



Trail Tales

APRIL, 1999
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

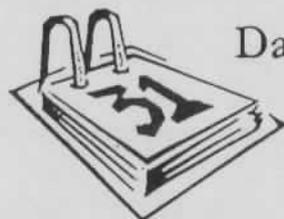
TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS ARE PREPARING CURRICULA, HELPING WITH LABOR AND MAKING MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION OF THIS 114 YEAR OLD RURAL SCHOOL. BOB KING OF LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES IS PREPARING MECHANICAL DRAWINGS IN PREPARATION FOR PLUMBING, HEATING, ELECTRICAL AND INTERIOR TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S AIM, TO CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN'S EARLY DAYS, WILL COME TO FRUITION.

BUILT IN 1885, REPLACING THE LOG SCHOOL OF 1842, THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, REPRESENTS THE VALUE THE SETTLERS PLACED ON THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS.

ADDITIONS TO THE FRAME BUILDING OVER THE YEARS SHOW HOW A BUILDING CAN REMAIN USEFUL. WHEN IMPROVED HEATING AND SANITARY FACILITIES BECAME AVAILABLE THE FIRST ADDITION WAS MADE. THEN IT WAS ADAPTED FOR USE AS A TOWNSHIP HALL WITH A SECOND ADDITION. BOTH OF THESE WILL SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE RELATING TO PRESERVATION AND RESEARCH. WHEN NOT SERVING AS A CLASS ROOM THE ORIGINAL PORTION CAN HOST SMALL GATHERINGS; PERHAPS NOT TOO UNLIKE THE BOX SOCIALS, HOLIDAY PROGRAMS, TOWNSHIP MEETINGS, ETC., OF ITS EARLIER DAYS.

ALTHO' MUCH EFFORT IS BEING DONATED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THIS PROJECT, COLD, HARD CASH IS STILL NEEDED. THE SOCIETY IS A 501(c)3 INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION. CONTRIBUTIONS CAN HELP YOU AS WELL AS PRESERVE AND DISSEMINATE THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.



Dates to Remember:

- * APR 6, 13, 20, 27, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- * 14, 5-8 P.M. AND 27, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 19, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME. NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM 4TH MONDAY.

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: JOHN ALLEN (FL), *DON & RICCI BANDKAU, *BERNIE & BONNIE CORRIGAN, **GILLULY-KINGSLEY CAMP, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, *HORNUNG ELEMENTARY PTO, *JEANETTE JOHNSON, *HAROLD P. LEITZ, *BILL & BARBARA MCCRIE, RON & JILL MOREY (MILAN), *DOUG & CAROL REARICK, *SCRANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA, *PAT & MARGE WHITE, *FRANCES NAUSS YOUNG.

BUS/PROF: *BOSS ENGINEERING (HOWELL), BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK, *BRIGHTON FORD-MERCURY, *MICHAEL P. HATTY, ATTY, *PYRAMID CONCRETE INC, *SHERIFF DON HOMAN, *SOMEWHERE IN TIME, *STANLEY HOME BUILDERS, *WOODLAND PARK/SALES, *YUM YUM TREE.

COUPLES/INDIV: JERRY & LISA CAVE (OO), BERNICE CHAPPEL, FLORENCE CHASE, BILL & MARIANNE COMISKEY, LESLIE HEALY, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST, DON & ALICE WYLAND.

*MEMBERSHIPS VIA LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT SETTLER'S GROUP+ DONATIONS. WELCOME.
**OTHER NEW MEMBERS. WELCOME!

MEMBERSHIP DUES COVER THE SOCIETY'S ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND ARE WHAT KEEPS YOUR SOCIETY VIABLE. PATRON AND BUS/PROF DUES HELP KEEP THE GENERAL FUND IN THE BLACK.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...MANY HIEKKINEN FOR THE NEW LOOK OF TRAIL TALES. MANY 'LOOKS GREAT' COMMENTS RECEIVED.

...ERV AND DOT BANDKAU AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR HELPING GET THE MARCH NEWSLETTER MAILED.

...WHITNEY KIMBLE FOR 1. A CERTIFICATE OF CAPITOL STOCK IN MICHIGAN MILITARY ACADEMY, ISLAND LAKE TO JOHN GAMBLE, JUNE 12, 1918, 2. DEPOSIT SLIP FROM THE BHS STUDENT FUND (\$59.25), JANUARY 2, 1934, 3. CANCELLED CHECK FROM BHS TO MIDWEST ASSEMBLIES (\$20.), NOVEMBER 26, 1940, 4. EARLY BLANK BRIGHTON STATE BANK CHECKS, ETC.

...MERRILL AND RUTH HERBST FOR A DONATION IN ADDITION TO DUES.

...DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT: HENRY & LINDA ASHER, BOB & TILLIE BITTEN, FLORENCE CHASE, JOE & PAULINE CHENOWETH, COLOR TILE, JOE & IRENE ELLIS, GENERAL NUTRITION CENTER, HARRIS & LITURSKI, HEARTLAND HOUSE, LAKELAND'S GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, JEAN LIETZAU, GLORIA MCCONNELL (S.C.), MEIER'S THRIFTY ACRES, PFEFFER & HANNIFORD, STEVE & LISA SCOTT, NORMA CONELY SMITH, BILL & GEORGIANA VAILLIENCOURT, LINDA WARRICK.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR THEIR PERSISTENCE IN RECTIFYING AND EDITING THE VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS. THE RESULTS INCLUDE A MAP WITH NAMED LOCATIONS OF BURIAL SITES.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: WORK IS PROCEEDING ON BRINGING THE HISTORY BOOK OF SOCIETY ACTIVITIES UP TO DATE. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO PROVIDE TWO CLASSES OF MALTBY MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH INFORMATION OF THE AREA'S EARLY HISTORY. STUDENTS ALSO CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS. MAY 12, THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELPING PREPARE AN ALL DAY PROGRAM ON LOCAL HISTORY FOR STUDENTS OF HORNUNG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: AT A RECENT CITY COUNCIL MEETING BIDS FOR THE LANDSCAPE WORK AT THE CEMETERY WERE APPROVED. WORK SHOULD BEGIN SOON.

LYONS SCHOOL: BROCHURES DESCRIBING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION OF THIS BUILDING HAVE BEEN PREPARED. INCLUDED IS AN APPEAL FOR THE NEEDED FUNDING. DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDERS GROUP (\$1000.+), THE PIONEERS GROUP (\$500.+) AND THE SETTLERS GROUP (\$100.+) ARE BEING RECEIVED. THESE DONATIONS WILL BE COMMEMORATED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER. CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED. NOT ONLY WILL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION, THE BUILDING WILL FUNCTION AS A MEETING SITE AND AS A RESEARCH FACILITY. CALL 810/229-6402 FOR A BROCHURE DETAILING THE PURPOSE AND PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT.

LEE HOUSE: "IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAS A SPOT FOR THE HOUSE. THEY ARE AWAITING APPROVAL FROM THE (FIRST PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCH IN ORDER TO MOVE IT:", REPORTS PHIL SMITH, CO CHAIRMAN OF THE 'SAVE THE LEE HOUSE' COMMITTEE. PERHAPS THE STRUGGLE TO AVOID DEMOLITION OF ONE OF BRIGHTON'S EARLIEST, AND MOST IMPRESSIVE, HOMES APPEARS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...SOMEONE TO SERVE AS SOCIETY SECRETARY. THE JOB ENTAILS THE RECORDING OF BOARD DECISIONS AND CHAIRMAN REPORTS, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THESE MINUTES TO BOARD MEMBERS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING.

...SOMEONE TO ORGANIZE THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR IN AUGUST. PREVIOUS CHAIRMEN WILL BE GLAD TO HELP.

...SOMEONE TO ORGANIZE A SOCIETY ENTRY IN THE JULY 4TH PARADE.

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, IS SHOWN ON THE 1998 TILE. THIS, AND THE OTHER LOCAL SCENES ON TILES, MAKE A FINE GIFT. THE STOCK OF EARLIER TILES IS STEADILY BEING REDUCED. CHECK WHICH ONES YOU NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR COLLECTION BEFORE THEY'RE GONE. A LIMITED NUMBER IS MADE EACH YEAR. TILES ARE AVAILABLE AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN. \$8.00 EACH OR 3/\$21.00.

TOTE BAGS @ \$15. AND MUGS @ \$5. ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. THESE, AND NOTE PAPER @ 2.50 ALL FEATURE THE OLD TOWN HALL. POST CARDS OF EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES, 6/\$3.00 AND 11"x14" PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM, c. 1940 FOR \$25.00, CAN BE BOUGHT BY CALLING 810/229-6402.

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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

APRIL 9,10: LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE FEATURING ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS - WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY. 313/577-4003. FRIDAY: TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY IN OUR SCHOOLS, SATURDAY: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF ORAL HISTORY.

APRIL 11, 10-4:30: GENEALOGY AND HISTORY BOOK FAIR, LANSING CENTER, 333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING. 517/332-0123.

APRIL 14: 7-9, NOSTALGIA ANTIQUE WILL BE OFFERING A CLASS ON ANTIQUE POTTERY AND ON MAY 21: 7-9, FURNITURE. 810/229-4710 FOR RESERVATIONS.

APRIL 20, 7:30: BARN PRESERVATION. HARTLAND AREA HIST. SOC. 810/632-5200 FOR SEATING.

APRIL 22-24: MICHIGAN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION NETWORK, 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, "DOING IT RIGHT - GETTING THE RESULTS YOU WANT THRU PRESERVATION." MONROE. 248/625-8181.

MAY 6, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. HOWELL. 227-1760.

MAY 14: ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE. PORTAGE, MI. c/o GREENMEAD, 20501 NEWBURGH RD., LIVONIA. 48152-1098. LAUGH, TALK, SING, LEARN, REMINISCE.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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. REV. EDWIN P. BRUCE'S ELMHURST IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

IN A REPORT ON RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP IN THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, WRITER JOHN ELLIS NOTES THE EARLY BEGINNINGS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH IN THE AREA. MARCH 9, 1873, THE PLEASANT VALLEY CONGREGATION WAS ORGANIZED, MEETING IN THE LOG ONE ROOM LYONS SCHOOL HOUSE. IN SPRING, 1874, IT WAS DECIDED TO BUILD A CHURCH ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF PLEASANT VALLEY AND JACOBY ROADS. BY THAT FALL THE 48'x32' STRUCTURE WAS COMPLETED, REPORTED TO BE ABLE TO SEAT 250, AT A COST OF \$1727.50, ALL OF WHICH WAS PAID BY SUBSCRIPTION. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE MEMBERS, LIVING IN TOWN, FORMED ANOTHER SOCIETY. (A FIVE MILE BUGGY RIDE TO ATTEND SERVICES WAS PROBABLY FOUND TO BE TOO DIFFICULT.)

IN SEPTEMBER, 1877, REV. EDWIN W. BRUCE CAME TO SERVE IN BOTH THE VALLEY CHURCH, AND THE CHURCH IN TOWN. TO ADEQUATELY SERVE THE CONGREGATIONS BEING FORMED IN THE COUNTY, PASTORS ALTERNATED SUNDAYS HOLDING SERVICES AT THE VARIOUS SITES.

EDWIN BRUCE HAD MARRIED MARGERY L. KING IN 1870 IN INDIANA. HE HAD BEEN PREACHING THERE SINCE 1871 AND WAS ORDAINED A WESLEYAN METHODIST PREACHER IN 1873. HIS OBITUARY INDICATES HIS PASTORATE IN THIS AREA, 1878-79, WAS FOLLOWED WITH 33 YEARS OF WORK WITH THAT ORGANIZATION. FOR SIX YEARS HE TAUGHT THEOLOGY AT HAIGHTON, NEW YORK. FOR 20 YEARS HE SERVED AS SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN MICHIGAN. HE ALSO HAD PARISHES IN HART, JACKSON, OKEMOS AND WILLIAMSTON, MICHIGAN.

PASTOR BRUCE AND MARGERY RETURNED TO BRIGHTON TO SERVE AT THE WESLEYAN CHURCH IN 1912-14. DURING THE SUMMERS HE TENDED A SMALL FRUIT FARM BUSINESS, ELMHURST, CONDUCTING EVANGELISTIC WORK THROUGHOUT THE STATE DURING THE WINTER.

THE 1915 ATLAS INCLUDES PASTOR BRUCE'S NAME ON TWO PIECES OF LAND IN SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. ONE OF WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 60 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HILTON ROAD WITH ORE CREEK BISECTING IT. (IT WOULD APPEAR THE DAM WHICH FORMS WOODLAND LAKE WAS LATER LOCATED ON THIS PIECE.) THE OTHER IS 16 ACRES ON GRAND RIVER AT THE END OF HILTON ROAD, WHERE A RESIDENCE IS INDICATED. (IN 1999, A STANDARD SERVICE STATION IS LOCATED ON THE SITE.)

OF THE FIVE CHILDREN BORN TO THE BRUCES ONLY TWO REMAINED AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH IN 1916; SON, RICHARD, LIVING IN CLEVELAND AND DAUGHTER, HATTIE WALDRON, IN LANSING. PERHAPS THERE WAS A SPECIAL AFFINITY FOR BRIGHTON (HIS FIRST CALL) THAT BOTH EDWIN AND MARGERY ARE BURIED AT FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. FOR A TIME THEY LIVED AT 407 E. GRAND RIVER, "...NOW OCCUPIED BY MR. WESTIN" (PER MARGERY'S OBITUARY, 1928).

THE 1915 ATLAS SHOWS THE PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH. WHEN DID THE LITTLE CHURCH CLOSE, WHEN WAS IT REMOVED, IS IT POSSIBLE THERE IS A PHOTO EXTANT? (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, EARLY ATLASSES, ASSISTANCE OF JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ALWAYS WELCOME.)