



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. 3

BRIGHTON, MI 48116
March, 1998

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PRES. & EDITOR	MARIEANNA BAIR	229-6402
V.P.	JOANNE CERU	229-7887
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REMEMBER THE MAIN!!!

In the 1880s the National Guard conducted annual training encampments at Island Lake. Many young men from the area volunteered for duty as they "Remember(ed) the Maine."

During the training period many families accompanied the volunteers turning it into a summer holiday for them.

The Historical Society in cooperation with the Green Oak Township Historical Society is planning a Spanish-American War Centennial Commemoration to take place June 13, 14, on the very site of the original encampment and from which the Guard entrained for duty.

Music, dress, artifacts, drills and musters of the day will be on the program. Mark this event on your calendar.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mar 5, 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society. International Night, LDS Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.
- 7, Michigan Barn Conference, Lansing. 517/772-0911 ext 302.
- *2nd Wednesday, 5-8 p.m.; 4th Tuesday, 1-5 p.m. Genealogical help 810/227-1760.
- *Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Archives Committee. 810/229-6402.
- ** 15, 4-6 p.m. Spanish/American War program with Green Oak, Fire Hall.
- * 23, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting. WELCOME! 810/229-6402.
- *Brighton Room, Brighton District Library.
- **See related article.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

18th Annual Michigan Preservation Conference, "Working With Government to Get the Job Done". Sponsored by State Historic Preservation Office and National Trust for Preservation at Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, April 3,4. 248/625-8181

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

Waterloo Farm Summer Schedule: June 1/ August 31, Tues/Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth, "Images of Lincoln" exhibit now/September 24. March 12: John Gibney, Civil War Historian.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: John Allen (FL), *Charles & Stephanie Koehn, Steve & Kate Lowry, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Horace & Yvonne Taylor.

COUPLES/INDIV: Wayne & Sally Baldwin (Gr Rapds), Marilyn Campbell (IN), Joanne Ceru & Jim Swonk, Florence Chase (Frvll), Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, *Thelma Duncan, Joe & Irene Ellis, Dr. D.H. & Barbara Folkman (Fraser), Dorothy Hartman, *Catherine McMacken (99), Mark & Carol McMacken (99), Patrick & Kim McMacken (99), Tim & Leslie McMacken (99), Helen Mae Michaels, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Alice Newcomb (99), * Rose Phillips, Rita Polaske, Tedd & Linda Potter, Mrytle Rowe (Gr Rapds), Franc Stokes (Westland), Randy & Kyle Wilson.

* New members. WELCOME! Several of the above memberships were gifts from relatives, and friends. Good idea we think.

Your patience is appreciated re: the correct dating on the address label. Every attempt is made to credit you with the correct year for which dues are paid. Contact us if there is an error. If the date on your address label isn't 98 or later dues have not been received. Patron and Bus/Prof. memberships are helping keep the Society administrative expenses paid, including the printing and mailing of Trail Tales. Your support makes this organization.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Tedd and Linda Potter for their donation to the Lyons School Marker Fund.

...Bert Bair, Joanne Ceru, John & Janice Field and Marilyn Pettigrove for helping prepare the February newsletter for mailing.

...those who are sending a little extra with their membership fee: Steve & Kate Lowry, Helen Mae Michaels, Randy and Kyle Wilson, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth and Marilyn Campbell from Indiana.

...Bert Bair, Erv & Dot Bandkau, Lisa Cave, Janice Field and Nancy Fredenburg for helping prepare the 1997 tile for sale.

...Donna Nelson for loaning a picture of Lamart Hick's farm on Skeman Road.

...John & Janice Field, Nancy Fredenburg Eileen Herbst for providing support at tl February 19 City Council meeting.

...Brighton City Council for support re the renovation of the Village Cemetery.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHIVES: A new file cabinet has been delivered to the Brighton Room at the Library. Proper filing, indexing, recording of archival material relating to the history of the area can now begin in earnest. You are welcome to join in any Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m.

BOOK COMMITTEE: Meetings are Thursdays, 1 p.m. Any photos clippings or other local history information, etc., you have would be most welcome. Carol McMacken. 231-2957.

LYON SCHOOL: The historic site marker has been delivered. People are needed to be involved with a marker dedication ceremony. Thanks to the Potters for their donation to the marker fund. About \$500.00 is still outstanding. Your donations will be most welcome. It is planned to prepare a plaque listing donors to this fund.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: February 19, the Brighton City Council authorized work to begin on the restoration of the Village Cemetery (the one by the mill pond.). Gretchen Voyle and Kevin Green, Extension Service toured the cemetery with us making suggestion as to tree and brush cutting. Lights will be installed to make the cemetery more visible. Future plans will incorporate the cemetery into the entire downtown scene with designated walks. Michigan Historic Site registration is underway.

SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

All in the Brighton area are invited to the March 15, Green Oak Township Historical Society meeting, 4-6 p.m., at the Fire Hall, 9384 Whitmore Lake Road. Dave Washburn will speak on the events of the period of the War. Memorabilia will be displayed. Plans for the June 13,14, commemoration of the 100th anniversary will be revealed. Info. 810/229-6402.

NEED NEED NEED

...A means of displaying tiles at Nostalgic Antiques, 116 W. Main.

...people to help with the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Spanish/American War, June 13, 14. 229-6402

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

1997 TILE IS HERE!

LINCOLN HOTEL

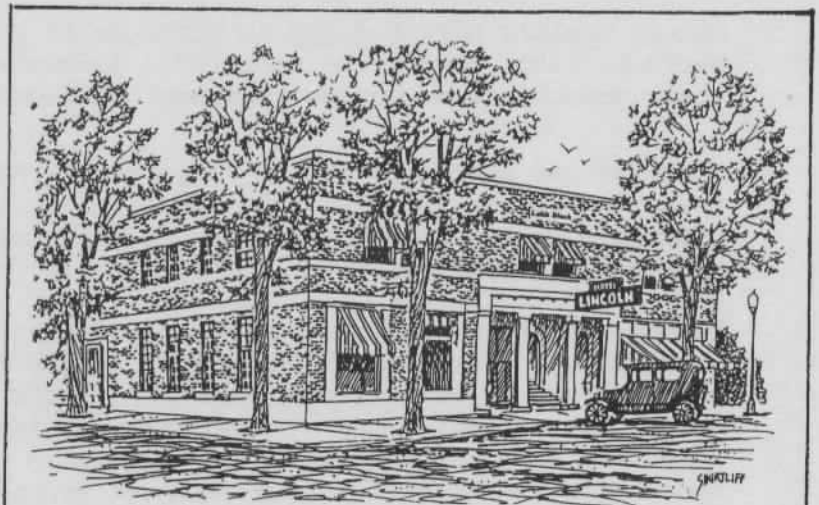
FIRST NATIONAL BANK

CANOPY HOTEL

In 1927 local visionary and entrepreneur Thomas S. Leith constructed the Leith Block on the SE corner of W. Grand River and St. Paul Street on the site of the first frame house in the village. The First National Bank was located in the north portion with a restaurant in the southern portion with rooms of the Lincoln Hotel upstairs. Following the financial crash of '29 the bank folded. It became a popular bar, the bank vault serving as liquor storage. Various owners were in charge of the restaurant, one of whom added a green canopy over the entrance. The Canopy became known for its good food and ambiance. It was heavily patronized by Detroit-Lansing travelers. The building of nearby expressways reduced business sufficiently to make it unprofitable. It has been most recently renovated and now serves as the offices of Prudential Preview Properties.

TILES: 6" SQUARE WHITE CERAMIC TILES DEPICTING 1) DIFFERENT SITES IN THE AREA CAN BE PURCHASED AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN FOR \$8.00 OR 3 FOR \$21.00.

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.

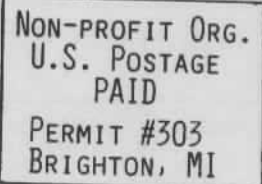


1927 - LINCOLN HOTEL -
 - FIRST NATIONAL BANK -
 - CANOPY HOTEL -
 BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
 1997
 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

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

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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481



AREA FARMS c. 1900

The Brighton Argus, c. 1900, listed a number of farms, with a name and the owner. Research into the location, type of farming, and a bit of family history is undertaken. Ferndale Farm, owned by Nelson and Ada Gould, was located in Section 29, Brighton Township.

Nelson Gould's parents came to Michigan in 1856, settling in Saline. Sister, Maria L. (19), brother Solomon (17), joined Nelson (12) and his parents on their journey from Conesus, Livingston County, New York.

Michigan had been a state for 18 years. Perhaps the elder Goulds hoped for a promising future for their children. The children all became land owners, therefore we can assume they farmed. Therefore, can we assume the parents were farmers in New York?

Nelson came to Brighton c. 1879 a few months after his marriage to Ada Meeks of Pinckney. From A. M. Nichols they bought 80 acres in E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section Nichols, and other previous owners, had purchased the land for speculative purposes only; land was not cleared, nor was any structure built. Nelson and Ada must have spent many days trying to make a productive farm of land with such steep hills, deep gulleys and much wet ground.

By 1895 a structure is shown at the corner of Spencer Road and the southernmost end of what would later become US 23. (In the early 1930s US 23 south of Spencer would connect with US 23 coming from Ann Arbor at Grand River.)

Marie married William Monroe, 1877, and came to Brighton soon after. After only 16 years of marriage, William died. Her mother, Avis, lived with them at the time of her death in 1885. Brother Solomon, who never married, followed Nelson to the area in 1881. He owned 80 acres immediately west of Nelson's. He was living with sister, Maria, and stayed there after her death (1914) until he died, 1918.

In 1906 Nelson and Ada moved to the Village, still on Spencer Road. He died there January 21, 1921, Ada, August 17, 1928. Nelson, mother Avis, Ada and Solomon are all at the Village Cemetery.

The 1935 Atlas shows Birney Smith as owner of Ferndale Farm; later Carter Smith is the owner. Maps of this decade seem to place the Nelson's old house under US 23 Expressway. Much of Nelson and Solomon's farms are Paradise Farms subdivision. The land along Old 23 is zoned commercial. (Prepared by Marieanna Bair. Compiled from atlases, Charboneau's obits, First Landowners and Early Landowners of Livingston County. Corrections and additions are welcome.)