



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BAHS

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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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- * DEC. 8, 15, 22, 29, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- 9, 4 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, HILTON SCHOOL.
- * 22, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 8810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * JAN. 25, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

*AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY

LYONS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

MORE THAN 80 ARE LISTED IN THE GUEST REGISTER FOR THE OPEN HOUSE HELD NOVEMBER 23. IN ADDITION WERE JOANN JAYNES, ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER AND A GROUP OF ABOUT THREE DOZEN LINDBOM FIFTH GRADERS. MANY OF THE CHILDREN BROUGHT THEIR PARENTS. (IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THERE WAS SUCH A CROWD IN THAT 1885 SCHOOL.)

THE CHILDREN, AND OTHERS; ENJOYED RINGING THE SCHOOL BELL. EVERYONE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE SONGS THEY SANG. (I BELIEVE THE BUILDING ENJOYED HEARING YOUNG VOICES AGAIN.)

SUPPORT FROM SO MANY IN THE COMMUNITY WAS VERY ENCOURAGING. LYONS SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, CHRIS WARD, RECOGNIZED THE PRESENCE OF BOB KING, ARCHITECT FROM PIET LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES; BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS; BRIGHTON SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. GARY HUGHES AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION, BONNIE RIUTTA AND JOYCE POWERS, BRIGHTON SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER.

REP. JUDITH SCRANTON PRESENTED A MICHIGAN FLAG FOR USE AT THE SCHOOL. ANNE BELSON, FROM SEN. MIKE ROGERS' STAFF, OFFERED GOOD WISHES AND A FRAMED TRIBUTE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

SEVERAL ALUMNI OF LYONS SCHOOL TOLD MANY STORIES OF THEIR MEMORIES.

ALL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT RESTORATION NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE BUILDING. OF COURSE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WILL BE NEEDED. THE EXTERIOR, WINDOWS, ROOF AND FOUNDATION ARE

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: BOB & TILLIE BITTEN, MARIAN CARNEY, HAROLD & ESTHER JARVIS, WHITNEY & JUNE KIMBLE, *CAROL PERRIN AND ROLAND & JANE OWENS.

BUS/PROF: PDQ/BUSINESS IMAGING GROUP.

COUPLES/INDIV: NORM & MARY ANN CATRELL (OO), DORIS FAY (OO), *FRED & PHYLLIS KERSLAKE, JACK & BEV LABELL, SUSAN LANNING, (LIVONIA) DENNIS & MARIA LITTLEWORTH (FL), EDWIN & SHERRY NYHUS (OO), DAVE & MARILYN PETTIGROVE, DAN & EMMA JEAN SCHMIDT, ALICE SEGER (FL), DORIS SINGER (GR. RAP.).

*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS CAROL PERRIN AND FRED & PHYLLIS KERSLAKE. SEVERAL OF THE ABOVE MEMBERSHIPS ARE GIFTS FROM OTHERS. SOMETHING YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER?

TO PRESERVE PRIVACY ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS ARE NOT MADE PUBLIC. THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IS FOR SOCIETY PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT GIVEN WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION.

DUES ARE WHAT KEEP THE SOCIETY'S ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES PAID. ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION FUND PROJECTS. (SEE NEXT COLUMN.)

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...RON MOREY, FOR SERVING AS SECRETARY FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, LISA CAVE AND JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR HELPING GET NOVEMBER TRAIL TALES IN THE MAIL.

...DONATIONS FROM BOB & TILLIE BITTEN, HAROLD & ESTHER JARVIS, DAVE & MARILYN PETTIGROVE AND ALICE SEGER.

...PETER KUJAWA'S MEMORIAL TO HIS MOTHER, LOIS.

...DORIS SINGER'S DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL FUND. SHE ATTENDED THE SCHOOL FROM THE FALL OF 1934/SPRING OF 1942.

...MARGE WHITE FOR HOSTING THE BOARD PLANNING SESSION FOR 1999.

...BERT BAIR, LISA CAVE, NORM CATRELL, JOANNE SWONK AND MIKE WOODFORD FOR HELP IN READYING LYONS SCHOOL FOR THE OPEN HOUSE.

...THE ABOVE PERSONS PLUS PURITAN INDUSTRIES, ANN ARBOR NEWS, BRIGHTON ARGUS AND MARGE WHITE FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE OPEN HOUSE

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND MARIEANNA BAIR PLAN FOR EACH TUESDAY, 1-3 P.M. TO BE AT THE BRIGHTON ROOM IN THE LIBRARY, 200 CHARLES ORNDORF DR. TO RECORD, INDEX AND FILE ARCHIVAL MATERIALS. OCCASIONALLY WE CANCEL. BE SURE TO CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, IS DONATING MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TOWARD THE PREPARATION OF A LOCAL HISTORY BOOK. YOUR OFFER OF PHOTOS, INFORMATION, ETC., IS WELCOME. LET'S MAKE THIS AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE.

LYONS SCHOOL: CHRIS WARD AND JOANNE SWONK ARE PREPARING A PUBLICITY BROCHURE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ENCOURAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOOL'S RESTORATION. SUB COMMITTEES ARE MEETING TO PROMOTE THIS PROJECT AND DEVELOP A CURRICULUM. CONTACT EITHER JOANNE OR 229-7887, OR CHRIS 229-0560 TO OFFER HELP OR FOR INFORMATION. A SIGN SHOWING FUND RAISING PROGRESS WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE AREA.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: THE APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER HAS BEEN PREPARED. UPON ACCEPTANCE AN HISTORIC SITE MARKER CAN BE INSTALLED. OTHER INFORMATIONAL MARKERS ARE BEING CONSIDERED AS IS RESTORATION OF THE CEMETERY, A UNIQUE SYMBOL OF THE HERITAGE OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

...THE CHORAL GROUP FROM LINDBOM ELEMENTARY'S FIFTH GRADE, AND THEIR DIRECTOR, JOAN JAYNES, FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE LYONS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...A MEMBER TO SERVE AS SECRETARY, RECORDING MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS, RECORD ACTION TAKEN, MAKE SUFFICIENT COPIES FOR BOARD MEMBERS, PREPARE AN AGENDA AND MAIL TO BOARD MEMBERS 7-10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO CONDUCT A MEETING EXPEDITIOUSLY AND RECORD MINUTES MEANWHILE. CALL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU CAN HELP.

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

*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: THE COOK & SHANNON BLACKSMITH SHOP ON W. MAIN, c. 1900, WILL BE SHOWN ON THE 1998 TILE. RESERVE YOURS NOW TO BE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT. THIS, AND THE OTHER LOCAL SCENES ON TILES MAKE FINE CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, ETC., GIFTS. THE STOCK OF EARLIER ONES IS STEADILY BEING REDUCED. CHECK WHICH ONES YOU NEED BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE. A LIMITED NUMBER ARE MADE EACH YEAR. THE EARLIER ONES ARE AVAILABLE AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN. EACH \$8. OR 3/\$21.00.

TOTE BAGS \$15.00 SUPPLY DWINDLING.
POST CARDS PKG 6/\$3. EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES. MUGS 5\$. SUPPLY DWINDLING ALSO. NOTE PAPER \$2.50. 11x14
PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM \$25.
MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

DEC. 6, 13, 20. CHRISTMAS BELLS THEME AT GREENMEAD, A COLLECTION OF RESTORED BUILDINGS IN LIVONIA, 20601 NEWBURGH RD. TOURS, 1-4 P.M.

PLYMOUTH HISTORY MUSEUM - NOW THRU JANUARY 15, 1999. LINCOLN AND A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS, 155 S. MAIN, PLYMOUTH. WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 1-4; SUNDAY 2-5.

DEC. 12: 10-4 "OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS STORE" BRIGHTON GARDEN CLUB. MALTBY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 4740 BAUER. FOR INFORMATION 810/229-5738.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: 810/229-9100, TO PLACE YOUR ORDER. \$28.00 WILL MAKE A FINE GIFT. IT ALSO GOES WELL WITH THE COVERLETS. THESE ARE AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN IN RED, GREEN OR BLUE FOR \$49.00.



SIGNATURE QUILT STILL HAS SOME ROOM FOR YOUR SIGNATURE. \$10.00 AND IT'LL BE EMBROIDERED ON THE QUILT. THIS WILL REMAIN WITH THE SOCIETY. SIGNATURES OF OTHERS CAN BE SENT OR USE EARLY RESIDENTS' SIGNATURES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.

CONT. FR. P. 1

IN GOOD SHAPE. HOWEVER FLOORS, WALLS, CEILING, ELECTRICAL, HEATING AND PLUMBING FACILITIES NEED TO BE COMPLETED. DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION.

HE WHO SEEKS ONLY FOR APPLAUSE FROM WITHOUT HAS ALL HIS HAPPINESS IN ANOTHER'S KEEPING.

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

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AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. CHARLES A. NEWMAN'S MAPLE RIDGE FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE WELCOME.

AMONG EARLY ARRIVALS TO THE AREA WERE BOTH AARON A. AND HIRAM S. NEWMAN. BY 1859 AARON OWNED 200 ACRES IN SECTIONS 5, 6 AND 7 OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. THE 1875 ATLAS RECORDS 80 ACRES IN SEC. 9 IN HIRAM'S NAME. HIRAM WAS A COMMISSIONER IN THE HOWELL LANSING RAILROAD COMPANY IN 1864. THIS WAS THE FORERUNNER OF THE DETROIT, HOWELL AND LANSING COMPANY WHICH BROUGHT THE RAILROAD TO BRIGHTON IN JULY, 1871. HE, AND WIFE RACHAEL, HAD TWO SONS: JOHN CALVIN, WHO MARRIED NEIGHBOR MARGARET McCLEMENTS IN 1880, AND CHARLES A., WHO MARRIED NEIGHBOR ELLA THURBER IN 1878.

CHARLES ACQUIRED TWO ADJOINING 40 ACRE PARCELS IN SEC. 14 AND 15, THROUGH WHICH MANN CREEK FLOWS, BY 1895. INTERSECTED BY PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD, A STRUCTURE IS INDICATED ON THE WEST SIDE. THE NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST IS ADELINE BIRD. THERE ARE ALSO 22 ACRES ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF BEACH LAKE IN SEC. 23. SIXTY ACRES OF HIS FATHER'S 80 IN SEC. 9 CAN NOW ALSO BE INCLUDED. THIS BRINGS TOTAL ACREAGE TO 162. ELLA HAS 33 ACRES IN SEC. 4 IN HER NAME WHICH WERE PROBABLY ACQUIRED FROM HER FATHER, J.B. THURBER. (BURIED IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY.)

1915 FINDS CHARLES IN POSSESSION OF 223 ACRES IN SEC. 14 AND 15 AND 91 ACRES IN SEC. 13, WHICH WOULD LATER BECOME A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND.

CHARLES AND ELLA HAD FOUR SONS AND A DAUGHTER AT THE TIME OF THE INCLUSION OF "MAPLE RIDGE" FARM ON THE C. 1900 LISTING. ONE CAN BELIEVE THE NEWMANS WERE A PROSPEROUS FAMILY. HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT KEEP SADNESS FROM COMING TO THE HOUSEHOLD. FIRST SON, CLAUDE, WHO HAD MARRIED NEIGHBOR CALLIE BITTEN, AND FATHERED FOUR CHILDREN, DIED TRAGICALLY. HE FELL WHILE GUIDING A RECENTLY ACQUIRED WOOD CUTTING MACHINE. HE "SLIPPED ON SOME ICE AND FELL. IN THE FALL HIS HEAD WENT IN FRONT OF THE REAR WHEELS..."

IN LATER YEARS WE FIND THE NAMES OF SONS JUDD (WHO NEVER MARRIED) AND BERT (MARRIED TO MINNIE KOURT, 1909) AS OWNERS OF CHARLES' SEC. 14 AND 15 ACREAGE. BERT AND MINNIE LIVED IN THEIR HOME ON NEWMAN ROAD. JUDD LIVED IN THE OLDER HOUSE ON PLEASANT VALLEY. ALTHO' BURIED IN FAIRVIEW, SECOND SON, RALPH, LIVED IN SOUTH DAKOTA FOR MANY YEARS. DAUGHTER EDITH MARRIED NEIGHBOR CHARLES PADDOCK.

BUD STEDMAN OF FLORIDA WRITES "CHARLIE WAS ONE OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE BRIGHTON STATE BANK. HE WAS A SMART FARMER. I REMEMBER SEEING CHARLIE AND ... JUDD BRINGING IN HAY AT MIDNIGHT FULL MOON WHEN IT WAS COOLER AND EASIER ON THE TEAM OF HORSES." ANOTHER SOURCE RECALLS CHARLIE COULD SWING A MEAN SCYTHE EVEN AT AN ADVANCED AGE. ELLA DIED IN 1927, CHARLIE IN 1949. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR. THANKS TO MARGE WILCOX, BUD STEDMAN, 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, AND MILTON CHARRO-NEAU'S EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS AND COPIES OF EARLY OBITUARIES.)