



*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. 1

BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481  
JANUARY, 1995

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DOWNTOWN RESTORATION UNDERWAY

THE SOCIETY HAS RECENTLY FORMED A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION. THIS ASSOCIATION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, LENDERS, REALTORS, ATTORNEYS AND THE VARIOUS BUILDING TRADES PERSONS IS IN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING AND RENOVATING THE BUILDING AT 132 E. GRAND RIVER.

IT WILL NOT ONLY BE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION BUT ALSO WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF REUSE INSTEAD OF DESTRUCTION OF EARLY BUILDINGS OF THE AREA.

RESEARCH REVEALS THAT AT VARIOUS TIMES THE BUILDING SERVED AS A GENERAL STORE, BEER STORE, ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ETC. THE SOCIETY'S AIMS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION FITS THE RESTORATION PLANNED BY THE HBA.

DONATIONS TO THIS EFFORT WILL BE MADE THROUGH THE SOCIETY WITH 5% OF EACH CASH DONATION ASSIGNED TO THE LYONS SCHOOL FUND.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- JAN. 11: 5-8 P.M. GENEALOGIST, MARG WILCOX, OFFERS HER HELP AT THE BRIGHTON LIBRARY.
- \* 14: 9-NOON. BOARD WORKSHOP.
- \*\* 21: 9-11 A.M. WORK AT ARCHIVES. NOTE DATE CHANGE. WELCOME.
- \*\* 23: 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

\*SEE RELATED ARTICLE.  
\*\*202 W. MAIN STREET. UPSTAIRS.

CONDOLENCES

THE SOCIETY'S SYMPATHIES ARE EXTENDED TO HELEN SOUTHWELL ON THE PASSING OF HER HUSBAND, A.J. ALSO TO THE FAMILIES OF CAROL KING, EMERYSON PHILLIPS AND VERNA SCHUMAN. A.J. AND CAROL HAVE BEEN LONG TIME MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOCIETY AND ALL HAVE LONG TERM TIES WITH THE BRIGHTON AREA.

PATRON: MARIAN CARNEY, DR. DON & CAROLYN KERR (HOWELL), JERI & KAY MICHAELS.

COUPLE/INDIV: TIM & KAY FLYNN, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST, ROYDEN & DOROTHY JONES, DON & SALLY KEEHN, JOHN KORTE (O.), JOHN & JEANNETTE LINAHAN, DAN & EMMA SCHMIDT, HELEN SOUTHWELL, FLORENCE SULLIVAN, DON & ALICE WYLAND.

YOUR PATIENCE WITH THE VOLUNTEERS RECORDING MEMBERSHIP CHANGES ON MAILING LABELS IS APPRECIATED. SINCE SEVERAL ARE INVOLVED WITH THE TASK OF RECORDING, ADDRESS CHANGES, LABELING AND PREPARING TRAIL TALES FOR MAILING THERE IS AN OCCASIONAL SLIP. IF THE DATE ON THE LABEL DOESN'T JIBE WITH YOUR RECORDS WRITE, OR CALL A BOARD MEMBER.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...KAY FLYNN FOR DONATION OF AN EARLY STYLE DRESS.

...NANCY FREDENBURG FOR HER SUCCESSFUL MANAGING OF THE SALE OF THE COVERLETS AS A SOCIETY FUND RAISER. ALSO TO JANE TOMLINSON, DAVE BARTON, AND JANICE AND CHUCK BEACH FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

...UBER'S DRUGS, SOMEWHERE IN TIME, SOCIETY BANK, BOOK NOOK AND QUILTER'S SHOPPE FOR THEIR ENDURING SUPPORT IN RETAILING SEVERAL OF THE SOCIETY'S FUND RAISING ITEMS.

...ETHEL GEBBEN, ANNE STRATIGOS, JOHN LINAHAN AND OTHERS FOR THEIR HELP IN DISTRIBUTING TRAIL TALES.

### IS TRAIL TALES WORTHWHILE?

TO ENSURE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY FUNDS, THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MUST ANNUALLY REVIEW TO WHOM TRAIL TALES IS SENT.

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE A COPY, MANY ARE DISTRIBUTED BY HAND TO LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR PATRONS' BENEFIT AND SOME ARE SENT BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSE. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE IT PLEASE CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

IF YOU BELIEVE IT'S A WORTHY PUBLICATION YOU MIGHT CONSIDER PAYING DUES OR MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ITS EXPENSES.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

ARCHIVES: JANICE FIELD, JOAN BROWN AND MARIEANNA BAIR HAVE BEEN INDEXING, FILING AND PROPERLY STORING PICTURES, NEWSPAPERS, MAPS, DIRECTORIES, JOURNALS, ABSTRACTS, DIARIES, LETTERS, ETC., RELATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

PERSONS WITH THESE KINDS OF RECORDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DONATE THEM TO THE SOCIETY. COPIES CAN BE MADE AND THE ORIGINALS RETURNED IF DESIRED.

TOO OFTEN THESE KINDS OF MEMORABILIA ARE DISCARDED BY PERSONS NOT RECOGNIZING THEIR WORTH. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE IT HAS VALUE, LET THE SOCIETY MAKE THAT DECISION FOR YOU. CONTACT THE SOCIETY, OR CALL 229-6402.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, LYONS SCHOOL AND ORAL HISTORY: NOTHING SPECTACULAR TO REPORT, MERELY THE SAME CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORTS TOWARD WORKING ON THESE PROJECTS. DAVE BARTON, JIM VICHICH AND NANCY FREDENBURG ARE THE CHAIRMEN OF THESE PROJECTS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

TEACHERS TEACHERS TEACHERS

THE AIM OF "THE MICHIGAN TEACHER", A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY, IS TO "...PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN MICHIGAN HERITAGE EDUCATION."

LESSON PLANS AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE. THESE HELP STUDENTS COME TO A MORE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1837. THEIR TRIALS, TRIUMPHS, DISAPPOINTMENTS AND JOYS CAN BECOME REALITIES.

MEMBERSHIP IN CTMH IS \$10. SEND A CHECK, PAYABLE TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN, TO 2117 WASHTENAW AVE., ANN ARBOR, 48104-4599. (CALL 229-6402 TO PERUSE MARIEANNA BAIR'S COPIES.)

### LIVINGSTON COUNTY MEMORIES

THIS INTERESTING PUBLICATION, RECENTLY PRODUCED BY THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS, SHOULD BE IN EACH LIBRARY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY. CARE TO DONATE A COPY TO THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY? TAKE IT IN TO THEM OR CALL 229-6571 AND IT CAN BE PICKED UP.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

COVERLETS: DIDN'T GET ONE? CALL NANCY REDENBURG, 229-9100, AND IF SUFFICIENT ARE ORDERED MORE CAN BE MADE.

TILES: THE 1994 TILE IS HERE. (SEE RIGHT) THESE, AND EARLIER ONES, ARE AVAILABLE FROM UBER'S DRUGS, SOMEWHERE IN TIME, AND SOCIETY BANK. PICTURES OF THE MILL POND, READY FOR HANGING, AND POST CARDS ARE ALSO AT UBER'S. POST CARDS CAN ALSO BE BOUGHT AT THE BOOK NOOK.

SIGNATURE QUILT: FROM THE AUTOGRAPH BOOK OF CHARLIE GOUCHER, OF THE 1880s, COME SEVERAL DOZEN SIGNATURES OF PERSONS LIVING IN THE AREA. GARY MCCRIRIE HAS FORWARDED THESE COPIES WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM A FRIEND OF HIS. THE SIGNATURE QUILT CAN HOLD THEM ALL. WE FIND ANDERSON, JACOBS, BIDWELL, BRADLEY, McCLEMENTS, TAYLOR AND MANY MORE FAMILIES ARE REPRESENTED. MAKE A DONATION OF \$10. FOR EACH AND YOU'LL SEE THEY ARE INCLUDED.



1928 - BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL - 1966  
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN  
1994  
BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD PLANS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 9-NOON, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WILL MEET TO DISCUSS FUND RAISING PROJECTS FOR 1995.

MUCH GRATITUDE IS DUE THESE PEOPLE FOR TAKING SEVERAL HOURS FROM A BUSY DAY BECAUSE THEY CARE AND FEEL THE SOCIETY'S EFFORTS ARE WORTHWHILE.

THE VARIOUS PRESERVATION PROJECTS IN WHICH THE SOCIETY IS INVOLVED ALL REQUIRE, BESIDES LOTS OF VOLUNTEER TIME AND EFFORT, CASH ALSO. ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR SUGGESTIONS. CALL PRES. BAIR, 229-6402; YOUR HELP AND INTEREST IS NECESSARY.

BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

THIS SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1928 ON A SITE KNOWN AS "BRIGHTON HEIGHTS" THOMAS S LEITH, A SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE, DONATED LAND AT NORTH CHURCH AND MAIN STREETS. BRIGHTON CITY STUDENTS, AS WELL AS THOSE FROM SURROUNDING RURAL DISTRICTS, ATTENDED. A SENIOR CLASS OF 13 WAS THE FIRST TO GRADUATE, IN 1929, FROM THIS BUILDING. IN 1966 THE CLASS NUMBERED 155. ITS MOST RECENT USE HAS BEEN AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL.

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  
 \$12. Couple      Brighton Area Historical Society  
 \$ 7. Individual      P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

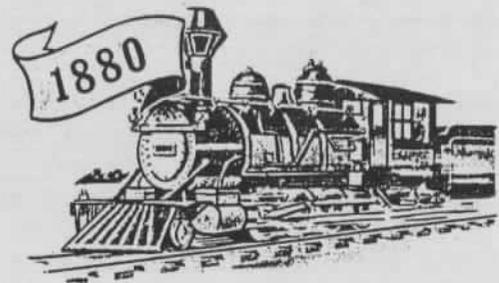
## GROWING WHEAT IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (CONCLUDED!)

WITH THE COMING OF THE RAIL ROAD GRAIN FARMERS IN THE AREA HAD A STRONG IMPETUS TO PUT MORE FIELDS INTO WHEAT. THEY NOW HAD A RELIABLE MEANS TO SHIP THEIR EXTRA GRAIN TO DISTANT BUYERS. ON LAND LEASED FROM THE RAILROAD, NORTH OF MAIN STREET, A GRAIN ELEVATOR WAS BUILT. THE FARMER DROVE HIS WAGON OF GRAIN UP A DIRT RAMP NEXT TO THE ELEVATOR AND DUMPED THE GRAIN INTO A CHUTE. FROM THERE IT WENT THROUGH A FANNING MILL AND SCREENED; THEN ELEVATED TO A LARGE HOPPER ON SCALES AND FROM THERE TO BINS IN THE UPPER AREA OF THE BUILDING. GRAVITY THEN TOOK OVER THE JOB OF DIRECTING IT INTO RAILROAD CARS. DURING THE WHEAT HARVEST THE STREETS LEADING TO THIS ELEVATOR, AND THE HYNE ELEVATOR ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN, WERE LINED UP WITH WAGONS DELIVERING GRAIN.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMBINE, WHICH CUTS, WINNOWS, DROPS THE STRAW IN NEAT ROWS, AND TRANSFERS THE WHEAT INTO WAITING TRUCKS HAS GREATLY REDUCED THE NUMBER OF MEN NEEDED TO GET THE JOB DONE. TO ENABLE THE GIGANTIC COMBINE TO OPERATE MOST EFFICIENTLY SMALL FIELDS WERE JOINED PROVIDING A LARGE NUMBER OF ACRES INTO ONE FIELD. REMOVAL OF THE OLD FENCE ROWS REDUCED, ALSO, THE NUMBER OF PHEASANTS, FOXES, RABBITS AND OTHER WILDLIFE WHICH HAD CALLED THEM HOME.

FROM PLANTING WHEAT BY HAND TO USING A PLANTER HOLDING BUSHES OF SEED AND WHICH PLANTS NEAT ROWS IN A SEVERAL YARDS WIDE SWATH; FROM CUTTING WITH A CRADLE SCYTHE TO THE BINDER, THE THRESHER AND THE COMBINE WHICH PERFORMS THE ENTIRE HARVESTING PROCESS AS IT TRAVELS THROUGH THE FIELD, THE AREA'S ECONOMY IS STILL CHANGING. VERY LITTLE WHEAT IS HARVESTED IN THIS SOUTH EAST CORNER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY PRESENTLY. THE COST OF MACHINERY REQUIRES LARGE TRACTS OF ACREAGE. THE TAXES ON A FARMER'S REAL ESTATE PRECLUDES THE LAND NECESSARY. IT HAS BECOME A RESIDENTIAL AREA. AND WHILE WE ENJOY THE RURAL ATMOSPHERE WE REALLY DON'T CARE FOR THE SMELLS OF FARM ANIMALS, AND THE RESULTING MANURE, THE SIGHTS OF THE BARNYARD NOR THE SOUNDS OF A TRACTOR, GRAIN DRYER, HAY BAILER, ETC., DISTURBING OUR IDEA OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMS ARE NOT VERY COMPATIBLE.

(BY MARIEANNA BAIR WITH THANKS TO THE WRITINGS OF BILL PLESS, AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF CLAUDINE AND ANDREW JACKSON AND DUANE GIRBAUGH.)



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