The 75th Anniversary issue of the Brighton Argus, printed in 1955, includes many references to earlier events. Among them was a recollection of an 1880 ball game between Brighton and Fowlerville. Brighton’s original baseball club was organized as the Maple Leaf Club in 1876. Its first game that year was played ...against a team composed of players from Pettsylvania and Ann Arbor. The score was unrecorded, the Brighton team won. This team played several games that year, losing but two bouts against Fowlerville.

The members of that early Brighton team were August Reiner, captain and catcher; Bigham, (probably the son of Robert Bigham who, in the 1830s, operated a tavern north of town) pitcher; Walt Acker, 1st baseman; C. D. Bigham, (perhaps another son of Robert) 2nd baseman; Charles Placeway, (who established the Brighton Argus in 1880) 3rd baseman; William Krause, s.s.2d Will Stuhlers, (proprietor of Easter House) right field; Peter Hartman, (ran a local saloon) left field; and O’Brian, center field.

Altho the seasons of 1877-78 saw them win every game, in 1879 the team was short of players and had a rather dismal season. According to the 1880 issue of the Argus the game between the Brighton Red Stockings and Fowlerville Mutuals was scheduled ...as the time for the contest drew nigh a spirit began to be manifested by that class of citizens who always ...to see their team win ...resulted in the securing of new uniforms for the players and the necessary backers to guarantee the game a success. The club was accompanied to Fowlerville by a large crowd of interested citizens and backers and were the recipients of many cheering words when they departed on the morning train for the field of duty.

However, upon arriving it was obvious that the opposing team consisted of only a few Fowlerville players and the rest were blockers from other counties. The Mutuals went to the bat and secured 3 runs and three base hits in the first inning. The first inning of the Red Stockings resulted in Krause striking out, Hartman gaining 2nd base, Snyder 1st and Johnson and Bigham striking out...a whitewash. However, by the second inning the Red Stockings had begun to figure out how to bat against the professional curve ball pitcher.

Placeway went to bat with the second inning, gaining one run followed by a run from Stuhlers, B. Snyder, Krause, E. Snyder and Johnson. Jones, Hartman and Placeway striking out. Altho the Mutuals’ catcher wore a mask he was badly hurt by receiving the full force of the ball from the pitcher on the left side of his face. Rendering him nearly insensible for a time and unfit for further service behind the batter.

In the third inning the Red Stockings scored 12 runs. Brighton finally won 50-23. (Reported by Marianne Bair. Readers who can supply more accurate identification of the players are asked to contact her in order to correct the records in the Archives.)

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

ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

BRIGHTON BEATS FOWLerville - 30-23!

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DATES TO BE REMEMBERED
Aug 10: 5-8 P.M., Genealogist Marge Wilcox will be at the library to help with questions re genealogy.
Aug 21: 2-4 P.M., Society booth at Art Fair.
Aug 22: 7:30 P.M., Board meeting, welcome.
Sept 13: 6:30 P.M., General meeting.
Sept 16: Spaghetti Supper, Fire Hall.
Sept 17 & 18, Milford home tour.
Sept 29-Oct 1: Annual meeting AASH.
*At 202 W. Main, upstairs.
**See related article.

CONSIDER SERVING A YEAR ON THE SOCIETY BOARD

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481
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13th SPAGHETTI SUPPER SEPTEMBER 16
THE DATE HAS BEEN RESERVED WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE FOLLOWING JOBS NEED PEOPLE:
A. REQUEST DONATIONS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR AD TO BE INCLUDED ON THE PLACEMATS.
B. A COOK.
C. KITCHEN HELP.
D. SET-UP PEOPLE.
E. DECORATIONS.
F. CLEAN UP PEOPLE.
G. SERVER SCHEDULING.
H. TICKETS FOR SALE, TICKET SELLER, ETC., SCHEDULING.
I. PUBLICITY PERSON.
J. CALL FOR DESSERTS.
K. FOOD DONORS.
L. SPAGHETTI & MEAT SAUCE, BREAD, SALAD, DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE SERVED.
CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 BETWEEN AUGUST 15-17 AND TELL HER WHAT YOU WILL DO.
(If you’ve told her in the past you’d help, please call and refresh her memory.)

MEMBERSHIP LIST WILL BE PROVIDED IF NEEDED. YOUR RESPONSE WILL DETERMINE IF THIS ANNUAL EVENT CAN BE HELD. ALL PROCEEDS RAISED GO TOWARD THE SOCIETY’S PRESERVATION PROJECTS.
THIS PROJECT NOT ONLY RAISES FUNDS BUT ALSO PROVIDES PUBLICITY FOR THE SOCIETY AND ITS ACTIVITIES. MANY REPEAT CUSTOMERS ATTEND.

AASLH ANNUAL MEETING
INFORMATION REGARDING ALL ASPECT OF LOCAL HISTORY, FROM MUSEUM EXHIBITS TO ARCHIVAL PRAC TICES TO PRESERVING OLDER BUILDINGS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY. CONTACT BAIR, 229-6402, FOR MORE INFORMATION.

PERSONS WILLING TO ASSIST THE EDITOR WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED.