



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. 9

Brighton, MI 48116
September 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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"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 Lansing 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.

"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 researchers. Together they have traced the actual route the regiment took, from the time of formation, all the way to Antetum.

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.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 10, 7 p.m.: Board meeting, Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Welcome.

Sept. 11, 5-7 p.m. Spaghetti Supper, Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. Bring a friend.

Sept. 15: General Meeting. 6:30 pot luck, 7:30 meeting & program. Bill Christian & Gary Pritchard have researched Civil War soldiers of the 17th MI Inf. Co. E (local men) and developed a slide presentation of their activities. Public welcome.

Oct. 4, 16th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Oct. 8, 7 p.m. Board meeting. Welcome.

Oct. 10, 9-11 a.m., Archives Committee: Old Town Hall, 202 W Main.

Oct. 16-18: 118th Annual Meeting Historical Society of Mich. and State History Conference, Petoskey. Write Hist. Soc. Mi., 2117 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104.

Oct. 15-18: Oral History Assoc. 1992 Ann. Meeting, Cleveland. Write Oral History Assoc., P.O. Box 296, University Station, Lexington, KY 40506. Reservations by 9-16-92. Schedule at the Brighton Library.

MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Indiv: Bill & Betty Amrhein, Kendal Foley, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Ken Graham, Steve & Kathy Grove, Elenora Knaus, and Bill & Jane Tomlinson (93).

If the number on the label on this issue is not 92 or higher, it means your 92 dues have not been received. It is hoped you will support the Society by sending annual dues. Perhaps consideration could be given to including 1993 dues also.

The Society is not just board members; it's all its members. Without each of you there would be no organization in the Brighton Area dedicated to the preservation of its history. (If you'd rather not receive Trail Tales please let the Circulation Manager know.)

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?

Subscribe to Michigan History Magazine, Mich Dept. of State, Lansing, 48918-1805. 1 yr. (6 issues) \$9.95. Traveling Through Time - A Guide to Michigan Historic Markers \$14.95 + tx & shpg. Both the above at 1-800-366-3703.

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 Krupa, 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, 89 and a Feb. 90 issue are both needed. Anybody with an extra issue?

Ann Stratigos is looking into the micro-filming 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, was 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 1353, up from 1287 in 1930.

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.

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		
		Board Meeting August 13, 1992		
		Beginning Balance		40682.85
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July 1992				
<u>General Fund</u>				
Receipts				
Dues	8@ 7.00-	56.00		
	10@ 12.00-	<u>120.00</u>		176.00
<u>Hist. Pres. & Restor. Fund</u>				
Receipts				
Bake Sale		166.00		
Signature Quilt		30.00		
Tiles		72.00		
Cards		<u>3.00</u>		271.00
Old Town Hall Donation				
Brighton Heritage Quilters				
Interest				
Savings		44.05		
Checking		3.74		
Kemper Fund		72.09		
C.D.		<u>40.98</u>		160.86
				<u>637.86</u>
				<u>41320.71</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>				
General Fund				
Newsletter Printing	145.00			
Postage	<u>27.38</u>			172.38
Histor. Pres. & Rest.				
Resource Comm.				
Folk Art Fair		31.80		
Creeko Creations				
Note Paper	<u>163.12</u>			194.92
Lyons School Elect.	11.36			<u>11.36</u>
Total Net Worth	Marge White-	Treasurer		<u>40942.05</u>

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

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, unimproved real estate and bank shares, besides precious metals.

An 1838 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 skulduggery 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 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.P. 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 Marieanna Bair. To be cont.)

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