



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. 7

Brighton, MI 48116
July, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
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Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

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Dave Barton - Hist. Resource	229-5213
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Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
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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

- July 4, HOORAY FOR THE U.S.A.!
- 5, 10a.m. Parade, Main Street.
- 8, 7 p.m. Board meeting. 200 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 10, 9-11 a.m. Archives - 200 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 13, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting. 1st Presby. Church. 300 E. Gr. Riv.
- 17, 10-11 a.m. Fairview Cemetery, Hilton Road.

GENERAL MEETING JULY 13

Milton Charboneau, an expert on Livingston County cemeteries, will tell us how to do research in a cemetery, including how to map the plot for future reference, and sources of information about the cemetery. 7:30 p.m. at 1st Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Public welcome.

THE BELL TOWER IS UP!

Thursday, June 24, the bell tower, built and donated by Bob Smail, was placed atop the Lyons School. The bell, purchased several years ago, was already installed in the tower and both went up together.

Accurate measuring assured the perfect fit on the peak of the roof and secure bolting to the timbers inside.

Major credit for this accomplishment must go to Herb Warner and the Lyons School Committee. Their continued dedication to this project is inspirational.

Workers assisting included Dale and Dan Cole (sons of Al Cole), David Hill, Jr., Del Miller, Ray Potter, Terry Warner and Jim Wing.

Onlookers, breathholders and cheer leaders: Marieanna Bair, Ricci Bandkau, Dave Barton, Ellen Hill, Linda Potter, Doris and Nancy Prieskorn and Arlene Warner.

The school is at 11455 Buno Rd.

Saturday, July 17, 10-11 a.m., an outing is planned at Fairview Cemetery on Flint Road. We'll do a little more digging into this kind of research.

Milt has learned that interred remains at two cemeteries on what is now the General Motors Proving Ground were moved to other sites. Also that Calvary Cemetery on Brighton Lake Road was not always only for Catholics. Can anyone give Milt more information?

Patron: James & Emily Brown, George & Violet Moyer (CO).

Couple & Indiv: Esther Clark (Howell), Frances Clore, Doris Fay, Chris Fazekas, Helen & Dick Leitz, James & Judy Murray (Dexter), Ed & Shirley Nyhus, 'Abbie' Sullivan.

In order to continue with the Society's goals of preserving, advancing and disseminating the history of the Brighton area the continued support of dues paying members is vital. If the label on this issue does not have '93' on it, it is hoped the goals are important enough to be a member. Many thanks.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Mr. & Mrs. D.W. Doumanian for donation of an early John Deere single bottom riding plow.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tubbs for donation of a school master's desk for Lyons School.

All those involved with placing the bell and tower atop the Lyons School.

Bob Smail for building the bell tower.

Mr. & Mrs. Val Jacoby for their cash donation to the School.

NEED NEED NEED

DESPERATELY - a picture of the Rialto Theater which was on Main Street on the site of the parking lot between the Colt Park Agency and Wm. McCririe's law office. Please check any Main Street scenes of 1919/1950. Perhaps some out of town readers might search their files. If a picture cannot be found by August 1, the board will have to select another site for the 1993 tile.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Planning all day trips to the Library of Michigan, July 14 and August 19. Contact: 517/468-3479, 517/223-3216, 517/546-6307.

Pioneer Certificates were awarded to 12 persons who had ancestors in Livingston County by 1880. Contact Marge Wilcox, 227-1760 for applications. LCGS also has the 1860 Federal Census for Livingston County at a pre-published price of \$28.ppd if ordered before 9-15. Regular price \$32.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Pictures, diaries, directories, abstracts, etc., are welcomed. Materials are slowly getting organized. Copies of any articles submitted will be made and the originals returned. To properly record the history of the Brighton area, these kinds of items are vital.

Pictures need to be taken of local sites. Sam Breck, photographer, will offer insights in recording TODAY for the future. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 if you'd like to learn.

BUGGY: Without proper insurance the Society finds it cannot use the buggy in the July 5th parade. A storage facility is needed also. Contact a board member with suggestions/help.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: The article on page 4 refers only to the railroad which passes through Brighton. By the end of the 19th century three railroads were in operation in Livingston County: the Toledo, Ann Arbor & North Michigan stopped in Hamburg, Hamburg Junction, Pettyville, Chilson, Howell Junction, Howell, Oak Grove and Cohoctah. The Chicago and Grand Trunk, Michigan Air Line Division, stopped in Gregory, Anderson, Pinckney, Hamburg Junction, Hamburg, Whitmore Lake and Rushton. The Detroit, Lansing & Northern Michigan had stops in Green Oak, Island Lake, Brighton, Howell Jct., Howell & Fowlerville.

A question re: early local roads - It seems doubtful the beautiful maple trees and rows of lilacs seen along so many early roads were just happenstance. Can someone give information as to why and when these were planted?

LYONS SCHOOL: The bell tower is up! See page 1. Next comes plumbing, wiring and heating. Donations for these mundane necessities can be sent to the Society, PO Box 481 directing to the Lyons School.

Several years ago the school was registered as a Michigan Historic Site. It is appropriate that a marker be placed, noting the history of the site and its relationship to the area. One of the 1st means of educating pioneers' children this type of one room school served Michigan well. It is fitting that such a significant part of the area's history be properly recognized. If 13-15 people each donate \$100 to the Lyons School Historic Marker Fund it can be ordered very soon. (Lesser amounts can be sent also.)

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

ART FAIR: August 14-15. Main Street. Call Chuck or Janice Beach, 229-9678, to offer your help. Society items will be available but the main purpose of this booth will be to publicize the Society.

RAFFLE: Many Society members are capable of making an item to be used for a raffle. This is always a good source of funds.

FOR SALE: buffet with matching table with 3 leaves in a box (1 leg needs repair), 8-10 picture frames, 4 boxes books, a box of records (mostly 78s), grain cradle missing its arm, organ, metal drag approx. 20"x30", metal school desk (attached arm), cobbler's stand with several shoe forms, old style paper holder for store counter, curved-top trunk. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, to see these or make an offer.

SIGNATURE QUILT: waiting for a \$10. donation and your signature or that of another.

TILES: Tiles from 1986-1992 are available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank or call 229-8494. Do you have a tile from 1984? The Society has a buyer.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kelly Marcoux, a graduate of Phoenix School, accepted at Washtenaw Community College, was awarded the Society's 1st annual scholarship. Her goal is to become an elementary teacher. Best wishes are extended to Kelly.

In recognition of the Society's support a plaque was presented at a recent brunch at Phoenix School.

Brighton Area Historical Society Board Meeting June 10, 1993 Treasurers Report -			
May 1, 1993	-BEGINNING BALANCE		\$33695.81
RECEIPTS			
<u>General Fund</u>			
	-Dues	1@ 7.00- 7.00 2@ 12.00-24.00 1@ 25.00-25.00	56.00
<u>Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund</u>			
	Interest		
	Savings 4/28/93	10.46	
	Checking 4/30/93	2.54	
	C.D.'s 31,000.00	91.27	104.27
			<u>160.27</u>
			33856.08
DISBURSEMENTS			
<u>General Fund</u>			
	Newsletter	155.00	
	Postage "	51.49	
	Envelopes-Membership		206.49
			<u>80.00</u>
			286.49
<u>Histor. Pres. & Restor. Fund</u>			
	Lyons School		
	Electric	12.81	
	Ellen Hill 2 Desks	50.00	
	May General Meeting	119.00	
			<u>181.81</u>
May 31, 1993		TOTAL NET WORTH	<u>33387.78</u>
----- Marge White Treasurer -----			
	Savings	1752.91	
	Checking	634.87	
	C.D.'s	31,000.00	
			\$ 33387.78

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

July 4th, 122 years ago, Brightonians, by the 100s, were waiting at the railroad crossing on W. Main. They were there to celebrate the opening of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad. They were impatient; they had been waiting a long time.

In fact, September 21, 1864, saw the incorporation of the Detroit & Howell Railroad company. Four Commissioners and 16 Directors were among the first officers. Wm. McPherson, Treasurer, was the main promoter and to him must major credit be given for the procuring of subscriptions, securing rights-of-way, etc.

It was September, 1866, before the president of the railroad reported that sufficient stock had been sold to begin construction between Plymouth and Howell. But it was 1868 before much work was done and then the money ran out.

On June 23, 1868, the Howell & Lansing Railroad Company was registered with the state. These two railroad companies merged on April 11, 1870 and became the Detroit, Howell & Lansing Railroad Company. (In September, 1870, this company consolidated with another to form the Detroit, Lansing, Lake Michigan Railroad Company. Soon after this became the Detroit, Lansing & Northern to be renamed Pere Marquette by 1915.) By working from both Detroit and Lansing the tracks met in Fowlerville in August, 1871.

One could board or leave the train at Green Oak Station, Brighton, Genoa Station, Howell and Fowlerville. For .22¢ one could travel from G.T. Junction to Green Oak Station, 38 miles; to Brighton, 44 miles cost .24¢, and to Genoa Station, 47 miles, the charge was .26¢ according to a poster dated August 21, 1871.

The aforementioned Wm. McPherson was an astute businessman. Early in 1871, certain of the route the railroad would take through Brighton, he, his brother Edward and Hiram H. Smith, president of the Detroit, Lansing, Lake Michigan Railroad, formed a partnership to buy land in Brighton. The Smith-McPherson Addition included land lying north of W. Main bought from Elizabeth Cushing and that south of W. Main from Elijah Fitch. By early 1872 lots were being sold in an area four blocks north and south of W. Main out to the Genoa Township line at 7th Street, for residential purposes.

Lumber yards sprang up on both sides of the tracks, also grain storage facilities, coal yards and stockyards. The Western House Hotel was built in 1869. A depot was built at the west end of Cedar Street. With no fanfare or publicity at the time the depot seemed to disappear one August day in 1968. The community was unaware of the planned removal until it was gone. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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