



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. 7

Brighton, MI 48116  
JULY, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- JULY 4: 10 A.M. WE'LL BE IN THE PARADE WITH OUR NEWLY RESTORED BUGGY. JOIN US.
- \*JULY 9: 9-11 A.M. ARCHIVES PROJECT. WELCOME.
- \*\* 12: 6:30 P.M. GENERAL MEETING. WELCOME.
- \* 25: 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING. "
- 23: 9-3 P.M. ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP, AT ALDEN, MI. "ECHOES FROM THE ATTIC." \$25.00, CALL 616/331-6583 OR 517/321-1746.
- \*\*AUGUST 13/14. 10 A.M./5 P.M. ART FAIR. HELP AT SOCIETY BOOTH - EAST SIDE OF OLD TOWN HALL.
- \*AT OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN. MEMBERS WELCOME.
- \*\* SEE REALTED ARTICLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL M. BAIR, 229-6402.

1995 BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

NOMINEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ARE REQUESTED. SUGGEST PEOPLE YOU BELIEVE WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BOARD. OR OFFER YOUR OWN SERVICES. CURRENTLY WE ARE MEETING THE FOURTH MONDAY AT 7:30 P.M., UPSTAIRS IN THE OLD TOWN HALL.

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES AND BELIEVING IN THE GOALS OF PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE AREA'S HISTORY ARE LOGICAL CANDIDATES. BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED WITH VARIOUS PROJECTS: MEMBERSHIP, FUND RAISING, ARCHIVES, PUBLICITY, LYONS SCHOOL, HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, ORAL HISTORY, NEWSLETTER, ETC., DEPENDING ON THE INTEREST OF THE BOARD MEMBER AND THE NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY. (IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH?) YOU ARE NEEDED! CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER INDICATING YOUR INTEREST.

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 12

RAIN OR SHINE, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BOARD INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN FOR A WALKING, HISTORIC TOUR OF MAIN STREET IN BRIGHTON. WE'LL MEET AT 6:30 AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AT THE MILL POND. ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED ON COMPLETION OF THE TOUR. INVITE A FRIEND TOO.

DATES TO REMEMBER (CONT.)

- SEPT. 22-24: BUREAU OF MICHIGAN HISTORY CONFERENCE - MARQUETTE COUNTY. "FORGED FROM IRON: INDUSTRY, SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THE MICHIGAN IRON RANGES". 906/475-7857.
- OCT. 1: MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

PATRON: HAROLD & ESTHER JARVIS (95), JEROLD & JANET JOSEPH, LILA ROBERTSON (CO, 96), RICHARD & BARBARA SMITH (95).

COUPLE/INDIV: JOHN & WIN ALLEN (FL), BILL & BETTY AMRHEIN, BOB & MARIE CARR, JAMES & JUDY MURRAY (DEXTER).

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THANKS ALSO TO...

...MARGE WHITE, OUR FAITHFUL TREASURER FOR SO MANY YEARS. SHE FINDS IT NECESSARY TO RESIGN. A REPLACEMENT IS NEEDED NOW!

...DAVE BARTON, CHUCK BEACH, NANCY FREDENBERG, MARIEANNA BAIR AND OTHERS FOR PREPARING THE SOCIETY'S JULY 4 PARADE ENTRY - THE NEWLY RESTORED BUGGY.

...UBER'S DRUGS, THE QUILTERS' SHOPPE, THE BOOK NOOK, SOMEWHERE IN TIME, AND SOCIETY BANK. THEY OFFER SOCIETY TILES, NEEDLEPOINT PICTURES, PICTURES OF THE MILL POND, POSTCARDS, AND THE NEW AFGHAN.

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#### MICHIGAN WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

213 W. MAIN, LANSING, 48933-2315, "...IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE WORKING TO RETRIEVE THE HISTORY OF MICHIGAN WOMEN AND MAKE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS VISIBLE TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE AND NATION." THIS GROUP FOSTERS SELF ESTEEM IN YOUNG PEOPLE, MOST ESPECIALLY YOUNG WOMEN. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GROUP, WRITE. IF A CHECK CAN BE INCLUDED IT WILL HELP BALANCE THEIR BUDGET.

JOHN B. SWAINSON  
1925/1994

MICHIGAN LT. GOV., GOVERNOR,  
JUDGE, WW II VET,  
PRES., MICHIGAN HIST. COMM.

JOSEPH B. COLLINS  
1912/1994

NATIVE OF THE BRIGHTON AREA  
AND LIFE LONG RESIDENT

SINCERE SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO  
THEIR FAMILIES ON THEIR LOSS.

SIGNATURE QUILT: AS A FATHER'S DAY GIFT TO HUSBAND, BOB, BETSY HERBST IS HAVING THE NAMES OF HIS PARENTS, ROBERT AND MILDRED, INCLUDED ON THE QUILT. LILA ROBERTSON IS INCLUDING HER NAME AND THAT OF PERSIS COOK WHICH WILL BE PLACED BY ANDY ROBERTSON'S. LITTLE BY LITTLE THE QUILT IS FILLING UP. BE SURE YOU AND YOURS ARE INCLUDED. A \$10.00 DONATION, WITH THE SIGNATURE OF YOUR CHOICE, CAN BE SENT THE SOCIETY AND IT WILL BE EMBROIDERED ON THE QUILT; WHICH WILL REMAIN IN THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES. SIGNATURES OF EARLY RESIDENTS ARE IN THE FILES. DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO GET THEM ON THE QUILT ALSO.

#### PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: THE HOT WEATHER INTERFERED WITH WORK. IN THE MEANTIME CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE WITH LYONS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY TO COMPARE, COMBINE AND SHARE PRINTED HISTORIC RESOURCES.

TWO STUDENTS OF MADONNA UNIVERSITY HAVE BEEN ASSISTED IN THEIR RESEARCH OF LOCAL HISTORY. COPIES OF VARIOUS EARLY ARGUSES ARE BEING MADE AND TRANSFORMED INTO BOOK FORM. THESE MAKE FOR EASIER RESEARCH, ONCE THEY ARE INDEXED, AND ELIMINATES THE NEED TO USE THE ORIGINALS.

LYONS SCHOOL: APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A RESTORATION GRANT. IF AWARDED THE GRANT WILL HELP BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR THE MANY RESTORATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY AT THE SCHOOL: WINDOW/DOOR REPLACEMENTS, SHUTTER CONSTRUCTION, HEATING UNIT, NEW ROOF ON BACK PORTION, GAS LINE INSTALLATION, REST ROOM FACILITIES, WALK/RAMP, ETC., ETC., AND THEN WE CAN BEGIN TO MAKE SOME HEADWAY ON COMPLETION OF THE INTERIOR. LAWNMOWING IS BEING DONE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE PREFERRED WORDING ON THE HISTORIC MARKER HAS BEEN SENT TO THE BUREAU OF MICHIGAN HISTORY. IT IS PLANNED TO READ:

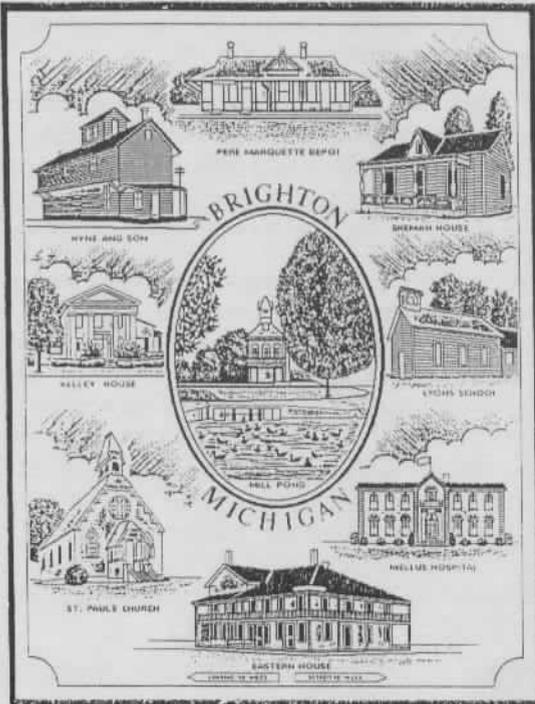
LYONS SCHOOL  
BRIGHTON  
DISTRICT # 8

THIS 1 ROOM SCHOOL SITE HAS SERVED THE PEOPLE OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP FROM 1842 TO 1956. THIS FRAME STRUCTURE REPLACED THE LOG BUILDING IN 1885. IT ALSO SERVED AS A CHURCH FOR METHODISTS OF THE AREA. RICHARD LYONS GAVE LAND FROM HIS FARM THAT NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN WOULD HAVE AN EDUCATION. TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT WAS LOCATED HERE FROM 1961 TO 1984.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SINCERELY THANKED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MARKER FUND: TED CARMACK, LOIS CLARK, BONNIE CORRIGAN, VAL JACOBY, KEEHN FUNERAL HOME, HAROLD LEITZ, NORMA JEAN PLESS, ELSA STEGENGA. THESE ARE EITHER ALUMNI, FORMER TEACHERS, CONNECTED TO THE LYONS FAMILY OR INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION. APPROX. \$900.00 MORE IS NEEDED TO COVER THE COST. CONTACT PRESIDENT BAIR RE ANY QUESTIONS.

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES

**AFGHAN (THROW):** THIS DOUBLE WOVEN COTTON THROW IS THE LATEST FUND RAISING EFFORT OF THE SOCIETY. IT COMES IN RED, GREEN OR BLUE WITH THE VARIOUS SCENES AS SHOWN. CONTACT NANCY FREDENBERG, 229-9100, TO OBTAIN YOURS. (\$49.00) MANY



THE EASTERN HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1846 BY BENJAMIN CUSHING, ONE OF THE AREA'S FIRST SETTLERS. IT WAS LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AND MAIN. LOCATED MID WAY FROM DETROIT TO LANSING IT WAS A CONVENIENT STAGE-COACH STOP - LATER GREYHOUND STOPPED ALSO.

ARE PURCHASING THESE FOR BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS. IT IS HOPED YOU WILL BUY YOURS SOON AND NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. A SHORT HISTORIC SKETCH IS INCLUDED.

EACH YEAR THE SOCIETY PREPARES A NEW TILE IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFTING. LET US KNOW WHICH SCENE YOU WOULD LIKE. ALL ARE AVAILABLE AT UBER'S DRUGS, SOCIETY BANK AND SOMEWHERE IN TIME.

**ART FAIR:** CONTACT CHUCK BEACH, 229-9678, AND FIND OUT FOR WHICH HOURS HE WILL NEED YOUR HELP TENDING THE SOCIETY BOOTH AUGUST 13, 14. AGAIN, YOU ARE NEEDED.

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## BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- |                                       |   |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale    | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Spec. events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Research     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs               | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography  | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other        |

work I would be willing to do: \_\_\_\_\_

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 48116-0481

## MAIN STREET AND GRAND RIVER ARE PAVED!

The next time we drive down Main Street or Grand River try to imagine it's 1920. Yes, there are concrete sidewalks but the road surface is of earth with a little clay, sand and gravel on it. Can one imagine the mud of rainy weather or the dust of dry?

Seventy years ago, January 7, 1924, to be exact, the Brighton Village Council caused a special election for the purpose of issuing \$70,000.00 in bonds for the paving of portions of Grand River and portions of Main Street from Grand River to 7th Street, including storm sewers. Yes, 373; no, 36. Total cost estimated \$84,704.60.

The Brighton State Bank was awarded the handling of \$70,000 in bonds redeemable at the Bank on maturity. Ballew Construction Company was awarded the contract to install the storm sewers. Rennie & Dibble would pave Main Street. February 26, 1924, the Council contracted with Detroit Edison for 'boulevard' lighting to be installed. Livingston Mutual Telephone Company was requested to remove poles from Grand River to 2nd Street.

During the celebration of Brighton's Centennial, 1967, the Argus-Dispatch carried a story about the "Vibrolithic" pavement on Main Street. According to author Reed E. Fletcher, the 'city slicker' convinced the city fathers of the benefits of a vibrolithic pavement over concrete. The pavement was laid in a most impressive manner. After pouring the concrete in the usual way the vibrolithic machine was put to work. It was reportedly a flat platform about 6' wide and twice as long, constructed of 2x12 timbers. Mounted on this platform was an iron frame work which supported a Model T Ford engine with an eccentric fly wheel. This rig was placed on top of the fresh concrete and the engine started. It has a very small muffler which would go off with a roar causing the entire rig to "...shake the living bejabers out of the concrete." Fletcher, a man with a highly developed sense of humore felt the entertainment value provided the villagers by this piece of equipment was well worth the cost of paving Main Street.

The picture shows West Main Street. Rolison Hardware on the left, the Old Town Hall in the distant right.

Other than the above noted article your writer has no other reference to the Vibrolithic machine in connection with the paving of Main Street. It is reported here with tongue in cheek. Perhaps some of our readers can corroborate or elaborate on Fletcher's story. (Marieanna Bair with thanks to Alice Newcomb and E. Reed Fletcher.)



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