



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. 2

BRIGHTON, MI 48116
FEBRUARY, 1998

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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

- *FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24, 1:30 P.M. FILING OF ARCHIVES IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM.
- 5, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY "RESEARCHING A FEMALE ANCESTOR". LDS CHURCH, 1041 W. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL
- * 11, 5-8 P.M. & FEB. 24, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGY HELPS 810/227-1760.
- * 12, 1 P.M. HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE. 810/231-2957.
- 19, 7 P.M. PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL RE: VILLAGE CEMETERY.
- 23, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.
- 26, 7:30 MARY TODD LINCOLN AT THE BOOK NOOK.

*BRIGHTON ROOM, BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, CHAS. ORNDORF DRIVE.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7:30, MARY TODD LINCOLN, REENACTED BY KATHY QUALLS, WILL BE COMING TO THE BOOK NOOK, 322 W. MAIN. THIS PROGRAM COMMEMORATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVING AN INVITATION. BECAUSE OF LIMITED SEATING YOUR EARLY RESERVATION WILL BE NECESSARY.

THE "GREENWAYS" STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS REGULARLY ATTEMPTING TO PREPARE A HIKING/BIKING PATH CONNECTING THE MANY RECREATION AREAS THROUGHOUT SE LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

THE GOAL IS TO REDUCE THE NEED FOR VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION TO THESE AREAS.

THE SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE BRINGS HISTORIC SITES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL IMPROVE THEIR VISIBILITY AND MAKE THE TRAIL MORE INTERESTING.

THE SOCIETY WILL BE ON THE FEBRUARY 19, AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL TO PROMOTE THE RENOVATION OF THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 13, 14, ON THE SITE IN ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA, WHERE THE NATIONAL GUARD TRAINED, A COMMEMORATION IS BEING PREPARED. AN ENCAMPMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE GREAT LAKES LIVING HISTORY SOCIETY WILL HELP US REVISIT THOSE DAYS. THE DEDICATION OF A NEW HISTORIC SITE MARKER, COURTESY OF THE ANN ARBOR NEWS, WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 13. MUSIC OF THE DAY, DRESS OF THE DAY, TRAINING DRILLS AND MUSTERS, DISPLAYS OF ARTIFACTS ARE BEING PLANNED. (WE ARE TOLD AREA YOUNGSTERS OFTEN VISITED THE SITE TO SEARCH FOR RELICS C. 1918-20.) MANY YOUNG MEN FROM THE AREA VOLUNTEERED FOR DUTY AS THEY "REMEMBER(ED) THE MAINE."

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: ERV & DOROTHY BANDKAU, PAT & MARY FONSECA (AZ), VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL), DOUGLAS & CAROL REARICK, MIKE & JANET WOODFORD.

BUS/PROF: ADVANCE CRAFT HOMEBUILDERS, INC.

COUPLES/INDIV: LISA AGESEN & STEVE SCOTT, BERT & MARIEANNA BAIR, MILDRED BENDER (OO), RICHARD & ELAINE BLIGHT, JERRY & LISA CAVE, BERNICE CHAPPEL, BENJAMIN CLARK (SHEPHERD, MI 2000), EMIL & JOAN ENGEL, FLOYD & IAL FULLER, LESLIE HEALY, ELEANOR HORNUNG, DAVID & CHARLENE KULL, DAVID LEHMAN (99), MARTY & LEE PAWLAK (S.L.), BOB & PAULINE SCHAFER (99), ED & CONNIE SHERMAN, DORIS SINGER (GR. RAP.), THERESA SWIECICKI, JIM & VICKIE VICHICH, HERB & ARLENE WARNER, DON & ALICE WYLAND.

AGESEN, SCOTT AND SWIECICKI ARE NEW MEMBERS. WELCOME!

PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY, P.O. Box 481. MORE ACCURATE RECORDS CAN BE KEPT. THNX.

THE SOCIETY IS NOT A PROFIT MAKING BUSINESS. THAT IS IT CANNOT EARN MONEY FOR ITSELF. ALL FUNDS GENERATED FROM SALES ITEMS (WHICH ARE CREATED, DESIGNED AND OFFERED BY VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR PLEASURE) GO TOWARD THE VARIOUS PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NOT ON A PAYROLL. MANY HOURS ARE WILLINGLY COMMITTED TO THEIR POSITIONS. THE SOCIETY IS MORALLY OBLIGATED TO PAY OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES, I.E. PAPER, POSTAGE, PRINTING, ETC. FUNDS TO COVER THESE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, INCLUDING THE NEWSLETTER, MUST BE GENERATED FROM MEMBERS' DUES AND GENERAL FUND DONATIONS. THIS FUND IS OFTEN RUNNING IN THE RED MAKING IT NECESSARY TO BORROW FROM THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION FUND FROM MONTH TO MONTH. PATRON AND BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL DUES PROVIDE A MAJOR LEVER TOWARD BALANCING THE BOOKS.

THE SOCIETY IS A 501(c)3 INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION.

...JHN & JANICE FIELD FOR MEMORIAL TO OLIVE SMITH GRIFFITH, CLASS 1925, BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL.

...GERRY & LISA CAVE FOR A COPIER CARTRIDGE.

...NORM CATRELL & MARILYN PETTIGROVE FOR HELP IN MAILING JANUARY TRAIL TALES.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: THIS GROUP MEETS TUESDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE LIBRARY. A FIREPROOF FILE CABINET WILL BE HOLDING HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE AREA. WHEN FILED AND PROPERLY INDEXED THESE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH. OTHERS INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THIS WORK ARE WELCOME. CALL 810/229-6402 FOR CONFIRMATION OF THIS SCHEDULE.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THIS AREA FROM C. 1832/1945 ARE BEING COMPILED. CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU IN ORDER THAT THIS BOOK WILL BE A COMPREHENSIVE WORK WORTHY OF EVERYONE'S INTEREST.

LYONS SCHOOL: THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER HAS BEEN DELIVERED. ITS DEDICATION IS PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER. A PROPER CEREMONY WILL BE PREPARED FOR THIS GALA OCCASION. WITH YOUR HELP IT WILL BE MEMORABLE. PLEASE CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND HELP.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL) AND THE PLEASANT VALLEY SOCIAL CLUB FOR DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL SITE MARKER FUND.

...STANLEY HOME BUILDERS FOR SERVING AS DELIVERY SITE FOR THE LYONS SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE MARKER.

...BERT BAIR AND MIKE WOODFORD FOR TRANSPORTING THE MARKER TO STORAGE.

...GERRY GENEAREUX FOR A PHOTOGRAPH OF BERT MILLER (CITY CONSTABLE) IN FRONT OF THE HONOR ROLL (LISTING SERVICE MEN FROM THE AREA) C. 1944 WHICH WAS LOCATED ON THE SW CORNER OF MAIN AND GRAND RIVER.

...EVA WHALEN (FRANKENMUTH) FOR THREE SCRAPBOOKS (WITH CLIPPINGS OF WEDDINGS, BIRTHS, DEATHS, ETC., OF EARLY BRIGHTON AREA), THE GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF WHALEN, FOOTE, BURT, FULLER AND CHAMBERS FAMILIES AND PHOTOS.

...PHIL SMITH' TWO REPORTS ON THE HISTORY OF THE TOURIST BUSINESS AND CHANGES IN THE BRIGHTON AREA.

...JANICE BEACH FOR TWO "TEACHER'S DAILY REGISTER" FROM BETHEL SCHOOL ON SKEMAN ROAD, BEGINNING APRIL, 1888/MARCH, 1893 AND APRIL, 1910/MAY, 1916. ALSO A PICTURE OF TEACHER AND PUPILS AT BETHEL C. 1910 AND A PICTURE OF 9/10TH GRADE STUDENTS AT BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL, 1920-21.

...BUD STEDMAN (FL) AND AMERICAN LEGION JESSIE B. COOLEY POST #235 FOR DONATIONS.

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

NEED NEED NEED

...THE GENERAL FUND BILL FOR NEWSLETTER EXPENSES IS C. \$225.00 PER MONTH. OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF SOCIETY BUSINESS INCLUDE: SUPPLIES, MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, OFFICER BONDING, POST OFFICE EXPENSES SUCH AS BOX RENT, ETC. ONLY WITH MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS OF CASH, LABOR, MATERIALS, ETC., CAN THE SOCIETY CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AT KEEPING YOU, AND THE COMMUNITY, INFORMED OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

...THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION FUND, I.E. ARCHIVES, HISTORY BOOK, LYONS SCHOOL, ORAL HISTORY, HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, SITE REGISTRATION AND MARKER PROJECTS, IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF FUNDS. IT IS ASSUMED MEMBERS ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THESE PROJECTS AND GOALS. (ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS?)

...TRANSCRIBING MACHINE TO GET ORAL HISTORY ON PAPER.

...VIDEO CAMERA TO RECORD TODAY'S EVENTS WHICH WILL BE TOMORROW'S HISTORY.

...NEWSLETTER SUPPLIES: ADDRESS LABELS, PAPER, POSTAGE, PRINTING EXPENSE.

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 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN, FOR \$49.00 INCLUDING TAX.

POST CARDS: LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES, INCLUDING STREET SCENES AND MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OF EARLY BRIGHTON ARE AT THE BOOK NOOK, 322 W. MAIN FOR \$3.00 A PACKET OF 6.

TILES: 6" SQUARE WHITE CERAMIC TILES DEPICTING 11 DIFFERENT SITES IN THE AREA CAN BE PURCHASED AT NOSTALGIA 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 14" PICTURES OF THE FIRST MILL STREAM DAM (\$15.00 & \$25.00), PACKETS OF NOTE PAPER (\$2.50), MUGS (\$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.

THE MANY ITEMS LISTED ARE WELL WORTH YOUR PURCHASE. IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUND RAISING PROJECTS, CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER PLEASE!!!

APRIL 3, 4: 18TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE. "WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT TO GET THE JOB DONE". SPONSORED BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE & NATIONAL TRUST FOR PRESERVATION AT CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LANSING. 248/625-8181

MICHIGAN ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, LIVONIA, 248/477-7375, MAY 7-8.

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

MAPLE LAWN FARM, ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD JUST NORTH OF BUNO ROAD IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP STILL HAS MAPLES IN THE LAWN. A c.1900 NEWSPAPER CLIPPING LISTS WM. J. DONALDSON AS THE OWNER. THIS CLIPPING INCLUDES NAMES OF FARMS AND THEIR OWNERS. RESEARCH INTO THE LOCATIONS, TYPES OF FARMS AND FAMILY HISTORY WILL HELP US APPRECIATE THE LIVES THESE PEOPLE LED AND THEIR STRUGGLES.

IN "EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY" ONE FINDS SEVERAL ANDREWS MAKING LAND PURCHASES IN THE TOWNSHIP. ONE ABRAM, FROM MONROE COUNTY, N.Y., BOUGHT 80 ACRES IN SECTION 23 IN 1834. HE HAS THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST DEATH IN THE TOWNSHIP. ELLIS' 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY READS "...27 YEARS OF AGE, HAD BEEN INDUCED, BY THE HOPE OF IMPROVED HEALTH FROM THE ACTIVE EXERCISE THAT THE CLEARING OF A NEW COUNTRY NECESSITATES,HE LIVED BUT THREE WEEKS IN HIS NEW HOME, AND THERE BEING AT THE TIME NO CLERGYMAN TO PERFORM THE FUNERAL RITES, MR. EDGAR (ROBERT EDGAR, WITH WHOM ABRAM HAD BEEN STAYING) OFFICIATED ON THE OCCASION AND DELIVERED AN ADDRESS. MELZER BIRD TOOK FROM HIS BARN THE BOARDS WITH WHICH TO MAKE THE COFFIN." AMONG TRANSACTIONS IN THE ABSTRACT FOR THIS PIECE IS A MORTGAGE TAKEN BY MARGARET WAKELY, 1870, AN INDICATION THE HOUSE WAS PROBABLY ERECTED AT THAT TIME. CONSTRUCTED IN A TYPICAL FARM HOUSE STYLE IT IS TWO STORY WITH TWO ROOMS ON EACH FLOOR WITH A STEEP, NARROW STAIRCASE. DURING THE YEARS OWNERS HAVE ADDED PORCHES AND ROOMS ON ALL SIDES.

DONALDSON MOVED TO MAPLE LAWN FARM WITH WIFE, EDITH BERNICE JACOBS IN 1905. ONLY TWO DAUGHTERS OF THE SEVERAL CHILDREN BORN TO BILL AND BERNICE SURVIVED TO ADULthood.

HE BUILT A LARGE BARN AND SILO SOUTH OF THE HOUSE. FOLLOWING THE USUAL FARM PRACTICE OF THE DAY "WILD BILL" RAISED GRAIN, HAY, POTATOES, SHEEP, PIGS, DAIRY CATTLE AND HORSES. DURING HAYING SEASON IT WAS ESSENTIAL THE HAY BE ALLOWED TO CURE SUFFICIENTLY IN THE FIELD BEFORE STORING IN THE BARN. OCCASIONALLY THE FARMER DID NOT CORRECTLY JUDGE THE CONDITION OF THE HAY. WITHIN A FEW HOURS SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION TOOK PLACE AND THE BARN WAS IN FLAMES. THIS HAPPENED TO DONALDSON IN 1961, AND ENDED HIS FARMING ACTIVITY AS HE HAD KNOWN IT. BEFORE LONG HE SOLD THE 80 HE STILL OWNED AND 5-10 ACRE HOME SITES PLATTED. BERNICE DIED IN 1962 AT 82, BILL IN 1971 AT 95. JERRY AND JUDY PORMAN, IN 1971, BOUGHT THE OLD FARM HOUSE. 1995 SAW NEW OWNERS WHO ARE MAKING THEIR OWN CHANGES TO THE SITE. (COMPILED FROM ATLASES, MILT CHARBONEAU'S FAIRVIEW CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION, MRS. MYRON WEST'S SCRAPBOOKS AND INTERVIEWS OF HERBERT WARNER AND JUDY PORMAN. COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS WILL BE WELCOME. 810/229-6402. MARIE-ANNA BAIR.)