



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
OCTOBER, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- OCT. 6, 7 P.M. LIV. CO. GENEALOGICAL SOC., LDS CHURCH, 1041 W. GRAND RIVER, "CANADIAN RESEARCH"-JOAN GRIFFIN.
- 8, 9-11 A.M. WORK IN ARCHIVES.
- 12, 5-8 P.M. GENEALOGIST MARGE WILCOX, BRIGHTON LIBRARY.
- * 13, 6:30 P.M. AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEET..
- ** 24, 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.
- * NOV. 10, 7 P.M. ANNUAL MEETING AND TOUR OF 1875 HOME.
- * AT 202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS OLD TOWN HALL.
- ** SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

NOVEMBER 10, ANNUAL MEETING

A TOUR OF A RECENTLY RESTORED ITALIANATE EARLY HOME IN THE AREA WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL MEETING. SPACE WILL BE LIMITED. THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE, BUT CALL RICCI BANDKAU, 227-7664, FOR YOUR RESERVATION. MEET AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN, TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE YOUR TICKET AND DIRECTIONS.

!!!!!! WELCOME !!!!!

RECENTLY ADDED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE: CAROLINA DELUCA AND JAIME GREEN.

CAROLINA GREW UP IN BRIGHTON, WENT AWAY TO TEACH, AND HAS RECENTLY RETURNED. HER DESIRE TO HELP ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THE SOCIETY IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

JAIME HAS BEEN A MEMBER AND HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED HER M.S. FROM E.M.U. IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION. SHE'S WILLING TO DIRECT THOSE INTERESTED IN THE HISTORIC RESTORATION OF THEIR HOME TO THE PROPER REFERENCES SO EDUCATED DECISIONS CAN BE MADE RELATIVE TO STYLE, COLOR, INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPING, ETC.

THESE LADIES WILL CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY. THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM FOR YOU TOO. IF BOARD MEMBERSHIP ISN'T YOUR BAG, THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES WELCOME HELP.

??? SPAGHETTI SUPPER ???

MAYBE NEXT YEAR. JUST NOT QUITE ENOUGH OF US ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF THIS TIME. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FUN TIME FOR EVERYONE AND THE SOCIETY TREASURY GREW. LET'S LOOK TO A REALLY GOOD ONE IN 95.

1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994

PATRON: PAT & MARLENE FONSECA (AZ, 95).

COUPLE/INDIV: JEFFREY & DIANE BARTON (95), CAROLINA DELUCA, EMIL & JOAN ENGEL (95), JO HYNE (95), JEANNETTE JOHNSON (95), JANET ROHRBACHER, PAUL ZURAWSKI.

ALL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (OFFICERS/DIRECTORS, NEWSLETTER PRINTING AND POSTAGE, ETC.) ARE PAID FROM DUES RECEIVED AND ARE A PART OF THE GENERAL FUND. \$200. IS SPENT EACH MONTH ON THE NEWSLETTER. ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE WELCOME. PATRON AND BUS/PROF. MEMBERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE NEWSLETTER ALIVE.

A RECENT ISSUE INCLUDED A "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" DIRECTIVE TO THE POST OFFICE. EACH ONE RETURNED WAS A .29¢ CHARGE. INCLUDE THE SOCIETY WHEN MAKING ADDRESS CHANGES. ALSO CHECK THE DATE ON THE LABEL - NO DATE? CONSIDER PAYING DUES OR MAKING A \$25. DONATION TO KEEP TRAIL TALES COMING. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST LET US KNOW.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BUD STEDMAN FOR THE OLD CLOCK HIS DECEASED SISTER, LOVISA, HAD.

...MARGARET BLOSSFELD FOR THE COPY OF THE DRAMA PRESENTED DURING THE WEEK OF CELEBRATION OF THE 1967 CENTENNIAL OF BRIGHTON CITY.

...BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE SOCIETY'S FUND RAISING EFFORTS. ALSO UBERS, SOMEWHERE IN TIME, SOCIETY BANK, BOOK NOOK AND QUILTER'S SHOP.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES' AREA MEETING

TWICE A YEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF THE AREA MEET TO TOUR EACH OTHER'S FACILITIES, EXCHANGE IDEAS AND MAYBE, CRY A LITTLE. THE SOUTH LYON AND GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ARE HOSTING THE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, MEETING. TOUR THE SOUTH LYON WITCHES HAT MUSEUM AND WASHBURN SCHOOL 6:30-7; 7-8 MEET AT RESTORED FREIGHT HOUSE; THEN TOUR THE RESTORED GREEN OCH MILL ON RUSHTON ROAD FOR A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MILL AND REFRESHMENTS. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 IF YOU WANT TO RIDE ALONG.

VOLUNTEERS:

YOU HAVE MUCH TO OFFER---LOOK INTO SHARING SOME OF YOUR TIME AND ENERGY ON ONE OF THE MANY PROJECTS PROMOTED BY THE SOCIETY.

PRESERVATION & RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: JANICE FIELD ASSISTED WITH COLLECTING INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE AREA OF BRIGHTON CITY ALONG GRAND RIVER FROM MAIN TO BRIGHTON LAKE RD. THIS WAS HELPFUL IN THE TOUR CONDUCTED LAST MONTH. JOIN IN THIS WORK OF PROPERLY FILING THE COLLECTED PAPERS, PHOTOS, ETC.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: A PICTURE OF THE "LANNING" RAILROAD HOTEL HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN LOCATED NORTH OF THE WESTERN HOUSE. THE FRAME STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1873. ANYONE WITH MORE INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT DAVE BARTON, 229-5213.

LYONS SCHOOL: A NEW ROOF IS GOING UP OVER THE MIDDLE AND REAR SECTIONS OF THE BUILDING. SECURITY LIGHTS, HEATING AND PLUMBING ARE BEING CONTRACTED. JIM VICHICH, 227-4840, IS PLANNING A FALL 1995 COMPLETION DATE. CALL AND OFFER YOUR HELP.

ORAL HISTORY: SEVERAL INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN RECORDED. TRANSCRIBERS ARE NEEDED. CALL NANCY FREDENBERG, 229-9100, TO HELP OR LET HER KNOW YOU'RE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED. YES, YOU DO HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE.

! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !
! MILTON CHARBONEAU !
! RECEIVES LUCY MARK KELLOGG AWARD !
! AT THE ANNUAL MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL !
! SEMINAR IN ALPENA IN SEPTEMBER, THE !
! 1994 LUCY MARK KELLOGG AWARD WAS !
! PRESENTED TO MILTON CHARBONEAU FOR !
! HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENEALOGICAL !
! RESEARCH, COLLECTING AND COMPILING !
! OF LOCAL OBITUARIES, PUBLISHED !
! "FIRST LAND OWNERS OF LIVINGSTON !
! COUNTY", TRANSCRIBED CEMETERY RE- !
! RECORDS OF FAIRVIEW AND ST. PATRICK'S !
! CALVARY CEMETERIES (AMONG OTHERS), !
! AND MANY OTHER QUALIFICATIONS. MILT, !
! RETIRED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE, WAS !
! AN ORGANIZER OF THE LIV. CO. GENEAL- !
! OGYICAL SOCIETY AND IS VERY ACTIVE IN !
! THE COUNTY ARCHIVES. !
! LUCY MARY KELLOGG, OF BRIGHTON WAS A !
! NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GENEALOGIST. !
! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !



FINANCIAL RESOURCES

THE SOCIETY'S PRESERVATION PROJECTS ARE DEPENDENT ON FUND RAISERS. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO EXPENSES RELATED TO ARCHIVES (ARGUS MICROFILMING, ETC.), HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, LYONS SCHOOL, OLD TOWN HALL, ORAL HISTORY, ETC. DONATIONS TO THESE SPECIFIC PROJECTS MAY ALSO BE MADE.

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

BAKE SALE: THANKS TO JANE TOMLINSON FOR CHAIRING THIS AGAIN. THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MAY SEND A DONATION TO THE SOCIETY. THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE.

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: HILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO HAS DONATED SO THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THOMAS HILTON CAN BE ADDED. A DONATION OF \$10 FOR EACH SIGNATURE WILL DO TWO THINGS: ADD THE SIGNATURE TO THE QUILT AND HELP FUND SOCIETY PROJECTS. A LONG LIST OF SIGNATURES OF EARLIER RESIDENTS IS AVAILABLE AND THEY SHOULD BE INCLUDED. YOUR CHECK WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE. A MID 1920S LIST INCLUDED JOHN BIDWELL, CARROLL BRIGGS, CHARLES CONELY, AND MANY MORE. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 TO MAKE YOUR SELECTION.



EPISCOPALIAN SERVICES HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE AREA SINCE 1837 IN VARIOUS MEMBERS' HOMES, ETC. PLANS FOR THE CHURCH BY THE MILL POND WERE DRAWN FROM A CHURCH IN ENGLAND. JUNE 12, 1881, THE FIRST SERVICE WAS HELD. A PARISH HALL HAS BEEN ADDED, AS WELL AS MAJOR RENOVATION IN 1991-1992.

TILES OF LOCAL SITES, PICTURES OF THE MILL POND AND POST CARDS OF LOCAL SCENES ARE AT UBER'S DRUGS. THE BOOK NOOK ALSO HAS CARDS AND THE QUILTER'S SHOPPE HAS NEEDLE-POINT KITS OF THE OLD TOWN HALL 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 |

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.)

THE EARLIEST MOWERS USED SHORT PIECES OF SCYTHES FASTENED CLOSE TO THE LOWER EDGE OF A HOLLOW LOG PLACED IN A VERTICAL POSITION. PULLED BY THE TEAM, GEARS TURNED THE LOG IN A ROTARY FASHION, CUTTING EVERYTHING THROUGH WHICH THEY PASSED. ATTACHING GRINDSTONES KEPT THE KNIVES SHARP AS THEY ROTATED. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE A HORIZONTAL BAR WAS DEVELOPED. THIS HAD THE KNIVES ZIPPING BACK AND FORTH CUTTING THE GRAIN IN A MORE EFFICIENT MANNER. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BINDER ALLOWED THE WHEAT TO BE BUNDLED AT THE SAME TIME. THE CHILDREN OF THE FAMILY HELPED GATHER THESE BUNDLES, STACKING THEM INTO SHOCKS FOR QUICKER PLACING AND ARRANGING ON THE WAGON FOR TRANSPORT TO THE ACTUAL THRESHING AREA.

HAND THRESHING WAS NOT A POPULAR ACTIVITY. FLAILING WAS ARDUOUS WORK, IT HAD TO BE DONE IN WARM WEATHER, AND NO MATTER HOW THE STRAW WAS TOSSED INTO THE WIND, A GOODLY AMOUNT FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE MOUTH, HAIR AND CLOTHES. WHEN THE THRESHING MACHINE CAME INTO BEING THE INTENSITY OF THE LABOR INVOLVED, FOR THE AMOUNT OF GRAIN HARVESTED, WAS GREATLY EASED. (HOWEVER OTHER CHORES SOON FILLED THE VACUUM.)

STEAM POWERED THE EARLY THRESHERS. THE STEAM ENGINE ITSELF WAS PLACED SOME DISTANCE FROM THE THRESHER. THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE EVER PRESENT DANGER OF FIRE; DRY STRAW IGNITES EASILY. A LONG, WIDE, HEAVY BELT TRANSFERRED THE POWER FROM THE ENGINE TO THE THRESHER, TURNING ITS GEARS, ETC. THE BUNDLES OF WHEAT WERE TOSSED ONTO A CONVEYER AND THE THRESHED GRAIN POURED INTO BAGS WHILE THE STRAW AND CHAFF WAS BLOWN FROM THE END OF A TUBE. THE WONDERFUL, SOFT, GOLDEN PILE, OFTEN 12-15' HIGH, USUALLY PROVED AN IRRESISTIBLE MAGNET FOR CHILDREN. THEIR STRUGGLE TO THE TOP RESULTED IN A SWIFT SLIDE TO THE GROUND. HOWEVER "PA" USUALLY DIDN'T WANT THE STRAW STACK SCATTERED ALL OVER AND ONE WAS SURE TO COME AWAY WITH A MOUTHFUL OF STRAW AND CHAFF WHICH ALSO TANGLED HAIR AND SLID DOWN INSIDE ONE'S SHIRT WHERE IT IRRITATED MIGHTILY. THESE DRAWBACKS WERE USUALLY CONSIDERED INCONSEQUENTIAL COMPARED TO THE FUN OF THE SLIDE.

DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE CENTURY SEYMOUR KELLOGG OWNED A MODERN TRACTION ENGINE AND SEPARATOR COMPLETE WITH A SELF FEEDER (WHICH WAS ALWAYS READY TO TAKE AS MANY BUNDLES AS FOUR MEN COULD TOSS IN) AND A BLOWER TO AID IN STACKING THE STRAW. HE HAD A COMPLETE CREW OF NINE MEN AND HAULED A BUNK HOUSE FOR THEM TO SLEEP. ONE COULD HIRE HIM AND HIS CREW, LEAVING ONLY THE CARE OF THE GRAIN TO THE FARMER. OFTEN THE OWNER OF SUCH A MACHINE HIRED OUT TO THE FARMERS WHO THEN HELPED EACH OTHER. NO WRITTEN RECORD WAS KEPT OF HOURS WORKED BUT EVERYONE NEEDED EACH OTHER SO ALL WORKED TOGETHER. IF A MAN WAS INJURED THERE WERE NO LAWSUITS OR INSURANCE. IT WAS CONSIDERED BAD LUCK AND, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, THE OTHERS HELPED WITH HIS CHORES UNTIL RECOVERY.

WHEAT IS READY FOR HARVESTING DURING THE HOTTEST DAYS OF SUMMER. GRAIN HAS TO BE CUT ON HOT, DRY DAYS. HORSES ARE AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO HEAT EXHAUSTION AS PEOPLE. A GOOD FARMER NEVER OVERWORKED HIS HORSES. A NEW TEAM WAS PUT TO WORK IN THE AFTERNOON. A HORSE DEAD FROM THE HEAT WAS OF NO VALUE. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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P.O. BOX 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481