



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  
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Brighton, MI 48116  
NOVEMBER, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 10

A TOUR OF A RECENTLY RESTORED EARLY ITALIANATE HOME IN THE AREA WILL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. THIS IS A PRIVATE HOME SO SPACE WILL BE LIMITED. THERE WILL NOT BE A CHARGE, BUT CALL RICCI BANDKAU, 227-7664, FOR YOUR RESERVATION. MEET AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN, 7:30, TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE YOUR TICKET AND DIRECTIONS.

ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AND A SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1995 WILL BE ELECTED. NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR. A NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT IS STILL NEEDED. SERVE IN SOME POSITION ON THE BOARD AND FEEL CERTAIN YOU CAN MAKE THIS COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE. YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL HELP MAKE EVERYTHING THE SOCIETY DOES HAPPEN.

EACH OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE PROJECTS THE SOCIETY HAS UNDERTAKEN CAN USE YOUR HELP. AND THERE ARE MANY OTHER AIMS OF THE SOCIETY WHICH NEED YOUR LEADERSHIP.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 3, LIVINGSTON CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 7 P.M. 1041 W. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL. "BENEFITS OF ONSITE RESEARCH" WITH EVE MROZEK.  
9, 5-8 P.M. GENEALOGIST MARGE WILCOX AT BRIGHTON LIBRARY.  
\*\*10, 7:30 ANNUAL MEETING.  
\*12, 9-11 A.M. WORK IN ARCHIVES.  
\*28, 7:30 BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

\*@ OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS.  
\*\*SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

A FEW BRIGHTON AREA FIRSTS

- BANK - KENSINGTON, 12-12-1837  
SAWMILL - WOODRUFF, 1833  
MALTBY, 1834  
GRISTMILL - WOODRUFF, 1834  
QUACKENBUSH, 1840  
HOSPITAL - MELLUS, 1931  
PHONE - 1882  
BLACKSMITH - FRALICK, 1838  
RAILROAD - 1871

1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994

PATRON: DR. HARRY & CAROL DAVIS (95), BOB & TILLI BITTEN (95).

COUPLE/INDIV: ESTHER CLARK (HOWELL), MICHAEL & ANN GALLAGHER (95), LARRY & KATHLEEN LAWRENCE (95), JOE & IRENE MIKE (95&96), DORIS PRIESKORN (95), ROBERT & RUTH WATSON (95).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE WHAT KEEP THE SOCIETY IN EXISTENCE. COMMUNITY SUPPORT GIVES ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE SOCIETY'S VERY ACTIVE AND CARING BOARD MEMBERS; ALL OF WHOM BELIEVE THE SOCIETY'S GOALS ARE IMPORTANT AND HAVE VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY. MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS PAY THE ADMINISTRATION BILLS OF WHICH THE TRAIL TALES IS THE MAJOR PORTION (\$200.+ PER MONTH).

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...SHELLY HANSEN FOR DONATION BOOKS, MOST OF WHICH WERE IN USE IN BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL DURING THE 1920s, INCLUDING HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, SPELLING AND WRITING, ENGLISH, LITERATURE, LANGUAGES AND MATH. ALSO A FEW DATED FROM THE 2ND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

...ALICE SEGER FOR THE HISTORY OF HER HOME IN BRIGHTON. A VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES.

...BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION RE THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...MARY CANFIELD FOR SCHOOL BOOKS, ALL OF WHICH DATE FROM THE 2ND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

...HILTON SCHOOL PTO FOR INCLUDING THE SIGNATURE OF THOMAS HILTON ON THE SIGNATURE QUILT. (THIS QUILT WILL BE RETAINED BY THE SOCIETY AS AN ARCHIVAL RECORD.)

TILES OF LOCAL SITES (AS PICTURED ON PAGE PAGE 3), CAN BE PURCHASED AT UBER'S DRUGS, SOMEWHERE IN TIME AND SOCIETY BANK. PIC- TURES OF THE MILL POND AND POST CARDS OF LOCAL SCENES ARE ALSO AT UBER'S AND THE BOOK NOOK HAS CARDS. NEEDLEPOINT KITS OF THE OLD TOWN HALL ARE AT THE QUILTER'S SHOPPE.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: EXTRA HELP IS ALWAYS WELCOMED. GENEROUS PEOPLE ARE DONATING PAPER MATERIALS, PHOTOS, ETC., WHICH NEED PROPER FILING FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. EACH 2ND SATURDAY, 9-11 A.M. IS THE REGULAR TIME. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP AT ANOTHER HOUR OR DATE.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS THE HOUSE HISTORY PREPARED BY ALICE SEGER, HELP COMPLETE THE RESEARCH BEING DONE BY DAVE BARTON. OTHER HOME OWNERS ARE URGED TO COMPILE SIMILAR HISTORIES. HOW? CONTACT DAVE, 229-5213.

LYONS SCHOOL: BECAUSE OF THE ATTENTION OF JIM VICHICH, THE RESTORATION OF THIS BUILDING IS MOVING FORWARD. A NEW ROOF, WITH PROPER VENTILATION, HAS BEEN APPLIED. THE GLASS BLOCKS IN THE BACK OF THE 1964 ADDITION, WHICH HAD BEEN BROKEN, HAVE BEEN REPLACED. THIS PORTION OF THE STRUCTURE IS PLANNED FOR ARCHIVAL STORAGE.

ORAL HISTORY: INTERESTED IN HELPING CONDUCT THIS VITAL ARCHIVAL REFERENCE? OR ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW? CONTACT NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100.



THIS PICTURE, MANY TIMES REDUCED, IS IN THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES. CAN YOU HELP IDENTIFY IT? WHERE? WHO? WHY? CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402.

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES

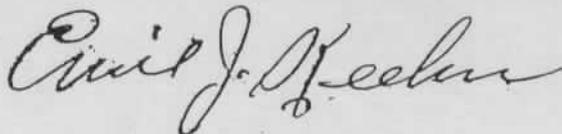
ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SOCIETY'S VARIOUS FUND RAISING EFFORTS GO TO COVER EXPENSES OF THE VARIOUS PRESERVATION PROJECT.

RAFFLES OF DONATED ITEMS HELP IMMENSELY. TOYS, A QUILT, CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, ANTIQUES, ETC. ARE ALL POSSIBILITIES. A HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE FOR 1995 SHOULD BE STARTED SOON. LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW HOW YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

AFGHAN: QUICKLY SELLING OUT. CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100, FOR YOURS. MANY ARE PURCHASING THESE AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

HOME TOUR: CALL RICCI BANDKAU, 227-7664, OR NANCY IF YOU'D CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR HOME AS A SITE FOR NEXT SPRING'S TOUR. THEY'LL ALSO NEED HELP WITH MANY OTHER TASKS. THIS IS ALWAYS A PROFITABLE FUND RAISER. A GOOD WAY TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY.

SIGNATURE QUILT: HE WAS IN BRIGHTON IN THE EARLY 1920S. IN THE 400 BLOCK OF W. MAIN HE HAD A FURNITURE STORE UNTIL THE EARLY 1950S. IN 1931 HE BUILT A MODERN FUNERAL HOME ON W. MAIN AND OFFERED AMBULANCE SERVICES. THE NAME OF EMIL KEEHN HAS, FOR A LONG TIME, BEEN A PART OF THE AREA. HIS SIGNATURE SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THIS ADDITION TO THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES. WITH A DONATION OF \$10. THE SIGNATURES OF ED GITRE, PETER J. LEITZ, AND G. RICHARD PITKIN CAN ALSO BE ADDED.




THE FRAME STRUCTURE, BUILT IN 1885, REPLACED THE LOG SCHOOL HOUSE CONSTRUCTED IN 1842. IT SERVED AS A CHURCH FOR METHODISTS OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY AREA. RICHARD LYONS GAVE LAND FROM HIS FARM THAT NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN MIGHT HAVE AN EDUCATION. TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT WAS LOCATED HERE FROM 1961 TO 1984. SINCE THEN THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING THE BUILDING WITH THE INTENT OF MAKING AVAILABLE A ONE ROOM SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS.

## 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  
 \$25. Business/Professional  
 \$12. Couple  
 \$ 7. Individual

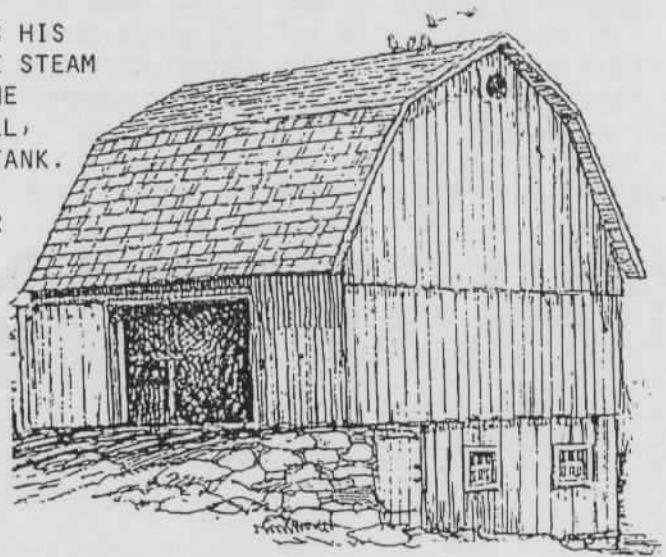
\$2. Student (K-12, College)  
 Brighton Area Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

## GROWING WHEAT IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

ON THE DATE SET FOR THE THRASHERS TO COME TO ONE'S FARM, AN AUDIENCE OF GOGGLE-EYED YOUNGSTERS GREETED THEM. CAN YOU PICTURE THIS? THE HUGE, SELF PROPELLED STEAM ENGINE BLOWING OFF STEAM AND SMOKE AS IT MADE ITS WAY UP THE ROAD AND INTO YOUR BARN YARD. THE BIG, RED GRAIN SEPARATOR CAME BEHIND AND THAT WAS FOLLOWED BY A WAGON WITH A LARGE, ROUND-BOTTOMED WOODEN TANK FILLED WITH WATER FOR THE STEAM ENGINE. THE ENGINEER ANNOUNCED HIS ARRIVAL WITH A MIGHTY BLAST OF THE WHISTLE (AS IF THAT WAS NECESSARY) WHICH DELIGHTED THE CHILDREN. THEY HAD BEEN ANTICIPATING THAT EAR SPLITTING SHRIEK AND THE ENGINEER DIDN'T DISAPPOINT THEM.

UPON ARRIVAL THE STEAM ENGINE WOULD 'SET' THE MASSIVE SEPARATOR IN THE BARNYARD OR ON THE BARN FLOOR. SOMETIMES THE BARN YARD WAS SOFT OR WET AND THE ENGINE COULDN'T GET ENOUGH TRACTION TO PLACE THE SEPARATOR WHERE THE FARMER WISHED. THAT'S WHEN THE WATER BOY AND TEAM WERE CALLED UPON. THE TEAM BILL PLESS USED WERE BLIND, HAVING BEEN 'PULLED BLIND'; PERHAPS WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE LOAD BY A PREVIOUS OWNER. THE HORSES WERE VERY NERVOUS AND HIGH STRUNG SO THEY WERE DEPENDENT ON THEIR DRIVER'S EYES AND HANDS TO GUIDE THEM. BILL HAD BEEN BORN ON A FARM AND HAD DRIVEN HORSES SINCE A VERY YOUNG AGE. THE TEAM WAS ACCUSTOMED TO HIS MANNER AND WOULD RESPOND WILLINGLY. THE AUDIENCE, COMPOSED OF THE CREW AND FARMERS, KNEW THE UNWRITTEN RULE THAT THE "DRIVER IS HANDLING THE TEAM AND EVERYBODY ELSE KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT." IN THE CASE OF BLIND HORSES, ESPECIALLY, WHOSE SENSE OF HEARING IS MORE ACUTE, THE SILENCE WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO RETAIN THE SENSE OF TRUST THEY HAD IN THEIR DRIVER.

BILL ALSO REMEMBERED THAT AS WATER BOY IT WAS HIS JOB TO KEEP PLENTY OF WATER AVAILABLE FOR THE STEAM ENGINE. THE TANK WAGON HELD 15 BARRELS. AT THE NEAREST LAKE OR STREAM HE PUMPED THE TANK FULL, HURRIED BACK TO THE ENGINE AND REFILLED ITS TANK. THEN BACK TO THE LAKE FOR ANOTHER WAGONFUL. THIS AVERAGED ABOUT FOUR TRIPS A DAY. HOWEVER HIS WORK DIDN'T END THERE. HIS OWN TEAM AND THE SEVERAL WHICH BROUGHT THE WHEAT FROM THE FIELD TO THE LOADER, HAD TO BE UNHARNESSED, CLEANED, FED, WATERED AND BEDDED. THIS PROCESS WAS REVERSED IN THE MORNING; WITH A FEEDING AND WATERING AT NOON ALSO. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)



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