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 Fairgrounds in the S1 of the NE1 of the NE1, 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 Sturhburg 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.)

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

Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Brighton Area Historical Society Board of Directors

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 9, 5-8 p.m. Marge Wilcox at the Brighton District Library to assist with genealogical research.


Aug. 12, 9-11 a.m. Work at Archives, *

Aug. 15, 10-5 p.m. Art Fair Booth **


Aug. 26, 75th Anniversary Women's Suffrage.

Aug. 26, 7:30. Society Board Meeting.*

Aug. 27, 11-4 p.m. Victorian Festival, Mill Race Village, Northville. Mill Race Village open Sundays, 1-4 p.m.

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.

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 to the Association, P.O. Box 1163, Brighton.

Sept. 22/24: Steam Train Excursion: Ann Arbor to Traverse City***


Sept. 29: 4-50-7:30 p.m. Society's Spaghetti Supper. First Presbyterian Church, 600 E. Grand River.**

Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Steam Train Excursion: Howell to Cadillac**

Oct. 14: Brighton Area School Alumni Reunion Dinner. P.O. Box 1163 for more info or 810/229-6402.

*Upstairs at 207 W. Main. Welcome. **See related article, please. ***Contact: Bluewater Michigan Chapter, P.O. Box 296, Royal Oak 48062-0296.