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 1894 Seth came to Brighton Township from Orleans County, N.Y. That first winter he stayed with friends Benjamin Blaine and David Blaine who had come the year before, from Orleans County, and built a log, two story house on a lake. In September 1895, 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, Melo Crawford, Charles E. Durfee and Joseph I. 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 Manly Crout farm north of Brighton and they planned to farm 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 went 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 other.

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 director of the Livingston Mutual Telephone Company and sold insurance.

By 1875 Will Bidwell & Co. are noted as owning 140+ acres in sections 6 and 5. His The Oaks Farm was located on Old 25 (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, Charbonneau's obituaries, West's scrapbooks, and 1880 History of Livingston County, Marieanna Bair, 810/229-6402; seeks more information.)

### 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 National Guard Site marker are underway. 810/229-6402 or 248/486-9113 for more info.

### BRIGHTON AERA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. &amp; Ed.</td>
<td>Marieanna Bair</td>
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<tr>
<td>V.P.</td>
<td>Joanne Corb</td>
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<td>Secr.</td>
<td>Ron Meyore</td>
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<td>Treas.</td>
<td>Margie White</td>
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<th>DIRECTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ricci Bandiat - 222/7664</td>
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<td>Dave Barton - Hist. Res. Superv. - 222/6737</td>
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<td>Lisa Carver - 222/6635</td>
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<td>Nancy Freidenburg - Oral History - 222/9100</td>
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<td>Carol McMacken - History Book - 222/2857</td>
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<td>Jim Vichniac - Lyons School - 222/4840</td>
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<td>Sheryl Vignosad - Publicity - 222/7506</td>
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### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Archives Committee:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m., 810/229-6402.

**History Book Committee:** Thursdays, 1 p.m., 810/231-2967.

**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.


**A BLESSED HOLIDAY TO ALL**
Thank You

Thank You

Bert Bair, John & Janice Field, Norm Carr, Marilyn Peterson and Rosemary Allen
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 (Arizona)
for their Lyons School Fund, Betty attended eight years there.

LyNE cAvY, Tucson, Arizona
for help with 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.
Relaxed dress, envelopes, 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 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 faced marker. A check for $275.00 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 that the marker will be especially anxious to contribute.

Annual Meeting Recap

Several officers presented annual reports. Election of the 1988 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.

Membership was made of a January 12, 1997 membership program planning meeting. Any suggestions for topics to be considered should be relayed to V.P. Joanne Luer, 810/229-7887. These programs should reflect your interests.

Brighton Area Historical Society Membership Form

Name __________________________ Phone __________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
(Please include zip + 4 digit)

Join ( ) Renewal ( )

Activities in which you would like to participate:
( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with Special events ( ) Newsletter ( ) Research
( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration
( ) Fund Raising ( ) Programs ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping
( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other

Dues: $25. Patron $25. Business/Professional $5. Student (K-12, College)

Finacial 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. 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 or all of the following list would add substantially to the financial resources necessary to support the above-mentioned programs and serve as thoughtful gifts to family and friends.

Needlepoint Kit of the Old Town Hall: tote bags ($15.00), 10" x 10" pictures of the first mill steam dam ($15.00 & $25.00), packets of notepaper ($2.50), mug ($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
PATRON: Bob & TILLA BITKEN & MARIAN LANERY
BUSINESS: Premier Plus (new)

gourmets: MARYLNA GLEMS, LOWELL, MRS. AL DUNK, KATHERINE HAMPTON, ELSA SPRINGS, ELEANOR HORNKL (yes: the lady for whom the school was named), BILL & HELEN HAYNE (CHARKA), ROYDOR & DOROTHY JONES, SUSAN LAMIN (LINDW), DOROTHY MUSCH (LOWELL).
The letter is being well received. It is on 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 recent printing and postage expenses.
The preparation and editing is volunteered because it is considered important that you taste the Society's goals and purposes. The Society will continue to send the newsletter to members only. 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. 810/229-9402.

THANKS THANX THANKS
...Bert BAIN, PAUL & JANICE FIELD, NORM CARROLL, MARILYN PETTIBE & ROSEMARIE WARKER FOR THEIR HELP IN SETTING THE NIEVON ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES IN THE MAIL.
...HELEN PHOENIX AND JACQUE ARMSTRONG FOR THEIR DONATION IN MEMORY OF LILA ROBERTSON.
...BILL AND BETTY FRANKLIN'S (ARIZONA) DONATION TO THE LIONS SCHOOL FUND. (BETTY ATTENDED EIGHT YEARS THERE.)
...LINDA CALLE'S TOWEL SERVICE (SERVING THE DUKE'S) FOR REFINISHING THE 2ND CARTRIDGE FOR THE COPIER. THIS IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION.
...TO THE MAN WHO HAVE PROVIDED SO MUCH SUPPORT TO THE SOCIETY AND ITS PURPOSES AND GOALS.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED
...TRANSCIBING MACHINE TO GET ORAL HISTORY ON PAPER.
...VIDEO CAMERA TO RECORD TODAY'S EVENTS WHICH WILL BE TOMORROW'S HISTORY.
...RELAX AND LEASED LABELS FOR POSTAGE, PRINTING EXPENSE.

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 ANNOYED 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 WOULD LIKE TO HELP.

HISTORY BOOK: 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: PETER LINDBOUT Associates PREPARED A PRELIMINARY SKETCH FOR THE RESTORATION. THE BOARD IS ANALYZING THE SKETCH AND WILL BE WORKING WITH PETER TO DRAW A SKETCH IN ORDER TO BEGIN COST ESTIMATES.

The historic site marker is on order. LATE WINTER WEATHER SEEMS TO HAVE ARRIVED. IT WILL BE A SINGLE POST, TWO SIDED MARKER. A CHECK FOR $125.00 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 all kids will be especially anxious to contribute.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Several officers presented annual reports. The Board of Directors met in the fall to address amendments and changes to the Articles of Incorporation. Several hundred dollars have already been contributed to the marker fund. Your donation is important. It is assumed all kids will be especially anxious to contribute.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

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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 & NICE, 912 W. MAIN, for $49.00 including tax.

POST CARDS: Local historical sites, including street scenes and modes of transportation of early Brighton at the Rock Nook. 522 W. MAIN for $3.00 a packet of 6.

TILES: 5" square white ceramic tiles depicting 11 different sites in the area can be purchased at NOSTALIA 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 10" pictures of the first mill stream dam ($15.00 & $25.00), Packets of Note Paper ($2.50), Mug ($5.00), and getting your signature embroidered on the signature quilt ($10.00) can be ordered from 810/229-6402.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Pres. & Editor: Marianna Bair 229-6402
V.P. Joanne Cerri 229-7877
Secr. Ron Morey 227-7281
Treas. Margie White 227-3368

DIRECTORS

Ricci Bandon 227-7664
Dave Barton - Hist. Res. Surv. 229-5713
Lisa Caves 229-6835
Nancy Frenendez - Oral History 229-9100
Carol McAlister - History Book 221-2957
Jim Vickery - Lyons School 227-4840
Sheryl Vidmore - Publicity 227-7506

CHIEF PERSONS

Tom & Audrey Leith - Membership 229-5165
Heather Strickland - Hospitality 229-5389
Herb Warner - Lyons School 229-6504

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