



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. 2

BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481
FEBRUARY, 1995

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BRIGHTON BUSINESSES

AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO COMPILE A HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS AND/OR SITES IN THE BUSINESS SECTION OF BRIGHTON CITY.

A NOTEBOOK LISTING STREET ADDRESSES IS IN PREPARATION. THE ADVENT OF ELECTRICITY RESULTED IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF NUMBERS TO BUILDINGS. (HOW ELSE COULD THE BILL BE ACCURATELY CHARGED?)

THIS IS A FOLLOW UP OF THE TWO WALKING TOURS OFFERED LAST SUMMER.

RESEARCH IN EARLY ISSUES OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS TELL OF THESE BUSINESSES. USUALLY THE LOCATION IS NOTED AS "NEXT TO THE BAKERY" OR "ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE" ETC. IT WOULD HELP TO KNOW JUST WHICH STREET ADDRESS EACH SITE WAS DESIGNATED.

IN A FEBRUARY, 1921 ISSUE ONE FINDS: THE GOVE MOTOR CAR COMPANY, BIDWELL REALTY, THE POST OFFICE, DR. C.W. HILL (DENTIST), CITY MEAT MARKET, THE BAKERY, THE ARGUS OFFICE, CLINE-BOYLAN CLOTHING CO., ETC. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, IF YOU CAN HELP PINPOINT THESE.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- FEB. 8, 5-8 P.M. MARGE WILCOX AT THE LIBRARY TO ASSIST WITH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.
- * 11, 9-11 A.M. ARCHIVES WORK. WELCOME.
- ** 11-13 ALGOMA CENTRAL SNOW TRAIN.
- * 27, 7:30 BOARD MEETING. WELCOME
- ** MARCH 14, 7:30 GENERAL MEETING. PUBLIC WELCOME.
- APRIL 2, 10-4:30 GENEALOGY & HISTORY BOOK FAIR, LANSING CENTER, 333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING.
- * AT 202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS.
- ** SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

GENERAL MEETING, PUBLIC INVITED

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 7:30, BOARD MEMBER JAIME GREEN, HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST, WILL BE PRESENTING A 20 MINUTE PROGRAM ON RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION. HER PRESENTATION WILL BE CONCERNED WITH WHAT CAN BE DONE TO KEEP AND/OR ENHANCE THE HISTORIC QUALITY OF YOUR BUILDINGS, WHETHER THEY BE YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS.

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? JAIME MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

BUS/PROF: BRIGHTON BAR & GRILL.

PATRON: ERV & DOROTHY BANDKAU, DON & RICCI BANDKAU, VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL), ROLAND & JANE OWENS, M/M RICHARD SMITH.

COUPLE/INDIV.: HEIDI BANDKAU (ALLENDALE), KEN & BERNICE CHAPPEL, BTO CLARK (SHEPHERD), FRANCES CLORE, HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER (IL), LIBBY EISENHARDT, JOE & IRENE ELLIS, FRED & PHYLLIS GRUEZKE, DOROTHY HARTMAN, RUDY & VIRGINIA HERRMAN, HELEN LEITZ (DRBRN), MARK & CAROL McMACKEN, MR & MRS. PAT McMACKEN, MR & MRS TIM McMACKEN, MR & MRS BRIAN PAWLAK, MARTY & LEE PAWLAK, RAY & LINDA POTTER, MARGARET SQUIRE (97).

CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY IS VITAL TO EFFORTS TO PRESERVE, ADVANCE AND DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA. MANY VOLUNTEERS' HOURS ARE LOGGED, BUT FROM SOMEWHERE CASH MUST COME TO PAY FOR ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES, THE NEWSLETTER, POSTAGE, ETC. FUND RAISING EVENTS AND DONATIONS HELP PAY FOR PRESERVATION PROJECTS BUT THE OTHER ITEMS ARE PAID BY MEMBERSHIPS. EVERY LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT. WITHOUT YOU THE SOCIETY WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

RUTH VREELAND?

IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN LATE 1931, EARLY 1932 ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, MRS. JOHN STRICK WROTE OF EARLIER DAYS OF THE AREA. SHE NOTES THAT MUCH OF HER INFORMATION CAME FROM SCRAPBOOKS OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS COLLECTED BY A MRS. RUTH VREELAND. IS IT POSSIBLE THESE SCRAPBOOKS STILL EXIST? THESE SHOULD BE COPIED FOR THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

IN A 1900 ISSUE CHARLES VREELAND ADVERTISED FOR EGGS AND 2000 BUSHELS POTATOES. IN 1907 MR. & MRS. P. VREELAND HOSTED OUT OF TOWN GUESTS.

LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS AND CONSIDER WHERE RUTH VREELAND'S SCRAPBOOKS MIGHT BE. CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER OR CALL 810/229-6402.

BLUE WATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER

STEAM TRAIN TRIPS TO THE ALGOMA CENTRAL SNOW TRAIN, FEB. 11-13; HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL MAY 19 & 20; RAILROAD DAYS, DURAND MAY 20 & 21; AND MORE ARE SCHEDULED. CALL 810/399-7963 FOR MORE INFO.

ARCHIVES: THE SECOND BATCH OF EARLY ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON NEWSPAPER, A TOTAL OF 17 YEARS, HAS BEEN MICROFILMED. THE BILL (OVER \$400.) HAS BEEN PAID FOR THE ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY. ANOTHER COPY IS BEING MADE (ANOTHER \$250.). DONATIONS TO COVER THIS COST WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. THE SOCIETY IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. (INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE) AND A MICROFILM READER IS STILL NEEDED. THE ORIGINAL PAPERS WILL BE RETURNED TO OUR FILES.

AN INDEX HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY REPRINT IN OUR FILES. THE RESEARCH INTO THE HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN BRIGHTON IS CONTINUING. A SELF GUIDED TOUR CAN BE DEVELOPED FROM THIS RESEARCH. AN ATLAS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, 1875, 1895, 1915 IS NEEDED FOR OUR FILES. THE REPRINTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE. DO YOU HAVE ONE TO DONATE?

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: DAVE BARTON HAS LEARNED IT WAS 1845 WHEN SHERMAN DIX (OR DEX) PREPARED A PLAT FOR A VILLAGE, LIVINGSTON, TO BE LOCATED AT PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD AND THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL. IT WAS TO SOON RIVAL THE GROWING SETTLEMENT ON ORE CREEK IN SEC 31, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. TEN YEARS EARLIER EVERETT WOODRUFF BUILT A MILL ON WOODRUFF CREEK JUST ACROSS PLEASANT VALLEY FROM THE PROPOSED VILLAGE SITE. VERY FEW RECORDS EXIST. THE WRITER OF THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY NOTES DIX RETURNED TO NYC AND SOLD PROPERTY TO SPECULATORS. DRIVE BY THE SITE AND YOU'LL BE REMINDED OF LAND SCHEMES IN FAR OFF PLACES IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

LYONS SCHOOL: TWO NEW GATES ARE BEING INSTALLED. THE FORMER OPENING FOR A LARGE GATE, ON THE SOUTH SIDE, HAS BEEN CLOSED. IT IS BELIEVED APPEARANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY HAS BEEN IMPROVED.

THE SOCIETY EXTENDS
SINCERE CONDOLENCES
TO THE FAMILIES OF
JOSEPH VOORHEIS
AND
ELVA SINGER
BOTH WERE LONG TIME
RESIDENTS OF THE AREA

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SIGNATURE QUILT: FROM THE BRIGHTON FAIR ASSOCIATION FILE WE HAVE THE SIGNATURES OF JOHN CARTER AND LOUIS MEYER. BY 1875 BOTH OWNED 200+ ACRES IN BRIGHTON AND GENOA TOWNSHIPS RESPECTIVELY. IN 1887 CARTER WAS PRESIDENT AND MEYER, SECRETARY OF THE BRIGHTON FAIR ASSOCIATION. THESE TWO NAMES SHOULD BE ON THE QUILT. A DONATION OF \$10. TO THE SOCIETY WITH THE NAME YOU PREFER IS ALL THAT'S NECESSARY. (IN 1873 AND 1876 THESE MEN REPRESENTED THEIR TOWNSHIPS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE.)

A TREASURER STILL NEEDED

MARGE WHITE IS CONTINUING YET DOING THIS JOB. IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT SHE BE GIVEN A BREAK. SHE'S BEEN AT IT A LONG TIME. IF YOU HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN KEEPING FINANCIAL RECORDS AND ARE WILLING TO SPEND SEVERAL HOURS EACH MONTH BE SURE TO CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER. WE MUST BE FAIR AND NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MARGE'S EFFORTS. MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO CONSIDER PITCHING IN.

IN UBER'S DRUGS THE FOLLOWING FUND RAISING ITEMS OF THE SOCIETY MAY BE PURCHASED: COVERLETS, TILES, PICTURES OF THE MILL POND, AND POST CARDS. THE BOOK NOOK ALSO HAS THE POST CARDS. SOMEWHERE IN TIME ALSO HAS THE TILES AS DOES SOCIETY BANK. RECEIPTS FROM THESE ITEMS SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ANY SENT TO YOU, CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.



*1868 - UNION SCHOOL - 1957
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
1986*

WHEN CONSTRUCTED THIS BUILDING CONTAINED ALL THE ELEMENTARY CLASSES AND THE HIGH SCHOOL. IT SERVED THE COMMUNITY FOR 60 YEARS. IT WAS REMOVED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 710 RICKETT RD.

HBA: IN SUPPORT OF OUR AGREEMENT WITH HBA JAIME GREEN, HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST, HAS MET WITH THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE. WATERPROOFING THE LOWER LEVEL (132 E. GRAND RIVER) IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. RON MOREY HAS ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HANDLING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERWORK.

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

HELLO! CENTRAL!

IF ONE CAN CORRECTLY TAP IN THE MANY NUMBERS REQUIRED, IT IS POSSIBLE TO TALK TO SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD WITHIN A FEW SECONDS. FROM MANY LOCATIONS OR FROM ONE'S VEHICLE A CONVERSATION CAN BE HELD IN WHICH THE MESSAGE COMES THROUGH LOUDLY AND CLEARLY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE FOR SEVERAL PERSONS TO SPEAK TOGETHER OR NOT TO ANSWER THE PHONE AT ALL - JUST RECORD THE MESSAGE. NEW INNOVATIONS ARE BEING CONSTANTLY OFFERED; EVEN AS WE WRITE.

'Twas NOT EVER THUS. TELEPHONE SERVICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN DETROIT IN 1877. ONLY SIX YEARS AFTER ITS INVENTION WE FIND THE TELEPHONE IN BRIGHTON. IT WAS 1882 WHEN THE JUDSON BROTHERS' STORE (NW CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AND MAIN ST.) BECAME THE SITE OF THE FIRST PAY STATION IN THE AREA. A CALL COULD BE MADE TO DETROIT OR LANSING ON A LINE RECENTLY INSTALLED BETWEEN THESE TWO CITIES. SINCE IT IS NECESSARY FOR ANOTHER TO HAVE A PHONE BEFORE A CONNECTION CAN BE ESTABLISHED IT WAS NOT A VERY BUSY LOCATION.

HOWEVER THE ORIGINAL PHONE, A WIRE ATTACHED TO A SALMON CAN ON EACH END, WAS ALREADY IN USE BY DR. MCHENCH TO CONTACT HIS WIFE AT HOME. HE'D TAP ON THE CAN IN HIS OFFICE, THE SOUND FOLLOWING THE FINE WIRE ATTACHED TO TREES AND POLES, AND THEN SHOUT INTO HIS CAN.

G. S. BURGESS, WHO OWNED A RETAIL BUSINESS, 334 W. MAIN, BECAME THE FIRST TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBER IN BRIGHTON A FEW YEARS LATER. LESS THAN 1" THICK WAS THE MICHIGAN TELEPHONE COMPANY DIRECTORY, PUBLISHED IN 1899, LISTING ALL THE SUBSCRIBERS IN THE STATE AND IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO. THERE WAS FOUND G.S. BURGESS AS THE ONLY PERSON IN TOWN WITH A PHONE.

IT WAS 1904 WHEN SETH B. JACOBS, EDITOR OF THE ARGUS AT THE TIME, AND F.T. HYNE, OWNER OF THE F.T. HYNE & SONS ELEVATOR, BEGAN SELLING STOCK IN ORDER TO BRING A LOCAL EXCHANGE INTO BEING. ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THE DIFFICULTY THESE TWO VISIONARIES ENCOUNTERED IN CONVINCING INVESTORS OF THE VALUE OF THIS NEW CONTRAPTION. PROBABLY NOT TOO DISSIMILAR TO THOSE INVOLVED WITH FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILROAD, THE PLANK ROAD, CARL CONRAD AND HIS ELECTRIC PLANT (1897), TV ENTREPRENEURS, ETC., ETC.

WHEN SUFFICIENT FUNDS HAD BEEN ACQUIRED THE ARGUS OFFICE, 430 W. MAIN, WAS THE SITE OF THE SWITCHBOARD AND THE FIRST TELEPHONE OFF THAT SWITCHBOARD. THE ARGUS WAS ASSIGNED THE NUMBER 10.

IN THE JUNE 24, 1911, ISSUE OF THE ARGUS ONE MIGHT CLIP OUT THE BRIGHTON DIRECTORY OF THE LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS. AT THE RISK OF TEDIUM WE MAY LIST THEM IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES. (TO BE CONTINUED. THE WRITER, MARIEANNA BAIR, IS ANXIOUS FOR READERS TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, STORIES, ETC. 229-6402.)

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