



P.O. Box 481
Vol. XI No. 8

Brighton, MI 48116
August, 1992

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Anne Stratigos	229-5689
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Ricci Bandkau - Oral History	227-7664
Dave Barton - Historic Resource	229-5213
Michael Cuthbert - Art Fair	229-6728
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Doris Petersen - Oral History	960-1723
Penny Szczechowski - Editor	229-7324
—————	
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Herb Warner - Lyons School	229-6504

EDITORIAL

The Society is a successful organization because of the dedication of the people involved. People who care.

The Board can count on members to take a certain responsibility each year. People such as: Dick & Shelagh Davis who annually recommend a local scene for the tile series and see to its preparation; Nancy Fredenburg, Membership Chairperson; Ethel Gebben who sees Trail Tales into the mail as quickly as possible; Tom & Audrey Leith who are willing to organize the annual Spaghetti Supper; John Linahan who delivers extra copies of the newsletter to local businesses; Jane Tomlinson who has chaired a successful bake sale for many years and oversees the sale of tiles; Herb Warner who keeps the Lyons School Restoration Project on the ball; etc., etc.

None of these jobs takes a great deal of time; but with these kinds of help, Board members can keep research, restoration and preservation uppermost in their priorities.

Of course these people do not do it all by themselves. Only with the cooperation of members are they successful. With lots of helping hands no one needs to feel overwhelmed. Involvement in the Society should be fun. It's exciting to join in achieving the Society's goals and continuing as a viable organization. (M. Bair, Guest Ed.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Aug. 8 & 9: Art Fair in Brighton.
- Aug. 13, 7p.m.: Board meeting, Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Welcome.
- Aug. 14-16: Milford Memories, Milford.
- Aug. 15, 9-11a.m. Archives Committee: Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- Sept. 10, 7p.m. Board meeting, Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Welcome.
- Sept. 11, 5-7p.m.: Spaghetti Supper, Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. Bring a friend.
- October 16-18: 118th Annual Meeting Historical Society of Mich. and State History Conference, Petoskey. Write Hist. Soc. Mi., 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.
- Sept. 15: General Meeting. 6:30 pot luck, 7:30 meeting & program. Bill Christian & Gary Pritchard have researched Civil War soldiers of the 17th MI Inf. Co. E (local men) and developed a slide presentation of their activities. Public welcome.



MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Indiv: Don & Ricci Bandkau(93), Bob & Marie Carr, Dale & Doris Clixby (93), Mike Cuthbert, Elnora Knaus (IND), Gary & Sara McCririe, Dorothy Musch (93), Alice Newcomb (93), Mike & Cathy Qualls, Florence Sullivan, Jim & Penny Szczechowski Don & Alice Wyland.

The continuing support, demonstrated by membership renewals, is very gratifying to Board and Committee Chairmen. All are doing their best to justify the confidence shown. If the label on this issue doesn't note 92 or 93 please consider renewing or becoming a member.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

to:

Ore Mill Creek Ovester chapter for the cash donation recently made to the Society's Preservation Fund.

Jane Tomlinson for chairing the bake sale.

Brighton Fire Department for use of the hall for the Spaghetti Supper Sept. 11.

Craig heath of Brighton Bar & Grill for framed photos of the area.

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Whalen of Frankenmuth for pictures of older relatives, early minutes of Oak Grove School Board and the communion table from Kensington Baptist Church.

Kay Spangler for transferring signatures to the Signature Quilt and Nancy Hackney for her embroidery work.

HISTORIC RESOURCE

Dave Barton has been researching the population of Livingston County from 1860 to 1990.

The 1860 census of Livingston County showed that Putnam Twp. had the largest population in the county: twelve hundred and fifteen people. The smallest population was in Marian Twp.: six hundred and eighty-two people.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to the press of business, Gary Mc Cririe, Society president for the past 2½ years, has found it necessary to resign his position. All who have worked with Gary extend their sincere gratitude for his dedication. Gary will continue on the Board of Directors/Old Town Hall Committee. The Board appointed Marieanna Bair, charter member, to fill in as president for the rest of the year.

Resource Committee Chairman, Mike Cuthbert, will be in charge of the Art Fair booth again this year but finds he is unable to continue as committee chairman. Mike will remain on the board. Thanks for your help Mike. His resignation leaves an opening for the chairmanship.

Persons wishing to be a part of the Board should please get in touch with any of those listed on page 1.

LYONS SCHOOL: Work is progressing on putting in the new rest room facilities. This includes locating the septic tank and trenching. Glass will be replaced in windows and research into some sort of protective covering. A new coat of paint is planned.

PRESERVATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Recent additions to the Archives are a reprint of the Howell Bicentennial History Book, the 1850 Census of Livingston County and the Honor Roll of Livingston County 1917-19. If you wish to review these books, come to the Old Town Hall at the Committee's next meeting, Saturday, August 15, 9-11 a.m. If you want to help organize the archives, join us. Pictures, books, or other material related to the area can be given to the Society.

ORAL HISTORY: A dictaphone machine is needed for the transcribing of tapes.

A tape is currently being transcribed from an interview with Al Dunk, a long time resident who farmed out on Pleasant Valley.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Art Fair: Visit the Society booth, August & 9. Memberships, Society brochures, Michigan History magazines, tiles, cookies, drinks, post cards of early local scenes, Society note paper and cards will be available. The Signature quilt will be there.

Signature Quilt: Three more signatures will soon be added: William J. Cuthbert by his son, Mike; Michael A. Barton by his dad, Dave, who also paid for that of Carmen E. Wilson. Carmen, a descendent of the Bartaw Case family and a one-time employee of Brighton State Bank (Old Kent), willed \$1000 to the Society at the time

of her death. We have other signatures of people who lived in the area a long time ago which need to be included on the quilt. Your \$10. donation will do it.

Spaghetti Supper: September 11, 5-7 p.m., at the Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. Chaired by reliable Tom & Audrey Leith with assistance from Marian Carney. Mark your calendar for a fun evening.

Home Tour - in 1993??? A chairman and co chairman are needed. Suggested procedures have been prepared. Contact a board member if you'd like to help with this project or if you'd like to have your home considered.

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board Meeting July 9, 1992
Beginning Balance

40817.56

June 1992

RECEIPTS

General Fund

Dues	1@ 25.00- 25.00		
	3@ 12.00- 36.00		
	1@ 7.00- 7.00		
	2@ 5.00- 10.00		78.00

Historic Pres. & Restor. Fund

Donation Ore Creek Mill	15.00	15.00	
-------------------------	-------	-------	--

Interest

Savings-5/25/92	39.79		
Checking 5/31/92	4.11		
Kemper 5/22/92	69.75	113.65	128.65

206.65

41024.21

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund

Adminis.

envelopes		58.37	
Newsletter print.	145.00		
Postage	51.03	196.03	
Publicity & Postage		17.40	271.80

Hist. Rest. & Pres. Fund

Lyons School Electric	11.36	11.36	
-----------------------	-------	-------	--

Archives

Postage	12.20		
Bicentennial Book	46.00	58.20	69.56

341.36

Total Net Worth Marge White Treasurer 40682.85

Brighton Picture Book???

Many requests have been received for an accurate picture book of the area's history. Experienced and want to help? (No experience but want to help?) Contact a board member.

Remember the Society in your wills/ trusts/ memorials/honorariums.

The Society is looking for sponsors to help with the cost of printing the newsletter.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NEW () RENEWAL ()

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| () Bake Sale | () Help with Spec. events | () Newsletter | () Research |
| () Board Member | () Hospitality | () Oral History | () Restoration |
| () Fund Raising | () Programs | () Photography | () Video Taping |
| () Genealogy | () Membership Committee | () Publicity | () Other |

work I would be willing to do: _____

- DUES: \$25. Patron
 \$25. Business/Professional
 \$12. Couple
 \$ 7. Individual

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

BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

The "Free Banking" law, passed by the Michigan legislature January, 1837, was an attempt to speed the state's economic development which was based on agriculture. To encourage local manufacturing businesses and improve transportation, which could be financed by local bank credit, general incorporation statutes regulating commercial ventures were enacted, including banking corporations.

Banking was "Free" in that the bank charter requirement of 2/3 vote of the Legislature was largely ignored; only 30% of its stock was necessary in "Good and sufficient security" to protect its bank notes; and county clerks and treasurers (who had a vested interest in the development of their county) were influential in the approval process.

"Free" banks, for short term investment projects, were successful in normal times. However, hard times caused bank investors and customers to request specie and the banks would be forced to sell land (the principal collateral) and other capital, at a loss. This often resulted in bank failures.

By June, 1837, the "Panic of 1837" was underway and the Legislature ruled that a bank did not have to pay in specie. Thanks to the "Wild Cat" banking laws of the state at the time, banks were started on a shoestring throughout the populated areas of Michigan. Since it would be another 11 months (May, 1838) before the general banking law governing the issuance of bank notes would go into effect, "Wild Cat" banks proliferated in the interlude. Of the 46 in the state the Bank of Kensington was as wild as any of them. (The bank note pictured below is from a private, local collection. By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



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

ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED