A RAILROAD COMES TO THE BRIGHTON AREA

July 4th, 122 years ago, Brightmonians, 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 then 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, 1970 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 Elisabeth Cushing and that south of W Main from Elijah Pitch. 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 sprung 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 1958. The community was unaware of the planned removal until it was gone. (By Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

July 4th, 122 years ago, Brightmonians, 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 then 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, 1970 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 Elisabeth Cushing and that south of W Main from Elijah Pitch. 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 sprung 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 1958. The community was unaware of the planned removal until it was gone. (By Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.  Marianna Bair  229-6402
V.P.    Cathy Qualls  229-8656
Sec.   Ricci Bandau  227-7664
Treas.  Marge White  227-3968

DIRECTORS

Dave Barton - Hist. Res.  229-5213
Chuck Beach  229-9678
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership  229-9100
Gary McColgan - Old Town Hall  229-2191
Ron Morey - Program Chairman  227-7281
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.  227-5375
John Linslau - 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, MOORAY FOR THE U.S.A.!
5, 10 a.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. Rive.
17, 10-11 a.m. Fairvile Cemetery, Hilton Road.

GENERAL MEETING JULY 13

Milton Charloneau, 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 Small, was placed stop 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 Ming.

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

The school is at 11455 Bono Rd.

Saturday, July 17, 10-11 a.m., an outing is planned at Fairvile 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 Brightmon Lake Road was not always for Catholics. Can anyone give Milt more information?
1993 MEMBERSHIPS 1993

Patron: James & Emily Brown, George & Violet Mayer (Co).
Couple & Indiv.: Esther Clark (Howell), Frances Clore, Doris Fay, Chris Pazekas, 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

Mr. & Mrs. D.W. Dumanian for donation of an early John Deere single bottom riding plow.
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tubbs for donation of a school masters blackboard for 1, the board.
All those involved with placing the bell and tower atop the Lyons School.
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Johnson for their cash donation to the School.

NEED NEED

DESPERATELY - a picture of the Rialto Theatre which was on Main Street on the site of the parking lot between the Colt Park Agency and Wm. McRirie’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 be assured the board will have to select another site for the 1993 tile.

LIVESTON 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 1860. Contact Mary Millo, 227-1760 for applications. LCSG also has the 1860 Federal Census for Livingston County at a pre-priced package of $28.95 if ordered before 9-15. Regular price $32.

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 Riek, photographer, will offer insights in recording TODAY for the future. Contact Marianna 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.


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 whether these were wanted?

LYONS SCHOOL: The bell tower is up! See page 11. 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 school in the 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

AFF AIR: August 14-15, Main Street. Call Check or Janice Beach, 229-9670, to offer your help. Society items will be available but the main purpose of this booth will be to publicize the Society.

PLAQUE: 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 booksboxes, a box of records (mostly 78s), grain cradle missing its arm, organ, metal drag approx. 20 x 30", metal school desk (attached arm), cobbler's stand with several shoe forms, old style paper holder for store counter, curved-top trunk. Call Marianna Bair, 229-6402, to see these or make an offer.

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

TILES: Tiles from 1980-1992 are available at Ubert'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 Keshnan 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 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME __________________________ PHONE __________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________________________

NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which you 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

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

$338.70
THANKS THANKS THANKS

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

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tubbs for donation of a school master's desk, for 1915, the school.

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

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

NEED NEED NEED

DESPERATELY – a picture of the Rialto Theatre 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 anyone who reads this, the board will have to select another site for the 1993 title.

LIVESTON 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 1860. Contact: Mary Wilcox, 227-1760 for applications. LCDS also has the 1860 Federal Census for Livingston County at a pre-priced package of 80-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 Historic 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 Marianna Baer, 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 Howell and Jackson. Forty Mile, Clinton, St. Johns, and St. Marys.

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 Howell and Jackson. Forty Mile, Clinton, St. Johns, and St. Marys.

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

SALE: 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 drapery approx. 20x30, metal school desk (attached arm), cobbler's stand with several shoe forms, old style paper holder for store counter, curved-top trunk. Call Marianna Baer, 229-6402, to see these or make these an offer.

SIGNATURE GUTS: 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 1987? The Society has a buyer.

GUILD: Call 229-9676 if interested in becoming a Guild member.

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


$2. Student (K-12, College) $25. Life Member

Brighton Area Historical Society P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116
A RAILROAD COMES TO THE BRIGHTON AREA

July 4th, 122 years ago, Brightmonians, 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, 1970 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 Elisabeth Cushing and that south of W Main from Elijah Pickett. 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 1958. The community was unaware of the planned removal until it was gone. (By Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

THE BELL TOWER IS UP!

Thursday, June 24, the bell tower, built and donated by Bob Smale, 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 Ming.

Onlookers, breathholders and cheer leaders: Marianna Bair, Ricci Bandak, Dave Barton, Ellen Hill, Linda Potter, Doris and Nancy Friestorn and Arlene Warner.

The school is at 11455 Buno Rd.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

July 4, HOORAY FOR THE U.S.A.!
5, 10:00 a.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 Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Gr. Riv.
17, 10-11 a.m. Fairview Cemetery, Milton Road.

GENERAL MEETING JULY 13

Milton Charlboneau, 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.