



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. 3

Brighton, MI 48116  
March, 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	229-9678
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

- Mar. 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Michigan Historic Commission Day, Museum, Lansing.
- 9, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting. First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Antiques appraisal - Gary Kuehnle & Eric Lund.
- 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 13, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 21, 4-6 p.m. Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lk. Rd. Green Oak Twp. Hist. Soc. General Meeting. "The Elocutionist". Public welcome.
- April 3, 9-11 a.m. Board Workshop. Interested? Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.
- May 15, HURON RIVERfest. See related article.

HURON RIVERfest

Several governmental, non profit organizations and businesses are planning a week long "Celebration of River Communities." beginning May 15. A flotilla of 30 canoes will put in at Proud Lake Recreation Area and ride the Huron River to lake Erie.

Communities along the way will host celebrations including concerts; history/nature and cultural programs; and other Hron River related displays and events; all to highlight the importance of the river in our lives.

Day long festivities are planned for Sunday May 16, at Livingston Conservation Club on M-36 on the Huron. Fishing, music, entertainment, craft show/sale, food, etc.

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

Kempf House Center for Local History, 312 S. Division, Ann Arbor, (994-4898) has scheduled 10 Wednesdays, noon to 1 pm, on historic preservation and restoration. Beginning March 10 with "Quilting: Past to Present" continuing with "Wish You Were Here" a collection of antique Ann Arbor postcards; "Interiors of the Late 1800's"; "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly"/what makes a successful restoration?; "Painted Tin From the Early 1800's"; "Antique Tools: Form and Function"; "The Early Ann Arbor Railroad"; "Early Private Hospitals"; "Mills Along the Huron River"; and concluding with "More Painted Period Details", more interior design detailing.

March 13-14, 1-4 pm they will be holding their annual quilt show. Includes antique and modern quilts and demonstrations. \$1.

Questions? Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

## 1993 General Meeting Programs

### Tentative Schedule

- March 9 Antique Appraising  
Gary Kuehnle and Eric Lund of G.B Kuehnle Co. will present a program on evaluating antiques and appraisal. Bring any item you can carry for appraisal. Pictures of large items may be brought.
- May 11 Victorian Gardening  
It is planned to have a specialist from Greenfield Village for the program. It may include garden plans, pest control, seed varieties, storage and preservation techniques.
- July 13 Cemetery Research  
Milt Charboneau, an expert on Livingston County Cemeteries, will talk about how to do research in a cemetery, including how to map the plot for future reference and sources of information about the cemetery. It is also planned to have a speaker who will talk about the artistic value to be found in a cemetery, including the designs on tombstones.  
  
Saturday, July 17, an outing is planned to one of the cemeteries in Brighton, on which Milt is conducting research. A picnic may also be included.
- Sept. 14 Research Resources  
How to research:  
a. The history of your house.  
b. In what kinds of occupations did early settlers engage?  
c. What did kids do for fun?  
d. What was the educational system like 50 or 100 years ago?  
e. What changes have taken place in this area since 1850?  
f. Was Brighton affected by the Civil War?  
g. Your ancestors.
- Nov. 9 Victorian Christmas Decorations  
It is planned to ask members to bring their Victorian Christmas decorations for viewing. The Society's new Christmas ornaments will be introduced.

Check "Trail Tales" for the time and location of all events. Normally the Board and the Archives Committee meetings will be held in the Old Town Hall building, 202 W. Main, upstairs. The General Meeting will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River, Brighton, MI 48116

Questions? Call a board member or write the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116.

<p><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>9th: Board Workshop                  14th: Board meeting</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>11th: Board meeting                  13th: Archives committee</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>9th: General meeting 7:30 p.m.                  11th: Board meeting                  13th: Archives committee</p>
<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>3rd: Board workshop                  8th: Board meeting                  10th: Archives committee</p>	<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>8th: Archives committee                  11th: General meeting 7:30 p.m.                  13th: Board meeting</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>10th: Board meeting                  12th: Archives committee</p>
<p><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4th: Parade                  8th: Board meeting                  10th: Archives committee                  13th &amp; 17th: General meeting                  Board workshop</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>Art Fair                  12th: Board meeting                  14th: Archives committee</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>9th: Board meeting                  11th: Archives committee                  14th: General meeting 7:30 p.m.                  17th: Spaghetti Supper</p>
<p><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>Board Workshop                  9th: Archives committee                  14th: Board meeting</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>9th: General meeting-Ann. Meet.                  11th: Board meeting 7:30 pm                  13th: Archives committee</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>9th: Board meeting                  11th: Archives committee                  Christmas Open House</p>

Patron: Ellouise Gibson (Okemos), Susan Munsell (Lansing), Joan Rice (CA), Elsa Stegenga (AZ 94).

Business/Prof: Brighton Animal Hospital, Brighton Bar & Grill, Brighton NC Machine, The Fence Spot, Warner's Cider Mill.

Couple/Indiv/Student: Dave Apps (94), Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Sally Baldwin (Gr. Rapids), Chuck & Janice Beach, Richard & Elaine Blight, Florence Chase (Fowlerville), Larry & Jean Clark (Milford), M/M John Curry (Eaton Rapids), Libby Eisenhardt, William & Betty Franklin (AZ), Leslie Healy, Katherine Hodgkin, Patricia Hunter (FL), Lois Huschke (Saginaw), Arlene Jacob, Don & Carolyn Kerr (Howell), Lois Krausman (FL), Roland & Jane Owens (94), Scott Owens, Greg & Pam Park (OH), Marc Partin Wyandotte), Betty Polaske, James & Doris Petersen (Wixom), Cliff & Shirley Ritter (94), Janet Rohrabacher (Howell), Celia Schaffer, Dan & Emma Jean Schmidt, Ed & Connie Sherman, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Bob & Ruth Watson (Howell), Bill & Charmaine Zink, Paul Zurawski.

The following paid 1993 dues some time ago and were recognized at that time. It is felt they should be noted again. The confidence they have shown is very encouraging.

Patron: Fred & Bernice Hyne, Harold & Esther Jarvis, Marie O'Dell.

Couple/Indiv: Paul & Alene Anderson, Don & Ricci Bandkau, Mildred Bender (94), Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Irene & Joe Ellis, Loretta Farley, Dorothy Foster, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Joe & Irene Mike, Dorothy Musch, Susan Myers & Jack Smith, Mary Regan, Robert & Pauline Schaffer, Lovisa Seger.

Several parents and grandparents have purchased memberships for their children in high school or college. This is a good way to encourage an interest in history and research. Others could give this action some consideration.

It is recommended that Society members support the Business/Professional members of the Society.

Brighton NC Machine for use of a truck to bring the buggy from storage to Dave Barton's for pickup by the Justin Carriage Works people.

Dave Barton for seeing to its restoration, insurance and storage.

WE NEED.....

...a microcassette transcriber for transcribing oral history tapes.

...a picture of the Rialto Theater, formerly on Main Street, to enable a good sketch to be made for the next tile.

Archives Committee: will meet Saturday, March 13, 9-11 am., at the Old Town Hall, 202 W Main. It is important to properly file and record the many materials of an historical nature in the Society's possession. Consideration is being given to a computer filing system.

WITH OTHER HISTORIC AND PRESERVATION-MINDED GROUPS

National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network are offering a Midwest Preservation Conference April 15/17 in Kalamazoo.

This conference will discuss neighborhood conservation and the role historic preservation plays in building and maintaining viable communities.

Historical Society of Michigan announces two conferences: the 44th Annual Upper Peninsula conference - June 25-27, in Escanaba and the 119th Annual Meeting and State History conference - October 1-3, in Spring Lake.

For more information on the above contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Enclosed is a calendar of Society events and a description of planned General Meeting programs. It is hoped this calendar will be kept in a prominent place (by the telephone or on the refrig?) and that participation will be easier for you. Guests are always welcome at any Society event.

As more detailed information, or changes, are announced in the newsletter, add it to the calendar. Questions? Call a Board member.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Signature Quilt: When completed, this quilt will remain with the Society. A \$10. donation, plus the signature of someone you wish to commemorate, or your own, may be sent to the Society. The signature will be embroidered on the quilt.

Don't have a signature? Early records in the Society's files include signatures of prior residents of the area. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 for a list or let one be selected for you. This seems an appropriate fund raiser.

SOCIETY BUGGY RESTORED

In 1985 Michigan Bank Livingston donated the buggy, which had been on display in a case in front of the bank, to the Society. It has been completely restored recently into A-1 condition. The Society board plans to use it in parades, etc., to help promote the organization.

It is planned to have the buggy on display at the March 9, General Meeting.

It was built in 1926 in Ontario, Canada. More research will, hopefully, provide a more detailed provenance.

Those interested in continuing support of the Society might consider including the Society in a will, trust or memorial.

The 1992 tile, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is available from Society Bank and Uber's Drug Store. Uber's also has earlier tiles. Tiles can also be obtained by writing the Society.

Notice to tile collectors: Occasionally check the holders on the back if you have the tiles hanging on the wall. It is possible they may come loose.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Treasurer's Report  
Board Meeting - February 11, 1993

January 1, 1993	Beginning Balance		\$38890.08
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
General Fund			
Dues: 1992	4@ 7 = 28.	4@ 12 = 48.	
1993 2@ 2 = 4.	19@ 7 = 133.	20@ 12 = 240.	12@ 25 = 300.
1944	6@ 7 = 42.	2@ 12 = 24.	
		Total	819.00
Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund			
Resource Committee			
Tile Sales: 12	82.00		
Shipping Charge	3.48		85.48
Donations: (Xmas Open House; H'rington; Jacoby; Prieskorn [20])			31.52
Interest Income			
Check. (12-31-92)	2.87		
Sav. "	10.59		
CDs "	167.86		181.32
			<u>1117.32</u>
			\$40007.40
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
General Fund			
Adm.: Safe Deposit Box Rent		20.00	
Newsletter: Printing	155.00		
Postage (52.84)	40.84	195.84	
Dues Envelopes		134.73	350.57
Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund			
Resources Comm: Spaghetti Supper Honorarium	30.00		
Lyons School (Utilities)		11.90	41.90
			<u>392.47</u>
January 31, 1993	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$39614.93
Check Acct. Bal (1-31-93)	1685.11		
Sav. " " (12-31-93)	3929.82		
Total in CDs	34000.00		<u>\$39614.93</u>
Marieanna Bair, Treas. Pro Tem			

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

## BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

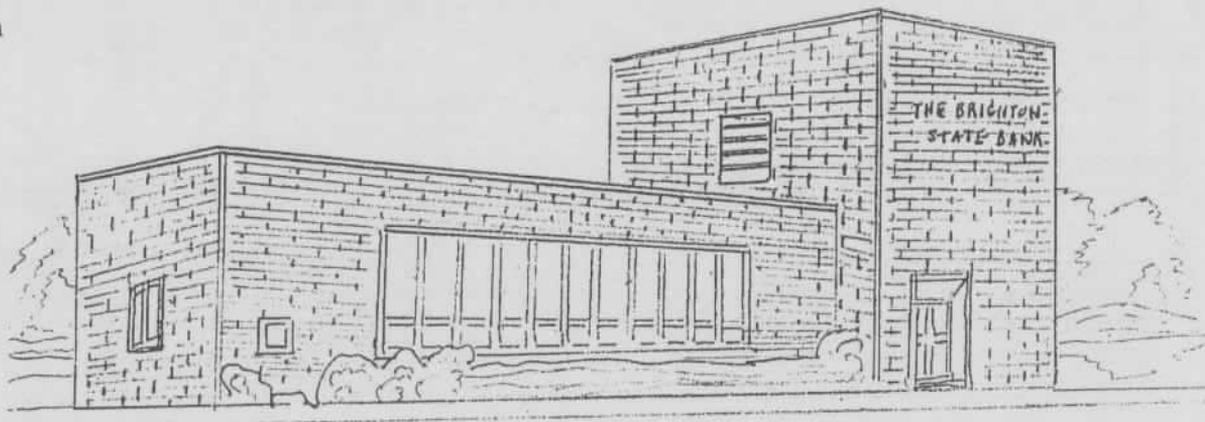
In the January/February, 1992, issue of Michigan History Magazine we learn: "On February 14, (1933) Michigan Governor William A. Comstock closed every bank in the state for eight days. (But banks were not allowed to open until February 23.) The country was suffering the devastating effects of the Great Depression and Michigan's banks were at the brink of failure. After attempts to obtain loans from the federal government and private donors had failed, Comstock closed the banks, which set off a tidal wave of bank closings in other states. Ultimately, only 207 of Michigan's 436 state banks and trust companies reopened." To top it off, two days after his March 4, 1933, inauguration President Roosevelt declared a national banking holiday for a week.

Brighton State Bank was one of the successful banks. It reopened under the conservatorship of its cashier, Mr. Roy Newcomb. (Not only were businesses and individuals critically affected by this catastrophe, but also governmental bodies and schools. Vacation time for Brighton students started April 21, 1933. There were no funds with which to pay school bills.) Assets were liquidated and a new bank formed with new stock the following January.

It was six years before the area had sufficiently recovered from the effects of the Depression to enable bank officers to decide it was time to authorize the opening of an Industrial Loan Department; June 1, 1939.

Following WW II the American industry turned again to peacetime production. Local economy was stimulated and business increased with the area's growth. In 1951 it was determined that a 20'x50', one story addition would be made to the building. Total remodeling included changes which completely obliterated all vestiges of the old, familiar 1911 architectural details.

(By Marieanna  
Bair. To be  
continued.)



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