



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. 7 July, 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-2191
V.P.	Cahty Qualls	229-8656
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Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Marieanna Bair - Archives	229-6402
Ricci Bandkau - Oral History	227-7664
Dave Barton - Historic Resource	229-5213
Michael Cuthbert - Resource Comm.	229-6728
Doris Petersen - Oral History	960-1723
Penny Szczechowski - Editor	229-7324
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100

MEETINGS

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board of Directors: Thursday, July 8, 7 p.m., Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- Archives Committee: Saturday, July 18, 9-11 a.m., same place as above.
- Brighton Art Fair: August 8-9.
- Milford Memories: August 14, 15, 16. Milford. Drama, Music, Art, Food, Carriage Rides; Aug. 12, Antique Auction. 313/685-7129. Milford Memories, P.O. Box 125, Milford, 48381
- Spaghetti Supper: Friday, September 11, Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River.
- Historical Society of Michigan 118th Annual Meeting, Petoskey. Write H.S.M., 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.

EDITORIAL

Members of the Brighton Area Historical Society consider themselves to be stewards of the area's heritage. There is a sense that they have a responsibility to that community.

A continual invitation is open to others to join in this effort. The Board members cannot be responsible for the entire efforts necessary to accomplish the Society's goals. Combined efforts of the many will go further and the results will be communally beneficial.

Don't let someone else have all the fun. (M. Bair, guest editor.)

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LOCAL HISTORY IN BRIGHTON'S SCHOOLS

Several teachers in the local school district have developed short courses in Brighton history for Brighton students. We say, "Right on!!!" A lack of knowledge of our past usually results in the repetition of the same mistakes time and again. The astounding lesson one learns from historic research is how often are repeated the same unproductive, in fact destructive, actions of the past. When we don't learn from the past (because we haven't studied it) the same mistakes are made over and over again. Drug abuse, abusive relationships, poorly managed community development, unthinking environmental destruction, etc., are not recent phenomenons.

Teachers interested in ways and means of teaching Michigan History can contact "The Michigan Teacher", Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104. Or Marty Evashevski, 764-2490.

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Bus/Prof: Brighton Animal Hospital.

Couple/Indiv.: Doris Fay, Tim & Helen Hurst, James & Barbara Kovitz, Edwin & Sherry Nyhus, Mary Regan (93, Detroit).

Thanks to the many who renew their membership regularly and welcome to new members.

If you've been receiving Trail Tales but have never paid dues, it is hoped you will help assume some of the responsibility for the Society's activities. To be accountable to those who have paid dues, the Board of Directors must review the mailing list regularly. It is hoped non members will care about the Society's endeavors and will support with a membership. Patron dues are always welcome.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

John Linahan who is now delivering the extra newsletters to banks, realtors, medical offices, etc. The Board believes this is a good way for those unfamiliar with the Society to learn more about it. One can't support what one doesn't know.

Ethel Gebben and her crew for their faithful mailing of Trail Tales each month.

Alice Seger for the 1931 "Household Searchlight Recipe Book; "Honor Roll of Livingston County 1917-18-19, Containing a pictorial record of the gallant and courageous men from Livingston County, MI U.S.A. who served in the Great War"; pictures: tornado 1938,39, post office 1959, Burt Miller and the firemen's ducks 1943, Main Street west from west of the mill pond, Boy Scout troop on steps of Union School, Brighton Peerless Band (11 members), Ore Creek dam when it was on the south side of Main, mill pond from west side of pond in 1946, commemorative of the Post Office on W. North St.

Jeannette Bailey: seven books of poetry and literature.

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AT THE BRIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

"The Preservation Directory" - There is a difference between restoration, renovation and remodeling. If you'd like to learn what the necessary procedures for restoration are - check into this book.

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LYONS SCHOOL: Herb Warner, 229-6504, chairman of this committee, is working on plans for the rest rooms, the belfrey, the well and seeding of the lawn. The fence sets off the school to good advantage on its site, 11455 Buno Rd. Go see it.

We're ready for the donation of school desks, books, maps, etc. Donors will be noted on the items.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Dave Barton, 229-5213, chairman, is asking that persons who have abstracts to their property to please copy or allow him to copy for the Society's files. These contain valuable resource material.

The Canopy Hotel, a local site well known to many Michiganians is being renovated. Preview Properties is in the process of installing offices in the building.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES: Janice Field and Marieanna Bair attended the Archives Workshop in Holland, June 20. It was a day of intensive learning. A notebook of recommended procedure was part of the workshop. Good use will be made of this material at the next meeting, July 18. Lots to do; come and help or at least see what's going on. The archival storage boxes are here.

Thanks to Milton Charboneau for the book of obituaries gleaned from early issues of the Brighton Argus and for more of the early issues. The Board has decided to have all these microfilmed. The charge will be about \$60 for each year filmed. Care to contribute to a year's microfilming?

The newly published 1850 Federal Census of Livingston County (\$25.) and the reprint of the History of Howell, 1976 (\$50.) have been purchased for your reference. (Donation?)

Send us a history of your family. A copy will be made for the archives and the original returned.

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1993 NOMINATIONS

Persons willing to serve a year on the Board of Directors or as an officer, should please contact a Board member.

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RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Society booth will again be at the Brighton Arts Fair, August 8 & 9. This will be your opportunity to learn more about the Society, become a member, buy a cookie and drink, get your signature on the Signature Quilt, tiles of various local sites will be available, also stationery, needlepoint kits, and the Michigan History magazine with the story of the restoration of Livingston County's Courthouse.

Spaghetti Supper plans are well underway. Mark September 11 on your calendar. Tom and Audrey Leith, 229-6165, with Marian Carney's help are chairing again. Call and offer your services, there's lots to do. And it's lots of fun.

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The printing and distribution of Trail Tales is a valuable medium to let people know what's going on and what needs to be done in the area of historic preservation. According to the Treasurer's

Report printing and postage run close to \$200. per month. This is paid from dues and contributions specifically to this expense. All other donations and fund raising proceeds are put to the various projects in which the Society is involved.

Can you help with this expense?

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"Yesterdays rural America built this country.....be proud of and enhance." Preservation News, August 1989.

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board Meeting June 11, 1992
Beginning Balance

40706.83

May 1992

General Fund

Receipts

Dues 4@ 7.00 - 28.00
7@ 12.00 - 84.00
5@ 25.00 - 125.00

237.00

Miscellaneous

Donation Newsletter 25.00
Gerald Pelkey

25.00

Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund

Receipts

Resource Comm.
Tiles 3@ 20.00 - 20.00
2@ 8.00 - 16.00
1@ 7.00 - 7.00

43.00

Savings

Checking 48.04
Kemper Fund 4.47
76.36

128.87

433.87

Disbursements

General Fund

Newsletter printing 145.00
Postage 50.78

195.78

Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund

Lyons School Electric 11.36
Archives 116.00
(Light Impressions Boxes)

11.36

116.00

223.14

Total Net Worth Marge White Treasurer

Savings 14785.45

Checking 1484.26

Kemper 24547.85

40817.56

40817.56

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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 Brighton, MI 48116

BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary - Banking: an establishment for the custody, loan, exchange or issue of money, for the extension of credit, and for facilitating the transmission of funds by drafts or bills of exchange.

In England banking began as a private business. In the United States it became a semi-private business authorized and sanctioned by the government via statutes and laws. Banks issued their own bank notes/script. These became depreciated and worthless when a bank failed.

Following the 1812 War, the U.S. finally gained control over the Northwest Territory. With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, settlers from the eastern states surged into Michigan. The majority were anxious to improve their way of life. A high percentage of the state's new settlers came from New York. Noting that state's economic growth as a model Michigan leaders borrowed New York laws dealing with banking, among others. Much of Michigan's first Constitution was based on the New York Constitution.

Michigan's strategy of economic development followed the national policy of settling people on the land to be accompanied with the establishment of units of government as soon as possible. To accelerate this development lines of transportation were designated and local banks were to be launched.

These banks provided immediate income, usually in the form of credit or bank-issued notes, to the farmer for produce and crops sold. Farmers received credit for the purchase of land, seed, equipment, etc. Banks also extended credit to village merchants to launch a local enterprise, to businessmen (millers, sawyers, blacksmiths, etc.) and to professional persons (doctors, lawyers, etc.) to establish themselves in the pioneer farm community.

By 1832, pioneers were acquiring land in Livingston County. Brighton Township was still part of Green Oak Township. Just over the county line, in Oakland County, where the Huron River was crossed by the Grand River Trail, a saw mill and house were built by Joel Redway. Alfred A Dwight, one of many entrepreneurs, platted the town of Kensington in 1836. By then there was already a post office the name of which was changed from Lyon to Kensington that same year. (In operation until 1902.)

Dwight, along with Sherman D. Dix, who had taken up 82 acres in Section 17 of Green Oak Township in 1832, were members of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Kensington; organized December 12, 1837. Completely within the state's corporation laws of the time, the bank was one of the many "Wild Cat" banks. (So named because their nearest neighbors often were wild cats.) (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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