



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. XII No. 8

Brighton, MI 48116
August, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------|
| Pres. | Marieanna Bair | 229-6402 |
| V.P. | Cathy Qualls | 229-8656 |
| Sec. | Ricci Bandkau | 227-7664 |
| Treas. | Marge White | 227-3968 |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Dave Barton - Hist. Resource | 229-5213 |
| Chuck Beach - Art Fair | 229-9678 |
| Chris Fazekas - Oral History | 229-8770 |
| Nancy Fredenburg - Membership | 229-9100 |
| Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall | 229-2191 |
| Ron Morey - Program Chairman | 227-7281 |
| Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr. | 227-5375 |
| John Linahan - Pers. Deliv. | 229-8777 |
| Heidi Newman - History Book | 995-2613 |
| Anne Stratigos - Oral History | 229-5689 |
| Herb Warner - Lyons School | 229-6504 |

DATES TO REMEMBER

- *Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting.
- * 14, 9-11 a.m. Archives committee.
- 14 & 15, Art Fair. Help at Society booth.
- 13-15, 'Milford Memories', Milford.
- 14, 2-4 p.m. Green Oak Day at Grenock Mill.
- 19, Livingston County Genealogical Society trip to Library of Michigan. Call 517/546-6307.
- Sept. 4, 10-12:30 p.m., Michigan Oral History Council Roundtable, Chelsea, 313/475-7396.
- 17, 5-7 p.m., Spaghetti Supper, at Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River.
- * at Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. upstairs. Welcome.

A REVIEW OF THE CEMETERY VISIT JULY 17

Those attending, at Fairview Cemetery, learned the procedure for transcribing a cemetery, i.e. how to locate a burial site in such a manner that you or another can easily find the site in which you're interested.

Milt Charboneau, our guide, reminded us that the Brighton Memorial Gardens, across the road from Fairview, is another cemetery in need of transcription. Contact Milt, 878-3680, for more information.

Genealogist and historian, Janet Rhorabacher, among others, informed us that the congregation at St. Patrick's Catholic Church was a mission church for many years. Protestant residents of the area subscribed \$5000. towards the cost of the first church building which apparently was located in the area which now encompasses Calvary Cemetery. (This was about 1864.)

At the time when the Village Cemetery at the mill pond couldn't accept any more burials the village fathers found it difficult to decide where to locate another cemetery. But people kept dying and were, apparently, stored somewhere since it took over four years for a new cemetery to be located. St. Pat's priest allowed the burial of Protestants in their cemetery in recognition of the earlier support shown in the building of their church.

(Please continue on page 2)

MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Indiv: Betty Adams, Rita Altenberg, Ted & Doris Carmack (94), Milton Charboneau (Pinckney), Lila Robertson (CO).

Board members are appreciative of the continued support of renewed memberships. Persons not yet members, or those who haven't renewed, are invited to promote the efforts of the Society. It is hoped persons receiving Trail Tales would want to help foot the bill for its printing and mailing. Volunteers see to the preparation and distribution. (But the printer and the Post Office need to be paid.)

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Dave Barton for the mowing, etc., he's been doing at the Lyons School.

Ial Fuller for the snapshot of Bert Miller in front of the Old Town Hall when it had its white fire hall doors.

Don Keehn for the first cash donation to the Lyons School Historic Site Marker Fund.

Leota Mason for the clippings, books and other items of local historical value.

Wealtha Reicks for four crocheted throw rugs which will be offered for sale at the Art Fair.

Janet Rohrabacher and Alice Seger for the information they gave about early cemeteries.

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Interred remains of one of the two cemeteries which were located on General Motors Proving Ground property were to have been moved to a cemetery in Milford. Those in the Bird Family cemetery were to have been buried in an enclosed area. It has been recently learned that headstones bearing the names of Bird family members have been located on private property on Pleasant Valley Road within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of Proving Ground property.

Questions:

1. Were any remains from the Bird cemetery ever moved to the Milford cemeteries?
2. What was the name of the other cemetery located on P.G. land?
3. Were there more than two cemeteries located on that property?

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The several boxes of newspaper clippings and other memorabilia of local historic merit donated by Leota Mason have been reviewed and are being included in the archives. Items of interest to other historical groups have been forwarded to them. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if you have items of local historic value. Copies can be made and the originals returned.

In 1938, Brighton celebrated a centennial anniversary. The Society has a few pictures of that celebration. It is believed a book was prepared but not much other information has been located. Any copies of the book, or pictures out there? These should be included in the archives, or at least copies of them.

BUGGY: Lack of insurance, and a horse, precluded the Society exhibiting the newly restored buggy in the recent Independence Day parade. Donations are being accepted to pay for insurance and the cost of restoration.

LYONS SCHOOL: The historic site marker fund is off and running. The first donation was received from Don Keehn. There are many alumni of Lyons School who will, it is assumed, want to be included as a donor to the marker fund. Checks should be written to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton, noting it's for the marker fund. (Even if you're not an alumni your donation will be eagerly received.) A donation to this fund will make an appropriate memorial honoring a loved one and assuring the success of the project.

The Society has 501(c)3 status with the I.R.S. Donations are income tax deductible.

GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS holding its annual Green Oak Day, Saturday, August 14, 2-4 p.m. Bring your picnic lunch and folding chairs. You can eat by the old mill stream and tour the restored Grenock Mill, located on the west side of Rushton Road, between Nine and Ten Mile Roads.

R E S O U R C E C O M M I T T E E

ART FAIR: Janice and Chuck Beach, 229-9678, have accepted the chairmanship of the Society booth at this annual event, August 14 & 15. The booth will be located at the corner of N. West Street and W. Main, next to the Old Town Hall. If you are called to give a few hours working at the booth, you'll find it an enjoyable experience. Tiles, magazines, memberships, cookies, lemonade, etc., will be sold, but the main purpose of the booth will be to acquaint the community with the Society's presence. A cash donation for supplies or a few dozen cookies will be a fine way to show your support of the Society and its purposes.

BAKE SALE: Jane Tomlinson, the Society's regular, dependable chairman of this project is planning a bake sale in September. She'll be in touch. You can make it a 'bakeless' bake sale with a cash donation to the Society.

RAFFLE: A Christmas raffle can be conducted if someone donates an item.

SIGNATURE QUILT: A signature of Bert Miller has been donated. It will be included on the quilt because of the donation from the Beaches. Other signatures of Brighton area residents of the past are available. Your donation of \$10. will include them on this archive.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER: Friday, September 17. A chance for you to help and have a fine dinner. If you can't come, consider a donation.

TILES: Anyone have an '84 or '85 tile they wish to sell? The Society has buyers. Be sure to get the more recent issues before they're gone. Uber's Drugs, Society bank or call 229-8494 to get yours.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Treasurer's Report, Board Meeting July 8, 1993

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance | | | | |
| June 1, 1993 | BEGINNING BALANCE | | | \$33387.78 |
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | |
| Dues - | | 50 7.00 = 35.00 | | |
| | | 30 12.00 = 36.00 | | |
| | | 20 25.00 = 50.00 | 121.00 | |
| Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund | | | | |
| Donation (V. Jacoby) | | | 55.00 | |
| Interest | | | | |
| Savings 5/25/93 | | 3.57 | | |
| Checking 5/28/93 | | 1.31 | | |
| C.D.s (31,000.) | | 72.95 | 77.83 130.83 | 253.83 |
| | | | | 53641.61 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | |
| Newsletter Printing | | 155.00 | | |
| Postage | | 51.32 | 206.32 | |
| Administration | | | 32.07 | 238.39 |
| Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund | | | | |
| Old Town Hall - painting of railing | | | 650.00 | |
| Lyons School - utilities | | 13.02 | | |
| Bell tower exp. | | 60.39 | 73.41 723.41 | 961.80 |
| June 30, 1993 | TOTAL NET WORTH | | | \$32679.81 |
| Savings Acct. | \$ 1121.93 | | | |
| Checking Acct. | 557.88 | | | |
| C.D.s | 31000.00 | | | \$32679.81 |
| Marge White, Treasurer | | | | |

ADDITION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Fazekas, newly accepted member of the Board, has lived in the area most of his life. He is especially interested in conducting oral histories of long time area residents. Welcome Chris.

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

\$2. Student (K-12, College)
 Brighton Area Historical Society
 P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116

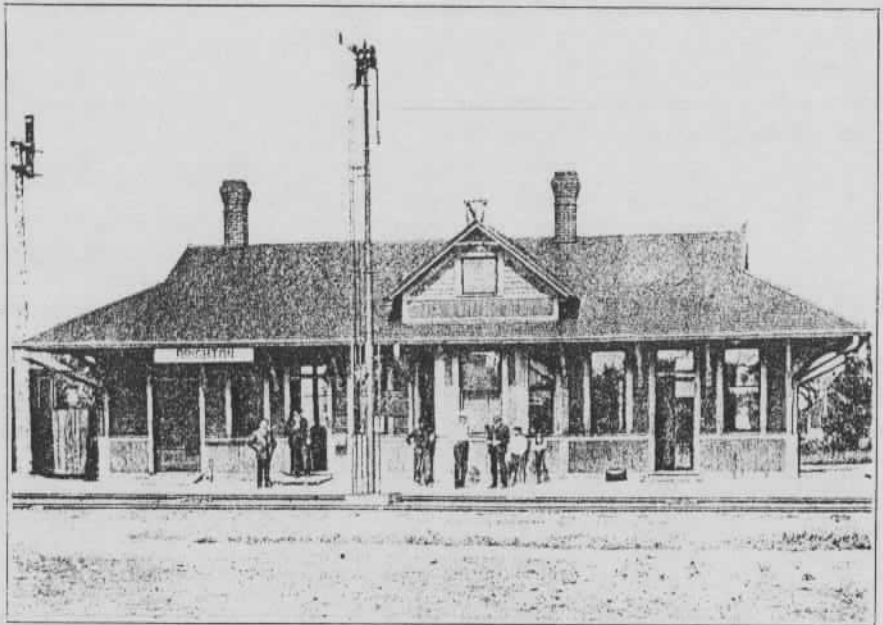
A RAILROAD COMES TO THE BRIGHTON AREA (Conc.)

A July 12, 1899, Brighton Argus article noted that "Island Lake is now a flag station for all except the two fast trains". In the period before and after the Spanish-American War the National Guard Encampment for Infantry and Cavalry units was located just east of Island Lake at the railroad crossing at Academy Dr. (This is now within the Island Lake Recreation Area.) A Michigan Historic Site marker memorializes the site. Excursion trains brought wives and friends out for a Sunday visit with the Guardsmen. A 1915 Atlas still shows an Island Lake Station on the north side of the tracks at that location.

Farmers, especially, had been looking forward to the arrival of the railroad. This meant their grains, livestock, fruits and other produce could be transported to market by a more convenient, certain and quicker means than the plank toll road they'd used. The plank road had done its job for over 20 years but the times and the demands were changing. Land doubled in value (with resultant higher taxes) but with an economy based on agriculture good times were anticipated. Merchants also could enlarge their inventory. Mail would be conveniently sent and received along with newspapers and magazines from all over the world. The entire family could visit friends and relatives oftener and fairs, concerts and other events easily reached. Young people could now find a job in another city, or attend a distant university. Life in Brighton could only get better.

The reverse of the coin revealed another picture. Newspapers told of train accidents, the stage-coach and the livestock drover were put out of business. The lives of many were changed, not always for the better.

We are aware the railroad was not the final word in transportation. Within 40 years the gasoline engine came into its own. Innovations are a fact of life. It is up to us to adjust. The only thing of which one can be sure is change. Ready or not it's continually happening. (By Marieanna Bair. Compiled from 1880 Livingston County History, Yesteryears of Green Oak and Brighton Argus clippings.)



PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT

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