



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. 9

Brighton, MI 48116
September, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Ricci Bandkau	227-7664
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

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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 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

GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday, September 14

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Board member, Ron Morey, will be giving information on where, how and when research can be conducted regarding the history of your house, genealogy and/or local history.

The who, what and why will be up to you.

He has visited the archives in Howell and several other sources including libraries and museums.

Tips on locations, including parking facilities, hours and what to look for will be part of the evening's program.

The meeting begins at 7:30 and will be held at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River., Brighton.

This program is open to the public. Bring your friends.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 4, 10-12:30. Michigan Oral History Council Roundtable, Chelsea, 313/475-7396
- 8, 7:30. Crossroads Group Sierra Club, Spencer School, 10639 Spencer Rd. Membership meeting, 227-9563.
- * 9, 7 p.m. Board Meeting.
- 10-12, 11 a.m./8 p.m., Heritage Days at Wyandotte. 313/246-4520. Living history encampments, Colonial garb, historic home and church tours, WW II displays.
- *11, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm. Welcome.
- 14, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, First Presbyterian Church. See article.
- 17, 4:30/7 p.m. Spaghetti Supper, Brighton Fire Hall. See article p.2. Bring your friends!

(DATES...cont.)

- Sept. 19, 4-6 p.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society General Meeting, Town Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Rd., "The Thaumaturgist".
- 24, 9-4 p.m. Michigan State Historic Preservation Office Fall Workshop, Lansing. Article p.3.
- Oct. 1-3. Historical Society of Michigan 119th Annual Meeting and State History Conference, Grand Haven, MI. Article p. 3.
- * 9, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm. HELP!
- 10, Pioneer Day, Waterloo Area Historical Society. 517/596-2254.
- 12, Hist. Soc. Mich: "Mulling Over Michigan II" Teachers' Conference, Grand Rapids. 313/769-2490.
- *Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, upstairs.

MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Indiv: Heather Bandkau, (Ypsi), Leon & Marilyn Bonner (Nrthvl), Mary Beth Guest (Lewiston, 94), Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Greg Park (OH), Ed & Elaine Klinske, Elnora Knaus (IN), Alice Krupa, Don & Alice Wyland.

It's important to study history for perspective....so people do not somehow feel that everything is happening for the first time. Thanks to all members for their support.

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THANKS THANKS THANKS

Janice and Chuck Beach for a successful booth at the recent Brighton Art Fair. Also to Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Nancy Fredenberg, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Kathy Grove, Bob & Shirley Knight, Tom & Audrey Leith, Alice Newcomb, Bill & Jane Tomlinson for helping with set up and take down, managing the booth and selling SO MUCH lemonade! All combined to make it a successful, altho' hot day. The Society is a live, going group because of people like you. And to Brighton Chamber of Commerce, Cap & Cork, McDonald's and Meijers for their supportive cooperation.

Brighton Fire Department, Jennie Fredenberg, Audrey Leith, and others yet to be named, for support and planning for the Spaghetti Supper September 17.

Brighton Township Board for the waiver of the plumbing permit fee for the Lyons School.

Pauline Chenoweth for a copy of the Brighton Township Board minutes transferring ownership of the Pleasant Valley Burying Grounds from the Association to the Township.

Ted & Doris Carmack and Harold & Mary Ann Leitz for their donations to the Lyons School Historic Site marker fund.

Herb Warner for his continued enthusiasm for the restoration of the Lyons School.

IN MEMORIAM

The Society extends sincere condolences to the family of Clara Daniells, who had lived in Brighton over 60 years and the family of Hazel Cole, a long time member and supporter of the Society and area resident.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The second Saturday, 9-11, each month will find us upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, putting the history of the area in archival storage.

Help is always welcome as is material relative to recording the story of those who preceded us here. No prior reservation is necessary - just come up.

Needed are books, pictures, letters, abstract, maps, directories, newspapers, etc., which can be copied and returned, if desired. Contact Marieanna Bair.

LYONS SCHOOL: Chairman, Herb Warner, can use some help with yard care, etc. Regular care and exterior maintenance is vital to inclusion of the site in the neighborhood.

Thanks to the Brighton Twp. Board the plumbing permit fee has been waived. Rest room facilities, unobtrusive to best preserve the historic significance of the building, are planned.

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11th ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Friday, September 17, 4:30-7 p.m.
Brighton Fire Hall

"All you can eat for \$4.00!" The price can't be beat. \$2. for children 6-12; no charge for those less than 6.

From 4:30-7:00 you get salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage with your spaghetti.

Where? At the Brighton Fire Hall, 615 E. Grand River.

Many thanks for the support of Fire Chief, Richard Shinski and the entire department.

Proceeds from the Supper, as all proceeds from fund raisers, will go to the Preservation and Restoration Fund. Projects funded include the development of a local archives file, the restoration of the buggy and Lyons School, Old Town Hall leasing expenses, the Historic Resource Survey, microfilming of early issues of the Brighton Argus, Oral History, insurance expenses, etc.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

ART FAIR: Over \$350. will go into the Preservation & Restoration Fund as a result of Chuck & Janice Beach's effort last month. Thanks to all who supported this event. Next year's will be bigger and better.

BAKE SALE: If Jane Tomlinson, 229-1601, or her committee hasn't contacted you yet, you can call and tell her what you'll bring. Or you can make a cash donation to the Society noting it's for the Bake Sale.

RAFFLE: Contact any board member if you have something to donate.

SIGNATURE QUILT: Lots of signatures of earlier people of the area are available to be included on the quilt. \$10. is all it takes. Or perhaps you'd like to memorialize someone.

STATIONERY, POSTCARDS: Call Ethel Gebben, 227-5375.

TILES: All tiles are available at Uber's Drugs and Society Bank or call 229-8494.

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MICH. STATE HIST. PRES. OFFICE WORKSHOP

Participants will learn how Sect. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 both protects historic properties and guides Federal, State and local agencies in planning for historic preservation \$6. reg. fee in by 9-14-93. Call M. Bair, 229-6402.

HIST. SOC. OF MICH. ANN. MEETING

This year's meeting will feature a variety of topics related to Western Michigan, Lake Michigan and the state in general. Architecture, Ku Klux Klan, the carferry, logging, restoration and interpretation of photos, water crafts and wrecks, baseball and Beaver Island will be some of the sessions available. Register by Sept. 24. Call M. Bair, 229-6402 or 313/769-1828 for info.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting, August 12, 1993 - Treasurer's Report

July 1, 1993	Beginning Balance			\$32679.81
RECEIPTS				
General Fund				
	Dues	\$85.00		
	Donation for printing/postage newsletter	100.00	185.00	
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund				
Resource Comm.				
	Sale of Tiles	152.00		
	Signature Quilt (Burt Miller)	10.00	162.00	
Lyons School				
	Marker Fund		150.00	
Interest				
	Savings (6-25-93)	2.77		
	Checking (6-30-93)	1.33		
	C.D.s	68.74	72.84	384.84
				569.84
				<u>\$33249.65</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Fund				
	Adm. Bank Serv. Chg.	7.50		
	Officers' Exp.	60.84		
	Newsletter Printing	155.00		
	Postage	25.00	180.00	248.34
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund				
	Administration	36.75		
	Resource Comm - Canopy	89.99	126.74	
Lyons School				
	Utilities	13.33		
	Bell Tower	148.44	161.77	536.85
July 31, 1993	TOTAL NET WORTH			\$32712.80
	Savings Acct.	\$ 1185.94		
	Checking "	526.86		
	C.D.s	31000.00		32712.80
				<u>\$32712.80</u>
	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 | \$2. Student (K-12, College) |
| \$25. Business/Professional | Brighton Area Historical Society |
| \$12. Couple | P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116 |
| \$ 7. Individual | |

(More of:) A RAILROAD COMES TO THE BRIGHTON AREA

(Altho' "A Railroad Comes to the Brighton Area" was concluded in the August issue, related items of interest have surfaced which this writer believes will be of interest.)

The depot was, of course, the center of attention when the passenger trains stopped. Just to be able to see people and to be seen was a new and enjoyable experience. To top it off there was also the phenomenon of the tapping of the telegraph key relaying messages.

July 20, 1907 finds an excursion train carrying railroad employees and their families from towns and cities west of Brighton on an outing to Detroit. A west bound freight was on the same track. At Salem, Washtenaw County, the two trains met head on. Almost every one sustained an injury and 33 were killed. The high casualty list can be attributed to the wood, open vestibule type passenger coaches.

East bound trains soon filled the side tracks in Brighton as doctors, nurses, druggists, dentists, or anyone qualified to aid the injured were rushed to the scene. Women of Brighton donated bed sheets to be used as bandages. All afternoon and well into the night coaches filled with injured passengers passed through on the way to hospitals in Lansing. (Only large cities had hospitals.) Ambulances, paramedics and all the other emergency services now available were unknown at the time.

During that time women and children wore white clothing for a summer holiday. These now presented a gruesome sight, soiled and bloodstained. The white bandages, flaunting their crimson source, added to the grisly scene. And then, as now, an accident provoked a morbid curiosity in many. We all troop to the 'station' to see.

However about three weeks later that summer a seven coach train brought people with ties to the Brighton area to a homecoming celebration on August 7, 1907. They were properly welcomed at the depot by the Brighton Band and horses and buggies lined the streets to receive the visitors for transport to relatives' and friends' homes.

The residents of Brighton Village were almost outnumbered by the visitors. The week long celebration included parades, picnics and prayers, concerts, ball games and horseshoe pitching. It was a happy time of reminiscence.

Yes, the train still travels through Brighton. However the wail of the steam engine has been replaced by the horn of the diesel. Almost everything the rail road brought is gone: the depot, water tank, stockyards, ice houses, hoboes, steam engines, coal yards, grain elevators, the clicking telegraph key and the long lines of farm wagons bringing grain, beans, potatoes, apples, wool and livestock to be shipped to distant markets. However the Western House is still there and perhaps, if you don't look too closely to the north as you're crossing the tracks, you'll spot the ghosts of another day and another time in the Brighton area. (Marieanna Bair from "Lookin' Back" by Bill Pless.)

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED