



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. XVII No. 4

BRIGHTON, MI 48116
APRIL, 1998

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR PROGRAM

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 4-6 P.M. A PROGRAM DESCRIBING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EVERYDAY CITIZENS OF THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR WILL BE OFFERED BY THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO THIS EVENT AT THE FIRE HALL, 9384 WHITMORE LAKE ROAD.

JOHN FIELD IS PLANNING TO HELP US BECOME AWARE OF HOW LOCAL LIFE WAS AFFECTED UPON THE ARRIVAL OF 1000s OF MEN OF THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD FOR TRAINING AT THE SITE AT ISLAND LAKE. THE ARRIVAL OF THESE MEN EVOKED A SPIRIT OF WELCOME BY THE LOCAL SHOPKEEPERS. HOWEVER THERE WERE THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO FELT THE GUARD WAS AN INTRUSION.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- APRIL 2, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: "PUBLIC RECORD RESEARCH" . 227-1760.
- 3,4, MI HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE, LANSING. 248/625-8181.
- * 7,14,21,28, 1 P.M. INDEX/FILE ARCHIVES.
- * 2ND WEDNESDAY, 5-8, 4TH TUESDAY, 1-5 GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760.
- * 27, 7 P.M. BAHS BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.
- **MAY 17, 4-6 P.M. SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR, THE LOCAL SCENE. GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
- **JUNE 13,14, 10-5 P.M. SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL AND MARKER DEDICATION. ISLAND LAKE STATE PARK.

*AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY
**SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

A VISIT FROM MRS LINCOLN

MARY TODD LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER ACCOMPANYING HER WERE IN BRIGHTON AT THE BOOK NOOK IN FEBRUARY. CATHY QUALLS AND HUSBAND, MIKE, OFFERED A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE PRESIDENT OF 1860-65. WE ALL BECAME MORE AWARE OF THE HORRORS OF WAR AND HOW OUR LIVES ARE SO UNLIKE THOSE TIMES OF 130 YEARS AGO; ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF MEDICINE, DIET AND SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: DON & RICCI BANDKAU, WHITNEY & JUNE KIMBLE, RON & JILL MOREY, ROLAND & JANE OWENS.

BUS/PROF: FENCE SPOT.

COUPLES/INDIV: JOHN & JANICE FIELD, DON & SHIRLEY JENKS (HOWELL 2000), WALLY & MERILYN JOLLITZ (99), DORIS PETERSEN (CANTON 2000), CHARLES & NORMA JEAN PLESS (ROSCOMMON 99), SHERREL RUTTER (DETROIT 2000), WILLIAM & GIGI VAILIENCOURT.

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER BUT WISH TO REMAIN ON THE NEWSLETTER LIST A DONATION OF \$5.00 TO COVER COST OF PRINTING AND POSTAGE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR FOLDING, SORTING, ETC., THE MARCH ISSUES OF TRAIL TALES.

...BOOK OWNER SHARON STEINHAUBER, BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, ANNE STRATIGOS, JOANNE CERU AND BERT BAIR FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE FEBRUARY 25 PROGRAM WITH CATHY QUALLS AS MARY TODD LINCOLN AND HER ESCORT.

...THE STAFF AT BRIGHTON CITY HALL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DPW HEAD, DAVE BLACKMAR, FOR HELPING TO GET THE RESTORATION OF THE VILLAGE CEMETERY UNDERWAY.

...JOHN FIELD FOR WORKING ON THE CREATION OF A DIAGRAM OF THE CEMETERY IN ORDER TO PROPERLY I.D. THE SITES OF EARLY SETTLERS' GRAVES. PROPER MARKERS FOR THE VETERANS INTERRED WILL BE IN PLACE BY MEMORIAL DAY THANKS TO HIS PERSEVERANCE AND RESEARCH.

...THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

...DON & RICCI BANDKAU, VAL & KATHY JACOBY OF FLORIDA, CHARLES AND NORMA JEAN PLESS OF ROSECOMMON AND THE PLEASANT VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE MARKER FUND. AN APPROPRIATE PLAQUE LISTING DONORS WILL BE PREPARED.

...DAVE LEHMAN FOR DONATING 1938, 39, 40, 41 AND 1942 BRIGHTONIANS (ANNUALS), A COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM CLASS OF 1937 AND PHOTOS: ELSA STEGENGA'S BAND (CLASS OF 1943) AS 3RD GRADERS AND STUDENTS, LATE 1930s, EARLY 1940s.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: EACH TUESDAY AFTERNOON, IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE LIBRARY, WORK IS CONTINUING FILING AND INDEXING THE ARCHIVAL MATERIALS ON HAND. WANT TO HELP OR JUST SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING? WELCOME.

BOOK COMMITTEE: PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS OR OTHER LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS ARE STILL NEEDED. CALL CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957.

LYONS SCHOOL: A SUMMER DATE FOR INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION OF THE MARKER IS NEEDED. ARE THEE THOSE WHO MIGHT CHAIR A PROGRAM FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT? CALL 810/229-6402 WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: CONTRACTS WILL SOON BE LET FOR THE WORK AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY.

JUNE 13, 14 COMMEMORATION PLANNED

A COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE SITE OF THE TRAINING AND MUSTERING OF THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD AT ISLAND LAKE STATE PARK. THE DEDICATION OF A NEW HISTORIC SITE MARKER IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM. THE MICHIGAN 5TH REGIMENTAL BAND WILL PROVIDE MUSIC OF THE DAY. MEMBERS OF THE GREAT LAKES LIVING HISTORY SOCIETY WILL BE IN PROPER DRESS PROVIDING DISPLAYS OF MEMORABILIA AND WILL EXHIBIT VARIOUS TRAINING PROCEDURES.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SEVERAL HOURS EITHER DAY AS GUIDES, DIRECTING PARKING, ETC., ARE NEEDED. CALL 810/229-6402 OR 248/486-9113 A.S.A.P.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

() New () Renewal. Your help is needed with: *Historic Preservation Projects, **Fund Raising Projects, ***Administration of the Society. (Please Circle One.)

DUES: \$25.00 Patron \$12.00 Couple \$2.00 Student (K-12, College)
 \$25.00 Bus/Prof. \$ 7.00 Individual

DONATION: () \$10.00 () \$20.00 () \$50.00 () \$100.00 () \$_____ Other.
 Society is an Income Tax Deductible Organization. 501(c)3 IRS #38 2524892

*Historic Preservation Projects: Archives, History Book, Historic Resource Survey, Historic Site Registration/Restoration/Marker, Lyons School, Oral History/Video, Photography.

**Fund Raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Mugs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature quilt, Special events, Tote bags.

***Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee members, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS/EVENTS

TILES DEPICTING 12 SITES OF LOCAL HISTORICAL INTEREST ARE AVAILABLE AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN. THE UNION SCHOOL, WESTERN HOUSE, LYONS SCHOOL, EASTERN HOUSE, MELLUS HOSPITAL, STATE POLICE POST, ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BRIGHTON MILLS, BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL, ST. GEORGE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RIALTO THEATER AND THE LINCOLN HOTEL-FIRST NATIONAL BANK-CANOPY HOTEL ARE IN STOCK. \$8.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$21.00. YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS AND OTHER FUND RAISERS IS VITAL TO SOCIETY PROJECTS.

OTHER ITEMS INCLUDE:

POST CARDS OF LOCAL EARLY STREET SCENES, \$3. FOR A PACKET OF 6, AT THE BOOK NOOK.

COVERLETS, RED OR GREEN, NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN, \$49. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE.

MUGS @ \$5., TOTE BAGS @ \$15., NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50, 11x14 PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM @ \$25. 810/229-6402.

ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Bluewater Michigan Chapter National Railway Historical Society offers train trips/tours 1-800/594-5162.

APRIL 17,18, 40TH LOCAL HISTORY CONF., WSU, DETROIT, MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOC. 313/577-8042.

9, "HISTORY OF BASEBALL" NIGHT - HOT DOGS, PEANUTS, CRACKERJACK, HISTORY, MUSIC. PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM. 313/455-8940.

MAY 7, 7 P.M. LIV. CO. GEN. SOCIETY, ORAL HISTORIES. 227-1760.
 7,8, MICHIGAN ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOC. ANNUAL MEETING, GREENMEAD, LIVONIA. SUE DANIEL, 248/477-7375
 2, ANTIQUE APPRAISAL CLINIC, FARMINGTON GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. 248/477-5846 FOR REG. FORM.
 JUNE 29, ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGY COURSE, WSU, 313/577-8042.

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

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AREA FARMS c.1900

THE RECENT DONATION OF A SCRAPBOOK OF CLIPPINGS FROM EVA WHALEN SHEDS LIGHT ON THE ORIGIN OF THE LIST OF LOCAL FARMS, THEIR NAMES AND OWNERS, WHICH HAS BEEN THE INSPIRATION OF RECENT STUDY TO LOCATE AND LEARN ABOUT THEM. AROUND 1900 THE EDITOR OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, SETH JACOBS, WAS ENCOURAGING FARM OWNERS TO ENDOW THEIR PROPERTY WITH AN OFFICIAL NAME. HE ASSURED THEM A LONG TERM IDENTIFICATION OF THE FARMS WITH THE OWNERS "...UNTIL IT BECOMES SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR NAME THAT THE NAME AND THE FARM ARE INSEPARABLE", WOULD BE A VALUABLE ASSET. HE ALSO URGED THE FARMERS TO HAVE LETTERHEAD AND ENVELOPES PRINTED (BY THE ARGUS) TO "...SHOW THE WORLD THAT 'WE LEAD, OTHERS FOLLOW.'"

FRANK L. (SOMETIMES E.) HACKER'S BIG OAK FARM IS THE PRESENT TOPIC OF RESEARCH OF LAND OWNERSHIP AND FAMILY TIES. AMONG THE EARLIEST SETTLERS IN THE AREA WERE WILHELM AND BARBARA HACKER, FROM GERMANY, FRANK'S PARENTS. THEY WERE THE FIRST TO PURCHASE 40 ACRES IN SECTION 23 OF GENOA TOWNSHIP. (OCTOBER 4, 1837). THIS WAS PROBABLY A SPECULATIVE PURCHASE SINCE WE LEARN THEY WERE LIVING IN SECTION 36 OF OCEOLA TOWNSHIP WHEN THEY SOLD THE GENOA PIECE IN 1858.

RECORDS INDICATE THE 40 ACRES IN OCEOLA WERE PURCHASED AUGUST 8, 1838, PROBABLY FROM GUSTAV BAETCKE WHO IS RECORDED AS THE FIRST OWNER IN 1836. (ANOTHER SPECULATIVE VENTURE?) BY 1862, THE HACKERS HAVE ADDED A NEIGHBORING 64 ACRES (104 ACRES TOTAL) AND A RESIDENCE IS INDICATED ON THE MAP ON HACKER ROAD ABOUT HALF MILE NORTH OF GOLF CLUB ROAD.

THE CIVIL WAR FOUND SONS PHILIP AND RALPH GIVING THEIR LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION. (A NUMBER OF THEIR LETTERS ARE IN THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY AT U OF M). DAUGHTER AUGUSTA ATTENDED A ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND TAUGHT FOR A WHILE BEFORE MARRYING ALPHEUS MACOMBER IN 1862. THEY MADE THEIR HOME IN A LOG HOUSE IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP. THERE SEVEN CHILDREN WERE RAISED AND AUGUSTA BECAME KNOWN FOR THE POETRY SHE COMPOSED ABOUT LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS. DAUGHTER LUCY MARRIED ED SOUNDERS, DAUGHTER SERENA MARRIED MCLOULIN, SON THEODORE MARRIED SARAH L. GRIFFIN AND LITTLE WILLIE DIED AS AN INFANT. BARBARA DIED IN 1877; RECORDS INDICATE THE 104 ACRES WERE SOLD TO SON FRANK. OCTOBER 16, 1887, IS THE WEDDING DAY OF FRANK AND TILLIE EULER, DAUGHTER OF HENRY EULER, FROM GERMANY. HENRY OWNED AND LIVED ON THE 160 ACRES LYING ACROSS HACKER ROAD IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP, SECTION 31. THIS PIECE BEARS THE HACKER NAME ALSO BY 1895. A TOTAL OF C. 350 ACRES ARE FRANK'S RESPONSIBILITY.

THE 1915 ATLAS SHOWS BEN, FRANK AND TILLIES' SON, OWNING 60 ACRES ON THE SOUTH BORDER OF HIS FATHER'S. BEN MARRIED MARY E. GEORGE (ALSO LONG TIME NEIGHBORS IN OCEOLA TWP) AND IN 1935 THEIR NAMES ARE RECORDED WITH FRANK'S AS OWNERS OF THE C. 400 ACRES. BY THE 1960S BIG OAK FARM IS QUICKLY BEING PLATTED INTO 2, 5, AND 10 ACRE HOME SITES. WW II VETS WERE OFTEN THE BUYERS. WILHELM, BARBARA, LITTLE WILLIE, FRANK AND TILLIE ARE RESTING FROM THEIR LABORS IN THE BRIGHTON VILLAGE CEMETERY. (RESEARCHED BY MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402. COMMENTS WELCOME.)