



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. XVI No. 12

Brighton, MI 48116
DECEMBER, 1997

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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TOM & AUDREY LEITH - MEMBERSHIP	229-6165
ANNE STRATIGOS - HOSPITALITY	229-5689
HERB WARNER - LYONS SCHOOL	229-6504

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL

1998 WILL MARK THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

AN ENCAMPMENT, COMMEMORATING THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD JUNE 13, 14, 1998, AT THE SITE OF THE ORIGINAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD. FIVE REGIMENTS TRAINED AND MUSTERED INTO SERVICE FROM CAMP EATON. THE RAILROAD TRACK IS STILL IN PLACE. THE SITE IS IN THE ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA.

THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL CO HOST A PROGRAM, RECREATING A MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CAMP, BY THE GREAT LAKES LIVING HISTORY SOCIETY. CAMP LIFE WITH PERIOD ITEMS, CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT, ETC., "1898-CIVILIAN VISITORS" (INCLUDING SUFFRAGETTES), DISPLAYS, ETC., WILL BE SET UP.

SOCIETY MEMBERS AND AREA RESIDENTS ARE INVITED AS ACTIVE HELPERS OR TO VISIT THE ENCAMPMENT.

PLANS FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE MARKER ARE UNDERWAY. 810/229-6402 OR 248/486-9113 FOR MORE INFO.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- *ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: TUESDAYS, 1 P.M., 810/229-6402.
- HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE: THURSDAYS, 1 P.M. 810/231-2957.
- *GENEALOGICAL HELP: 2ND WEDNESDAY, 5-8 P.M. 4TH TUESDAY, 1-5 P.M. 810/227-1760.
- *JAN. 12, 7 P.M. MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM PLANNING, 810/229-7887.
- *JAN. 26, 7 P.M. BOARD MEETING. 810/229-6402.
- *BRIGHTON ROOM, DISTRICT LIBRARY, CHARLES ORNDORF DRIVE.

APRIL 3,4: MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK - 8TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, LANSING.

A BLESSED HOLIDAY

TO ALL!



MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: BOB & TILLIE BITTEN AND MARIAN CARNEY.

BUS/PROF: PREMIER PLUS (NEW)

COUPLES/INDIV: CAROLINA DELUCA (99 HOWELL), HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER (IL), MRS. AL DUNK, (PNKNY), KATHERINE HAMPTON (HRBR. SPRNGS), ELEANOR HORNUNG (YES, THE LADY FOR WHOM THE SCHOOL WAS NAMED.), BILL & HELEN HYNE (CHELSEA), ROYDON & DOROTHY JONES, SUSAN LANNING (LVNIA), DOROTHY MUSCH (HOWELL).

YOU'VE BEEN RECEIVING TRAIL TALES REGULARLY? IS THERE A YEAR NUMBER ON THE LABEL? THAT NUMBER REFERS TO THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES HAVE BEEN PAID. IF NOT, OR IF IT IS EARLIER THAN 1997 AND YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING TRAIL TALES, PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING DUES OR A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SATISFY PRINTING AND POSTAGE EXPENSES.

THE PREPARATION AND EDITING IS VOLUNTEERED BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE AWARE OF THE SOCIETY'S GOALS AND PURPOSES. THE SOCIETY WOULD CONTINUE TO SEND THE NEWSLETTER TO NON MEMBERS BUT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR TO LET OTHERS PAY YOUR WAY. IT IS POSSIBLE THE DATE ON THE LABEL DOES NOT REFLECT THE PROPER YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT US IF THAT'S THE CASE. 810/229-6402.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN & JANICE FIELD, NORM CATRELL, MARILYN PETTIGROVE AND ROSEMARY ULMER FOR THEIR HELP IN GETTING THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES IN THE MAIL.

...HELEN PHOENIX AND JACKIE ARMSTRONG FOR THEIR DONATION IN MEMORY OF LILA ROBERTSON.

...BILL AND BETTY FRANKLIN'S (ARIZONA) DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL FUND. (BETTY ATTENDED EIGHT YEARS THERE.)

...TONY CAVE, TONER CARTRIDGE SERVICES, FOR REFILLING THE 2ND CARTRIDGE FOR THE COPIER. THIS IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION.

...TO THE MANY WHO HAVE PROVIDED SO MUCH SUPPORT TO THE SOCIETY AND ITS PURPOSES AND GOALS.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...TRANSCRIBING MACHINE TO GET ORAL HISTORY ON PAPER.

...VIDEO CAMERA TO RECORD TODAY'S EVENTS WHICH WILL BE TOMORROW'S HISTORY.

...NEWSLETTER SUPPLIES: ADDRESS LABELS, PAPER, POSTAGE, PRINTING EXPENSE.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT LIBRARY AND THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN SIGNED. COMMITTEE PEOPLE ARE PLANNING SOME 'HEAVY DUTY' SORTING, INDEXING, FILING, ETC., AS SOON AS THE NEW FILE IS IN PLACE IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM. THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO REMOVE PICTURES, RECORDS AND OTHER MATERIALS FROM THE STORAGE LOCKER TO A MORE 'FRIENDLY' SITE AND TO ASSURE THAT RESEARCHERS OF LOCAL HISTORY HAVE REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE. CALL 810/229-6402 IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP.

HISTORY BOOK: MEETING REGULARLY THE COMMITTEE IS MAKING PROGRESS. MANY ARE DONATING/LENDING PICTURES, LETTERS, ETC., ETC., RELATIVE TO THE AREA'S HISTORY TO ASSURE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY BOOK OF THE AREA. CONTACT CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957 TO OFFER HELP.

LYONS SCHOOL: PIET LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES PREPARED A PRELIMINARY SKETCH FOR THE RESTORATION. THE BOARD IS ANALYZING THE SKETCH AND WILL BE WORKING WITH PIET TO DRAW A SKETCH IN ORDER TO BEGIN COST ESTIMATES.

THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER IS ON ORDER. LATE WINTER SHOULD SEE ITS ARRIVAL. IT WILL BE A SINGLE POST, TWO SIDED MARKER. A CHECK FOR \$1275.00 IS IN THE MAIL TO THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE. SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTRIBUTED TO THE MARKER FUND. YOUR DONATION IS IMPORTANT. IT IS ASSUMED ALUMNI WILL BE ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO CONTRIBUTE.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

SEVERAL OFFICERS PRESENTED ANNUAL REPORTS, ELECTION OF THE 1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS CONDUCTED, BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION WERE ACCEPTED AT THE RECENT ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE LIBRARY.

MEMBERS WISHING A 1997 COPY OF THE BYLAWS MAY CALL 810/229-6402.

ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE OF A JANUARY 12, 1998 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING. ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED SHOULD BE RELAYED TO V.P. JOANNE CERU, 810/229-7887. THESE PROGRAMS SHOULD REFLECT YOUR INTERESTS.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

(PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP + 4 DIGIT)

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	

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

ALL DONATIONS AND PROCEEDS FROM FUND RAISING PROJECTS ARE PLACED IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND. IN THE FUND ARE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SOCIETY.

1. PRESERVATION OF THE WRITTEN/PHOTOGRAPHED, ETC., HISTORY OF THE AREA.
2. COMPLETION OF AN HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY OF THE AREA.
3. AN ORAL HISTORY AND VIDEO PROGRAM.
5. COMPILING AND PUBLISHING OF A LOCAL HISTORY BOOK.
5. ERECTING HISTORIC SITE MARKERS.
6. RESTORATION OF LYONS SCHOOL FOR USE AS A PIONEER CLASS ROOM FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, AS A SOCIETY MEETING SITE AND AN ARCHIVES ROOM.

PURCHASE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LIST WOULD ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE AFOREMENTIONED PROGRAMS AND SERVE AS THOUGHTFUL GIFTS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

COVERLETS: NINE LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES ARE WOVEN INTO THESE RED OR GREEN COTTON COVERLETS. TO SERVE AS BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, HOLIDAY OR HOSTESS GIFTS THESE CAN BE PURCHASED AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN, FOR \$49.00 INCLUDING TAX.

POST CARDS: LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES, INCLUDING STREET SCENES AND MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OF EARLY BRIGHTON ARE AT THE BOOK NOOK, 322 W. MAIN FOR \$3.00 A PACKET OF 6.

TILES: 6" SQUARE WHITE CERAMIC TILES DEPICTING 11 DIFFERENT SITES IN THE AREA CAN BE PURCHASED AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN FOR \$8.00 OR 3 FOR \$21.00.

NEEDLEPOINT KIT OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, TOTE BAGS (\$15.00), 10"x 14" PICTURES OF THE FIRST MILL STREAM DAM (\$15.00 & \$25.00), PACKETS OF NOTE PAPER (\$2.50), MUGS (\$5.00), AND GETTING YOUR SIGNATURE EMBROIDERED ON THE SIGNATURE QUILT (\$10.00) CAN BE ORDERED FROM 810/229-6402.

WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT THE SOCIETY COULD NOT EXIST NOR COMPLETE ITS PURPOSE. THANKS.



Season's Greetings

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #303
BRIGHTON, MI

ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

AREA FARMS c. 1900

RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON A LIST OF NAMES OF LOCAL FARMS, THEIR LOCATION, AND THEIR OWNERS. THE C. 1900 NEWSPAPER CLIPPING INCLUDES THREE BIDWELLS - F.E. (FRANK), G.A. (GEORGE ALBERT) AND W.L. (WILLIAM). FRANK AND GEORGE ALBERT ARE TWO OF THE THREE SONS OF SETH BIDWELL. WILLIAM IS A SON OF GEORGE ALBERT.

IN 1834 SETH CAME TO BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP FROM ORLEAN COUNTY, N.Y. THAT FIRST WINTER HE STAYED WITH FRIEND BENJAMIN BLAINE WHO HAD COME THE YEAR BEFORE, FROM ORLEAN COUNTY, AND BUILT A LOG, TWO STORY HOUSE ON A LAKE. IN SEPTEMBER 1835, SETH BOUGHT 80 ACRES IN SECTION 5 AND 80 IN SECTION 8, WHERE, WITHIN A SHORT TIME, HE BUILT HIS HOME ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF McCLEMENTS ROAD. THIS HOUSE IS STILL STANDING AND BEING CARED FOR.

BY 1895 GEORGE ALFRED OWNED 80 ACRES IN SECTION 9, THE AULD NEST, ALSO STILL STANDING. BRIGHTON SAND AND GRAVEL IS LOCATED ON MOST OF THE REMAINING PROPERTY. GEORGE WAS MUSTERED OUT OF CO. E, 24TH INFANTRY ON JUNE 30, 1865, ALONG WITH HIS NEIGHBORS, MILO CRAWFORD, CHARLES E. DURFEE AND JOSEPH T. VANAMBURG, AFTER SERVING IN THE CIVIL WAR. SHORTLY AFTER HE AND WEALTHA JANE CLARK MARRIED. AFTER HER DEATH IN 1887, WILL MARRIED MARY BLAINE. BY 1920 THEY LIVED AT 232 S. THIRD AND CONDUCTED THE BRIGHTON REALTY BUSINESS. A BRIGHTON ARGUS NEWS ITEM REPORTS THAT THE COMPANY HAD BOUGHT THE MANNY CROUT FARM NORTH OF BRIGHTON AND THEY PLANNED TO CAMP OUT THERE DURING HARVEST TIME. ABOUT EIGHT YEARS EARLIER GEORGE WAS PASSING THE TIME OF DAY WITH HANS REIDEL IN TOWN WHEN A RUNAWAY TEAM RAN FROM THE MILL AND WEST ON MAIN STREET, RUNNING OVER THE MEN. BOTH SURVIVED ALTHO' GEORGE HAD HEAD LACERATIONS. THE WAGON AND HARNESS WAS COMPLETELY SMASHED BEFORE THE TEAM WAS STOPPED. HIS OBITUARY, A FEW YEARS LATER, STATES WILL HAD BUILT "...MORE BUILDINGS IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP THAN ANY OTHERS."

FRANK E. BIDWELL'S MAPLE RACE FARM (STILL A FEW MAPLES LEFT) STRADDLES PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD IN SECTION 27. AFTER ROY AND ADA CONELY MARRIED THEY MOVED TO FRANK'S FARM FOR A WHILE. THEY PROBABLY HELPED WITH THE FARM SINCE FRANK WAS A TEACHER FOR A WHILE. HE WAS ALSO A DIRECTOR OF THE LIVINGSTON MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SOLD INSURANCE.

BY 1875 WILL BIDWELL & CO. ARE NOTED AS OWNING 140+ ACRES IN SECTIONS 4 AND 5. HIS THE OAKS FARM WAS LOCATED ON OLD, OLD 23 (TAYLOR ROAD). BEAUTIFUL HOMES ARE NOW IN THE ORCHARD ESTATES DEVELOPMENT. ONE CAN STILL FIND THE BIDWELL NAME IN THE LOCAL DIRECTORY. (COMPILED FROM COUNTY ATLASES, CHARBONEAU'S OBITUARIES, WEST'S SCRAPBOOKS, AND 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY. MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402, SEEKS MORE INFORMATION.)