



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. XIII No. 2

Brighton, MI 48116
February, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.		
Sec.	Ron Morey	227-7281
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Dave Barton - Hist. Res. Survey	229-5213
Chuck Beach	229-9678
Chris Fazekas - Oral History	229-8772
Nancy Fredenburg - Oral History	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191

Ricci Bandkau - Home Tour	227-7664
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
John Linahan - Pers. Deliv.	229-8777
Heidi Newman - History Book	995-2613
Anne Stratigos - Hospitality	229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School	229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 2, 5-8 p.m. LCGS representative at Brighton District Library*
- ** 12, 9-11 a.m. Filing Society Archives. Archives.*
- 16, 8:15 a.m. LDS Church, Howell.*
- ** 28, 7:30 p.m. Society Board Meeting.
- ***Apr. 8-9, Local History Conf., Detroit.
- ***May 13, 2nd Annual Michigan One-Room School House Conf., Ionia.
- ***May 23-24, Michigan Archival Assoc., Mackinac Island.

*See related article.

**Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members welcome.

***Contact Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 48104.

EDITORIAL

Service, religious, social and political organizations, businesses and governmental bodies, etc., need to recognize and appreciate the fundamental importance of the records of their organizations and their preservation.

As with museum artifacts these records are important cultural resources. However many organizations, companies, etc., rid themselves of these records periodically or when storage is at a premium. The loss is too often not realized until decision makers, administrators and attorneys need these records and learn, to their dismay, they've been destroyed or lost.

Organizations must establish and support archives to maintain and preserve their records. (From "Primarily Archives" by David Johnson, State Archivist, Michigan History Magazine, May/June, 1993.)

The Brighton Area Historical Society is working to develop archives especially related to the area. Before eliminating an organization's records consider donating the to the Society. (Marieanna Bair, Editor)

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BOARD MEETING DATE

CHANGED FOR 1994

(AGAIN!)

Beginning February 28, the Society Board will meet the fourth Monday in 1994.

Meetings will begin at 7:30 (another change) and will be held upstairs at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members are welcome.

Bus/Prof: Brighton Bar & Grill, Warner's Orchard and Cider Mill.

Patron: Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Ula Davis, Judge Michael Hegarty, Jere & Kay Michaels, Marie O'Dell (95).

Couple/Indiv: Paul & Alene Anderson (95) (Charlevoix), Richard & Elaine Blight, Marian Carney, Emil & Joan Engel, Jack & Ethel Gebben, Katherine Hampton (Plymouth), James Kaluk, Don & Sally Keehn, Gary Longenecker (95), Helen Michaels, Joe & Irene Mike, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Norris, John & Debbie Oberpuel, Tedd and Linda Potter, Dan & Emma Jean Schmidt, Bud & Janet Schopp, Gene & Dorothy Schutz.

Persons with a local address usually receive Trail Tales within a day after Ethel Gebben gets them to the Post Office (which is within a day after printing). The Society's non profit, bulk mailing permit causes a delay for out of town addresses. Several of these members, wishing to receive the newsletter in a more timely fashion, have sent funds to purchase a booklet of 1st class stamps. You may wish to consider this.

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2nd ANNUAL BRIGHTON COMMUNITY FAIR

Saturday, March 5, 1994, 9a.m./1p.m.. The Society will have a table again. Can you help for an hour or two? Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

GENEALOGY

The Livingston County Genealogical Society (LCGS) has a representative at the Brighton District Library, 200 N. First, each 1st Wednesday to answer your questions.

Meet at the LDS Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell, at 8:15 a.m. to car pool to the State of Michigan Library, Lansing to conduct genealogical research. February 2 and March 23 are the dates. Contact Lyla Spellbring, 546-6307 for more information.

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MICROFILMING OF EARLY ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS:...is well underway. The Board decided to have extra copies made for the use of the public and archives.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES:...take a long time to file properly. Pictures must be identified, items read and decisions made as to where shall this be filed for future reference. Second Saturday in February, 9-11 a.m. Join us or call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402. (Very interesting!)

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Working on the history of homes in the Smith/McPherson Addition of 1871-1875. There are no tax records for 1880-1940. They were destroyed. Dave Barton could use help deciphering early handwriting. Call him 229-5213. He can use your help. If you live in Genoa or Brighton Township check with Dave about this procedure and get those surveys begun.

LYONS SCHOOL: Jaime Green was highly commended by her instructor on the grant application she prepared. It is being fine-tuned prior to submission to a possible grantor. Donations can still be sent for the historic site marker expense.

ORAL HISTORY: A list of long time residents of the community has been compiled. They all have something to contribute to the local history record. The Society has recommended procedures, suggested questions and a small tape recorder for your use. You'll be given background on the person so you'll know what to ask during the interview. Contact Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 if you'd like to help record the area's history in this manner.

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RESIGNS FROM BOARD

Because of other commitments Cathy Qualls finds she must resign from the board. Cathy has been serving for many years and will be sorely missed. She has also chaired home tours and contributed much time and energy to the Society. Many thanks Cathy. She's promised to come back when her schedule permits.

If one of our readers would consider serving on the board please contact a board member. Time and energy will be needed but you'll find it worthwhile.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SIGNATURE QUILT: All names for which donations have been received have been embroidered on the quilt - over 100 families are represented. This quilt will remain in the Society Archives. It would be good if you and your family were included. A \$10. contribution will do it.

OLD TOWN HALL NEEDLEPOINT KIT: At the Quilter's Shoppe, 213 W. Main. Pattern only, \$3.; complete kit \$8.

POST CARD PACKETS: Two different sets, six cards each, 3.00. At Uber's Drugs and The Book Nook, 322 W. Main.

TILES: The 1993 edition, Brighton Mills, is available at Uber's Drugs and Somewhere in Time, 316 W. Main and Society Bank. The Brighton Flouring and Grist Mill was built by Orson Quackenbush in 1840, on what is now the North Street parking lot. (N.W. corner W. North Street/S. West Street.) Evert Woodruff owned it in 1849, then Lyman Judson. After 'modernization' it was sold to Egbert F. Albright and Chester Thomson in 1856. They also added improvements including a steam boiler for power during the summer. Charles T. Hyne and Sons purchased it by the mid 1870s. By 1907 the Galbraith family advertised 25# sacks of "Ideal" flour for .55¢. John and Will Thompson (partners, not brothers) installed an electric motor and the mill kept running. Sometime between the two World Wars operation discontinued. In 1946, members of the American legion used timbers from the mill, as it was being razed, to build their hall on Main Street.

Other tiles from previous issues are still available. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, State Police Post, Mellus Hospital, Eastern House, Lyons School, Western House and the Union School. These can be purchased at \$8. or 3/\$21. Get yours soon. Make your set complete. What shall the tile depict in 1994? Contact a board member with your suggestion.



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

New () Renewal ()

BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900 (cont.)

By the end of the 19th century the size of a farmer's dairy herd was limited by the size of the barn, how much feed he could grow, the number of acres of pasture available and how many cows, he, his family and hired help could milk (by hand) twice a day.

We find that gasoline engines were used for lighting, powering milking machines, etc., by 1913 in Livingston County. This enabled a dairy herdsman to increase the number of milking cows, and therefore, the amount of milk sent to the creamery, condensing factory or milk distribution centers.

The advent of refrigerated railroad cars in the first two decades of the 20th century came about as a result of the insulation of railroad cars and the gas engine powered compressors. For a time dairy products were shipped from Brighton by rail to Detroit and other urban centers.

In order to assure that the milk purchased in the city was clean and pure many regulations related to cooling, pasteurizing, cleanliness and sanitation were imposed. Animals were tested frequently for tuberculosis, undulant fever, etc. As with most governmental regulations not all of these were accepted wholeheartedly.

After WW I trucks replaced the horse drawn wagons which had picked up the milk cans from the farm. (Huge stainless steel tankers do the job now.)

By the mid 1930s electricity was extended from the towns out to the rural areas of Livingston County. Now the farmer could shut down that gasoline driven compressor which was a continual source of concern because of the possibility of a fire.

In Brighton, in 1941, the Detroit Creamery moved into a new building on the S.W. Corner of N. Second and Advance Streets. Here the milk was tested, cooled and the cream separated. The skim milk was sold to the farmers as feed for calves and pigs. The cream was churned to butter and shipped to distribution points. Whole milk was also shipped from here for a time. (The previous location was on N. First between Cedar and Chestnut.) A. J. Southwell, Marie Borst, Fred Richmond, Eldred Bebee worked for the Detroit Creamery in various positions. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair. It would be good to include the names of other employees, just for the record. Call 229-6402. To be continued.)

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