



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.

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BAHS

P.O. Box 481 BRIGHTON, MI 48116
Vol. XVII No. 8 AUGUST, 1998

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

PRES. & EDITOR	MARIEANNA BAIR	229-6402
V.P.	JOANNE (CERU) SWONK	229-7887
SECR.	RON MOREY	227-7281
TREAS.	MARGE WHITE	227-3968

DIRECTORS

RICCI BANDKAU -	227-7664
DAVE BARTON - HIST. RES., SURV.	229-5213
LISA CAVE - " " "	229-0683
NANCY FREDENBURG - ORAL HISTORY	229-9100
CAROL McMACKEN - HISTORY BOOK	231-2957
JIM VICHICH - LYONS SCHOOL	227-4840
CHRIS WARD - LYONS SCHOOL	229-0560

CHAIRPERSONS

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

- *AUGUST 4, 11, 18, 25: 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. WELCOME.
- 8-9: SOCIETY BOOTH AT ART FAIR.
- * 12: 5-8 P.M., AUGUST 24, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760.
- 15: 1-4 P.M. GREEN OAK DAY AT GAGE FARM MUSEUM. 6440 KENSINGTON RD. INFO? 248/486-9113.
- 16: 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOOTH AT MILL POND DURING KIWANIS CONCERT.
- 24: 7 P.M. BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.
- SEPT. 3: 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. 227-1760.
- **Nov. 9: MULLING OVER MICHIGAN.

**AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY.

**SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT IN FULL SWING

EXPERTISE GAINED BY KATE OTTO DURING THE RESTORATION OF THE GEER SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH, WAS SHARED IN HER PRESENTATION JULY 27. THE PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NOW MAKES USE OF THE GEER SCHOOL AS AN EXTENSION OF THE 4TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES MICHIGAN HISTORY. KATE RECOMMENDED STUDYING ARCHIVAL RECORDS AT THE STATE HISTORY MUSEUM WHEN THE CURRICULUM IS DESIGNED. HER GUIDANCE - WHICH SHE HAS SHARED WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES - WILL PROVE INVALUABLE. THE SOCIETY BELIEVES A PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE WOULD BENEFIT LOCAL STUDENTS AND IS WORKING TOWARD THAT GOAL.

A STEERING COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE RESTORATION AND DEVELOP A COURSE OF STUDY WILL BE MEETING THIS MONTH. CONSISTING OF LOCAL RESIDENTS, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, TEACHERS, ETC., THE COMMITTEE WELCOMES HELP, IDEAS, EDUCATIONAL ARTIFACTS, ETC. CONTACT JOANNE CERU SWONK 229-7887 OR MARIEANNA BAIR 229-6402. NO ONE WEARS A DUNCE CAP FOR EFFORT!

LOCATED AT 11455 BUNO ROAD THE FRAME STRUCTURE, BUILT IN 1885, HAS ALREADY BEEN RESTORED STRUCTURALLY WITH A NEW ROOF, REPAIRED FOUNDATION, NEW WINDOWS OF THE PROPER STYLE, REPLACEMENT OF ROTTED SIDING AND EXTERIOR PAINTING. THIS BUILDING REPLACED THE LOG SCHOOL BUILT C. 1840, ON LAND DONATED BY RICHARD AND MARTHA LYONS.

ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES PREPARED BY PIET LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES ASSURE THIS WILL BE A FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION. OTHER AREAS OF THE BUILDING WILL SERVE AS ARCHIVAL STORAGE AND MEETING SITE FOR THE SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: BERNIE & BONNIE CORRIGAN AND JOAN RICE (CA).

COUPLES/INDIV: CHARLES & JANICE BEACH (99), GENE & JUDY DAHLIN, HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER (IL 99), TIM & HELEN HURST, TOM & AUDREY LEITH (99), DOROTHY O'JACK (ANN ARBOR), PHYLLIS SCHAEFER (HOLLY), DAVID & ALETA TAYLOR AND DELORES YACKLEY.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS PHYLLIS SCHAEFER AND DAVID AND ALETA TAYLOR. AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP IS VITAL TO THE SOCIETY'S EFFECTIVENESS.

A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS HAS NOT YET RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP. THE YEAR THROUGH WHICH DUES HAVE BEEN PAID IS NOTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL. (IF IT APPEARS THE DATE IS INCORRECT PLEASE CONTACT THE SOCIETY. PATIENCE WITH RECORD KEEPERS IS APPRECIATED.)

THE SOCIETY CONSISTS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE RECORDING AND PRESERVATION OF THE AREA'S PAST IS RELEVANT TO ITS FUTURE. BY KNOWING FROM WHERE WE'VE COME WE REALIZE NOT EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING FOR THE FIRST TIME. PRESERVATION HELPS THE BRIGHTON AREA EVOLVE WITHOUT LOSING ITS SCALE, CHARACTER AND LIFE.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...CHUCK & JANICE BEACH, NORM CATRELL AND ROSEMARY ULMER FOR HELPING GET THE JULY NEWSLETTER READY TO MAIL.

HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER (IL), TIM & HELEN HURST, DOROTHY O'JACK (ANN ARBOR), AND DELORES YACKLEY FOR DONATIONS ACCOMPANYING THEIR DUES PAYMENT AND OTHER DONATIONS FROM 'FRIENDS.'

...MARILYN CAMPBELL (IN) FOR PHOTOS OF 1911-12 1ST GRADE CLASS IN FRONT OF THE "LITTLE SCHOOL", 1912-13 2ND GRADE AND 1913-14 3RD GRADE OF BRIGHTON STUDENTS. SOME ARE I.D. ALSO TWO PHOTOS OF A COUNTRY SCHOOL WITH SETH JACOBS AS TEACHER.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR A NOTEBOOK "MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS OF '98". INCLUDED IS A LIST OF NAMES WITH DEATH DATES, CEMETERIES, MUSTER ROLLS OF THE 31ST, 32ND, 33RD, 34TH, 35TH REGIMENTS OF MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS AND MICHIGAN NAVAL RESERVES IN THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR. ALSO FOR THEIR PRESENTATION "THE REST OF THE STORY" WITH REFERENCES REGARDING THIS WAR.

...JOHN PARK (FLINT) FOR HIS RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE ON THE HYNE FAMILY FARMS.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: MOST TUESDAY AFTERNOONS ONE FINDS SOCIETY MEMBERS SORTING, INDEXING, AND FILING PHOTOS, WRITTEN MATERIAL, PRESS CLIPPINGS, ETC., IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY. CONTRIBUTIONS OF SIMILAR ITEMS, WHICH WILL MAKE THE ARCHIVES MORE COMPLETE, WILL BE WELCOME. PH: 810/229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, CAN STILL USE YOUR PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS OR OTHER ITEMS OF LOCAL HISTORY. CONTACT HER. YOUR HELP WILL MAKE THIS A COMPLETE AREA HISTORY BOOK.

LYONS SCHOOL: YOUR SUPPORT IN THE RESTORATION OF THIS ONE ROOM SCHOOL, STILL ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE, EITHER PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL, OR BOTH, IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS FORMULATING A PROCEDURE FOR THIS RESTORATION IN WHICH YOU CAN PARTICIPATE. UNTIL A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IS NAMED, CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/220-6402 OR JOANNE SWONK, 810/229-7887 FOR MORE INFO.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: EARLY SEPTEMBER WILL SEE THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST YEAR'S RESTORATION ACTIVITY. BRUSH, WEED TREES AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE VEGETATION WILL BE REMOVED. LIGHTING IS SCHEDULED FOR THE FUTURE AS IS REPAIR OF MONUMENTS. VANDALISM SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE BRIGHTON CITY POLICE, 227-2700.

...ALENE ANDERSON, CHARLEVOIX, FOR THE STATUETTE OF AN EAGLE BY RICHARD SPENCER OF CENTRAL LAKE. SHE NOTES THAT AT ONE TIME HER FATHER OWNED THE ISLAND LAKE SITE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CAMP.

...HORACE TAYLOR FOR A COPY OF THE GRADUATION INVITATION OF THE CLASS OF 1924, 20 STUDENTS, HELD AT THE RIALTO THEATER. (PRESENTLY A PARKING LOT OPPOSITE LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER, 206 W. MAIN.)

...BUD STEDMAN (FL) FOR HIS SIGNATURE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE SOCIETY SIGNATURE QUILT.

...NANCY FREDENBURG FOR SOCIETY 'PRESENCE' AT THE FARMERS' MARKET AND THE SUNDAY KIWANIS CONCERTS. LOOK FOR THE BOOTH.

SYMPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY TO THE
FAMILY OF
IRENE PAQUETTE
A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF THE AREA
AND MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? (YES) (NO) (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

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

TILES DEPICTING 12 SITES OF LOCAL HISTORICAL INTEREST ARE AVAILABLE AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN. IN STOCK ARE: 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. EACH \$8. OR 3/\$21.

POST CARDS: EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES, A PACKET OF 6/\$3. AT THE BOOK NOOK, 332 W. MAIN.

COVERLETS: NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN, \$49. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN.

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

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIAL SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT, IN ADDITION TO EARLY MICHIGAN FARMING DISPLAYS, CAN BE SEEN 1-4 P.M. AUGUST WEEKENDS, AT THE GAGE FARM MUSEUM, 6440 KENSINGTON ROAD.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN. "MULLING OVER MICHIGAN", A WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY. NOVEMBER 9, MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE. MEL MILLER, 810/228-3465.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT, ON WHICH ARE EMBROIDERED SIGNATURES OF THOSE DONATING \$10., HAS SPACE FOR YOURS. SEND YOUR SIGNATURE OR THAT OF A RELATIVE. SIGNATURES OF EARLY RESIDENTS ARE AVAILABLE ALSO. YOUR DONATION CAN INCLUDE THEM. AN APPROPRIATE AND SIMPLE WAY TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ACTIVITIES. THE QUILT WILL REMAIN IN THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

SOCIETY BOOTH AT ART FAIR

AUGUST 8 & 9, THE SOCIETY WILL HAVE ITS ANNUAL BOOTH ON WEST MAIN STREET. THE VARIOUS ITEMS FOR SALE WILL BE ON HAND.

HELPERS WILL BE NEEDED TO RUN THE BOOTH. SCHEDULES OF 2-3 HOURS ARE BEING PREPARED. CALL LISA CAVE, 229-0683 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402. LET THEM KNOW WHICH TIMES ARE CONVENIENT FOR YOU. MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR THEM TO SPEND TIME CALLING YOU.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...Sponsors for Trail Tales expenses.

...donations for a box of mailing labels. c. \$30.00.

...suggestion for updating the format of the newsletter.

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

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

AREA FARMS C. 1900

THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, C. 1900, LISTED A NUMBER OF FARMS, WITH A DESCRIPTIVE TITLE AND THE NAME OF THE OWNER. RESEARCH INTO LOCATION, TYPE OF FARMING AND A BIT OF FAMILY BACKGROUND IS UNDERTAKEN. THIS STUDY IS AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE AREA AND ITS RESIDENTS. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION READERS CAN PROVIDE WILL BE WELCOME.

BORN IN BENNINGTON COUNTY, VERMONT, JUNE 10, 1805, AARON H. KELLEY (OR KELLY) HEADED WEST TO MICHIGAN IN 1830. AT THE TIME CHIEF BLACK HAWK'S THREATENING ACTIVITIES WERE CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERNS TO AREA SETTLERS. THAT AND THE SPREAD OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC (BROUGHT BY THE SOLDIERS UNDER ORDERS TO BRING BLACK HAWK UNDER CONTROL) SENT AARON AND OTHER EARLY SETTLERS BACK EAST.

IN 1833 HE RETURNED AND PURCHASED 270 ACRES NORTH OF BRIGHTON AT CLARK LAKE. HE DID NOT SETTLE THERE UNTIL 1837, AFTER MARRYING EMILINE GRIMES IN DIXBORO, WASHTENAW COUNTY, IN 1836. HE SOLD SOME OF THE LAND TO REV. WILLIAM A CLARK. WILLIAM WINCHELL THEN SOLD AARON ABOUT 300 ACRES IN SECTION 18, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, JUST SOUTH OF THE LAKE, ON HYNE ROAD. THE KELLEYS MOVED INTO THE LOG HOUSE WINCHELL HAD BUILT "...EAST OF THE CREEK AT KELLEY BRIDGE." AARON IMMEDIATELY BUILT A DAM ON ORE CREEK ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE SOUTH OF HYNE AND $-\frac{1}{4}$ MILE EAST OF HACKER ROAD. THE POND PROVIDED HIM POWER TO RUN THE SAW MILL CONSTRUCTED THAT YEAR. HE WAS KEPT BUSY SUPPLYING LUMBER TO THE MANY SETTLERS WANTING TO BUILD HOMES. MANY OF THE LONG, THICK PLANKS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DETROIT TO HOWELL PLANK ROAD WERE CUT AT AARON'S MILL.

TWO CHILDREN WERE BORN; CHARLES A. AND CAROLYN H. (LEWIS), BEFORE EMILINE DIED IN 1849. IN 1851 AARON MARRIED MARY J. MURRAY OF GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP. AARON DIED IN 1877 AND IS BURIED IN THE BRIGHTON VILLAGE CEMETERY AS IS MARY. AT HER DEATH, 1898, SHE OWNED 380 AC. HER STEPSON, CHARLES, WAS PROBABLY CONDUCTING THE FARMING OPERATIONS ALTHO' HE AND WIFE, MARIE A. ALLYN, LIVED IN TOWN AT THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AND SPENCER ROAD FOR MANY YEARS. BY 1900 HE IS OWNER OF THE FARM WHEN THE APPROPRIATE NAME, MILLBROOK FARM, WAS SELECTED. AT ONE TIME HE WAS THE VILLAGE UNDERTAKER AND HAD A FURNITURE STORE ON THE EAST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER IN THE BLOCK SOUTH OF MAIN. CHARLES WAS SECRETARY OF A VERY WELL ATTENDED BRIGHTON HOMECOMING IN 1907 BEING REELECTED FOR THE 1909 EVENT.

UPON CHARLES' DEATH IN 1925, HIS SON, CARL, INHERITED THE HOUSE IN TOWN AND THE FARM. SHORTLY BEFORE CARL DIED, 1945, ALL THE KELLEY PROPERTY HAD BEEN SOLD. CHARLES, MARIE AND CARL ARE BURIED IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM COUNTY ATLASES; BILL PLESS' SUPPLEMENT TO THE VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS; THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; OBITUARIES, EARLY LANDOWNERS, AND FAIRVIEW CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION BY MILTON CHARBONEAU.)