To promote the evolution of the new state of Michigan from one of forest trails to one with a progressive climate for development, the advancement of the banking business held a high priority. Minimum capitalization seems to have been the norm in the organization of a local bank. Creative and varied means were employed to determine the origin of the currency generated. These included state bonds and mortgages on land, unimproved real estate and bank shares, besides precious metals.

At 1838 statewide analysis showed that 79% of the loans issued went to those most closely connected to the bank, the bank directors and stockholders; these were the ones who were most anxious for a community to develop and thereby had the most to gain.

By November, 1837, it was evident to the Legislature that in order to bring some semblance of order to the banking business in this new comer to the Union some changes were necessary. Banking commissioners were appointed to inspect and audit specie reserve. Stories of fraud and forgery abound. On at least one occasion a layer of coins over the top of a box of nails and broken glass passed inspection by the county clerk. The transfer of specie from a bank examined one day, through the forest or down the river, to the next bank on the examiner's list. The story goes that one examiner marked a chest of gold and other securities and counted the same specie at three different banks in as many obscure and inaccessible sites. Occasionally an examiner came back to a bank unannounced to learn the box of specie could not be found only to discover it at another bank several days later. The intimate knowledge of the local bank personnel with the forest trails made it possible to precede the examiners who were unfamiliar with the area.

These commissioners, exposing the often fraudulent procedures of "Free Banks", recommended the repeal of the free banking laws. It was also decided that banks organized after January 1, 1838, could not suspend specie payment as had been done regularly in the past. So it was that under these conditions the Bank of Kinsington was created.

By organizing December 12, 1837, the Board of Directors got in just under the wire.

The signatures of Henry Flak, President, and Fred Hutchinson, Cashier, are on the few remaining 'Bank of Kinsington' notes. Only a few collectors of currency have any in their possession. On the Board of Directors one finds the names of Alfred A. Dwight, Sherman Dixa, B.R. Hutchinson, Chauncy Crouse, N.F. Butterfield, A. M. Brown and C. F. Cooke. Stockholders include Joel Redway, Joseph Wood and Kingsley Bingham (1854 Republican Governor of Michigan, first in the nation). (By Marianna Bair. To be cont.)

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

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

"The Stone Wall Regiment" (cont.)

You won't want to miss this presentation, where you will learn who the men were, what they do, where they went, and why they were called the Stonewall Regiment.

Gary and Bill will also be available to answer any questions about the State of Michigan "save the Flag" project.

All the Michigan Civil War flags are in desperate need of restoration. Many of the flags have been adopted by Corp clubs and civic organizations. After restoration they will be stored in the Capitol in Lansing for future generations.

Bill and Gary have helped raise funds for one complete restoration and are working on a second one. You will also have an opportunity, the night of the presentation, to do your part. A canister will be provided for your donation, if you desire, and the total donation will be sent to the organization in Bill and Gary's names. Just our small way to say thank you for a great evening and for caring about preserving our Michigan History.

GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 15
Miller Intergenerational
6:30 potluck
7:30 meeting
For more information call Cathy Qualls - 229-8656
HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?
The August issue of Trail Tales was sent with "Address Correction Requested". It is with regret that nearly 20 copies were returned to the Society. Each returned item costs the Society $.20. This is really an unnecessary charge. PLEASE notify the Society with a change of address card when appropriate. Thanks for your cooperation.

CONDOLENCES
Elbert E. Seger, a longtime member of the Society, passed away in July in Arizona. Society sympathies are extended to the family.

INTERESTED IN MICHIGAN HISTORY?

PRESERVATION PROJECTS
ARCHIVES: Regular date for working on the archives is changed to 2nd Saturday, 9-11 a.m. This group meets at the Old Town Hall, conducting an inventory of the images in storage. This group can always use help. Please call Alice Kupsa, 229-7441 for more information.

Many thanks to those who have been donating various pictures, books, etc., connected to the area. An Archives Policy is being reviewed by Board members.

The Society archives include a complete set of issues of Trail Tales. It has been discovered that an August, 1992 and a Feb. 90 issue are both needed. Anybody with an extra issue?

Ann Stratigos is looking into the microfilming of early issues of the Brighton Argus given to the Society by Milton Charboneau.

DONATE A BOOK?
When conducting research one occasionally sees references to "Michigan: A Guide to the Wolverine State." Its publication, 1940, as part of the Works Project Administration of the "Great Depression" years. A more recent reprint is available for $39. A steep price. Is there a copy available from our readers? Or would someone like to donate $39? It would be a worthwhile addition for historic research. Among other items of interest it tells us that in 1940 Brighton's population was 1355, up from 1287 in 1930.

The 1870 census of Livingston County showed that Howell Twp. (including the town) had the largest population, twenty six hundred and two.

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


Signature: ______________________
Quilt: Six more signatures have been received: Doris Cuthbert, Diane L. Weeks, Dorothy & Lyle Hartman, Elizabeth & Robert Roth. Your signature (or that of another) will be added for a $10. donation. A good way to assure recognition in the years to come AND you promote the Society and its goals.
HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?
The August issue of Trail Tales was sent with "Address Correction Requested". It is with regret that nearly 20 copies were returned to the Society. Each returned item costs the Society $0.26. This is really an unnecessary change. PLEASE notify the Society with a change of address card when appropriate. Thanks for your cooperation.

CONDOLENCES
Elbert E. Seger, a longtime member of the Society, passed away in July in Arizona. Society sympathies are extended to the family.

INTERESTED IN MICHIGAN HISTORY?

PRESERVATION PROJECTS
ARCHIVES: Regular date for working on the archives is changed to 2nd Saturday, 9-11 a.m. This group meets at the Old Town Hall, conducting an inventory of the items in storage. This group can always use help. Please call Alice Kupa, 229-7441 for more information.

Many thanks to those who have been donating various pictures, books, etc., connected to the area. An Archives Policy is being reviewed by Board members.

The Society archives include a complete set of issues of Trail Tales. It has been discovered that an August, 1999 and a Feb. 90 issue are both needed. Anybody with an extra issue?

Ann Stratigos is looking into the microfilming of early issues of the Brighton Argus given to the Society by Milton Charboneau.

DONATE A BOOK?
When conducting research one occasionally sees references to "Michigan: A Guide to the Wolverine State." Its publication, 1940, as part of the Works Project Administration of the Great Depression years. A more recent reprint is available for $39. A steep price. Is there a copy available from our readers? Or would someone like to donate $39? It would be a worthwhile addition for historic research. Among other items of interest it tells us that in 1940 Brighton's population was 1355, up from 1287 in 1930.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM
NAME ____________________________ PHONE _______________________
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


Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116
BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

To promote the evolution of the new state of Michigan from one of forest trails to one with a progressive climate for development, the advancement of the banking business held a high priority. Minimum capitalization seems to have been the norm in the organization of a local bank. Creative and varied means were employed to determine the origin of the currency generated. These included state bonds and mortgages on land, unproved real estate and bank shares, besides precious metals.

As statewide analysis showed that 75% of the loans issued went to those most closely connected to the bank, the bank directors and stockholders; these were the ones who were most anxious for a community to develop and thereby had the most to gain.

By November, 1837, it was evident to the Legislature that in order to bring some semblance of order to the banking business in this newcomer to the Union some changes were necessary. Banking commissioners were appointed to inspect and audit specie reserve. Stories of speculation and fraud were rampant. On at least one occasion a layer of coins on the top of a box of nails and broken glass passed inspection by the county clerk. The transfer of specie from a bank examined one day, through the forest or over the river, to the next bank on the examiner’s list. The story goes that one examiner marked a chest of gold and other securities and counted the same specie at three different banks in as many obscure and inaccessible sites. Occasionally an examiner came back to a bank unannounced to learn that the box of specie could not be found only to discover it at another bank several days later. The intimate knowledge of the local bank personnel with the forest trails made it possible to precede the examiners who were unfamiliar with the area.

These commissioners, exposing the often fraudulent procedure of “Free Banks”, recommended the repeal of the free banking laws. It was also decided that banks organized after January 1, 1838, could not suspend specie payment as had been done regularly in the past. So it was that under these conditions the Bank of Kensington was created. By organizing December 12, 1837, the Board of Directors got in just under the wire.

The signatures of Henry Fisk, President, and Fred Hutchinson, Cashier, are on the few remaining ‘Bank of Kensington’ notes. Only a few collectors of currency have any in their possession. On the Board of Directors one finds the names of Alfred A. Dwight, Sherman Dix, B.R. Hutchinson, Chauncy Crouse, N.F. Butterfield, A. M. Brown and C. F. Cooke. Stockholders include Joel Redway, Joseph Wood and Kinsley Bingham (1854 Republican Governor of Michigan, first in the nation). (By Marianna Bair. To be cont.)

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

THE STONE WALL REGIMENT

History of the 17th Michigan Regiment during the Civil War comes alive through a slide presentation given by Gary Pritchard and Bill Christen.

Gary and Bill are Civil War living history re-enactors and historic site researchers. Together they have traced the actual route the regiment took, from the time of formation, all the way to Antietam. The 17th Michigan marched off to war from Depot Town in Ypsilanti. Their members came from the small towns and villages in and surrounding Washtenaw County. Perhaps one of your family members was with them.

THE STONE WALL REGIMENT (cont.)

You won’t want to miss this presentation, where you will learn who the men were, what they did, where they went, and why they were called the Stonewall Regiment.

Gary and Bill will also be available to answer any questions about the State of Michigan "save the Flag" project.

All the Michigan Civil War flags are in desperate need of restoration. Many of the flags have been adopted by Corp clubs and civic organizations. After restoration they will be stored in the Capitol in Lansing for future generations.

Bill and Gary have helped raise funds for one complete restoration and are working on a second one. You will also have an opportunity, the night of the presentation, to do your part. A canister will be provided for your donation, if you desire, and the total donation will be sent to Lane Memorial in Bill and Gary’s names. Just our small way to say thank you for a great evening and for caring about preserving our Michigan History.

GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 15
Miller Interregneral
6:30 potluck
7:30 meeting
For more information call
Cathy Qualls- 229-8656

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.