IT'S FAIR TIME!!

The Michigan State Fair, Fowlerville Fair, Brighton Folk Art Fair and sponsored by the Livingston County Agricultural Society, the Agricultural Fair in Brighton. All but the latter are familiar to us.

The 1880 History of Livingston County, by Franklin Ellis, notes that in the May 10, 1885, issue of the Livingston Courrier can be found this notice: “Executive Committee of the Livingston County Agricultural Society for 1884 held their first meeting... at the schoolhouse in the village of Howell, May 2.” It is assumed this group organized 1841 or 1842. The list for which premiums were awarded included: field crops, cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, farm implements, butter & cheese, sugar & honey, fruit & vegetables, best managed farm and domestic manufactures (weaving, etc.). However Ellis could find no further records of this organization nor is any site of this fair recorded. (Can any of our readers help with this research?)

In February, 1853 a call noted, announced in the press, to meet to organize a Livingston County Agricultural Society (again?) Ira Jennings of Green Oak Township became its president and Jos Cranston of Brighton Township was a V.P. Each township was represented by a V.P. — Ely Barnard from Genoa Township and Stoddard W. Twichell, Hamburg Township for this SE quarter of the county. Over 200 members are listed in the Society’s first year of existence. A cursory review of the list (and this writer’s imperfect memory) indicates over 60 lived in the area.

Article I of the adopted Constitution states it “…is organized for the encouragement of agriculture, manufactures and the mechanic arts.” The first order of business, March 12, 1853, included the resolution: “That the first annual fair of the Society be held in the month of October next, in that township in the county which will raise and pledge to the board of directors, on or before the last Saturday in April next, the largest amount of means towards defraying the incidental expenses of the said fair.”

Apparently this was insufficient time for the townships to act on the offer.

In early May an extension was granted to June 15 to receive pledges. At that meeting the board resolved: “That whereas the Township of Brighton has offered the largest sum ($140.00) for the location of the first annual fair at that village, that the said first annual fair of the Society be held at said village of Brighton on the sixth and seventh days of October next.” (By Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

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

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN
Present Society Board members are all involved with a project, for which much gratitude is extended. For some time the board has been functioning without a Vice President. This is not a good way for an organization to be conducting its business. A Treasurer is also needed. This should not become a chore for Marge White. She’s been at this job for years. She should not be taken advantage of. Several hours a month and attendance at board meetings are the time requisites.

Board members are volunteers serving because the Society is important to them. If too much is expected it’s not fun anymore.

There are many capable people in the area who can assume either of these positions. Contact any of the board members.

LOCAL FAIR RESEARCH HELP NEEDED
Research material on this subject has been found to be very limited. (See p.4) Marieanna has many questions to which she can’t find answers.

A. When was the last Livingston County Agricultural Society fair held in Brighton?
B. Where was it located?
C. When was the Brighton Market Fair Association organized and where were these held?
D. Since when have agricultural fairs not been held in Brighton? Where they still held during the 1930s?

Call her: 810/229-6402 or write


*At 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome. See related article.
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF KENNETH CHAPPELL

For over a quarter century the late Mr. Kenneth Chapell was the manager of the D & C Store. A long time resident of Brighton, a member of the Society.

ARCHIVES: In the "Thanks" column can be found a listing of the several who have donated items to help make a more complete record of the area's past. Donations to the $800.00 bill for microfilming the early issues of the Brighton newspaper will be gratefully received. The reader, donated by the Northville Historical Society, is a big help and saves a lot of money.

Each second Saturday, 9-11 a.m., work is underway identifying, compiling and filing various items. The help is welcome at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Also any pictures, diaries, letters, etc.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: Windows, in the authentic style, have arrived at 132 E. Grand River. This 100-year-old building will have all new utilities and a new beam to help carry the load. It is felt the joists supporting the first floor cover too long a span. Many members of the Association have been contributing labor, materials and cash. Several raising events are planned. It is not necessary to be a member to donate. The Lyons School project will receive all cash contribution which are made through the Brighton Area Historical Society.

ORAL HISTORY: There is a long list of long time residents of the area which should be included in a video or tape interview. In the future these interviews will be invaluable to researchers. If you'd like to help by interviewing or if you are willing to be interviewed be sure to contact the Society.

HISTORY BOOK: This committee meets every 2nd Thursday. People, whether members of the Society or not, are needed to help chronicle the history. Carol McMacken, 253-2957 and Assistant Shirley Knight, 229-9288. Contact them with your offer of pictures, comments, stories, writers, typists, copyers, etc. This will be a history of the area - you should be involved and included.

1870 FEDERAL CENSUS AVAILABLE

The Livingston County Genealogical Society is preparing the 1870 Federal Census of Livingston County and Mortality Schedule. The soft bound, 8.5"X11", 348 page, indexed publication will include 1875 township plat maps and property owners. L.C.G.S., Dept. F., Box 1073, Howell, 48843-1073. Pre August 3, price $2.00. Post August 3, $2.50. P.O. 481, Brighton, Mt. 48116-0481

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SIGNATURE QUILT: Judy Murray, daughter of Al and Hazel Cole, has contributed to the addition of their signatures to the quilt. Both of these people made significant contributions to the community during their lifetime. Signatures of many early residents of the area are in the society files. You can select one, or more, if you wish, or one of your own choosing. The donation of $10 is a painless yet enduring contribution.

UNER'S DRUGS stocks early pictures of the mill pond. Post cards of Brighton scenes, and tiles depicting local historical sites. The book also stocks the postcards and somewhere in the Society Bank have the tiles available also.

PURCHASES OF THESE ITEMS HELPS THE SOCIETY KEEP ADVANCING ITS PURPOSES.

FOOTL AR FAY IN AUGUST

Chuck and June Beach will be chairing the Society's participation again. They are really getting good at this. It is because they receive support from other members. Some are having to make calls: call them, 229-9678, and let them know you'll help.

All receipts from fund raising projects go to the preservation and restoration efforts of the Society.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SPAGHETTI DINNER, SEPTEMBER 29

This is the slogan which will hopefully entice MANY to attend. Plans include everything from a complete spaghetti dinner to entertainment-Italian style. These plans cannot come to fruition without everyone's support. There is a job for everyone regardless of strengths or weaknesses. Just call that you'd like to help and the chairman will find something for you to do.

Decorations, entertainment, tickets, cooks, servers, hosts, publicity all need workers.

Call Carolina Deluca, 546-6518, to volunteer your time and expertise.

GREEN OAK DAY AUGUST 12

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY on their 20th anniversary, to celebrate the Society is invited to Green Oak Day, Saturday, August 12, noon to 4 p.m. at the Gage House Museum, 6540 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 (1853), 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 mile. (I-96 exit 151, south.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ______________________ PHONE ______________________
ADDRESS ______________________

NEM ______________________ RENALI ______________________

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- Bake Sale
- Help with Spec. events
- Newsletter
- Board Member
- Hospitality
- Fund Raising
- Programs
- Genealogy
- Membership Committee

DUES: $25.00 Individual
$75.00 Couple
$25.00 Business/Professional

All checks to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Mt. 48116-0481
1995 MEMBERSHIPS 1995
BUS/PROF: Timberlane Homes, Inc., THE FENCE SPOT.
PATRON: Elsa Stegenga (AZ, 96).
COUPLE/INDIV: Bill & Jacquie Armstrong, MILDRED BENDER (96), GENEVIE BURT (FL), A GIFT FROM PAULINE CHENOWETH, FLOYD & IAL FULLER (96), TIM KAMINSKI, JAMES & JUDY MURRAY (Dexter), MIKE & JANET WOODFORD.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...THOSE WHO SO GENEROUSLY RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP. ALL INCOME FROM FUND RAISING EVENTS GOES TO PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS. Newsletter expenses and administration expenses are paid by membership dues. Both printing and postage have gone up in price. The monthly bill is over $200. Business/Professional/Patron dues are major income for Trail Tales. Consider one of these categories when renewing. Without community support the Society could not continue.

FLOYD & IAL FULLER for the 1946 VICTORY HOMECOMING PROGRAM, A POLAROID CAMERA, C. 1938 EASTMAN KODAK B & W MOVIE CAMERA, FIRE LINES 1938, AND SIMPLIFIED HYDRAULICS FIRE DEPARTMENT BOOKLET.

LOIS GREGORY KRAUSMAN for C. 1985 PHOTOS HIGH SCHOOL BAND. JULY 4TH PARADE FLOAT, THEIR HOME ON 2ND STREET WHERE MILL POND MANOR NOW SITS, 1955 FRONTIER DAYS; SEVERAL SERVICE STATUES 1951/56, GREG'S GUITAR AND C. 1947/51 CUB SCOUTS (WITH I.D.), AN EARLY INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. PAUL ALTAR. SHE IS ALSO MAKING NOTES OF HER BRIGHTON RECOLLECTIONS. (HOPE OTHERS WILL CONSIDER DOING THIS OR MAKING A TAPE RECORDING.)

FRANC CRAMP, STACEY STOWE FOR HER FIRE COOPERATION IN THE MAKING OF A VIDEO OF HER RECOLLECTIONS.

CAROL, MARK & PAT MCMACKEN FOR PREPARING THE VIDEO OF MRS. STOKES.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF KENNETH CHAPPEL.

FOR OVER A QUARTER CENTURY THE MANAGER OF THE D & C STORE. A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF BRIGHTON. A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

ARCHIVES: In the "Thanks" column can be found a listing of the several who have donated items to help make a more complete record of the area's past.

DONATIONS TO THE $800 + BILL FOR MICROFILMING THE EARLY ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. THE READER DONATED TO THE NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. A BIG HELP AND SAVES A LOT OF MONEY.

Each second Saturday, 9-11 A.M., work is underway, identifying, compiling and filing various items in the Archive's vault at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Also any pictures, diaries, letters, etc.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: WINDOWS, IN THE AUTHENTIC STYLE, HAVE ARRIVED AT 132 E. GRAND RIVER. THIS 100+ YEAR OLD BUILDING WILL HAVE AL NEW UTILITIES AND A NEW BEAM TO HELP CARRY THE LOAD. IT IS FELT THE JOISTS SUPPORTING THE FIRST FLOOR COVER TOO LONG A SPAN. MANY MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION HAVE CONTRIBUTED LABOR, MATERIALS AND CASH. ONE MINI RESTAURANT EVENTS ARE PLANNED. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BE A MEMBER TO DONATE. THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT WILL RECEIVE ALL CASH CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH ARE MADE THROUGH THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ORAL HISTORY: THERE IS A LONG LIST OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A VIDEO OR TAPE INTERVIEW. IN THE FUTURE THESE INTERVIEWS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP BY INTERVIEWING OR IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE SOCIETY.

HISTORY BOOK: THIS COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY 4TH THURSDAY. PEOPLE, WHETHER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OR NOT, ARE NEEDED TO HELP CHRM, CAROL MCMACKEN, 231-2957 AND ASSISTANT SHIRLEY KNIGHT, 229-9298. CONTACT THEM WITH YOUR OFFER OF PICTURES, COMMENTS, STORIES, WRITERS, TYPISTS, GOVERS, ETC. THIS WILL BE A HISTORY OF THE AREA - YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED AND INCLUDED.

1870 FEDERAL CENSUS AVAILABLE


FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SIGNATURE GUILT: JUDY MURRAY, DAUGHTER OF AL AND HAZEL COLE, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ADDITION OF THEIR SIGNATURES TO THE GUilt. BOTH OF THESE PEOPLE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THEIR LIFETIME. SIGNATURES OF MANY EARLY RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ARE IN THE SOCIETY FILES. YOU CAN SELECT ONE, OR MORE, IF YOU WISH, OR ONE OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING. THE DONATION OF $10 IS A PAINLESS, YET ENHANCING CONTRIBUTION.

UNDER'S DRUGS STOCKS EARLY PICTURES OF THE MILL POND POST CARDS, basic pictures of Brighton Scenery, and tiles depicting local historical sites. THE BOOK NOOK also STOCKS THE POSTCARDS AND SOMEWHERE IN TIME AND SOCIETY BANK HAVE THE TILES AVAILABLE ALSO.

PURCHASES OF THESE ITEMS HELPS THE SOCIETY KEEP ADVANCING ITS PURPOSES.

FOOL ART FAIR IN AUGUST

CHUCK AND JAMIE BEACH WILL BE CHAIRING THE SOCIETY'S Participation again. They are really getting good at this. This is because they receive support from other members. So if you have to do anything, call them. 229-9678, and let them know YOU'LL HELP.

ALL RECEIPTS FROM FUND RAISING EVENTS GO TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION EFFORTS OF THE SOCIETY.

SPAGHETTI DINNER, SEPTEMBER 29
ENJOY AN EVENING IN ITALY!

THIS IS THE SLOGAN WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY ENCAGE MANY TO ATTEND. PLANS INCLUDE EVERYTHING FROM A COMPLETE SPAGHETTI DINNER TO ENTERTAINMENT-ITALIAN STYLE.

THESE PLANS CANNOT COME TO FRUITION WITHOUT EVERYONE'S SUPPORT. THERE IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS. JUST CALL THAT YOU'D LIKE TO HELP AND THE CHAIRMAN WILL FIND SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO.

DECORATIONS: ENTERTAINMENT, TICKETS, COOKS, SERVERS, HOSTS, PUBLICITY ALL NEEDED WORKERS.

CALL CAROLINA DELUCA, 546-4518, TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE.

GREEN OAK DAY AUGUST 12
CONGRATULATIONS TO GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY. TO CELEBRATE THE SOCIETY 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 (1853), 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 MILE. (I-96 EXIT 151, SOUTH.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ____________________________ PHONE ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________

MEM ( ) Renewal ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate: ( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with Spec. events ( ) Newsletter ( )
Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Programs ( )
Fund Raising ( ) Rental ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping ( )
Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other ( )

DUES: $2. Member
$2. Business/Professional
$12. Couple
$7. Individual

SPONSORED BY: $2. Student (K-12, College)
IT'S FAIR TIME!!!

The Michigan State Fair, Fowlerville Fair, Brighton Folk Art Fair and, sponsored by the Livingston County Agricultural Society, the Agricultural Fair in Brighton. All but the latter are familiar to us.

The 1880 History of Livingston County, by Franklin Ellis, notes that in the May 10, 1863, issue of the Livingston Courier can be found this notice: "Executive Committee of the Livingston County Agricultural Society for 1841 held their first meeting...at the schoolhouse in the village of Howell, May 2." It is assumed this group organized 1841 or 1842. The list for which premiums were awarded included: field crops, cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, implements, butter & cheese, sugar & honey, fruit & vegetables, best managed farm and domestic machines (weaving, etc.). However Ellis could find no further records of this organization nor is any site of this fair recorded. (Can any of our readers help with this research?)

In February, 1853 a call noted, announced in the press, to meet to organize a Livingston County Agricultural Society (Again?) Ira Jennings of Green Oak Township became its President and Jos Crampton of Brighton Township was a V.P. Each township was represented by a V.P. - Ely Barnard from Gendona Township and Stoddard W. Mitchel, Hamburg Township for this SW quarter of the county. Over 200 members are listed in the Society's first year of existence. A cursory review of the list (and this writer's imperfect memory) indicates over 60 lived in the area. Article I of the adopted Constitution states it "...is organized for the encouragement of agriculture, manufactures, and the mechanic arts." The first order of business, March 12, 1853, included the resolution: "That the first annual fair of the Society be held in the month of October next, in that township in the county which will raise and pledge to the board of directors, on or before the last Saturday in April next, the largest amount of means towards defraying the incidental expenses of the said fair."

Apparently this was insufficient time for the townships to act on the offer. In early May an extension was granted to June 15 to receive pledges. At that meeting the board resolved: "That whereas the Township of Brighton has offered the largest sum ($140.00) for the location of the first annual fair at that village, that the said first annual fair of the Society be held at said village of Brighton on the sixth and seventh days of October next." (By Marianna Bair. To be continued.)

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

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.

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Present Society Board members are all involved with a project, for which much gratitude is extended. For some time the board has been functioning without a Vice President. This is not a good way for an organization to be conducting its business. A treasurer is also needed. This should not become a chore for Margie White. She's been at this job for years. She should not be taken advantage of. Several hours a month and attendance at board meetings are the time requisites. Board members are volunteers serving because the Society is important to them. If too much is expected it's not fun anymore.

There are many capable people in the area who can assume either of these positions. Contact any of the board members.

LOCAL FAIR RESEARCH HELP NEEDED

Research material on this subject has been found to be very limited. (See p.4) Marianna has many questions to which she can't find answers.

A. When was the last Livingston County Agricultural Society fair held in Brighton?

B. Where was it located?

C. When was the Brighton Market Fair Association organized and where were these held?

D. Since when have agricultural fairs not been held in Brighton? Where were they still held during the 1930's?

Call her: 810/229-6402 or write:


*at 202 W. Main. upstairs. Welcome.

**See related article.