



P.O. Box 481  
Vol. XI No. 12

Brighton, MI 48116  
December, 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.	Ricci Bandkau	227-7664
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Dave Barton - Hist. Resource	229-5213
Ron Morey	227-7281
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Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mrg.	227-5375
John Linahan - Pers. Deliv.	229-8777
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Herb Warner - Lyons School	229-6504
Anne Stratigos - Oral History	229-569

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 10, 7 p.m.: Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

Dec. 12, 9-11 a.m.: Archives committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.: Rededication of Civil War veteran's grave marker, Village Cemetery, by Civil War reenactment group.

Dec. 12, 7 p.m. NOEL NIGHT, 1st Presb. Church, 300 E. Grand River. Sponsored by Brighton Area District Library Board. Welcome.

1993

Jan. 9, 9 a.m. Board Workshop at Marieanna Bair's, 11700 E. Grand River. Welcome.

Jan. 14, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

SOCIETY SUPPORTS IMPROVED LIBRARY

A Special Election will be held January 26, 1993, to provide quality library services for everyone in the Brighton area.

Created by the P.T.A. in 1927, and wholeheartedly sustained by the community, even during the depths of the Depression, the library continues to provide a vital function.

To offer more than the basic level of services the Brighton Area District Library Board recognizes that the present 3300 sq. ft. is insufficient to serve current and future library patrons. A 25,000 sq. ft. facility is planned which will be better able to serve area residents.

The Citizens Committee will sponsor NOEL NIGHT, a holiday event for the entire family and a fund raiser for the library, Saturday December 12, 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River.

The Historical Society Board has voted its financial and enthusiastic support to the Brighton Area District Library and encourages its readers to maintain the 65 year record of the library by voting in the special election.

MICHIGAN ONE ROOM SCHOOL SURVEY

The Society is not alone in its interest in the preservation of one room schools. The Historical Society of Michigan is planning the first-ever statewide conference on one room schoolhouses for Friday, May 14, 1993, at Eastern Michigan University. For the past year a statewide survey of one room schools has been underway. Over 500 have been located. For more information about the conference and the survey contact Jennifer Tucker, Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, 48104 313/769-1828.

Patron: Dr Harry & Carol Davis, Betty & Russ Gottschalk, Dr. Gerald Pelkey, Anne Stratigos.

Couple/Indiv.: Marian Carney, Carol G. King (TX), Margaret Muir, Bill & Barbara McCrrie (92), Irene Pacquette, John & Dorothy Penala, Larry & Rita Schillinger, Judy Brady Wirth (Ypsilanti).

Many thanks for the confidence shown by the renewals and welcome to new members. There is still time to remit 92 dues and be included on the 92 tally. 1993 memberships are most welcome.

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

TO: Jane Tomlinson and Jarvis' Men's Store for their fine service selling Society tiles since their beginning.

Shelagh and Dick Davis for chairing the tile committee.

Art Fair Helpers for setting up, taking down and working for several hours each day. And to Mike Cuthbert who chaired another successful event. Also to McDonald's for use of the igloo for juice and to Jane Tomlinson and Bonnie Corrigan for donation of cookies. Jane has also been chairing the Society bake sales.

Spaghetti Supper committee chairmen Tom and Audrey Leith and Marian Carney. This annual event was a success because of their efforts and the many members of the Society who helped. Of course the fine attendance was a major factor.

#### BOARD WORKSHOP

Nine board members gave of their valuable time to attend the workshop held November 7. Thanks to Alice Krupa who hosted and served an 8 a.m. breakfast.

Discussion centered on how to best achieve the purposes of the Society:

1. promote recognition of the Society as a valuable asset to the quality of life in the area; promote membership growth, and involvement.
2. reviewed preservation and restoration projects.
3. considered new projects - local history book, promote historic district commissions in the area, registration of local historic sites and placement of markers, cooperation with the local schools relating to holding classes at Lyons School.

Another workshop, to plan for 1993, is scheduled for January 9, 1993. Your suggestions are welcomed by any board member.

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

Lyons School: November 7, a crew of 10 met at the school, 11455 Buno Road. Thanks to Mickey Stanley for the use of a large dump truck and to Bert Bair for use of his pickup, a general cleaning was completed.

The bell tower is completed and, if the weather cooperates, arrangements have been made to install it this fall. Next spring a water and sewer connection will be completed and heat will be installed.

Old Town Hall: Have you noticed the authentic balcony and window upstairs that have been installed? The Society is very pleased to cooperate with Brighton City in the restoration of this building which has figured so prominently in the area's past.

Archives Committee: Meet December 12, 9-11 a.m., upstairs, Old Town Hall. Helpers are welcome. Due to lack of storage space the Archives Policy must limit donations to pictures, letters, books, maps, paper items, etc.

Oral History: Michigan Oral History Council will begin a year long series of roundtable discussions, 10-noon, which will be of interest to those who wish to conduct oral history interviews. Scheduled for Saturdays every two months Geneva Wiskemann and Glen Ruggles will conduct these discussions. Please contact Jackie Frank, 313/475-7396 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 for more information.

Historic Resource Survey: Dave Barton's research has detected a steep decline in population in Livingston County, 1880-1920. He wants to find the reason and hopes our readers will have diaries which will, perhaps, provide an answer. Contact him, 229-5213. Alice Krupa will be working on this survey with Dave.

#### MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS CENSUS

This statewide survey is an ongoing project on a long neglected portion of our state's cultural heritage. Preliminary Survey Forms are available for those who wish to record the locations of windows in their areas. Contact Betty MacDowell, Dir Michigan Stained Glass Census, MSU Museum E. Lansing, 48824 517/355-2370.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

1992 Tiles are here! They are available at Jarvis' Men's Store (thru' December), Uber's Drugs and Society Bank. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is the scene. Tiles of previous years are also available.

Signature Quilt: A contribution of \$10. will assure that your signature is included. The Society has lots of signatures of early residents of the area. Your donation will get them on the quilt also. The quilt will remain with the Society archives.

Memorials and honorary contributions to the Society are income tax deductible.

1993 SOCIETY BOARD

A slightly altered Board of Directors will be guiding the Society during 1993. The names of these volunteers, who feel the Society has an important role to play in the area's future, are listed in the box on p. 1.

Many thanks are extended to the past efforts of Anne Stratigos who has served as Secretary for two terms; to Mike Cuthbert who was Resources committee chairman; and to Doris Petersen who has been planning Oral Histories. Our gratitude also to Penny Szczchewski who has been Editor. She and Jim have always been supportive of many of the Society projects; good examples of useful Society members.

And of course, thanks to all those who are continuing their work of

keeping the Society on course.

New board member, Ron Morey, is welcomed on board.

Are there others in the Society who could join the board and assist in achieving its goals? Especially needed are an Editor and a Resources Chairperson. Contact a board member with your offer to help.

HOT ROD CLUB?

The Society has received an inquiry from Joyce Siegel, 878-9282, for information about a hot rod club in Brighton between 1970-74. Any local members?

				BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY			
				Board Meeting November 12, 1992			
				Treasurer's Report			
October 1, 1992	Beginning Balance					\$41622.99	
RECEIPTS							
<u>General Fund</u>							
	Dues					\$160.00	
<u>Historical Pres. &amp; Restoration Fund</u>							
	Resource Comm. - Signature Quilt	20.00					
	Interest						
	Savings (9-27-92)	25.60					
	Checking(9-30-92)	4.79					
	Kemper close out	23.32		53.71		73.71	
						<u>233.71</u>	
						\$41856.70	
DISBURSEMENTS							
<u>General Fund</u>							
	Newsletter Printing	145.00					
	" Postage	51.06				196.06	
<u>Historical Pres. &amp; Restoration Fund</u>							
	Old Town Hall Insurance	223.00					
	Lyons School Insurance	617.00					
	" " Utilities	11.36		628.36		851.36	
						<u>1047.42</u>	
October 30, 1992	Total Net Worth					\$40809.28	
	Savings Acct.	\$ 5814.27					
	Checking "	995.01					
	C.D. Accts.	34000.00				<u>\$40809.28</u>	
MARGE WHITE, Treasurer							

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  
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## BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

The compiler of the 1880 History of Livingston County, Franklin Ellis, observed: "The Village of Howell luckily escaped the misfortune which was visited upon many other Michigan towns about 40 years ago: the establishment of a 'wild-cat' bank within its borders." Upon passage of the National Banking Act of 1863, the Exchange Bank of Brockway, Embury and Co. was established in Howell. Ellis continues, "The bank of Alexander McPherson was opened June, 1865, for the purchase and sale of government bonds, sale of exchange on New York and all Eastern and Western cities and the transaction of a general banking business, for which its capital was and is ample." McPherson, in 1868, purchased the business, fixtures and real estate of the Exchange Bank. October, 1868, saw the bank of John Weimeister and Neil O'Hearn opened for general banking business in Howell. These were the first banks in the county.

In Brighton Village, the (Dr.) B.H. Lawson Bank was organized in April, 1871. A little over two years (June, 1873) later it was reorganized as the B.H. Lawson & Company's Bank. Ellis writes, "It has most of the patronage of the village and surrounding country." Early pictures locate the bank at the northeast corner of W. Main and N. West Streets. Lawson was active in the village serving as assessor in 1873 and president in 1875. Prior to that he was active in the Livingston County Agricultural Society, serving as treasurer in 1861. He was also a charter member of Howell Knights Templar. In 1856 he was a school inspector in Genoa township and in 1858 held that same position in Howell Township.

Gustave J. Baetcke, born in 1842 on the Baetcke homestead in Genoa Township, owned and worked a farm in Genoa until moving to the village. He bought Lawson's banking business in February, 1891. (by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



Looking east on W. Main from West Street

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