



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. 10 OCTOBER, 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
LISA CAVE - HIST. RES. SURV.		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

- *Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES/FILING. WELCOME. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- * 14: 5-8 P.M., Oct. 27: 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760.
- * 8: 7 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL CURRICULUM/PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY ROOM. WELCOME. 229-7887.
- 15: 7 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL FUND RAISING COMMITTEE. WELCOME. 229-0560.
- * 22: 7 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE. WELCOME. 810/229-0560.
- * ** 26: 7 P.M. GENERAL MEETING WITH PETER McNENLY. EFFECTS OF THE STOCK MARKET 'CRASH' OF 1929. PUBLIC WELCOME.

* AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY

**SEE RELATED ARTICLE

WILL MORE LOCAL HISTORY BE LOST?

IT IS AFTER THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNITY BEMOANS THE LOSS OF EACH EARLY STRUCTURE EITHER BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING BURN, OUTRIGHT NEGLECT OR IT IS KNOCKED DOWN BY DEVELOPERS.

WHEN APPROACHED BY A DEVELOPER THE VARIOUS PLANNING/ZONING HEADS ARE OFTEN NOT AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF AN EARLY STRUCTURE ON A PIECE OF PROPERTY. AND IF THEY WERE AWARE THERE ARE NO DIRECTIVES OR GUIDELINES IN PLACE TO ASSURE THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION OF AN EARLY SITE OF LOCAL HISTORY. NOR ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS THAT AN ABSENTEE LANDLORD NOT ALLOW A STRUCTURE TO BE CONDEMNED BY BENIGN NEGLECT.

IT SEEMS THE SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS AND THE CITY SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SETTING IN PLACE THE LEGAL MEANS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SITES CONNECTED WITH THE AREA'S EARLY HISTORY.

COMMISSIONS CAN BE FORMED TO CONDUCT HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEYS AND RECOMMEND PROPER PROCEDURES TO COMBAT THE RAPID ELIMINATION OF THE UNIQUE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA; THAT WHICH GIVES THE AREA ITS CHARM AND DESIRABILITY.

THOSE WHO WANT TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF EARLY STRUCTURES - THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PREPARING A HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY - THOSE WHO ARE CONVINCED THERE MUST BE A MEANS TO PRESERVE THESE STRUCTURES MAY CONTACT THE SOCIETY 810/229-6402. GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION ARE AVAILABLE.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: BILL & GLORIA (Fox) McCONNELL* (SC)
FRANCES (NAUSS) YOUNG*. LAPEER.

COUPLES/INDIV: RUDY & VIRGINIA HERRMANN,
DORIS HOUSNER*, JOSEPHINE HYNE (CHELSEA),
JOHN & RUTH LAPATOUREL* (99), HELEN LEITZ
(99, DRBRN), JOE & IRENE MIKE (99), LUCILLE
PRIESKORN (2000), J.D. & MARY JEAN RICHTER
(99, FRASER), RANDY & KYLE WILSON (99).

*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND THANKS FOR YOUR
SUPPORT. ONLY A FEW MEMBERS HAVE NOT RENEWED
THEIR MEMBERSHIP. BE ASSURED YOU ARE IMPOR-
TANT TO THE SOCIETY. IF AN ERROR IS FOUND ON
THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL PLEASE CALL 810/229-
6402 FOR CORRECTION.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, LISA CAVE, JOHN & JANICE FIELD,
GERY MACKS AND MARGE WHITE FOR THEIR HELP IN
PREPARING THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE FOR MAILING.

...DR. HARRY DAVIS FOR A COPY OF THE CAMPBELL-
TOWN CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION.

...BOY SCOUT TROOP #350, LEADER, DAVE
SKINNER, FOR THEIR HELP IN CLEANING UP
DEBRIS AT THE VILLAGE CEMETERY.

...D.J. RICHTER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RE: THE STUHRBERG MARKER IN THE VILLAGE
CEMETERY.

...MR. & MRS. JOHN LAPATOURAL, MR. & MRS.
WILLIAM McCONNELL (S.C.), MR. & MRS. JOE
MIKE, LUCILLE PRIESKORN AND MR. & MRS. RANDY
WILSON FOR THEIR ADDED CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN
REMITTING MEMBERSHIP DUES.

GERRY AND LINDA GENEREAU FOR LENDING BILL
PLESS' MEMOIRS FOR COPYING IN ORDER TO HAVE
A MORE COMPLETE RECORD. ALSO FOR THE 8x10
PHOTO OF WEISE' BAR-B-QUE (SW CORNER GRAND
RIVER AND W. MAIN) c. 1926 AND THE NEGA-
TIVE.

...DON JENKS FOR A COPY OF "CHILDHOOD MEMORIES"
BY HELEN (HERBST) RAU.

...DICK AND SHELAGH DAVIS FOR PROVIDING
STORAGE FOR SOCIETY TILE ORDERS. THE TILES
ARE NOW IN ONE STORAGE FACILITY.

...BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONTINUED
SUPPORT.

...BERT BAIR FOR TRANSPORTING SEVERAL SCHOOL
DESKS THE SOCIETY PURCHASED FROM SOUTH LYON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR USE AT THE LYONS SCHOOL.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: MOST TUESDAY AFTERNOONS JOHN
AND JANICE FIELD ARE IN THE BRIGHTON
ROOM AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY
SORTING, FILING, INDEXING. PHOTOS,
CLIPPINGS, BOOKS, MAPS, ETC., OR A COPY
WILL MAKE THE ARCHIVES MORE COMPLETE.
YOU CAN HELP. PH: 810/229-6402.

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

LYONS SCHOOL: THE STEERING COMMITTEE
MET AT THE SCHOOL LAST MONTH. ATTENDING
WERE: JOYCE POWERS BRIGHTON SCHOOL
BOARD MEMBER, BONNIE RIUTTA (CURRICULUM
DIRECTOR, BRIGHTON SCHOOLS), DALE HERM-
SON AND CHARLOTTE MARCOTTE (BRIGHTON
TEACHERS), EILEEN HERBST AND EMILY BROWN
(BRIGHTON RESIDENTS), RON MOREY, JOANNE
SWONK, AND JIM VICHICH (SOCIETY BOARD
MEMBERS). ISSUE AND STRATEGIES FOR FUND
RAISING WERE DISCUSSED. THE AGENDA FOR
OCTOBER 8, 7 P.M., BRIGHTON LIBRARY,
WILL INCLUDE A SLIDE PRESENTATION ON
ONE ROOM SCHOOLS. RESEARCH INTO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A CURRICULUM IS UNDERWAY.
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS.

A SIGN, TO BE ERECTED AT THE SITE,
WILL DESCRIBE THE PROJECT, HOW IT
BE USED AND THE MANNER
IN WHICH NEEDED FINANCIAL
SUPPORT CAN BE CONTRIBUTED
WILL BE CONSTRUCTED. YOUR
QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED
TO CHRIS WARD, CHAIRMAN,
810/229-6402.



VILLAGE CEMETERY: THANKS TO JOHN AND
JANICE FIELD AND NANCY FREDENBURG FOR
THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST AND HELP ON
THIS PROJECT. DURING THEIR WORK SESSION
MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP #350 RECO-
VERED A MARKER THAT HAD BEEN ROLLED
DOWN THE HILL AND HAD BECOME HIDDEN.
LITTLE BY LITTLE THE CEMETERY WILL SOON
LOOK AS THO' LOCAL CITIZENS CARE ABOUT
THE LAST RESTING PLACE FOR THE AREA'S
EARLY CITIZENS. PLEASE REPORT VANDALISM
TO THE BRIGHTON CITY POLICE. 227-2700.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...SPONSORS FOR TRAIL TALES EXPENSES.

...EARLY SCHOOL DESKS, ETC., FOR
LYONS SCHOOL.

...CASE OF COPY/TYPING PAPER.

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.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: MANY PLEASED CUSTOMERS MEAN THERE ARE LESS THAN HALF OF THE ORDER REMAINING. DON'T MISS OUT. 801/229-9100.

COVERLETS: NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. \$49. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN. RED, GREEN, BLUE: WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE OF THESE IS ALWAYS WELL PLEASED.

POST CARDS: EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES, A PACKET OF 6/\$3. MUGS: \$5., TOTE BAGS: \$15., NOTE PAPER: \$2.50, 11x14 PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM: \$25. 810/229-6402.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT WILL HAVE TWO MORE NAMES ADDED. THOSE OF JERRY AND JENNY JACOBY OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, COURTESY THEIR GRANDSON, VAL JACOBY, FLORIDA.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

KEMPF HOUSE CENTER FOR LOCAL HISTORY. WEDNESDAY NOON LECTURES. 312 S. DIVISION ST., ANN ARBOR, 48104 OR PHONE: 734/994-4898.

OCTOBER 11: NOON/5 P.M. WATERLOO AREA FARM ANNUAL PIONEER DAY 1998.

NOVEMBER 9, 3:30/8:30 MULLING OVER MICHIGAN. A STATEWIDE MICHIGAN STUDIES CONFERENCE. CLINTON TOWNSHIP. 810/228-3300.

GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 7 P.M.

"LIFE IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY 1929/1939" IS THE SUBJECT ON WHICH PETER MCNENLY, LOCAL ATTORNEY AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR, WILL SPEAK AT THE DISTRICT LIBRARY.

BEGINNING WITH THE STOCK MARKET CRASH OCTOBER 29, 1929, AND ENDING WITH THE OUTBREAK OF WAR IN EUROPE IN 1939, PETER'S THOROUGH RESEARCH IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF THAT DAY WILL HELP US LEARN HOW COUNTY BUSINESSES, FARMERS, PROFESSIONALS, GOVERNMENT AND THE AVERAGE RESIDENT FARED. MANY OF US STILL HAVE MEMORIES OF NO MONEY FOR CLOTHES, SHOES, FOOD, SHELTER OR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THE BARTER ECONOMY WHICH SUSTAINED THE MAJORITY. PUBLIC WELCOME.

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. MAPLE LAWN FARM IN FRANK PROSSER'S NAME IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION READERS CAN PROVIDE WILL BE WELCOME.

AMONG THE VERY EARLY FAMILIES' NAMES RECORDED IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS, AND WHOSE FARMS WERE ALSO LISTED IN THE C.1900 ARGUS, ONE FINDS THE NAME OF PROSSER. JOINING THE MANY WHO WERE STREAMING INTO MICHIGAN AND BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, IN THE MID 1830s, WERE CHARLES AND ELMINA PROSSER FROM GENESEE COUNTY, NEW YORK. LYDIA PROSSER, WHO PERHAPS WAS HIS SISTER, CAME WITH THEM OR SHORTLY AFTER. RECORDS INDICATE SHE OWNED LAND, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SECTION 18, ON JUNE 18, 1852. SHE IS LISTED IN THE 1850 AND 1860 CENSUS OF THE TOWNSHIP. LYDIA, WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 17, 1869, CHARLES, DECEMBER 30, 1893 AND ELMINA, JUNE 13, 1890, ARE BURIED IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. ALSO A DAUGHTER, LOVISA, A THREE YEAR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER AND OTHER RELATIVES.

CHARLES AND ELMINA ARE NOTED AS ORIGINAL PURCHASERS OF 120 ACRES IN THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 16, OCTOBER, 1841, BOUNDED BY VAN AMBURG AND SEITZ (FORMERLY SKEMAN) ROADS. BY 1859 J. CHRISTIAN OWNS THE SOUTH 80 ACRES WITH HOUSE, WHICH LATER BURNED, INDICATED ON THE MAP. THE REMAINING 40 ACRES ARE OWNED BY J. STANFIELD, WITH A HOUSE, WHICH IS STILL STANDING.

IN MARCH, 1846, CHARLES ALSO LOCATED ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (SECTIONS 19 AND 30) WITH CHALLIS ROAD ON THE SECTION LINE, FROM ELDER GEORGE POST, A BAPTIST SOCIETY MINISTER, FROM ALLEGHENY COUNTY, NEW YORK. JUST NE OF THE DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER, PERHAPS UNDER CINEMA DRIVE, CHARLES SET UP A BRICK YARD. "HERE HE MADE THE FIRST BRICKS MADE IN THE TOWNSHIP." THESE WERE DESIGNATED TO BE USED FOR CHIMNEYS. "...NO RESIDENT AT THE TIME HAVING ASPIRED TO THE LUXURY OF A BRICK DWELLING." (1880 HISTORY) THE BRIGHTON MALL OCCUPIES THE REMAINDER OF THAT SITE.

IN 1846 CHARLES ALSO OWNS 160 ACRES IN SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SECTION 18 AND BUILT A BRICK HOUSE ON THE WEST SIDE OF HUNTER ROAD ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$ MILES SOUTH OF HYNE. IN 1895 THE NAME OF SON-IN-LAW, JOHN HUNTER, IS NOTED ON THE EAST HALF OF THIS PIECE WITH SON FRANK'S NAME ON THE WEST 80. FRANK ALSO OWNED 60 ACRES IN THE SW $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 9, ON HYNE ROAD EAST OF OLD 23 (HARTLAND/FLINT ROAD). WE BELIEVE MAPLE LAWN FARM IS THE NAME GIVEN THIS SITE. A PRINCIPLE SOURCE OF INCOME IS FROM HIS CUSTOM THRESHING BUSINESS. NORMALLY SET UP IN A FARMER'S BARN YARD, THE HUGE THRESHING MACHINE WAS PROBABLY STEAM DRIVEN. THE GRAIN WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT, BUNDLED AND BROUGHT TO THE YARD FOR THRESHING. THE GRAIN WAS FUNNELED INTO WAITING BAGS, THE STRAW FORMING AN IMMENSE GOLDEN STACK. A SECOND PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, A PORTABLE SAW MILL, WAS ANOTHER MEANS OF PROVIDING FOR HIS FAMILY. THIS WAS PROBABLY STEAM POWERED EARLY ON AND LATER BY A GASOLINE ENGINE. FRANK'S SEVEN CHILDREN, THREE OF WHICH WERE BOYS, MUST HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE LABOR ENTAILED WITH RUNNING A FARM AND A BUSINESS. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY ATLASSES; BILL PLESS' SUPPLEMENT TO VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS; 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; OBITUARIES AND EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY BY MILTON CHARBONEAU.)