GROWING WHEAT IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)


A BIT OF FRIENDLY RIVALRY ENGUESD AMONG THE FARMERS' WIVES AS THEY PREPARED MEALS FOR THE THRASHER CREW. USUALLY TWO MEALS WERE PREPARED FOR UP TO 20 MEN FOR AS MANY DAYS AS IT TOOK TO FINISH THE THRASHERING. A HIRED CREW RECEIVED BREAKFAST ALSO.

THE MEAL PREPARATION ENTAINED MANY HOURS IN A HOT KITCHEN (IN HOT WEATHER) PEELING, COOKING, ROASTING, BAKING, TABLE SETTING, TABLE CLEARING, DISH WASHING AND IT WOULD BEGIN AGAIN FOR THE EVENING MEAL. THE FARMER'S WIFE ENLISTED THE AID OF FEMALE RELATIVES, IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH DAUGHTERS, TO HELP WITH THE WORK. AS WITH THE MEN, THIS FAVOR WAS RETURNED IN LIKE MANNER. HER CUSTOMERS WERE ALWAYS APPRECIATIVE AND HUNGRY. WORKING FROM 7 A.M. TO 6 P.M. THEIR APPETITES MATCHED THE GENEROUS MEALS.

THE THRESHERS, GARBED IN BIT OVERALLS, LONG SLEEVED SHIRT, RED BANDANA HANDKERCHIEF AROUND THE NECK IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUT ITCHY, PICKY CHAFF, AND HEAVY SHOES READY WHEN THE DINNER BELL BY THE BACK DOOR WAS RUNG. A WASH BENCH WAS SET UP OUTSIDE WITH PINS OF WATER, BARS OF SOAP AND SEVERAL TOWELS. THE THRESHERS APPRECIATED THE Opportunity TO ESCAPE FROM THE SWEAT, GRIME AND CHAFF WHICH HAD ACCUMULATED. THE YOUNGER CHILDREN KEPT THEM SUPPLIED WITH FRESH WATER FROM THE CISTERN AS THEY CLUSTERED NEAR THE CHATTING AND OFTEN TEASING MEN. THE FRESH WATER BUCKET, WITH ONE ZIPPER FOR ALL TO USE, WAS WELCOMED BY THE THIRSTY WORKERS. USUALLY A MIRROR WAS HUNG IN A HANDY PLACE AND A COMB COULD BE RUN THROUGH WET, TOSSED HAIR. AFTER ALL, SOME OF THE YOUNG LADIES SERVING MIGHT BE A SPECIAL SOMEONE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OCCASIONALLY WORKER BRUGHT THEIR LUNCH AND WENT HOME FOR Supper BECAUSE OF THAT PARTICULAR FARMER'S WIFE'S LACK OF CULINARY SKILLS. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481
FINANCIAL RESOURCES


eigan: With scenes of Brighton woven in. This has been a well-received fund raiser. User’s has them or call Nancy Friedburg, 229-5100. If sufficient orders are placed these can be reordered.

The Signature Quilt has two more names: F.T. Hyde and Emil Keesen. A $10 donation will add your name or that of another to this addition to Society Archives.

By 1875 there were Pitkins in Brighton. Druggist, mortician, furniture dealer, garage owner, builder, postal worker, local school board member – all were activities involving the Pitkin name. G. Richard Pitkin’s signature is available for inclusion on the quilt. Send a $10 donation to the Society to do it.

POST CARDS AND STATIONERY with the old town hall and packets of post cards with early Brighton scenes can be purchased at The Book Nook or User’s.

Large pictures of the mill pond are available at User’s.

THANKS: thanks thanks thanks

Chuck and Norma Jean Pless for their donation to the Lyons School Restoration, Bill and Helen Hyde and Ron and Sally Keesen for their donations to the Signature Quilt.

Looking for that perfect gift? That the recipient will enjoy all year? Send in patron dues to the Society for them. You can’t go wrong.

A “GUIDE TO MICHIGAN QUILT COLLECTIONS” by the Preservation Committee of the Michigan Quilt Network is available for research.

Enables location, type of material, patterns, etc. Contact Marleena Bair 229-6402.

I believe that the reason for life is for each of us to grow in love.

‘94’ FROM PAGE 1

Two new members have joined the board. Jaime Green, recent recipient of her MS degree in historical preservation, has assumed a preservation coordinator position – responsible for reference material to those interested in the restoration of their properties. Carolina Delucchi, who retired from teaching, will coordinate the annual spaghetti supper in May, and contributed in many other ways.

David Barton is continuing with the Historic Resource Survey of Brighton. The Smith/McPherson, Lee and Dutcher additions and “lower” town and “upper” town terms are all becoming more familiar. Dave can usually help owners discover the background of their home or assist in finding the information.

Janice Field and Joan Brown have proven their dedication to the process of organizing the Society’s Archives. Making archival donations available for research is a slow process but they stick with it.

Secretary Ron Morey and Treasurer, Marge White, keep meeting records, records, complete and properly recorded.

Becoming real pros at handling the Society’s booth at the Art Fair each year are Chuck and Janice Beach. Initially an opportunity for publicity for the Society the sale of Society items and donated refreshments has transformed the event into a income producer.

The possibility of restoring the Lyons School is becoming very real. Jim Vicicich has been seeing to the many details involved in the construction of the infrastructure, plumbing, roofing, heating, doors, windows and shutters. Installation, repair of damaged glass blocks at the rear; rep messy and changes in the fencing around the school are major items which are being completed.

President Bair extends sincere thanks to all board members and project chairpersons for their consistent dedication. Regular attendance at board meetings has been outstanding.

1995 – The Brighton Area Historical Society is ready for you.

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

DUES: $25. Patron $2. Student (K-12) College
$25. Business/Professional $12. Couple
$7. Individual

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481
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A "Guide to Michigan Quilt Collections" by the Preservation Committee of the Michigan Quilt Network is available for research. It includes location, types of material, patterns, etc. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

I believe that the reason for life is for each of us to grow in love.

-Toby

'94' FROM PAGE 1

Two new members have joined the Board. Jaime Green, recipient of her MS degree in historical preservation, and Judith Knight, recipient of her bachelor's degree in history, have joined the Board in the past two years. They have both contributed much to the Society over the past year.

Dave Barton is continuing with the Historical Survey of Brighton. The Smith/McPherson, Lee and Ditchen families have provided important information about their families.

Janice Field and Joan Brown have proven their dedication to the preservation of the Society's Archives. Making archival donations available for research is a slow process, but they stick with it.

Secretary Ron Morey and Treasurer, Marge White, keep meeting records complete and assure that financial transactions are completed and properly recorded.

The possibilities of restoring the Lyons School are becoming very real. Jim Vichich has been seeking to the details involved in the construction of the infrastructure, plumbing, roofing, heating, window and shutter installation, and building. He has transformed the school into a modern producer.

The possibility of re-creating the Lyons School is becoming very real. Jim Vichich has been seeking to the details involved in the construction of the infrastructure, plumbing, roofing, heating, window and shutter installation, and building. He has transformed the school into a modern producer.

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1995 - The Brighton Area Historical Society is ready for you.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

LEGHAN: With scenes of Brighton woven in, this has been a well-received fund raiser. We've had them on call and Nancy Frederick, 229-9100, if sufficient orders are placed these can be reordered.

The Signature Quilt has more names:

P.T. Hyne and Emil Keen: $10 donation will add your name or that of another to this addition to Society Archives.

By 1875 there were Pitkins in Brighton. Now, Furniture dealer, garage owner, builder, postal worker, local school board member - all were activities involving the Pitkin name. G. Richard Pitkin's signature is available for inclusion on the quilt. Send a $10 donation to the Society to do it.

POSTCARDS AND STATIONERY with the old town hall and packets of post cards with early Brighton scenes can be purchased at the Book Nook or Uber's. Large pictures of the Mill Pond are available at Uber's.

TIES: of the Western House and other scenes from Brighton's past are at Uber's, somewhere in time and at Society Bank.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME __________________________________________ PHONE _______________________

ADDRESS ________________________________________________

NEW ( ) RENEAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- Bake Sale ( ) Help with Special events ( ) Newsletter ( ) Research
- Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration
- Fund raising ( ) Programs ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping
- Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other

DUES: $25. Patron $2. Student (K-12, College)
$25. Business/Professional Brighton Area Historical Society
$12. Couple
$7. Individual

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Barns were often built very near the road. In order to set the separator so the straw stack could be built where the farmer directed, the engine had to be placed on the other side of the road and the long, heavy belt strung across the road. The farmer provided access around the barn for the horse drawn traffic of the time and no one seemed to mind the delay. The coming of the automobile put an end to stringing the belt across the road.

A bit of friendly rivalry ensued among the farmers’ wives as they prepared meals for the threshing crew. Usually two meals were prepared for up to 20 men for as many days as it took to finish the threshing. A hired crew received breakfast also.

The meal preparation entailed many hours in a hot kitchen (in hot weather) peeling, cooking, roasting, baking, table setting, table clearing, dish washing; and it would begin again for the evening meal. The farmer’s wife enlisted the aid of female relatives, if she didn’t have enough daughters, to help with the work. As with the men, this favor was returned in like manner. Her customers were always appreciative and hungry. Working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. their appetites matched the generous meals.

The threshers, garbed in bib overalls, long sleeved shirt, red bandana handkerchief around the neck in an attempt to keep out itch, picky, chaff, and heavy shoes were ready when the dinner bell by the back door was rung. A wash bench was set up outside with pans of water, bars of soap and several towels. The threshers appreciated the opportunity to escape from the sweat, grime and chaff which had accumulated. The younger children kept them supplied with fresh water from the cistern as they clustered near the chattering, and often teasing, men. The fresh water bucket, with one dipper for all to use, was welcomed by the thirsty workers. Usually a mirror was hung in a handy place and a comb could be run through wet, tousled hair. After all, one of the young ladies serving might be a special someone. It should be noted that occasionally workers brought their lunch and went home for supper because of that particular farmer’s wife’s lack of culinary skills. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

DATEs TO REMEMBER
Dec. 9, 9-11 a.m.: Work at Archives.
12: 7:30 p.m.: Board Meeting.
25: Happy Holiday!!!
December 9 and 12 meetings will be at the Old Town Hall: 202 W. Main, upstairs.

CORRECTION!!!
“A Few Brighton Firsts” in the November issue noted that the bank at Kensington was organized 12-12-1857. The correct date is 12-29-1857. Thanks to Jim Vichich.