



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. 9

Brighton, MI 48116
SEPTEMBER, 1997

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PRES. & EDITOR	MARIEANNA BAIR	229-6402
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CHAIRPERSONS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPT. 4, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. 227-1760 FOR INFO.
- * 10, 5-8 P.M. AND SEPT. 23, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP AT THE LIBRARY.
- ** 12, 4:30/7:30 SPAGHETTI SUPPER AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
- ** 17, 7-9 P.M. AMERICAN HOME LANDSCAPES 1800-1940. LANDSCAPE HISTORIAN AND PRESERVATIONIST, SCOTT KUNST. NO CHARGE.
- 20, 6 P.M. BRIGHTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER, 229-9373 FOR INFO.
- * 22, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM. WELCOME.
- ** OCT. 9, 7 P.M. PROGRAM BY WELDON PETZ, HILTON SCHOOL.

* BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 CHAS. ORNDORF DR.

**SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

SPAGHETTI DINNER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 300 E. GRAND RIVER IS THE PLACE, 4:30/7:30 THE TIME.

TICKETS FOR CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER WILL BE \$2.00. OTHERS WILL BE \$6.00 AT THE DOOR OR \$5.00 PRE DINNER-DAY AT PERFECTLY SEASONED, LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER AND FOUR SEASONS FLORIST.

THE REGULAR ATTENDEES WILL BE THERE AND IT IS HOPED LOTS OF NEW FACES WILL BE SEEN.

AMERICAN HOME LANDSCAPES 1800-1940

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 7 P.M., AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, THE SOCIETY WILL CO-SPONSOR (WITH GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND BRIGHTON GARDEN CLUB) A LIVELY SLIDE LECTURE BY LANDSCAPE HISTORIAN SCOTT KUNST. HE WILL HIGHLIGHT PLANTS AND GARDEN FURNISHINGS FROM EACH ERA AND TRACE CHANGES IN THE DESIGN AND USE OF THE HOME GROUNDS.

IF YOU LIVE IN AN OLD HOUSE OR ENJOY OLD NEIGHBORHOODS THIS PRESENTATION IS FOR YOU.

ANNUAL MEETING WILL INCLUDE ELECTIONS

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER. AT THAT TIME ALL OFFICERS' AND DIRECTORS' POSITIONS WILL BE UP FOR VOTING. BE GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO CONTRIBUTING TIME TO SERVE IN SOME CAPACITY. WHEN THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE ON THE BOARD, ACTIVELY INVOLVED, THE TASKS AT HAND CAN BE WHITTLED DOWN TO SIZE. CALL A BOARD MEMBER AND OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE. IT IS SATISFYING TO WORK WITH THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSES AND GOALS.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: BRIGHTON PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE, IN. (TREVA WILHELMSSEN).

COUPLES/INDIV: W. CHARLES & JOAN BROWN, FRED & PHYLLIS GRUEZKE (98), RITA POLASKE, ALICE SEGER (LANSING), ARLA STUHRBERG (2001), JEAN ANNE (BIRD) TOMLIN (FOWLerville), WILLIAM & GEORGIANA VAILLIENCOURT.

JEAN TOMLIN AND THE VAILLIENCOURTS ARE NEW MEMBERS. WELCOME!

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOUR DUES ARE UP TO DATE? THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES HAVE BEEN PAID IS NOTED ON THE MAILING LABEL. IF THERE IS NO DATE, OR IT'S LESS THAN '97, PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE; SUPPORT THE SOCIETY.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGETED EXPENSE OF TRAIL TALES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THE PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE SOCIETY ARE WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...ALENE ANDERSON FOR INFORMATION ON THE STUHRBERG FAMILY AND THE PICTURE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN POSING ON THE STEPS OF THE UNION SCHOOL, C. 1925, ALL OF WHICH ARE IDENTIFIED.

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, JOHN AND JANICE FIELD, FLORENCE KEENAN AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR HELP IN PREPARING THE LAST ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES.

...LIVINGSTON COUNTY EDITION OF THE ANN ARBOR NEWS FOR THEIR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEPTEMBER 12, SPAGHETTI SUPPER AND TO JENNIE FREDENBURG AND HER HELPERS FOR PULLING TOGETHER ALL THE NECESSARY DETAILS.

...BRIGHTON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF, LARRY LANE, FOR IDENTIFYING JULY 4, PARADE PICTURES.

...RICHARD AND BARBARA SMITH FOR THEIR CASH DONATION TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...LISA CAVE AND HER MANY BOOTH SITTERS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE RECENT ART FAIR IN BRIGHTON.

...CHRIS SCOTT, JANICE FIELD AND NANCY FREDENBURG FOR HELPING GET PALLETS UNDER STORED ARCHIVES.

ARCHIVES: STILL LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STORE ARCHIVES SAFELY WITH ROOM TO CONTINUE FILING, INDEXING AND SORTING TO MAKE MAKE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH. ALTHO' THE STORAGE LOCKER IS DRY PALLETS HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER ALL MATERIALS TO HELP ASSURE THEIR PROTECTION FROM MOISTURE.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IS CONTINUING RESEARCH AND WRITING ON THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OR THE AREA. SHE WELCOMES YOUR INPUT AND HELP.

LYONS SCHOOL: HOPEFULLY BY THE END OF THE MONTH THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER WORDING WILL HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND THE ORDER PLACED. SEVERAL DONORS HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO THE \$1100. COST OF THE MARKER. MORE DONATIONS ARE WELCOME. A COMMITTEE TO ASSIST JIM VICHICH WILL SOON MOVE FORWARD THE RESTORATION OF THIS ONE ROOM SCHOOL.

PICTURE BOOK AND POST CARDS OF BRIGHTON TODAY: SITE RESEARCH AND PHOTOGRAPHY IS ONGOING. PHOTOS ARE BEING CRITIQUED OF THE MEMORIES WE HAVE OF TODAY. A FAVORITE SITE? CALL JOANNE CERU, 229-7887. EXTRA PHOTOS WILL BE PLACED IN THE ARCHIVES.

BRING 1-2 PACKS OF POLAROID 600 INSTANT FILM TO THE SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 9-11 A.M., WORKSHOP AT THE MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER. (CAMERA WILL BE PROVIDED.) WE'LL DO A "WALK AROUND THE BLOCK" AND LEARN TO USE A CITY AND ITS STREETS TO RECORD HISTORY IN OUR COMMUNITY. REGISTRATION BY SEPT. 12. \$10.00. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 AND RIDE WITH HER.

HEAR WELDON PETZ OCTOBER 9

THIS NATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WILL BE FEATURED AT THE GENERAL MEETING, 7 P.M., AT THE HILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HIS PRESENTATION ON THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS IS BOTH MOVING AND INSPIRATIONAL.

STORY TELLER SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 30

JACK HICKEY WILL BE FEATURED AT THE DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING PROGRAM. THE SOCIETY WILL COSPONSOR HIS APPEARANCE WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

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

COVERLETS: WOVEN COTTON WITH NINE LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES, ARE AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN, FOR \$49.00.

POST CARDS: ARE AT THE BOOK NOOK, 322 W. MAIN. LOCAL HISTORICAL SCENES, 6-\$3.

TILES: AN ARTIST TO DESIGN THE 1997 TILE, THE CANOPY HOTEL, HAS BEEN CONTRACTED. THOSE FROM 1986/1996 CAN BE PURCHASED AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN.

SIGNATURE QUILT: A \$10. DONATION ASSURES YOUR NAME, OR THAT OF ANOTHER, IS EMBROIDERED ON THIS QUILT, WHICH WILL REMAIN IN THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES.

NEEDLEPOINT KIT OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, 10"x14" PICTURES OF THE MILL STREAM DAM AND PACKETS OF NOTEPAPER CAN BE ORDERED FROM 810/229-6402.

SOCIETY SECRETARY, RON MOREY, IS RESEARCHING THE DESIGN, COST, ETC. OF A WEB PAGE FOR THE SOCIETY. THIS COULD INCREASE SALES OF FUND RAISING PROJECTS, BETTER PUBLICITY FOR THE SOCIETY'S GOALS AND ACTIVITIES. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PRESERVATION PROJECTS.

THE MICHIGAN TEACHER

THE CENTER FOR TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY IS AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN, 2117 WASHTENAW, ANN ARBOR, 48104. PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR THE "MICHIGAN TEACHER" IS A NEWSLETTER FILLED WITH HELPFUL ARTICLES ON MICHIGAN HISTORY-RELATED TOPICS FOR STUDENTS K-12. 313/769-1828.

OTHER PROGRAMS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY: SEPT. 10, 7 P.M. "NORTHERN LIGHTS-LIGHT HOUSES OF THE UPPER GREAT LAKES". 229-6571, EXT. 223 FOR INFO.

NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SEPT. 13,14 VICTORIAN FEST. SEPT. 26,27 TIVOLI CRAFT SHOW. NOV. 22,23 CHRISTMAS WALK. 248/348-1845.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN/ANNUAL MEETING AND STATE HISTORY CONF. SEPT. 19,20 HOLLAND. "CIVIL WAR, SHIPWRECKS AND DUTCHMEN", WORKSHOPS ON "FADING PHOTOS," "ORAL HISTORY" AND "LIVING HISTORY". 313/769-1828. SEPT. 12 REGISTRATION DEADLINE.

GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY: TOUR LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, SEPT. 21, 4 P.M. 810/486-9113.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, LANSING. SEPT. 26, 9-4: TEACHING AND HISTORY PRESERVATION. SEPT. 27, 9-11: WALK AROUND THE BLOCK WITH POLAROID. A WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS AND PRESERVATIONISTS, MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER. REGISTER BY SEPT. 12. 229-6402 FOR INFORMATION.

GRAND RAPIDS HOME TOUR, OCTOBER 4,5. 616/459-8950 FOR INFO.

MICHIGAN ANTIQUARIAN BOOK AND PAPER SHOW. OCT. 5, 9:30-5. LANSING CENTER, 517/332-0112.

MICHIGAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONF.: OCT. 28/31, KALAMAZOO. 616/373-7958.

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

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AREA FARMS C. 1900

NUMBER FOUR IN THIS SERIES OF ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THE AREA'S EARLY SETTLERS AND WHERE THEY LOCATED. LISTED ON AN UNDATED NEWSPAPER CLIPPING, WIRT BRADLEY IS NOTED AS THE OWNER OF ELMDALE FARM. ONE CAN ONLY ASSUME THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ELM TREES IN THE AREA TO GIVE RISE TO THE NAME.

IT WAS LOCATED IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP ON THE EAST SIDE OF TAYLOR ROAD JUST NORTH OF THE SECTION LINE BETWEEN SECTIONS 4 AND 9. WIRT CONTINUED THE FARMING TRADITION OF HIS FATHER AND GRANDFATHER, LIVING IN THE 'OLD' PLACE PERHAPS BUILT BY HIS FATHER, IRA. IN 1895 IRA OWNED 81 ACRES IN SECTION 4 ON BOTH SIDES OF TAYLOR ROAD. A HOUSE IS NOTED ON THE EAST SIDE.

IRA WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF BRIGHTON GRANGE #336. THIS WAS AN ORGANIZATION WHICH "...HAS DEVOTED ITSELF MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL TOPICS AND SUBJECTS WHICH SHOULD INTEREST FARMERS AND HAS AIMED, BY FREQUENT INTERCOURSE, TO DEVELOP THE SOCIAL QUALITIES OF ITS MEMBERS."

CHARTERED IN 1874, THE SOCIAL ASPECTS WERE PROBABLY EAGERLY ANTICIPATED IN THOSE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS. HE AND WIFE, MARTHA THURBER, MOVED TO BRIGHTON VILLAGE IN 1908 WHERE HE DIED IN 1916. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT IRA AND BROTHER, GILBERT, MARRIED WITHIN TWO DAYS OF EACH OTHER IN FEBRUARY, 1866.

WIRT'S GRANDPARENTS, ORLANDO AND PRUDENCE, CAME TO THE AREA C. 1840, SETTLING IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP. 1844 TAX RECORDS PLACE HIM IN SECTIONS 29 AND 30, TOTALING 240 ACRES, MOSTLY WOODED. SOME REFERENCE SOURCES NOTED THAT ORLANDO AND PRUDENCE HAD EIGHT AND SOME INDICATED THERE WERE 12 CHILDREN. HOWEVER MANY CHILDREN DIED AT AN EARLY AGE DURING THOSE DAYS. OF THE EIGHT IRA, BORN IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP, WAS THE YOUNGEST AND WIRT WAS HIS ONLY CHILD. WIRT AND LILLIAN HICKS' ONLY CHILD DIED AT TEN YEARS FROM APPENDICITIS IN 1908.

BY 1915 IRA'S 81 ACRES ARE IN WIRT'S AND LILLIAN'S NAMES. IN 1961 THE ATLAS SHOWS THEIR NAME STILL ON THE PROPERTY. BOTH WIRT AND LILLIAN WERE NOTED TO BE 'GOOD' NEIGHBORS. HE SERVED MANY YEARS ON THE BITTEN SCHOOL BOARD.

RESEARCH OF WIRT BRADLEY'S BACKGROUND BRINGS MANY EARLY LOCAL NAMES TO LIGHT: THURBER, KELLOGG, NEWMAN, HICKS, TAYLOR AND WILSON. THE LAST FOUR ARE INCLUDED IN THE LISTING OF FARMS NOTED EARLIER. THEY WILL BE A PART OF THIS SERIES. (COMPILED FROM MILT CHARBONEAU'S COLLECTIONS OF OBITUARIES, 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, AND ATLASES. MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402. CORRECTIONS/ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ALWAYS WELCOME.)