



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. 11 NOVEMBER, 1998

### BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### OFFICERS

|                |                     |          |
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| HERB WARNER - LYONS SCHOOL      | 229-6504 |

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- \*Nov. 3, 10, 17: 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES/FILING. BRIGHTON ROOM. WELCOME.
- \*\* 9: 7 P.M. 1999 PLANNING. MARGE WHITE'S HOME.
- \* 11: 5-8 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760.
- \* 12: 7 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL PROGRAM/CURRICULUM COMMITTEE.
- \*\* 23: 5-7 P.M. OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION AT LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD.
- 25: BLESSED THANKSGIVING.

\* AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY

\*\*SEE RELATED ARTICLE

### PLANNING FOR 1999!

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND FUND RAISING PROJECTS WILL BE PLANNED FOR 1999, AT THE NOVEMBER 9, 7 P.M. MEETING WITH MARGE WHITE, TREASURER.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS WILL HAVE THEIR THINKING CAPS IN PLACE. EACH SOCIETY MEMBER IS ENCOURAGED, IMplored, REQUESTED, ETC., ETC., TO LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW WHAT YOU WANT THE SOCIETY TO ACCOMPLISH NEXT YEAR. PROGRAM IDEAS YOU FEEL WOULD BE OF INTEREST; FUND RAISING PROJECTS YOU FEEL WOULD SUCCEED; ANY OFFERS OF HELP ARE MOST WELCOME.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ON THE BOARD COULD HELP CARRY SOME OF THE TASKS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ASSUMED BECAUSE THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE FULFILLED. THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER PROJECTS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE SOCIETY ATTENTION. CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

### RECAP OF GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 26

PETER McNENLY, JD CFP DESCRIBED THE EFFECTS OF THE 1929 STOCK MARKET CRASH IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY. THOROUGH RESEARCH OF PERIOD NEWSPAPERS AND WELL PREPARED MATERIALS FOR EVERYONE ENABLED, EVEN THE YOUNGER PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE, TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HOW AREA RESIDENTS WERE AFFECTED. MR. McNENLY IS CONTINUING HIS RESEARCH. A FUTURE PRESENTATION IS IN THE WORKS.

### INTERESTED IN LOG CABINS?

LOG CABIN SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN, 3503 EDWARDS RD., SODUS, MI 49126. PH: 616/944-5719. BROCHURE LISTING 78 SITES IN MICHIGAN IS AVAILABLE.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: TED & DORIS CARMACK (ALLEN PARK, 99), PAT & MARLENE FONSECA (AZ, 99).

COUPLES/INDIV: PAT & JOSIE ARNOLD (99), JEFF & DIANA BARTON (99), BOB & MARIE CARR (99), JEANETTE JOHNSON (99), ALICE SEGER, HERB & ARLENE WARNER (99).

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE MAILING LIST MUST BE REVIEWED. THE MAJORITY HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIP. IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF TRAIL TALES COULD BE MAILED TO EVERYONE, WHETHER DUES HAVE BEEN PAID OR NOT. HOWEVER THE SOCIETY IS NOT AN INCOME PRODUCING ORGANIZATION. IT SURVIVES ON DUES AND DONATIONS. CHECK THE DATE ON THE MAILING LABEL - IF IT'S NOT 98 OR LATER IT WILL BE SURMISED THERE IS NO INTEREST IN RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER.

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A 'HISTORICAL' GIFT.

### THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERNON YOUNG OF FLORIDA FOR INFORMATION ON THE BROWN FAMILY OF SPENCER ROAD INCLUDING GENEALOGICAL RECORDS DATING TO C. 1500. ALSO INFORMATION ON JAMES B. AND DANIAL S. LEE AND THE 'LEE' HOUSE AT 314 E. GRAND RIVER. THESE KINDS OF RECORDS HELP HELP MAKE MORE CLEAR THE EARLY DAYS OF THE AREA.

...NORM CATRELL, JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR HELPING GET THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL.

...PETER KUJAWA FOR HIS MOTHER, LOIS KUJAWA'S NOTE OF MICHIGAN HISTORY STUDIES. THESE HAVE BEEN ASSIMILATED INTO VARIOUS APPROPRIATE FILES IN SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

...DONATION FROM ALICE SEGER WITH HER DUES.

...DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT FROM THE FONSECAS.

### NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...SPONSORS FOR TRAIL TALES EXPENSES.

...1999 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS/CHAIRMEN TO MAKE THE SOCIETY MORE VIABLE THAN EVER.

...PEOPLE WHO WANT THE SATISFACTION OF HELPING MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN.

...PEOPLE TO CONDUCT ORAL HISTORIES. INFORMATION, 'HOW TO', IS AVAILABLE.

...CASE OF COPY/TYPING PAPER.

...PICTURES OF EARLY COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

## PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: PHYLLIS SCHAFER OF FENTON, AND AGGIE SULLIVAN HAVE BEEN IN TO SEE WHAT'S UP IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE LIBRARY. BRING YOUR AREA PHOTOS, MAPS, CLIPPINGS, ETC., TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES TO ASSURE THEY ARE COMPLETE. TUESDAYS, 1-3 P.M., JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND MARIEANNA BAIR WILL BE THERE. 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, ETC., IS WELCOME. LET'S MAKE THIS AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE.

LYONS SCHOOL: CHRIS WARD, CHAIRMAN: 810/229-0560 OR JOANNE SWONK, 810/229-7887, FOR INFORMATION. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR FUND RAISING ARE UNDERWAY.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 5-7 P.M., A RECEPTION OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HELD AT THE SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE FIRST HAND AND UP CLOSE THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE AND THAT WHICH NEEDS COMPLETING. DRIVE EAST SPENCER ROAD TO VAN AMBURG, THEN LEFT (NORTH) TO BUNO. THEN RIGHT (EAST) .5 MILE. LYONS SCHOOL IS ON THE LEFT. LOOK FOR THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER. PLENTY OF GOOD PARKING. LET US SHOW YOU THE POTENTIAL OF THIS RESTORATION.



VILLAGE CEMETERY: THE APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER HAS BEEN PREPARED. BECAUSE THE CEMETERY IS OWNED BY THE CITY OF BRIGHTON, COUNCIL APPROVAL MUST BE ACQUIRED. THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO CITY HALL.

THE STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES RECOGNIZES THE VALUES OF DIVERSE PROPERTIES TO A COMMUNITY'S HERITAGE. IT FOSTERS APPRECIATION OF AND PRIDE IN THE RICHNESS AND VARIETY OF THAT HERITAGE. PURELY HONORIFIC NO FINANCIAL OR TAX BENEFITS ARE DERIVED NOR ARE ANY RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED. 810/229-6402 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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, BIRTH-  
DAY, 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 DWIND-  
LING ALSO. NOTE PAPER \$2.50. 11x14  
PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM \$25.  
MARIANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Nov. 20/22: AMERICANA ANTIQUES SHOW/  
SALE, CIVIC CENTER, 26000 EVERGREEN,  
SOUTHFIELD. 1-800/594-5162.  
Dec. 5,12, CHRISTMAS AT CROSSROADS,  
Dec. 11/13: CHRISTMAS BY TRAIN TO  
TORONTO. BLUEWATER SENTINEL. 248/541-  
1000 FOR INFORMATION.  
Dec. 5,6: 12-5 P.M. VICTORIAN CHRIST-  
MAS ON THE FARM. WATERLOO FARM MUSEUM,  
734/769-2219.  
Dec. 12: 10-4 "OLD FASHIONED CHRIST-  
MAS STORE" BRIGHTON GARDEN CLUB. MAL-  
TBY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 4740 BAUER. FOR  
INFO - 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 NAUG-  
HTY '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.

GET WELL

JERRY GENEREAU HAD SURGERY RECENTLY.  
HE IS CITY DELIVERY PERSON FOR TRAIL  
TALES EACH MONTH.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO CHRIS AND NICOLE WARD ON THE BIRTH  
OF ELLIOT. OLLIVER IS HAPPY WITH HIS  
NEW BROTHER.

AND

TO THE SOCIETY FOR RECEIVING AN AWARD  
OF MERIT FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
MICHIGAN FOR OUR PART IN THE SPANISH/  
AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. L.R. BIRD'S VALLEY VIEW FARM AND ADELINE BIRD'S BLUFF VIEW ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THIS ISSUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE WELCOME.

IN 1833, GARDNER BIRD CAME WITH HIS FAMILY FROM ONTARIO COUNTY, N.Y., TO THE 240 ACRES PURCHASED IN SECTIONS 11 AND 14, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP; PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD RUNNING DOWN THE MIDDLE. (GENERAL MOTORS BOUGHT 120 ACRES C. 1925 FOR USE AS THE PROVING GROUND.)

GARDNER AND ELIZA HAD A LARGE FAMILY OF SEVEN CHILDREN, SEVERAL OF WHICH THEY LOST AT A YOUNG AGE. ELIZA, FIRST MARRIED LADY IN THE TOWNSHIP, DIED IN 1857. ONE CAN ASSUME SHE WAS PROBABLY BARELY 60 YEARS OLD. THAT SHE WAS CAPABLE OF PHYSICAL LABOR IS PROVEN IN THE 1880 HISTORY: "WHILE MR. BIRD WAS BREAKING UP HIS LAND THE LAD HE EMPLOYED TO DRIVE THE OX TEAM WAS CONFINED TO THE HOUSE BY ILLNESS, BUT THE WORK WAS NOT IMPEDED, FOR MRS. BIRD HERSELF WENT INTO THE FIELD WITH THE OXEN AND ASSISTED TO PLOW FOUR ACRES."

THEIR SON, JOSEPH, WAS AMONG THE FIRST WHITE CHILDREN BORN IN THE TOWNSHIP - OCTOBER, 1834. ELIZA WAS A STURDY WOMAN. ANOTHER SON, ALBERT, PURCHASED THE FARM IN 1876. BY 1900 ALBERT'S SON, LEBERT R., OWNS THE LAND. WE FIND HIM AS OWNER OF VALLEY VIEW FARM. GENTLY ROLLING FIELDS WITH MANN CREEK FLOWING THROUGH SURELY DID PROVIDE A FINE VIEW. WITH MUCH LEVEL LAND ONE CAN ASSUME GRAINS, HAY, POTATOES, ETC., WERE THE MAJOR CROPS.

IN 1834, MELZER BIRD, GARDNER'S NEPHEW, ALSO FROM NEW YORK, IS BRINGING HIS WIFE, LORA (WENTWORTH) AND SEVERAL CHILDREN TO SECTION 14 ALSO. HE HAD PURCHASED 160 ACRES A YEAR EARLIER. HE IS TRANSPORTING THEM BY OX AND WAGON ON THE FOUR DAY JOURNEY FROM DETROIT, TO UNCLE GARDNER'S LOG HOME; PLEASANT VALLEY AND KENSINGTON ROADS. WITHIN THE YEAR HIS OWN HOUSE IS BUILT; PLEASANT VALLEY AND NEWMAN ROADS. MELZER AND LORA HAD EIGHT CHILDREN, AT LEAST THREE OF WHICH DID NOT SEE THEIR 5TH BIRTHDAY. THE 1859 ATLAS INDICATES A GRAVE YARD ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD, THE BIRD CEMETERY. A CHILD'S DEATH IS A HEAVY BURDEN BUT FOR THE FAMILY TO SURVIVE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER. LORA DIED IN 1869 AT 62. OF THEIR CHILDREN, DAUGHTER, ADELINE, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST WHITE GIRL BORN, MAY 30, 1835, IN THE TOWNSHIP, BOUGHT THE 160 ACRE FARM FROM HER FATHER IN 1879. SHE HAD ATTENDED THE LOG BIRD SCHOOL (DIST. #4) ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD. (GARDNER GAVE LAND FOR THIS FIRST LOG SCHOOL IN THE TOWNSHIP IN 1834.) SHE ALSO ATTENDED STATE NORMAL.

ADELINE NEVER MARRIED BUT SHE WAS A CAPABLE, HARD WORKING WOMAN WHO, IN LATER YEARS PROVIDED A HOME FOR WIDOWED SISTERS FRANCES STEVENSON AND CATHERINE FONDA. HER 160 ACRES WERE QUITE ROLLING AND/OR WET. WE WILL ASSUME SHE RAISED CATTLE HORSES AND SHEEP. BLUFF VIEW IS THE NAME CHOSEN FOR HER FARM, C.1900. THE HOUSE LOOKED OUT ON "BINDER-NAGEL HEIGHTS" OR THE 'BLUFFS' ON WHICH GENERAL MOTORS CORP. BUILT THE PROVING GROUND.

SOME DESCENDANTS OF THE BIRD FAMILIES ARE STILL IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY ATLASSES; 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; OBITUARIES AND EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MILTON CHARBONEAU.)