



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. XIV, No. 8

BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481
August 1995

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CAROL McMACKEN JOINS BOARD

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AREA HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE CAROL McMACKEN JOINS THE SOCIETY BOARD. SHE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE AREA FOR QUITE A WHILE. MOST IMPORTANTLY SHE FEELS THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSES AND GOALS HAVE VALUE AND ARE WORTH PURSUING. RESEARCH IS BEING DONE IN ORDER TO PREPARE A SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATION. CAROL IS WELCOMED TO THE BOARD. HER EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED.

BRIGHTON ALUMNI REUNION DINNER

THE BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS SET SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, FOR THE ANNUAL REUNION DINNER. LOCAL ALUMNI ARE ASKED TO HELP GET THE WORD OUT TO THEIR CLASSMATES AND OTHERS. RESERVATIONS, AT \$15. PER CAN BE SENT THE ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 1163, BRIGHTON.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- AUG. 9, 5-8 P.M. MARGE WILCOX AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY TO ASSIST WITH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.
- AUG. 10, 7:30. PLYMOUTH HIST. MUSEUM, PLYMOUTH: "DAILY LIFE OF A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER."
- AUG 12, 9-11 A.M. WORK AT ARCHIVES.* NOON-4P.M. GREEN OAK DAY**
- AUG. 12/13, 10-5 P.M. ART FAIR BOOTH **
- AUG. 24, 7:30 PLYMOUTH HIST. MUSEUM, PLYMOUTH: "MY CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS."
- AUG. 26, 75TH ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
- AUG. 28, 7:30 SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.*
- SEPT. 1/4: STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION: ROYAL OAK, B'HAM, ETC. TO PETOSKEY***
- SEPT. 17, 11-4 P.M. VICTORIAN FESTIVAL, MILL RACE VLG, NORTHVILLE. MILL RACE VLG. OPEN SUNDAYS, 1-4 P.M.

- SEPT. 22/24: STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION: ANN ARBOR TO TRAVERSE CITY***
- SEPT. 23/24: HIGHLAND TWP HIST. SOCIETY QUILT SHOW/FOLK ART FAIR @ OAKLEY PARK & S. COMMERCE RD, COMMERCE TWP.
- SEPT. 29: 4:30-7:30 P.M. SOCIETY'S SPAGHETTI SUPPER. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 300 E. GRAND RIVER.**
- SEPT. 30/OCT. 1: STEAM TRAIN EXCURSION: HOWELL TO CADILLAC***
- OCT. 14: BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOC. REUNION DINNER. P.O. BOX 1163 FOR MORE INFO OR 810/229-6402.

*UPSTAIRS, 202 W. MAIN. WELCOME.
**SEE RELATED ARTICLE, PLEASE.
***CONTACT: BLUEWATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER, P.O. BOX 296, ROYAL OAK 48062-0296.

1995 MEMBERSHIPS 1995

INDIV/COUPLES: TIM AND HELEN HURST.

SOCIETY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ARE PAID WITH MEMBERSHIP RECEIPTS. TO CONTINUE TRAIL TALES ON A MONTHLY BASIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT. THE ADDRESS LABEL INDICATES THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES HAVE BEEN PAID. IT IS HOPED YOU WILL WANT TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE, BECOME A MEMBER IF YOU AREN'T, OR MAKE A DONATION TO THE NEWSLETTER.

REMEMBER THE SOCIETY WHEN MOVING: SEND A CHANGE OF ADDRESS PLEASE. IT GETS EXPENSIVE WHEN THE POST OFFICE DOES IT.

THANKS TO ARTHUR AND MAY (CALDWELL) CHESTERS, OF CALIFORNIA, FOR COPIES OF PICTURES OF BRIGHTON OF 50 YEARS AGO.

SOCIETY NEEDS A
VICE PRESIDENT
AND
A TREASURER

MAYBE IT HASN'T BEEN NOTICED; ONLY ONE GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN HELD THIS YEAR. A VICE PRESIDENT, WHOSE MAIN DUTY WOULD BE TO PREPARE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, IS URGENTLY NEEDED. IT IS NOT A GOOD SITUATION TO NOT OFFER MEETINGS TO THE MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ON A REGULAR BASIS.

FACILITIES AND PUBLICITY ARE AVAILABLE AND MANY FINE SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS.

THESE MEETINGS ASSURE THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ARE AWARE OF THE SOCIETY AND MORE SUPPORT OF THE GOALS AND PURPOSES CAN BE EXPECTED.

HOWEVER ALL PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS ARE ALREADY INVOLVED WITH SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS. (THEY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO VOLUNTEER IF THEY'RE WORKING SO HARD IT'S NOT FUN ANYMORE.) (AND WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY OF THEM.)

AND WHICH OF THE PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS DO WE ASK TO SERVE AS TREASURER? A FEW HOURS A MONTH AND ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE TIME REQUISITES. CONTACT ANY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WITH YOUR OFFER TO SERVE.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: THE 2ND SATURDAY, 9-11 A.M. OF EACH MONTH YOUR HELP WOULD BE WELCOME IN DEVELOPING THE ARCHIVES OF MATERIAL RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY OF THE AREA.

COME UPSTAIRS, 202 W. MAIN. CONTACT JANICE FIELD, 313/449-4535 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF ANOTHER DATE WOULD SUIT YOUR SCHEDULE BETTER. WORK IS ALSO CONTINUING ON RECORDING THE HISTORY OF STRUCTURES, ETC., IN THE AREA. YOU LIVE OR WORK IN THE AREA? YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE BUILDING? EACH SITE HAS A HISTORY. WITH YOUR HELP IT CAN BE RECORDED.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOC.: VISIT 132 E. GRAND RIVER AND SEE HOW WORK IS PROGRESSING IN THE RESTORATION OF THIS EARLY COMMERCIAL BUILDING. FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO THIS PROJECT ARE MADE THROUGH THE SOCIETY WITH 5% DESIGNATED TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT.

HISTORY BOOK: BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER THIS COMMITTEE WILL MEET THE 4TH THURSDAY. YOUR PICTURES, MEMORIES AND SUGGESTIONS ARE NEEDED.

ORAL HISTORY: A LIST OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA WHO SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED IS AVAILABLE. ALSO EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON CONDUCTING ORAL HISTORIES. THESE INTERVIEWS, EITHER ON TAPE OR VIDEO, WILL ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE SOCIETY'S COMPILING OF LOCAL HISTORY. OR RECORD INTERVIEWS OF YOUR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS. YOUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE APPRECIATIVE. MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH HELPS.

SINCERE SYMPATHIES
TO THE FAMILY OF
GEORGE PRIESKORN

LIFE LONG RESIDENT OF THE AREA
TEACHER AND COACH OF
BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

ART FAIR: August 12/13. Many thanks to those who have already offered their help to Chuck and Janice Beach, 229-9678, at the Society booth. (On the east side of the Old Town Hall.) More volunteers can be used; even for a few hours either day. Fund raising and publicity will be of great benefit. You'll have a good time, meet lots of people and do a good turn for the Society.

COVERLETS: More blue coverlets - displaying scenes from the area, have been ordered. They will be at the Art Fair booth, Uber's Drugs and from Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100.

SIGNATURE QUILT: This is an easy to donate and to record your signature, or that of another (or from a list of early area residents), on the quilt. The quilt, with names embroidered, will remain with the Society. Send the signatures and a \$10 check for each, to the Society.

UBER'S DRUGS stocks early pictures of the mill pond, post cards, tiles and coverlets, depicting local historical sites. **THE BOOK NOOK** also stocks the postcards and **SOMEWHERE IN TIME** and **SOCIETY BANK** have the tiles available also.

ALL RECEIPTS FROM FUND RAISING PROJECTS GO TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION EFFORTS OF THE SOCIETY. THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED.

SPAGHETTI DINNER, SEPTEMBER 29
ENJOY AN EVENING IN ITALY!

IT IS HOPED YOUR CALENDAR HAS BEEN CIRCLED ON THAT DAY. 4:30 TO 7:30 DINNER WILL BE SERVED. CAROLINA DeLUCA, 546-4518, HAS MANY OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS APPOINTED. DECORATING, ENTERTAINMENT, SERVING, HOSTING, PUBLICITY CAN ALL USE YOUR HELP. TICKETS: ADULT PRE SALE, \$5., CHILDREN (10 AND UNDER) \$2.; AT THE DINNER \$6. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE ART FAIR, AUGUST 12/13 AND AT THE FARMER'S MARKET (NEAR THE HUMANE SOCIETY BOOTH) ON SATURDAY MORNINGS, ALSO AT UBER'S DRUGS AND FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

GREEN OAK DAY AUGUST 12

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY. TO CELEBRATE THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO GREEN OAK DAY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, NOON TO 4 P.M. AT THE GAGE HOUSE MUSEUM, 6440 KENSINGTON RD.

PLAN A FAMILY PICNIC ON THE MUSEUM GROUNDS (SEE THE ELEPHANT TREE). PUNCH WILL BE FURNISHED. TOUR THE MUSEUM - LEARN ABOUT THE VERY EARLY SETTLERS (1833), THE INDIANS WHO PRECEDED THEM AND THEIR ENCOUNTERS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR INDIAN DRESS.

TAKE EAST GRAND RIVER TO KENSINGTON ROAD THEN SOUTH 1/4 MILE. (I-96 EXIT 151, SOUTH.)

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: _____

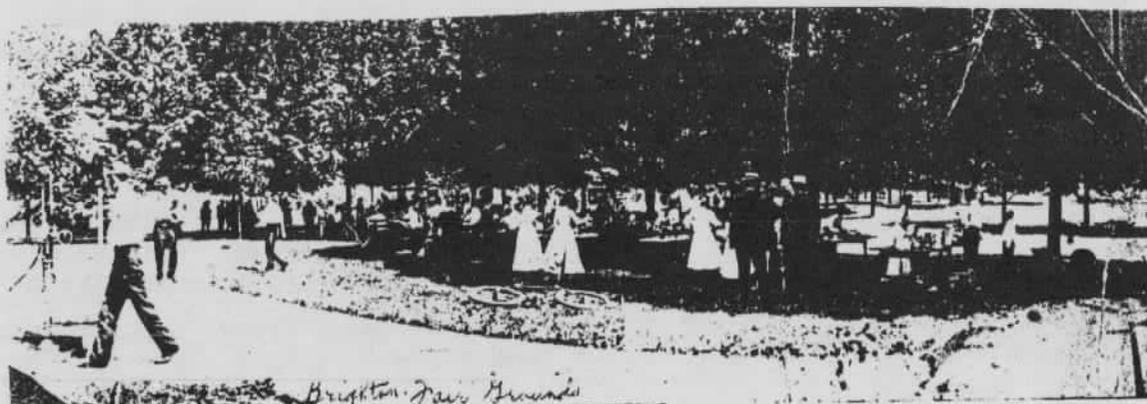
| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DUES: \$25. Patron | \$2. Student (K-12, College) |
| \$25. Business/Professional | Brighton Area Historical Society |
| \$12. Couple | P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481 |
| \$ 7. Individual | |

IT'S FAIR TIME!!! (CONT.)

AT THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIR IN BRIGHTON IN 1853, EXHIBITORS DISPLAYED THEIR BEST CROPS, LIVESTOCK, FARM MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS. PREMIUMS WERE AWARDED SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE FAIR HELD 10 YEARS EARLIER. HOWEVER A PLOWING MATCH WAS ADDED WITH THE FIRST PREMIUM FOR BEST QUARTER-ACRE PLOWED GOING TO WILLIAM WHITE. THE TREASURER REPORTED A PROFIT OF \$383.70.

AND WHERE WAS THIS FAIR GROUND LOCATED? NEITHER AN 1859 NOR AN 1875 MAP NOTE THE SITE. AN 1895 ATLAS SHOWS THE BRIGHTON FAIRGROUND IN THE S $\frac{1}{2}$ OF THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SECTION 36, GENOA TOWNSHIP. JUST NORTH OF THE BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL ON BRIGHTON ROAD. HOWEVER ON THAT MAP IT IS TITLED THE BRIGHTON MARKET FAIR ASSOCIATION AS OWNER. AN 1887 SHARE OF THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE BRIGHTON MARKET FAIR ASSOCIATION WAS SOLD TO IRA BRADLEY WITH A PAR VALUE OF \$25. JOHN CARTER IS LISTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND LEWIS MEYER AS SECRETARY. THIS WRITER'S REFERENCES DO NOT INDICATE WHEN THE B.M.F.A. WAS ORGANIZED, WHO WERE THE ORGANIZERS, WHEN THE LAST FAIR WAS HELD, ETC. A 1915 MAP REFERS TO THE PROPERTY AS BELONGING TO THE STUHRBURG BROTHERS. PERHAPS IT WAS STILL USED AS FAIR GROUNDS?

WE ARE INDEBTED TO FLORENCE WARNER CHASE OF FOWLerville FOR HER DONATION OF THE NEGATIVE OF THE PICTURE BELOW. ONE CAN SEE BRIGHTON FAIR GROUNDS WRITTEN ON THE PICTURE. ALSO A WATER PUMP, BICYCLE, PICNIC TABLES AND A WIDE PATHWAY CAN BE SEEN. THOSE IN THE BACKGROUND ARE PERHAPS WATCHING A PLOWING OR PULLING CONTEST OR A GAME OF BASEBALL. THIS WRITER ESTIMATES THE DATE AS 1910. CAN ANYONE HELP WITH THIS? ARE THERE MORE PHOTOS AROUND?



(BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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P.O. BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481