Christmas and its holiday decorations for the home. An avid collector, her talk will feature the Victorian Christmas tree and its ornaments. Susan is the exhibit designer and graphic artist at the Michigan Historical Museum.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP

THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS

PATRON: Harold and Esther Jarvis
(1990,91)

INDIVIDUAL:

Clayton Epley, (Fowlerville),
Eleanor Hornung (Howell),
Whitney R. and June Kimble,
David and Jill Kimble (Harbor
Springs); Gary and Sara McCririe,
Janet Rohrabacher (1990, 91),
Robert and Pauline Schaffer,
Helen May Wilkinson, Bill and
Charmaine Zink

...to the volunteers who put their
time and effort into making the
Society booth at the Brighton
Folk Art Fair a success.

...to all the people who dedicated
time, effort, and supplies to the
Society Spaghetti supper. It was
a success thanks to you.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

in our area for this month

The Society wants to thank
all those who have paid their
dues this year.

As this year draws to an end,
you can pay your 1991 dues
if you desire.

Check the number on your
address label. If it says
90, then you have paid your
1990 dues.

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Oct. 5-7, 12-14 - Flint Harvest
Jubilee, Crossroads Village
(313) 736-7100

Oct. 7, 12-14, 21-28 - Grand Ledge,
Museum exhibit, "Excursions
Along the Grand", (517) 627-5170

Oct. 12-14- Grand Ledge Color Cruise
and Island Festival, \$1.00
(517) 627-2383

Oct. 14- Waterloo Recreation
Area: Pioneer Day at
Waterloo Area Farm Museum,
\$2.00,
(313) 851-5247

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

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IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA?

"Run and get Aunt Betsy, Elmer! It's time!" Elmer, 10, knew his mother was expecting another child. His father had gone to Ann Arbor the day before with a wagon of grain to be sold at the mill. He would bring back flour, sugar and other essential items the family needed. It was not anticipated his mother would deliver the baby before his father would return.

The midwife was not his aunt; everyone called her Aunt Betsy. Not a possessor of any special training in medicine, she had gained experience going with her mother on many other medical emergencies when she was younger and was often called upon to serve as midwife. She was also capable of setting bones, reducing fevers (of which there were many in this swampy part of Michigan), and closing and treating wounds.

The family had settled in Livingston County, Michigan Territory, only two years before. The log home had been made quite weatherproof and the fireplace served to cook food and furnish warmth. A small garden supplied produce during the summer and potatoes, onions and carrots for the winter. (Maybe this winter they wouldn't have to eat acorns again.) The cow, chickens and pigs allowed them to put eggs, meat and milk on the table.

As Elmer hurried along the faint path through the woods and fields he imagined an Indian was following. That shadow ahead must surely have been a bear or wolf. With his father gone he knew his mother depended on him so he conquered his fear and ran faster. When Aunt Betsy saw him coming she knew what had to be done. Gathering her supplies she gave Elmer an apple (a treat since they had no apple trees yet) and the two hastened back to the cabin. He had heard Pa tell Aunt Betsy that when they next butchered he'd be sure she was paid with some meat. How Elmer wished there was a doctor nearby as in the eastern New York town from which they had come.

"For several years after the first settlers entered Livingston County there was no physician located in all its territory." Franklin Ellis, the writer of The 1880 History of Livingston County, goes on to say that settlers living in the southern part of the county depended on doctors of Washtenaw County. Those in the north called on Dr. F. Curtis who had settled in Rochester in 1832. Shortly after he moved to Kensington, at the east Livingston County line. Patients came all the way from Livingston Centre (Howell) when they needed the services of Dr. Curtis, about 1835. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. The writer hopes that persons with knowledge of medical practitioners in the area, since the turn of the century, will contact her. 229-6402)

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