



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. XI No. 1

Brighton, Mi. 48116
January, 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Officers

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-2191
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Anne Stratigos	229-5689
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

Directors

Marieanna Bair - Archives	229-6402
Luci Bandkau - Oral History	227-7664
Dave Barton - Hist. Resource	229-5213
Michael Cuthbert -Resource Comm.	229-6728
Doris Petersen - Oral History	960-1723
Penny Szczechowski - Editor	229-7324

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Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY SIGNS THREE YEAR LEASE FOR USE OF OLD TOWN HALL

A three year lease for use of a portion of the upstairs of the Old Town Hall has been agreed upon with the Brighton City Council. The area will be used for meetings, record filing and archival storage. The Society can now accept material of historical value to the area: pictures, books, clippings, collections, scrapbooks, etc.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Lyons School: The exterior is painted and the 4 board fence and gate are in place. It is planned to complete work on the interior within 3½ years.

HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Historical data of the area is being surveyed to be followed with a survey of area homes. Information on the economic and social changes of the area is being gathered.

FINANCE COMMITTEE has a new name. This committee will be called the RESOURCE COMMITTEE. The reasoning behind this is that the new name better identified the broad aspects of this committee which deals with more than just finances.

GENERAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 10

The usual great potluck took place at the General Meeting. Those in attendance told of holiday memories and spent considerable time inspecting the 1912 quilt recently donated to the Society by the estate of Evelyn Schroeder. Results of the election of officers are noted in the box above.

BOARD MEETING JANUARY 9, 1992

The Society Board of Directors will meet upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 204 W. Main, 7 p.m. Open to the public, members are especially encouraged to attend. Board members will present a written report of their activities during 1991.

CAN YOU HELP DELIVER TRAIL TALES?

Tom Leith, who has been hand delivering copies of Trail Tales to various real estate offices, medical facilities, banks, etc. in the area will be taking a break for a few months. If you can take on this job until Tom gets back again, please call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402. The Society has determined that it is advisable to have the newsletter available at these sites in order to make more people aware of the Society's existence.

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RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The 1991 tile depicts the former State Police post. This building is located at the corner of 23 and E. Grand River. Built in 1935, its architecture has been repeated throughout Michigan in posts built at that time. In 1985 a new post was built about 1/2 mile north on Old 23. Tiles are available at Jarvis' Men's Store and Uber's Drugs. Jarvis' also has earlier tiles if you wish to complete your set.

Seven more signatures will be embroidered on the Signature Quilt this month. A \$10 donation will add yours or someone about whom you care. The signature quilt will represent a collection of people who once existed in the area. It will remain in the Society archives for future reference.

All proceeds raised by the Resource Committee go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Projects of the Society.

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Thanks to Alice Seger for the picture of the Post Office when it was located where the D & C store is now.

Thanks to Gerry Genereaux for the use of a 1859 Livingston county Plat Map.

The Society is seeking donations of chairs and tables to be used in the Old Town Hall for meetings and other Society events.

HOWELL BICENTENNIAL BOOK

The Livingston County Historical Society is currently taking orders for a collector's copy of the Howell Bicentennial Book. This is a reprint and will contain an index and pictures as well as text.

Orders are now being taken through the Society. The cost is \$45 plus \$1.80 handling, and \$4.50 shipping. Orders are being accepted thorough January 27.

You can send your request and check to:

L.C.H.S.
P.O. Box 154
Howell, Mich. 48844

For more information call the Depot at 548-6876. You may also call the Depot to reserve your copy.

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The L.C.H.S. Old House Lecture continues Jan. 15 with Bed and Breakfasts, Howell High School room G-12 7:30

November 1, 1991 TOTAL NET WORTH \$42638.01

RECEIPTS			
General Fund			
Dues	8@ 7.	56.00	
	10@12.	120.00	
	4@25.	<u>100.00</u>	276.00
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Finance Comm.			
Bake Sale	78.00		
Signature Qlt.	50.00	128.00	
Lyons School Donation		24.00	
Interest Earned		<u>182.40</u>	<u>334.40</u> <u>610.40</u>
			\$43248.41

DISBURSEMENTS			
General Fund			
Newsletter		330.27	
Adm. Treas. Bond		134.00	
Postage		<u>14.50</u>	478.77
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund			
Finance Comm.			
'91 tile sketch		100.00	
Lyons School			
Utilities	11.27		
Paint	<u>75.80</u>	<u>87.07</u>	<u>187.07</u> <u>6</u>

November 30, 1991 TOTAL NET WORTH \$42582.57

"	Savings	\$16961.54	
"	Checking	1592.01	
"	Kemper Fund	<u>24029.02</u>	<u>42582.57</u>

Marge White, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Dues

PATRON: Epthymeas & Ann Stratigos ('92); Timberlane Homes ('92).

INDIVIDUAL/COUPLE: David Barton; Dr. D.H. & Barbara Folkman; Margaret Goldstein; Michael & Jane Hegarty; Josephine Hyne; Carol C. King; Robert & Shirley Knight; Jack & Beverly LaBelle; Mrs. Daniel P. Madigan; Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Michaels; Alice Krupa; Judy Murray; Alice R. Newcomb; John & Dorothy Pennala; Lucille & George Prieskorn ('92, '93); Mrs. Franc Stokes (Largo, Fl.); Bill & Jane Tomlinson

The Board of Directors is appreciative of the support of dues paying members. They don't feel so alone out there.

The 1991 membership listing will be closed soon. If you would like to be registered as having supported the organization during the past year and have not sent in membership dues, the Society hopes you will do so soon. (Perhaps you could add it to the '92 membership remittance..) Check the mailing label on Trail Tales, If there is not a 91 printed, your dues have not been received. If there is an error, please contact the Society by mail or phone a member of the Board.

You are needed!

Errors in the November issue corrected: Daniel & Emma Jean Schmidt ('92); Margaret Siford ('92); Alice Seger (Fl. '92).

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GENEALOGY etc.

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Historic preservation provides the discipline for creating neighborhoods, communities, and cities that are beautiful livable, and of human scale. Historic Preservation Magazine May/June 1991.

Charts, books, family trees, etc. are available from Genealogy etc. which is located just south of Hilton Road on Old US 23 in The Fence Spot building. has what you need. If you are interested in research on your family, this may be a good place to get materials.

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 Tapin
() Genealogy () Membership Committee () Publicity () Other work

I would be willing to do: _____

DUES: \$25. Patron Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
\$25. Business/Professional P.O. Box 481
\$12. Couple Brighton, Mich. 48116
\$ 7. Individual

WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

Late November, if it was good and cold, or early December, signaled the time of butchering. Much preparation was necessary. Often several families would combine resources, working together and trading days of labor.

Several animals were slaughtered during the day. After killing them the hogs were dipped into a barrel or large kettle of water which had been brought to near the boiling point by a hot fire beneath. After this scalding they were scraped clean of hair and dirt. To know just how long to leave them in the hot water required experience. Cattle were skinned and the hide made into a warm cover or sold to a tanner for making into leather goods. Other equipment included knives, a means of hanging the carcass for easier cutting, containers for the organs, fat and viscera, meat saws and axes.

Ham and bacon cuts were usually smoked. Most farmers had a smokehouse among the outbuildings. Some meat was cut up and canned or ground and made into sausage. The sausage usually was forced through a funnel attachment on the meat grinder into casing made of thoroughly cleaned intestines. Beef might also be cut into strips and dried. Some of the meat was salted in crocks, barrels and kettles.

The butchering, skinning, eviscerating, etc., were, of course, completed outdoors. Often the women helped until some meat was ready for preparation in the kitchen. Fat, cut into small pieces, was tossed into a large kettle, over an open fire outdoors and rendered into lard. This lard, poured over the salted meat in the crocks kept air and insects out. The pie crust made with lard has a special taste and tenderness. Soap making could follow once the lard was rendered. The 'cracklings' remaining after the rendering made very tasty and crunchy eating. Depending on the ability of the homemaker, the squeal was the only part of the pig which wasn't used.

As a community became more settled, often a locally recognized butcher evolved. He usually had some experience before coming to the area and his reputed ability at the trade determined how many farmers requested his services. He could be hired to come to your farm when you were ready to 'lay in' a supply of meat and direct the operation. Again, neighbors could be counted on to help out. The various organ meats, which would not keep since there was no refrigeration, were usually distributed to those helping that day. A piece of pork or beef was often included. Trading of meat with the local market proprietor enabled the farmer to acquire needed items not produced by himself. (Can someone tell us of a local butcher?)

When we next peruse the selection available at the meat counter perhaps we'll give a thought to what the folks back then had to contend with in order to put a piece of meat on the table. (Marieanna Bair. To be continued. The writer would appreciate additions or comments to this series. 229-6402)

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