



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. 12

Brighton, MI 48116
December, 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	229-8772
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Ron Morey - Program Chairmah	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

RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING

A study of Victorian Christmas decoration catalogs was conducted. A compilation of the "Lookin' Back" articles written by Bill Pless was reviewed. The Annual Treasurer's Report presented and the 1994 Board announced. The next General Meeting will be in March, 1994.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Board meeting.
11, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm.

All the above at the Old Town Hall,
202 W. Main. Members welcome.



Circa 1916 - There were five Segers in this band. By the early 1920's there were fifteen bandmen by the name of Seger.

THE
BRIGHTON
PEERLESS BAND
WISHES EVERYONE
A
HAPPY HOLIDAY!!

Patron: Bob & Tillie Bitten, Steven & Kathleen Lowry.

Couples/Indiv: Harold Crane & Sharon Donaghue (93), Dorothy Roberts Foster (CA), David & Terrie Fisher (IN, 93), Josephine Hyne, Bill & Helen Hyne, Arlene Jacob, Wally & Marilyn Jollitz (93), Gary Longacker, Gary & Sara McCririe (93), Bill & Barara McCririe (93), Greg & Pam Park (0), Doris Prieskorn, Robert & Pauline Schaffer (95), Gerry & Gwen Swann, Michael & Janet Woodford,

In order to be included on the Society membership records for 1993 dues must be received. The year of your last membership is noted on the label. It is hoped you'll consider paying both 93 and 94 dues at this time. The continued support of so many is vital.

It is a disagreeable task to keep the mailing list within sufficient constraints to be a functional entity. But it can't be considered fair to receive Trail Tales and let someone else foot the bill.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Elnora Navarre Knaus for her written recollections of Brighton in the 1930s. She included memories of Burt Miller.

The anonymous donor of one month's expenses for printing and mailing of Trail Tales.

Milton Charboneau for his gift of "Transcription Records of Fairview Cemetery."

CONDOLENCES

to the family of

FRANCIS L. (MIKE) MICHAELS

In the 1930s Mike came to Brighton and has been supportive of the Society since its inception.

PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

ARCHIVES COMM: Saturday, Dec. 11, 9-11 a.m. at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Needed is help in the filing and the inventory of items in the Society's possession. Legal size hanging folders are also needed. If you're unable to come that day, let us know of a better time for you. Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: While researching the history of various buildings in the area David Barton and Alice Krupa occasionally come upon other interesting information. June 25, 1834, a post office opened in Unadilla. Many post offices, usually in a general store, were scattered around the county. They found there was a significant drop in the number of post offices after the Model T arrived, making a longer distance between post offices possible.

LYONS SCHOOL: The grant application is almost completed. Someone is needed to prepare the wording to be used on the historic marker and make connections with the marker people in Lansing. Contact M. Bair, 229-6402 for more information.

BOARD WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 13

Marianna Bair, Chuck Beach, David Barton, and Ron Morey met at Ricci Bandkau's to discuss various fund raising projects and General Meeting programs for 1994. Bake Sales, Spaghetti Supper, Art Fair booth, sale of pictures of early Brighton, a coverlet which includes local scenes and a home tour were discussed. Persons in Brighton City, Brighton and Genoa Townships are asked to consider being a stop on the home tour. Call a board member to offer help on any of the above.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE (cont.)

Needlepoint kits of the Old town Hall are available at the Quilter's Shoppe at the Main Street Emporium.

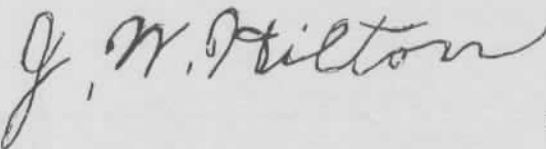
Pictures of early Brighton scenes, ready to hang, are being made. They will be available at Uber's Drug Store.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Signature Quilt is in need of someone to embroider six signatures which have been marked on the quilt. Nancy Hackney, who did this in the past, has moved to Florida.

In 1906, 24 property owners in Brighton Township, petitioned the Commission of Highways to not build the road planned as an extension of present day Spencer from Van Amberg to Pleasant Valley Rd. However, as often occurs today, their protest was rejected. The 1915 map shows the completed road.

One of the petitioners was John W. Hilton who owned 80 acres on the east side of Van Amberg between Spencer and Buno. He was the son of Thomas Hilton who, c. 1850, came to the area and by 1859 owned acreage on Hilton Road.



It seems proper that his signature be added to the quilt. Consider including your signature with his also. Send to the Society. P.S. To send in someone's signature could be a fun Christmas 'stocking stuffer.'

Tiles: The old gristmill, built by Orson Quackenbush in 1840, is the 1993 scene. It was located at the N.W. corner of W. North St. and S. West St. Uber's Drugs, Somewhere in Time, 316 W. Main and Society Bank will have these as soon as they come.

Post Cards: The Book Nook, 322 W. Main, has two sets of packets of six early Brighton scenes each.

(See page 2 re: Needlepoint kits and Pictures of early Brighton.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY				
Board Meeting, November 11, 1993, Treasurer's Report				
October 1, 1993	Beginning Balance			\$32072.66
RECEIPTS				
General Fund: Dues				\$62.00
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund				
Resource Ccmm.				
Bake Sale	117.25			
Advertising Donations				
Spaghetti Supper	85.00	202.25		
Interest				
Savings Acct.	5.08			
Checking Acct.	3.15			
C.D.s	61.77	70.00	272.25	334.25
				\$32406.91
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Fund:				
Newsletter: Printing	155.00			
Postage	51.97			
Address Corr. chgs.	7.31	214.28		
Administration: Audit 1992 records		135.00	349.28	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund				
Lyons School Utilities			12.61	361.89
October 31, 1993	TOTAL NET WORTH			\$32045.02
Marge White, Treasurer				
Saving Acct.	2046.59			
Check "	1998.43			
C.D.s	28000.00			\$32045.02

Members may request a financial report in 1994 from the Treasurer.

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 \$2. Student (K-12, College)
 \$25. Business/Professional
 \$12. Couple Brighton Area Historical Society
 \$ 7. Individual P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116

BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900 (cont.)

These milk routes were operated by people like George Taylor. He lived in Brighton Township on the west side of Old 23, north of Hyne Road. One of the routes covered North Brighton before reaching Grand River in Genoa Township and then on to Howell.

George furnished a wagon and horses and hired drivers who worked a 12 hour day. Depending on the distance from the factory, Taylor was paid about 10¢ per can. The wagon box held 40 ten gallon milk cans. A shelf-like arrangement held four cans on each side of the wagon. High above the front wheels were two shelves which held three cans each. A fully loaded wagon carried 54 cans. At 100 pounds each can the payload reached 5400 pounds. The weight of the wagon, box and driver's cab brought the gross vehicle weight near 7000 pounds. Each can was lifted about 3 feet up into the wagon.

Two horses normally were expected to pull this load. Keep in mind the country roads of the day were not the roads to which we've become accustomed, not even the narrow, gravel ones. When roads were really poor (during the spring thaw or heavy rains) an extra team was hitched up, or the load was placed on two wagons. Extra wagons were usually put into use on Monday mornings because of the previous weekend's milkings which were not picked up on Sunday.

Upon arrival at the milk factory the driver lined up with other wagons coming in from other routes. Approximately 30 wagons arrived each morning with cans of milk. A large container, mounted on scales, was at the top of inclined rollers. The driver unloaded the cans of milk and the factory workers dumped and weighed the milk. It then was put through a pasteurization and evaporation process before being preserved in tin cans for shipment to world markets. The empty cans were steam cleaned and the driver again loaded them onto the wagon.

From his tin pail the driver retrieved his lunch and from the wagon the team received their oats and hay. After lunch the return trip began; again stopping at each farm leaving the cleaned cans at the proper destination in time for the next milking. Each had been purchased by the farmer and had his name on the copper strips soldered to the can and its lid.

In order for him to accomplish this day's labor the driver rose at 4 am. and fed the horses so they'd have time to eat before starting out. The milk hauler certainly earned his pay of \$20 per month and board. Sometimes the schedule enabled Bill Pless to hitch a ride to school on the milk wagon. (The Charles Pless farm was half way between Euler and Kellogg Roads on the north side of Grand River at the time, c. 1915.) (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless' "Michigan Memorabilia". To be continued.)

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