



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. XV No. 10

Brighton, MI 48116  
OCTOBER, 1996

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

PRES. & EDITOR	MARIEANNA BAIR	229-6402
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NANCY FREDENBURG - ORAL HISTORY	229-9100
CAROL McMACKEN - HISTORY BOOK	231-2957
JIM VICHICH - LYONS SCHOOL	227-4840

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JOHN LINAHAN - PERS. DELIVERY	229-8777
GARY McCRIE - OLD TOWN HALL & SCHOLARSHIP	229-2191
ANNE STRATIGOS - HOSPITALITY	229-5689
HERB WARNER - LYONS SCHOOL	229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER

- OCT 1: 1 P.M. COMMEMORATION OF 100 YEARS RURAL FREE DELIVERY. LIBRARY AND POST OFFICE.
- 3, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, LDS CHURCH, 1040 W. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL.
- 5,6: GRAND RAPIDS HOME TOUR. 616/459-8950.
- 9, 5-8 P.M. & OCT. 22, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP AT LIBRARY.
- 12, 6 P.M. BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOC. REUNION DINNER. 229-6402.
- 13, 9:30/5 MI ANTIQUARIAN BOOK & PAPER SHOW, NEW LANSING CENTER, 333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING. ALSO - PIONEER DAY AT WATERLOO FARM MUSEUM.
- \* 15, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. HELP!
- 19, 10/4 P.M. BRIGHTON AREA HOME TOUR.
- 20, 4-6 P.M. GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING. POT LUCK AT THE WHITMORE LAKE ROAD FIRE HALL.

BANDKAU'S HOST GENERAL MEETING

IT WAS VERY SATISFYING AND INSPIRATIONAL TO TOUR THE 1862 RESIDENCE OF DON AND RICCI BANDKAU LAST MONTH. THE MANY RESTORATIVE EFFORTS TO THE STRUCTURE ITSELF AND THE THOUGHTFUL APPLICATION OF BOTH INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DESIGN WERE VERY EVIDENT. IT IS ENCOURAGING TO EXPERIENCE THE RESULTS OF THEIR CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AN EARLY HOME OF BRIGHTON'S HISTORY. THIS KIND OF PRESERVATION IS STRONGLY PROMOTED BY THE SOCIETY.

PLANNING FOR 1997 PROGRAMS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7 P.M., THE BOARD WILL MEET TO PLAN MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS FOR 1997. SPEAKERS, TOURS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, LOCAL HISTORY INFORMATION, ARE ALL POSSIBILITIES.

THE MEMBERSHIP IS URGED TO JOIN THE BOARD OR TO PASS ON ANY REQUESTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR A PROGRAM. THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN ST., BRIGHTON.

- \* 22, MULLING OVER MICHIGAN. AN EVENT FOR HISTORY TEACHERS. 810/229-6402.
- \* 24, 7:30 SOCIETY BOOK COMMITTEE.
- \* 28, 7:30 BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.
- \* NOV 4, 7 P.M. PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 1997. 9 OR 15, MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION WORKSHOPS. 229-6402.
- \* DEC 2, 7:30 SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING.
- \* AT OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN ST.

PATRON: HUGH & REBECCA MUNCE.

COUPLES/INDIV: PAT & JOSIE ARNOLD (97),  
BILL & HELEN HYNE (97, CHELSEA), SUE  
URBAN, RANDALL & KYLE WILSON (97).

THE SOCIETY IS AN INCOME TAX EXEMPT, NON  
PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH CANNOT EXIST  
ONLY ON THE VOLUNTEER LABOR, WHICH IS SO  
WILLINGLY GIVEN. THERE ARE ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXPENSES (PRINTING, POSTAGE, SUPPLIES)  
WHICH ARE PAID FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES.

IF THE DATE ON THE ADDRESS LABEL IS NOT 96,  
OR LATER, TRAIL TALES IS COMING TO YOU AT  
SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPENSE. CONSIDER SENDING A  
DUES FEE OR A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL  
FUND.

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THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

UBER'S DRUG STORE FOR ITS VERY LONG TIME  
SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY FUND RAISING EFFORTS.  
BOB HERBST, OWNER, HAS BEEN THE ONE WHO HAS  
STOCKED SOCIETY TILES, COVERLETS, POST  
CARDS AND FUND RAISING EVENT TICKETS. HIS  
GENEROSITY IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL  
BE MISSED. HE IS WISHED WELL IN HIS  
FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

DON AND RICCI BANDKAU FOR HOSTING THE  
SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING AT THEIR 1862  
HOME. THEY ARE UNSELFISH WITH THEIR HOSPI-  
TALITY.

JOANNE CERU FOR ASSUMING THE VICE PRESI-  
DENCY. THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN WITHOUT FOR  
SOME TIME. WELCOME!!!

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NEEDED      NEEDED      NEEDED

A LOCAL MERCHANT OR BUSINESS WILLING TO  
STOCK SOCIETY FUND RAISING ITEMS. ALL  
PROCEEDS FROM THESE ITEMS AND FROM FUND  
RAISING EVENTS ARE DESIGNATED TO PRESER-  
VATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS: ARCHIVES,  
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, LYONS SCHOOL,  
OLD TOWN HALL, ORAL HISTORY, PHOTOGRAPHING  
CONTEMPORARY BRIGHTON SCENES, COPYING OF  
LOANED MATERIALS, PREPARATION OF EXTRA  
COPIES OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOR THE  
LOCAL LIBRARY, ETC.

SEVERAL TOUR GUIDES ARE STILL NEEDED FOR  
HOMES FOR THE DAY OF THE HOME TOUR. CALL  
JULIETTE RILEY, 229-8694, OR MARIEANNA  
BAIR, 229-6402, WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP.  
PROCEEDS FROM THE TOUR WILL BE A REAL  
BOOST TO THE PRESERVATION FUND.

ARCHIVES: MEETS 3RD TUESDAY, 1 P.M. AT  
THE OLD TOWN HALL FILING PICTURES,  
NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, HISTORICAL DATA,  
ETC. YOUR HELP IS WELCOME!

LYONS SCHOOL: THE DAY SCHEDULED FOR  
PAINTING LAST MONTH WAS WET. AFTER  
THINGS DRY OUT THE JOB WILL BE FINI-  
SHED. A DATE FOR THIS MONTH HAS NOT  
BEEN ESTABLISHED. CALL 227-4840 WHEN  
YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS. BRING A LADDER,  
IF POSSIBLE, TO 11455 BUNO RD. THIS  
PAINTING WILL BE COMPLETED THIS FALL.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: THE RESTORA-  
TION/RENOVATION OF 132 E. GRAND RIVER  
IS WELL UNDERWAY. NEW ROOF, 2ND FLOOR  
ELECTRICAL IS COMPLETE. FINAL PLUMBING  
AND CARPETING ARE IN THE WORKS. LEASES  
FOR OFFICE SPACE ARE AVAILABLE. 5% OF  
DONATIONS TO THIS PROJECT ARE DESIGNA-  
TED TO RESTORATION OF LYONS SCHOOL.

ORAL HISTORY: THE TRANSCRIPTION OF  
TAPES TO THE WRITTEN PAGE IS AN IMPOR-  
TANT PART OF THIS PROJECT. SECOND ONLY  
TO THE ACTUAL RECORDING OF MEMORIES  
OF AREA LONG TIME RESIDENTS. EQUIPMENT  
AND INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. 229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: ACCUMULATION OF PHOTOS,  
LETTERS, CLIPPINGS, FAMILY RECORDS,  
ETC., ETC., IS CONTINUING. CAROL MC  
MACKEN, 231-2957, NEEDS YOUR MEMORA-  
BILIA TO PRODUCE A FINE PUBLICATION.

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ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 2

PLAN TO ATTEND THIS 7:30, MONDAY, MEET-  
ING AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN.  
ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE, BOARD MEM-  
BERS WILL PREPARE SHORT ANNUAL REPORTS  
AND YOU'LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SOCIETY, ITS GOALS  
AND ACTIVITIES.

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO  
CONTINUE SERVING. HOWEVER ALL POSITIONS  
ARE OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS. JOANNE CERU  
HAS JOINED THE BOARD IN THE OFFICE OF  
V.P. THE POSITION OF TREASURER, ABOUT  
AN HOUR A WEEK, (PLUS BOARD MEETINGS)  
NEEDS TO BE FILLED.

THE ADDITION OF SEVERAL DIRECTORS  
WOULD ENABLE THE SOCIETY TO ENLARGE  
ITS SPHERE OF ACTIVITY. GIVE CONSIDER-  
RATION TO BECOMING A MORE ACTIVE MEMBER.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 1996 HOME TOUR

OCTOBER 19, 1996, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

IN OCTOBER, 1832, LEWIS B. FONDA, COMING FROM WASHTENAW, MICHIGAN (ANN ARBOR), SETTLED ON 80 ACRES IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP SECTION 33. THE OLD GRAND RIVER TRAIL, FOLLOWING THE NORTH SIDE OF FONDA LAKE, RAN THROUGH THE PROPERTY. BY 1895, GEORGE W. CUSHING OWNED THE PROPERTY WHERE PAT AND MARGE WHITE MAKE THEIR HOME ON THE SHORE OF THE LAKE.

MAY 9, 1835, ELIZABETH CUSHING, OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN, PURCHASED 135 ACRES IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP SECTION 30. HIRAM SMITH AND WILLIAM MCPHERSON, AT THE TIME OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY BUILDING THE RAILROAD THROUGH BRIGHTON, PURCHASED HER PROPERTY WHICH WAS NORTH OF MAIN STREET AND PLATTED THE SMITH/MCPHERSON ADDITION. BY 1875, LOT #55, N. SECOND STREET, HAD A HOUSE ON IT OWNED BY L. PLESS. ERIC AND LISA PIEHL ARE TODAY'S OWNERS.

BENJAMIN W. CONKLIN, FROM NEW YORK CITY, IN SEPTEMBER, 1834, PURCHASED THE 80 ACRES IN THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 21, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. BY 1875 F. CONELY HAD A HOUSE ON THE E 1/2 OF THAT PROPERTY. IN 1912, NEWLYWEDS ELMER AND ROSINA BOICE, MOVED IN AND LIVED THERE OVER HALF A CENTURY. RANDY AND JANE STEPHENSON HAVE COMPLETED MUCH RESTORATION AND RENOVATION ON THEIR VAN AMBURG ROAD HOME.

SMITH AND MCPHERSON ALSO PURCHASED THE 65 ACRES SETTLED BY ELIJAH FITCH, JULY, 1835, IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP SECTION 31. LOT 246 WAS PART OF THE PIECE BOUGHT BY SCHOENHALS BY 1875. THE ATTRACTIVE BUNGALOW, OWNED BY BRUCE AND DEBRA MCCRIE, ON MAIN STREET, WAS BUILT C. 1920.

LAND SPECULATOR CYRUS JACKSON OF WAYNE, N.Y., PURCHASED 240 ACRES IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP SECTION 15, IN JUNE, 1836. HOWEVER BY 1895 MRS. W. MORGAN HAD A HOUSE ON 60 ACRES OF THAT PIECE. ROBERT MORGAN IS OWNER OF RECORD BY 1915, OF THIS PROPERTY ON NEWMAN ROAD. PRESENT OWNER'S, MARK AND TERESA TUCKER, HAVE SAVED THIS 100+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURE FROM DESTRUCTION.

LOTS 264, 265, 349 AND 350 WERE OWNED AND A HOUSE BUILT BY F. T. HYNNE BY 1875. (ALSO A PART OF THE SMITH/MCPHERSON ADDITION PURCHASED FROM FITCH.) THIS HOUSE BURNED CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913. TODAY'S HOME ON THAT SITE, OWNED BY HARRY AND TONI TUBBS, WAS BUILT IN 1914. RECENT RESTORATION BRINGS THE HOME TO ITS EARLIER APPEARANCE. THE CARRIAGE HOUSE DATES TO THE EARLIER HOME.

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

"HOLIDAY GREETINGS": FROM THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, 1898

MORE FROM A BOOK OF POEMS BY FRED A. BUSH

B. F. WILTFONG      HEDGE AND WIRE FENCE

DO YOU WANT A FENCE MR. FARMER,  
A FENCE THAT ALL PEOPLE ADMIRE?  
YOU SHOULD SEE MR. B. F. WILTFONG'S  
FENCE OF OSAGE ORANGE AND WIRE.  
THIS FENCE IS A FENCE OF GREAT BEAUTY  
THAT WILL LAST FOR YEARS AND YEARS,  
LONG AFTER THE PEOPLE THAT BUILD IT  
HAVE LEFT THIS VALE OF TEARS.  
THEY START THE FENCE AND ATTEND IT  
UNTIL THE FENCE IS WELL MADE,  
AND AS A FARM FENCE IT'S A DANDY  
AND PUTS ALL OTHERS IN SHADE.  
IT IS MULE HIGH, BULL STRONG AND PIG TIGHT,  
AND GETS BETTER AS YEARS ROLL ALONG.  
YOU CAN FIND OUT ALL OF ITS MERITS  
FROM THE AGENT, MR. B. F. WILTFONG.

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CHAS. E. PLACEWAY      AUCTIONEER AND REAL ESTATE

IN THE BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE OF BRIGHTON  
THERE'S NO MAN BETTER KNOWN  
THAN OUR TOWNSMAN C. E. PLACEWAY,  
WHO WITH THE TOWN HAS GROWN.  
HE BUYS AND SELLS YOUR REAL ESTATE  
OR WILL BUILD A HOME FOR YOU  
ON TERMS THAT ARE AS REASONABLE  
AS ANY ONE COULD DO.  
SO THAT YOU CAN PAY FOR THEM  
ON NEARLY THE SAME PLAN  
AS PAYING RENT FOR HOUSES  
THAT BELONG TO ANOTHER MAN.  
AND SHOULD YOU WISH AN AUCTION,  
HE'LL GO AND MAKE YOUR SALE  
ON FARM OR HOUSEHOLD GOODS AS WELL  
AT PRICES THAT PREVAIL.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 481  
BRIGHTON MI 4816-0481