



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. 1

Brighton, MI 48116
January, 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
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Ron Morey	227-7281
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
John Linahan - Pers. Deliv.	229-8777
Anne Stratigos - Oral History	229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School	229-6504

MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL RESTORED

The Michigan State Capitol has recently received the 1992 National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A cherished landmark and the seat of Michigan government for more than a century, the capitol suffered from decades of continuous use and neglect. The challenge for a bipartisan committee was to modernize and restore the building while keeping it open to lawmakers, staff and 100,000 annual visitors. After a \$58 million, three-year restoration effort, the capitol was rededicated on 19 November, 1992.

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior also designated the Capitol as a National Historic Landmark. (Jan/Feb., 1993, Michigan History Magazine.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 9, 9 a.m.: Board Workshop at Marieanna Bair's, 11700 E. Grand River. Welcome.

Jan. 14, 7 p.m.: Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

Jan. 26: Brighton Area District Library Special Election. Remember to vote!!!!

Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

Feb. 13, 9-11 a.m. Archives committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

LT. COL. JOHN GILLULY

The Society provided a wreath to commemorate the placing of the new marker at the grave of Lt. Col. John Gilluly. The George W. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Howell provided the marker and conducted the ceremony on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of his death in the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 12, 1862, at the Village Cemetery. Gilluly was an early teacher in the area and later became a lawyer. In 1852 he was the County Surveyer and in 1859 a State Representative of the area.

Patron: Nancy Hackney, Kathy & Steve Lowry, Jere & Kay Michaels.

Indiv./Couples: Patrick Josie Arnold, W. Charles & Joan Brown (92), Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Homer & Evelyn Dothager (IL), Elizabeth Herbst (94), Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Royden & Dorothy Jones, Whitney & June Kimble, Bob & Shirley Knight, John Korte (OH), Leota Mason (95) Marty & Lee Pawlak, Pat & Marge White.

Several months ago a typing error misspelled Arla Stuhrberg's name. Editor's apologies.

To make it easier to remember and remit dues an envelope is enclosed. If you've already sent in 1993 dues, many thanks.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: In an effort to encourage the membership of school age persons the board has determined that a new category be created. Students, K-college, pay a reduced rate. It is hoped students with an interest in local history will join the Society. Consider giving a membership as a gift.

WITH OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION MINDED GROUPS

Michigan Oral History Council: Roundtable discussion Saturday, January 9, 1993, 10-12:30 at McKune Library in Chelsea. Open to the public. Future dates: March 6, May 1, July 10 and September 4.

Michigan Quilt Network, organized in 1990, is attempting to catalogue collections of quilts, textiles and information (books, samplers, supplies, photos, etc.). A quilt collection survey is available from the Society.

Michigan Women's Historical Center, 213 W. Main, Lansing 48933-2315, has a publication, Michigan Women: Firsts and Founders, which recognizes the achievements of Michigan women. Thru February, 1993, the Center has an exhibit, Inside Michigan Nursing, telling the story of nursing from the Civil War to the present.

More info on any of the above? Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

Cathy Qualls for organizing the Christmas display in the Society's quarters of the Old Town Hall during the November 29 down town merchants' Christmas event. She was assisted by Marieanna Bair, Ricci Bandkau, Dave Barton, Nancy Fredenburg, Floyd and Ial Fuller, Jack and Ethel Gebben, Marge White and husband Mike Qualls.

Nancy Fredenberg - she sends you your dues receipt and cards; prepares a flyer for use at various Society functions; sends letters urging renewal of memberships.

Evelyn Cunningham estate for several 1940s editions of the Brighton Argus.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Lyons School - In the spring the completion of outside lighting is planned.

Old Town Hall - In cooperation with the DDA the Society is looking for an early plat map of the mill pond area, on the north side of Main Street. Please contact Gary McCririe, 229-2191 with info.

Historic Resource Survey - Still attempting to ascertain the reasons for the decline in population in the area between 1880/1920. Information on the prices of agricultural products, same period, would be helpful to Dave Barton in this project.

Archives Committee - Met Dec. 12. Continuing with sorting, filing and indexing. The committee will next meet February 13, 9-11 a.m. at the Old Town Hall. Come and lend a hand.

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.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

STATIONERY PACKETS and POST CARDS are available from Ethel Gebben, 227-5375.

The signature of Burton S. Miller, long time Brighton City Constable, has been found. A \$10. donation will ensure its addition to the SIGNATURE QUILT. This quilt will not be sold or raffled. It will become a part of the Society archives. In November a list of 21 signatures of Brighton Township residents was included in this newsletter. A donation will see they are also embroidered on the quilt.

TILES - The 1992 tile, depicting St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is available at Uber's Drug Store and Society Bank. Keep your collection up to date. Other tiles available are: Eastern House, Lyons School, Mellus Hospital, State Police Post, Union School and Western House. (The Old Town Hall and Depot tiles are sold out.)

BOARD WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

As noted in "Dates to Remember", the Board will be holding a January 9, 9-11 a.m. workshop.

This is an opportunity to make projections for the Society for 1993. Plans for General Meetings, publicity, projects, events, etc.

Any member who wishes to participate in this 'brainstorming' session is most welcome. Or call a board member with your comments.

DID YOU KNOW?

February 12, 1838, the Livingston County Board of Supervisors borrowed \$1000 at 7% interest for 15 years to erect a jail for the county.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting December 10, 1992

Treasurer's Report
Beginning Balance

\$40809.28

November 1, 1992

RECEIPTS

General Fund
Dues

\$197.00

Historic Pres. & Rest. Fund
Resource Comm., Spaghetti Supper Dona.

\$15.00

Interest

Savings (10-25-92) \$12.53

Checking (11-25-92) 3.32

C.D.s (10-25-92) 64.65

80.50 95.50 292.50

\$41101.78

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund

Adminis: 54.91

Newsletter (Print/Post.) 198.13

Misc.: Brighton Area

District Library 1000.00

1253.04

Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund

Resource Comm., Tile artist

100.00

Lyons School

Utilities 11.58

Construc. supplies 153.59

Truck for cleanup 31.80

196.97 296.97 1550.01

November 30, 1992

TOTAL NET WORTH

\$39551.77

Savings Acct. \$ 4591.45

Checking " 960.32

C.D.s 34000.00

\$39551.77

Marge White, Treas.

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

BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

The high esteem in which Gustave J. Baetcke (who purchased Lawson's banking business in February, 1891) was held is well documented in various references. One of these, the "Portrait and Biographical Album of Ingham and Livingston Counties", November, 1891, states the bank "...is now conducted as a private institution and under the present management merits the confidence that it enjoys. It is operated under the firm name of G.J. Baetcke & Co., and although in its infancy, under the present regime it has already acquired a high standing, not only in the immediate locality, but throughout the surrounding country and especially among the agricultural class with whom our subject has been associated for years."

Baetcke was a Civil War veteran serving with the 22nd Michigan Infantry from January 1, 1864 through September 20, 1865. He marched with Sherman into Atlanta. He was Supervisor of Genoa Township for five terms and served in the capacity of Treasurer for two terms. At the time of the 1907 Brighton Homecoming celebration he was Village President. An ad in the Argus of that day includes an advertisement stating he was also an insurance agent for several companies.

Gus married Amelia Gartner (d. 1904) in 1874 and in 1905 he married Mrs. F. L. Smith (nee Jennie Placeway). When Baetcke died suddenly March 5, 1913 his obituary states, "At the time of his death he was commander of the D.C. Russell Post GAR of this place....He was a prominent Republican....All business places were closed from 1-4 p.m. and the (local) business men attended in a body." during the hours of the funeral.

As stated earlier Baetcke's bank was a private institution. Because of lack of information the writer must assume the bank went into receivership following his death. (It is hoped a reader will have more data and will give the Society a more complete record of these proceedings following Baetcke's death.)

Established April 7, 1910, as a commercial and savings bank, the Brighton State Bank had 22 shareholders, all of whom lived in the county. The President was W. P. VanWinkle, Vice President was Wm. T. Fry and the Cashier was L.R. Manning (at \$1000. annual salary). Other shareholders were: F. M. Bergin, B.I. Case, Clio S. Case, K.V. Clark, James Collett, Mary A. Collett, A.M. Davis, Arthur Garland, T.G. Hennessey, F.F. Hubbell, A.A. Montague, J.A. Nelson, H.A. Nichols, C.E. Placeway, G.L. Pitkin, C.C. Schafer, John Schoenhals, A.L. Smith, and H.M. Tunis. It is thought some descendants may still hold shares.

Originally located in a building at 334 W. Main (since then occupied by Strick's Department Store, the Country Cupboard and the Golden Gallery), in 1911 the bank directors selected a building site at 306 W. Main. At the time a footbridge carried pedestrian traffic across Ore Creek, which was then replaced by a concrete sidewalk. Because of the low, wet land by the creek, a coffer dam was built and the terrain built up. May 11, 1911, C.C. Schafer received the contract to build the bank for \$5100. This was a two story brick structure. Construction to include floor and counters, to be completed by September, 1911. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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