



P.O. Box 481
Vol. XI No. 11

Brighton, MI 48116
November, 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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 7, 8 a.m.: Society Board Workshop.
- 7, 8:30-4, LCGS Genealogical Seminar
- 10, 7 p.m. Annual Meeting, Brighton Library, 200 N. 1st Street.
- 12, 7 p.m. Board Meeting, Old Town Hall, 204 W. Main. Welcome.
- 14, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm, Old Town Hall, 204 W. Main.

PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR SOCIETY BOARD

The Society Board will be holding a two hour planning workshop, Saturday, Nov. 7. Alice Krupa will be serving breakfast at her home at 8 a.m. We'll begin immediately after. Ideas, suggestions for next year? Contact a board member.

This is another example of the extra effort put forth by the Board and Society members. All are volunteers. Support and patience are much appreciated.

BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY
PRESENTS FAMILY HISTORY NIGHT

Attention all Family Historians! The Brighton Area District Library, in cooperation with the BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will present a FAMILY HISTORY NIGHT on Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. in the Brighton City Council Chambers. Marjorie Scribner Wilcox, local genealogist and active member of the Livingston County Genealogical Society will conduct the program.

Family members of all generations are welcome to attend this free program although it is recommended that young participants be of fourth grade age or older. Participants are invited to bring an old family photo for discussion. Family trees will be made.

This program is free of charge and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. Call 229-6571 for further information.

The Brighton Area Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held following this program. Election of officers and yearly reports will be presented. We encourage our Society members to come to this meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

PATRON AND BUSINESS DUES;

Elizabeth Bindenagel;
Bob and Tillie Bitton;
Elsa Stegenga

INDIVIDUAL AND COUPLE DUES:

B.T.O. Clark; Walter and Merilyn
Jollitz; John and Beverly Labelle;
Raymond and Jean Lanning; Brenda
McCarty; Heidi and Todd Newman;
Doris Prieskorn; Mrs. Frank Segar;
Kyle and Randall Wilson

An historical society is not an
historical society unless there are
those who support it.

An attempt is made to keep the year
for which dues have been paid up to
date on the mailing label. 1993
dues can be sent in now. Board and
chair people appreciate your
encouragement.

SIGNATURE QUILT

Thanks to Josie Arnold's generosity two
more names have been added to the quilt.
And Elsa Stegenga is adding the names
of her parents, hers and Dan's.

July 5, 1906 - A protest to the planned
construction of a road through Section 27
in Brighton Township was signed by:

Milo Beach	N.G. Morgan
L.G. Bitten	C.A. Newman
B.J. Conely	W.D. Pitkin
J.H. Crawford	C.E. Placeway
W.J. Donaldson	Wm. Sleaford
W.F. Fry	J.J. Smith
Nelson Gould	Chas. Stanfield
J.W. Hilton	John L. Taylor
Frank B. Hunter	J.T. Warner
Louis Krause	Henry Weber
John McDonald	and others not

readable. All Brighton Township taxpayers.

A review of maps from 1895 and 1915 indi-
cates this to be the section of Spencer
Road between Van Amberg and Pleasant Val-
ley. Josie's donation will add the signa-
tures of Henry Weber (120 ac.) and B.J.
Conely (110 ac.) to the quilt. Other
names may be added if you wish. A \$10
donation will do it.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Janet Gibbs of Lathrup Village Historical
Society for a Sept. 17 and Oct. 1, 1947
issue of the Brighton Argus and snapshot
of St. Patrick Church, Mellus Hospital,
north bound Grand River, State Police
Post, Mill Pond, Howell Scout Reservation
and Burroughs Farms, all c. 1935.

Leota Mason for clippings, books, etc.,
for Society archives.

Marge Wilcox for the Aug. 89 and Feb. 90
issues of Trail Tales. There is now a
complete set of issues in the archives.
Bill and Helen Hyne for loan of 1877 Mich-
igan State Gazetteer and Business Direc-
tory.

Heidi Newman has offered to help with
the publication of a picture book of the
area's history. 2-3 more people are
needed.

Spaghetti Supper Chairmen, Tom and Audrey
Leith and Marian Carney, their committees
and donors and, of course, all who were
in attendance. It was the most success-
ful spaghetti supper the Society has
hosted.

Brighton Heritage Quilters for their
donation to Old Town Hall restoration.
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Kerr, Harrisville,
for the Brighton Area Centennial and
Homecoming 1961, books and the Livingston
County Map. They're in our archives.
Pauline Chenoweth for her property
abstract and information on her grand-
father Eugene Hicks.

A GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR

November 7, the 10th anniversary of the
Livingston County Genealogical Society
will be celebrated with the sponsoring
of a Genealogical Seminar. It will be
held at the Masonic Temple, 01 W. Grand
River., Howell, 8:30 a.m./4 p.m. Regis-
tration fee, \$17., includes coffee, donuts
and light lunch. A.S.A.P. contact 517/
546-6307 to register. You'll learn about
Courthouse Research, Pennsylvania Re-
search, Land Records, No Vital Records
etc. The L.C.G.S. meets at the Church
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1041
W. Grand River., Howell, 1st Thursday, @/.

Brighton Area Historical Society
 Board Meeting October 8, 1992
 Beginning Balance

41588.88

September 1992			
<u>General Fund</u>			
Receipts	5@ 7.00-	35.00	
Dues	11@ 12.00-	132.00	
	2@ 25.00-	50.00	217.00
<u>Historical Pres. & Restor. Fund</u>			
Resource Comm.			
Don. Sig. Quilt		20.00	
Spaghetti Supper		852.55	
Don. Bake Sale		5.00	877.55
Interest			
Savings		38.73	
Checking		3.84	
C.D.		42.35	84.92
			<u>1179.47</u>
			42768.35
Disbursements			
<u>General Fund</u>			
Administrative			
Michigan State			
Non Profit fee	10.00		
Bogan Agency Bond	134.00		
Newsletter Printing			
& Postage	196.71		
Brighton Comm. Ed. Rent	5.00		
Bud Schopp Audit	135.00		480.71
<u>Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund</u>			
Resource			
Spagh. Supp. Flyers	40.23		
Haviland Printing Mats	34.90		
Marion Carney Food	129.72		
Audrey Leith Meat	117.60		322.45
Old Town Hall			
City Of Brighton			
Utilities	169.08		
Lyons School Electric	11.36		
Carlson Glass-Windows	161.76		342.20
			<u>1145.36</u>
			41622.99
Total Net Worth Marge White Treasurer			

There is still time to make an income tax deductible donation to the Society for 1992.

Funds are needed for post office box rent and the non-profit mailing permit. Also for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. The insurance bill and the utilities bill need to be paid. The Archives committee has purchased archival supplies and attended a workshop. And there are several research books which would make good additions to the Society files. Old Town Hall and Lyons School restoration funds are always in need of donations.

Anything there interest you?

CONDOLENCES

Eliza Hanes Wilkinson Seger, a long time resident of the area, passed away in September, aged 98. Society sympathies are extended to her family.

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.)

These two businessmen, Sherman Dix and Alfred Dwight (members of the Board of Directors of Kensing Bank), seem to be true examples of the enterprising speculator who, by their daring, are on the scene when new lands and/or opportunities open. Sometimes described as being ahead of their time, visionaries, they skirt and sometimes overstep the bounds of honesty and caution. As noted, the bank scheme, of which Dix and Dwight were historically the originators, finally brought disaster.

Dix 'repaired' to Texas and engaged in cattle speculations according to one source. However he is listed on the assessment roll as a resident taxpayer in Brighton Township in 18143. (He platted a village, Livingston, in the Woodruff Mill area - Pleasant Valley north of Grand River. The plat was taken to "...New York and easily disposed of the lots to parties in search of Western investments.") Dwight is reported to have become a successful lumberman in the Wyandotte area. He is listed as a commissioner of the Detroit & Shiawassee Railroad Project by an act of the State of Michigan, March 22, 1837. (This project was never begun.) Both men might be described as typical entrepreneurs of the times.

To better regulate and salvage the new state's banking system a state bank was to have been created. But because of the fear of government control of their credit practices, owners of local banks resisted. Michigan citizens, holding worthless bank notes, felt the devastating effects of too much credit with too few legal restraints. (The nation's taxpayers' recent experience with unscrupulous banking administrators is not a new phenomenon.) Following litigation, the Michigan Supreme Court's ruling allowed the directors of banks to avoid punishment. Very few banks survived the 'Free Banking' period. By 1844, the Legislature permanently suspended the practice.

At the Michigan 1850 Constitution Convention the need for banks was recognized along with the need for restrictions which would ensure a sound currency and stockholder protection. Private bankers, with limited capital and no authorization to offer local currency, were restricted in providing local bank credit; altho' the need was there. That decade is perceived to have been one of Legislative vacillation and lack of confidence by the citizens of Michigan.

Michigan was not alone with its problems relating to the transfer of value for something of equal value. It wasn't until the time of the Civil War, when the Confederacy circulated its own currency, that a national currency was issued. It was left to the National Banking Act of 1863 for Michigan to attempt to achieve "...a balance of reliable currency for its farmers and enough local bank credit for its businessmen." (by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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