



## Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

# Trail Tales

AUGUST, 1999  
Vol. XVIII No. 8

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

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### LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, IS BEING RESTORED TO FUNCTION AS A ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND MUSEUM. UPON COMPLETION EVERYONE IN THE AREA CAN BE PROUD TO HAVE HAD A HAND IN THIS PROJECT. THE END RESULT WILL PROVIDE A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

STUDENTS WILL UNDERGO A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHILDREN IN EARLY MICHIGAN AND HOW THEY WERE EDUCATED; AN EDUCATION WHICH STOOD THEM IN GOOD STEAD FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. BRIGHTON DISTRICT TEACHERS ARE AT WORK PLANNING A CURRICULUM FOR USE WHEN THE CHILDREN VISIT.

ADULTS WILL SENSE A GLIMPSE OF AREA HISTORY AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT HISTORIC RESEARCH IN A LOCAL FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE.

MUCH LABOR HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED; THE INTERIOR IS READY FOR RECONSTRUCTION. MUCH MORE LABOR IS NEEDED.

FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. MUCH MORE IS NEEDED.

THIS PROJECT MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF THE ENTIRE BRIGHTON AREA. GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN REGARD TO YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ENSURE THE TIMELY COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT.

THE SOCIETY HAS 501(c)3 STATUS: DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. NOTE THE DONATION IS FOR THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT. ALL DONATIONS ARE RECOGNIZED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. ALL DONATIONS \$100.00 OR MORE WILL BE MEMORIALIZED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR FUTURE COMMEMORATION. DONATIONS MAY BE SENT THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481.



### Dates to Remember:

- AUG. 12, 19, 26, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.  
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 11, 5-8 P.M. AND 24, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
  - \* 14, 9-1 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL WORKDAY.
  - \* 23, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: BOB & TILLIE BITTEN (00), \*DALE HERMSEN, MIKE & JAN WOODFORD (00), BERNON & BARBARA YOUNG (FL 00)

COUPLES/INDIV: \*RAYMOND & KAY CLEVINGER, \*PIET & JANE LINDHOUT, BILL & BARBARA MC CRIRIE (00), DOROTHY O'JACK (AZ).

\*NEW MEMBERS. A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS. CONTINUED GROWTH IS VERY NECESSARY TO THE SOCIETY'S VITALITY.

EXTRA COPIES OF TRAIL TALES ARE DELIVERED TO ABOUT 80 AREA BUSINESSES IN AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE AWARENESS OF THE SOCIETY, ITS PURPOSES, GOALS AND PROJECTS. ALMOST 400 ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THIS MANNER.

IT IS ASSUMED THOSE CARING ENOUGH TO READ TRAIL TALES WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CONTINUE ITS EXISTENCE BY A DUES PAYMENT OR A CONTRIBUTION TO THIS EXPENSE.

THE SOCIETY CONSISTS OF MEMBERS WHO GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEER TIME, LABOR, FUNDS TO PROMOTE ITS MISSION. COMMUNITY SUPPORT CONFIRMS THEIR EFFORTS.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR HELP IN GETTING THE JULY ISSUE OF THE NEWS-LETTER IN THE MAIL.

...BOB & TILLIE BITTEN AND DOROTHY O'JACK FOR DONATIONS SENT WITH DUES.

...RUDY & DOREEN MEFFERT FOR THEIR DONATION.

...BRIGHTON ROTARY, RAY & KAY CLEVINGER, WM & BETTY FRANKLIN (AZ), PIET & JANE LINDHOUT, NATIONAL CITY CORP., AND MARGARET SQUIRE FOR DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT.

...STAN SCHAFFER (SCHAFFER CONST., INC.) AND ED BOTTUM FOR CLEANING THE ATTIC IN THE SCHOOL AND MOVING A WALL IN THE FURNACE/REST ROOM AREA.

...FIRE CHIEF LARRY LANE FOR USE OF SCAFFOLDING IN THE SCHOOL.

...DAVE ELDRED (ELDRED & SONS) FOR RESEARCHING THE SEPTIC FIELD AT THE SCHOOL.

...STEVE DAWDY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR USE OF A DUMPSTER.

...NANCY FREDENBURG FOR SETTING UP THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE FARMERS' MARKET AND AT THE SUNDAY CONCERTS AT THE MILL POND. NANCY WILL BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN HER.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: MEETING THURSDAYS, 1-3 P.M. THIS GROUP HAS COMPILED SOCIETY HISTORY UP TO 1999. A REVIEW OF THIS SCRAPBOOK PROMOTES PRIDE IN THE SOCIETY'S EFFORTS IN THE PAST. BRIGHTON ARGUES OF THE MID 1950s ARE BEING REVIEWED FOR ARCHIVAL FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 FOR CONFIRMATION.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, LOOKING FORWARD TO PUBLICATION IN Y2K.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: ALTHO' LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, DESECRATION OF SOME OF THE SMALL FLAGS AT EACH VETERAN'S MARKER HAS OCCURRED. PLEASE CALL BRIGHTON POLICE, 227-2700, TO REPORT VANDALISM. MARBLE SHAFTS IDENTIFYING A VETERAN'S GRAVE WILL BE DELIVERED SOON. THERE IS A DELIVERY CHARGE OF C. \$2500.00. DESCENDANTS OF THESE VETERANS MAY WISH TO HELP WITH THIS EXPENSE WITH AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE SOCIETY.

LYONS SCHOOL: SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 9-1, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR ANOTHER WORK DAY. WEAR GRUBBIES AND BRING A HAMMER OR OTHER TOOL. A MAJOR ACTIVITY WILL INCLUDE CLEANING THE CEILING.

THIS WILL ALSO BE THE LAST DAY DONATIONS MAY BE MADE FOR ITEMS FOR WHICH THE SOCIETY HAS NO USE. INCLUDED ARE: MOUNTED TIRES, JACKS AND EXTERIOR MIRRORS FOR USE WITH A CAMPER, DINING ROOM TABLE WITH 3 LEAVES IN WOOD BOX AND MATCHING SIDEBOARD, WOOD IRONING BOARD, LARGE PICTURE FRAMES, 4 GALLON GAS COFFEE URN, LAMP/SHADE, LOG MAKER, CAST IRON BATHROOM SINK, ATTIC FAN IN FRAME, DOORS, DOUBLE HUNG WINDOWS, COLLECTION 78 RPMs, GAMES, C. 1950 BELL/HOWELL MOVIE PROJECTOR, METAL SCHOOL DESKS. THESE ARE TAKING UP NEEDED SPACE. WHATEVER IS LEFT WILL HAVE TO BE PLACED IN THE DUMPSTER.

ROBERT BITTEN  
CLIFF RITTER  
GERALD SWANN

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SINCERE SYMPATHIES TO THEIR FAMILIES. ALL HAVE BEEN LONG TIME MEMBERS.

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, CAN BE SEEN 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., MUGS \$5., SUPPLIES  
DWINDLING; POST CARDS PKG 6/\$3. EARLY  
LOCAL STREET SCENES; NOTE PAPER \$2.50;  
11"x14" PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND  
DAM, c. 1940, \$25. 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 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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

\* AUG. 21, 1-4 P.M. GREEN OAK DAY AT THE  
GAGE HOUSE MUSEUM, 6440 KENSINGTON ROAD.  
MUSEUM OPEN AUGUST WEEKENDS, 1-4 P.M.

\* SEPT. 17-19 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
MICHIGAN 125TH ANNUAL MEETING, KALAMAZOO.

\* SEPT. 25, 8:45-1 P.M. MICHIGAN HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION NETWORK WORKSHOP ON YOUR  
ELIGIBILITY FOR 25% STATE TAX CREDIT  
WHEN RESTORING YOUR HISTORIC PROPERTY.  
REGISTRATION DUE SEPTEMBER 20.

\* SEPT/NOV. 1 & 2 DAY SEMINARS; COMMU-  
NITY FOUNDATION OF SE MICHIGAN. "TOUCH  
THE FUTURE" SHARPEN FUND RAISING SKILLS  
AND LEARN HOW TO BUILD A PERMANENT ENDOW-  
MENT. HOW TO ENCOURAGE PLANNED GIVING.

SEPT/DEC. TRAIN TOURS. BLUEWATER MICHIGAN  
CHAPTER NRHS, P O BOX 296, ROYAL  
OAK, MI 48068.

\* OCT. 28-30 MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL  
COUNCIL, TRAVERSE CITY. LIST OF PROGRAMS/  
SPEAKERS AVAILABLE.

\* CALL 810/229-6402.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### AREA FARMERS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. JOHN CARLTON HICKS' MEADOW GREEN STOCK FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

ONE FINDS THE HICKS NAME IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY IN THE 1830s. THIS WRITER HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE HICKS, THAT ALSO CAME FROM NEW YORK, TO THOSE WHO SETTLED IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP BY 1859.

AZARIAH HICKS AND HIS WIFE, PHOEBE, ARE OWNERS OF RECORD OF 40 ACRES IN SECTION 20 (CORNER HILTON/HUNTER ROADS) IN 1860. IT APPEARS THE ENTIRE FAMILY, INCLUDING GRAND CHILDREN, CAME AS A WHOLE TO THE AREA AT THAT TIME. UPON THE DEATH OF AZARIAH, HIS TWO SONS, AZARIAH (JR.) AND WILLIAM WHEATON HICKS, INHERIT THIS PIECE AND ANOTHER 40 ACRES  $\frac{1}{4}$  MILE EAST. BOTH SOON SELL THESE PROPERTIES.

BY 1873, WM. WHEATON SR'S SON, WM. WHEATON JR., IS RECORDED AS OWNER OF 160 ACRES, NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SECTION 21. THIS INCLUDED BOTH SIDES OF SKEMAN ROAD, JUST TOUCHING THE SOUTH SHORE SHORE OF SCHOOL LAKE. (BY THEN JR. IS OVER 50 YEARS OLD. HE'D BEEN BORN IN NEW YORK, 1821, AS WAS SALLY ROSS WHOM HE'D MARRIED IN 1843.) WHEATON AND SALLY HAD SIX CHILDREN: EUGENE, LOIS, ROSS, LAMARTINE, SARAH AND JOHN JAY. SEVERAL OF THESE MARRIED NEIGHBORS

OF ROSS AND EMILY STRETCHS' SIX CHILDREN, JOHN CARLTON (B. 1877, D. 1967) MARRIED EDITH SKEMAN, CONTINUING THE TENDENCY OF NEIGHBOR MARRYING NEIGHBOR. C. 1900, WITH MAXFIELD ROAD DIVIDING IT ALMOST IN HALF, JOHN C. AND EDITH ARE OWNERS OF MEADOW GREEN STOCK FARM; 160 ACRES IN THE NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 3. BY THEN MUCH OF THE WOODED WILDERNESS HAD GIVEN WAY TO THE AXE AND PLOW. AS THE NAME IMPLIES JOHN RAISED FINE CATTLE AND THE VARIETY OF GRAINS AND GRASSES NECESSARY FOR THEM TO RETURN A PROFIT. FATHER ROSS HAD OWNED MUCH OF THAT IN PRIOR YEARS. JOHN AND EDITH HAD FOUR CHILDREN, TWO OF WHICH DIED IN INFANCY. (RESEARCH REMINDS US OFTEN OF THE LACK OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE WHICH RESULTED IN SO MANY DYING AT AN EARLY AGE.)

JOHN CARLTON, HIS SIBLINGS AND DESCENDENTS OF THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 19TH CENTURY, AND THEIR SPOUSES, CONTROLLED LARGE AMOUNTS OF LAND IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. THIS HELD TRUE AS LATE AS 1961. THIS PROSPEROUS FAMILY WAS WELL AWARE OF THE HARD WORK INVOLVED. ALL WERE INDUSTRIOUS AND PARTICIPATED IN THE AREA'S DEVELOPMENT, ITS POLITICS AND ITS SOCIAL LIFE. EARLIER, GRANDFATHER WM. WHEATON, HAD SERVED AS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR FOR SIX YEARS. JOHN C.'S UNCLE EUGENE IS NOTED AS SCHOOL INSPECTOR DURING THE MID TO LATE 1870s, AS SUPERVISOR IN 1897 AND LATER SERVING IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE. THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR MANY OF THE HICKS IS IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY SETTLERS AND LAND OWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COPIED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ALSO EARLY ATLASES AND CENSUS RECORDS. CORRECTIONS/ ADDITIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. 810/229-6402)