



## Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

[HTTP://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS](http://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS)

# Trail Tales

DECEMBER 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

TO CONTINUE THE RESTORATION OF THIS UNIQUE BUILDING, 11455 BUNO ROAD, MUCH VOLUNTEER WORK HAS BEEN DEDICATED BY MANY.

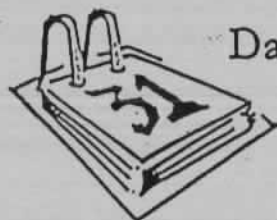
HOWEVER MATERIALS (EVEN AT COST), INSTALLATION OF PLUMBING, HEATING, ELECTRICAL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS, ETC. (EVEN AT A DISCOUNT) NEED TO BE PAID WITH COLD, HARD CASH.

MANY HAVE CONTRIBUTED THIS PAST YEAR. ANOTHER \$40,000.00 WILL BRING THIS RESTORATION EFFORT TO THE DESIRED END - TO PROVIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION, A MEETING FACILITY, ARCHIVE RESEARCH AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY THE SOCIETY'S MANY PHOTOS AND ARTIFACTS ARE AN ADDED BENEFIT.

THE BRIGHTON AREA HAS THE DISTINCT PRIVILEGE OF A 124 YEAR OLD BUILDING IN ITS MIDST WHICH CAN BE PUT TO SUCH SIGNIFICANT USE.

SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE THE RESTORATION EFFORT. YOUR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS WILL ASSURE ITS TIMELY COMPLETION.

THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A NON PROFIT 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FEDERAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. NEED MORE INFORMATION? CALL CHRIS WARD, 229-0560 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402.



### Dates to Remember:

DEC. 9, 16, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.  
CALL 180/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.

\* 8, 5-8 P.M. AND 21, 1-5 P.M. FOR  
GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.

JAN. 1. HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: \*ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, Inc., BIG/PDQ.

PATRON: WHITNEY AND JUNE KIMBLE.

COUPLES/INDIV: ROBERT & DIANE ASSENMACHER, ERV & DOT BANDKAU, MR. & MRS. LEON BONNER (NORTHVILLE), MARIAN CARNEY, GENE & JUDY DAHLIN, HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER (IL), EMIL & JOAN ENGEL, BOB & BETSEY HERBST, PAT & MARLENE FONSECA (AZ), \*EMILY F. HICKS, BILL & HELEN HYNNE (CHELSEA), BOB & PAULINE SCHAFFER.

\*A SINCERE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS AND EMILY FRENCH HICKS.

THE ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND THE RENEWALS OF MEMBERSHIPS (OVER 86% IN 1999) ARE A SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE FOR SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS - WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.

A LOOK AT THE ADDRESS LABEL OF THIS ISSUE WILL TELL FOR WHICH YEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS PAID. "99" MEANS YOU ARE A MEMBER FOR 1999. "00" INDICATES YOU ARE A MEMBER FOR 2000. NO NUMBER, OR AN ISSUE STAMPED "COMPLIMENTARY COPY" SAYS "I'M INTERESTED BUT NOT ENOUGH TO BECOME A MEMBER." (A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PRINTING COSTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.)

ANNUALLY, IN DECEMBER, A REVIEW IS MADE OF THE MAILING LIST. THE SOCIETY BELIEVES THERE IS VALUE IN THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF TRAIL TALES. HOWEVER THE EXPENSE MUST BE RECOVERED. RECIPIENTS OF TRAIL TALES WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS, AND WHO HAVE MADE NO CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPENSE INVOLVED MUST BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING NO INTEREST IN THE SOCIETY AND ITS ACTIVITIES. THE REVIEW COMMITTEE MUST MAKE A DECISION WHETHER TO CONTINUE MAILING TO UNINTERESTED PERSONS.

THE SOCIETY IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. PROCEEDS FROM FUND RAISERS ARE ALL DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS, I.E. ORAL HISTORY, LYONS SCHOOL, ARCHIVES, ETC. YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES OF THE SOCIETY IS ESSENTIAL.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR HELPING MAIL THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.

...BERNIE YOUNG (FLORIDA) FOR THE GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF THE YOUNG, BROWN AND THEIR CONNECTION TO THE MORGAN FAMILY.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: MEETING 6-8 HOURS EACH MONTH THIS COMMITTEE IS MAKING HEADWAY ON CLIPPING AND FILING STORIES OF HISTORICAL VALUE FROM BRIGHTON ARGUSES OF 1950/1960. WHEN INDEXED THE INFORMATION WILL BE OF HELP IN ANSWERING QUERIES OF AN HISTORICAL NATURE. (AND MANY ARE RECEIVED.)

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: THIS IS SOON TO BE PUBLISHED DUE TO THE HERCULEAN EFFORTS OF CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957. VARIOUS FINANCING PLANS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALK, BY THE DDA, WILL ENHANCE THE RESTORATION OF THIS FIRST CEMETERY IN BRIGHTON. THE MARKERS BEING INSTALLED WILL PROVIDE PROPER IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTE APPRECIATION FOR THE SACRIFICES MADE BY VETERANS FROM THE AREA.

ORAL HISTORY: ALENE ANDERSON (CHARLEVOIX) AND ARLA STUHRBERG ARE THE LATEST TO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY LORRY WAGNER. SHE AND THE SOCIETY ARE GRATEFUL TO THESE LADIES FOR THEIR TIME AND MEMORIES. A "HOW TO" PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT. EVERYONE'S STORY HAS VALUE.

...JANICE BEACH FOR THE SEVERAL RECORD BOOKS FROM THE OLD RATZ HARDWARE.

...BOB & DIANE ASSENMACHER, ERV & DOT BANDKAU, MARIAN CARNEY AND EMILY HICKS FOR THE DONATIONS SENT WITH THEIR DUES.

...THE ANN ARBOR NEWS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

...ALENE ANDERSON (CHARLEVOIX) WHO SENT A PHOTO OF THE FOLDENOUR FAMILY C. 1900.

...ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BOARD AND COMMITTEE PERSONS FOR THEIR DEDICATION, BELIEF IN AND PERSEVERANCE TOWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE SOCIETY'S GOALS AND PROJECTS. NO PRESIDENT COULD HAVE ASKED FOR A MORE SUPPORTIVE GROUP.

...PAT & MARLENE FONSECA (AZ) AND TO SHERYL VIGMOSTAD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION EXPENSES.

IN 500 BC, THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER HERACLITUS STATED. "THERE IS NOTHING PERMANENT EXCEPT CHANGE."

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: ( ) \$50.00 PATRON ( ) \$25.00 COUPLE ( ) \$2.00 STUDENT (K-12, COLLEGE)  
( ) \$50.00 BUS/PROF. ( ) \$15.00 INDIVIDUAL ( ) \$500.00 LIFE

DONATION: ( ) \$10.00 ( ) \$20.00 ( ) \$50.00 ( ) \$100.00 ( ) \$ OTHER.

THE SOCIETY IS A 501(C)3 INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION.

\*HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS: ARCHIVES, HISTORY BOOK, HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, HISTORIC SITE RESTORATION/REGISTRATION/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, PILLOW.

\*\*\*ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY: BOARD/OFFICER/COMMITTEE MEMBER, NEWSLETTER, PUBLICITY.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES, PKG OF 6/\$3.; MUGS @ \$5.; TOTE BAGS @ \$15.; NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50; 11x14 PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM @ \$25.; COPIES OF 1875 PLAT MAPS OF BRIGHTON, GENOA, GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIP AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR \$1. MAKE AN INTERESTING DISPLAY; NEEDLEPOINT KITS \$8. SHOW THE OLD TOWN HALL. ALL THE ABOVE AT 810/229-6402.

COVERLETS, RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. \$49. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN.

A TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$28., GOES WELL WITH THE COVERLETS. 810/229-9100 TO ORDER.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT, ON WHICH ARE EMBROIDERED SIGNATURES FOR A DONATION OF \$10.00, HAS SPACE FOR YOURS. SEND IN YOUR SIGNATURE OF THAT OF A RELATIVE. A FILE OF SIGNATURES OF EARLY RESIDENTS IS AVAILABLE. YOUR DONATION IS AN APPROPRIATE AND SIMPLE WAY TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES.

TILES: 13 DIFFERENT LOCAL SITES, ARE SHOWN ON BLACK/WHITE 6" SQUARE CERAMIC TILES. THESE ARE ALL LIMITED EDITIONS. NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN, HAS THEM IN STOCK AT \$8.00 OR 3/\$21.00.

NOT SURE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE SOCIETY?

WHETHER A MEMBER OR NOT YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED.

LYONS SCHOOL: INSTALLATION OF INSULATION, RESTORATION OF DESKS, ETC., BECOME A 'FRIEND OF LYONS SCHOOL'.

ORAL HISTORY: BECOME AN INTERVIEWER OR AN INTERVIEWEE.

FUND RAISING: PROMOTE THE SALE OF TILES, PILLOWS, COVERLETS, ETC., ETC.

PUBLICITY: PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES TO THE PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA ON A REGULAR BASIS.

TRANSCRIPTION OF CEMETERIES: PREPARE AN ORDERLY RECORD OF THOSE BURIED IN AREA CEMETERIES, INCLUDING NAMES, DATES, LOCATION, ETC.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: EARLY FARMS AND/OR FOR HISTORIC SITE REGISTRATION AND MARKER INSTALLATION.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS/PROFESSIONALS HAVE BECOME MEMBERS IN 1999. THEY SHOULD BE PATRONIZED.

ANN ARBOR NEWS, BOSS ENGINEERING, BRIGHTON CHRYSLER, BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK, BRIGHTON FORD/MERCURY, BRIGHTON PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE, INC. FENCE SPOT, GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND, SUE HAMILTON, MICHAEL P. HATTY, DON HOMAN, BRIAN LAVAN, LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER OF BRIGHTON, MCKENNA ASSOCIATES, MCNAMEE, PORTER & SEELEY, PETER MCNENLY, OLD KENT BANK, PDQ BIG, PYRAMID CONCRETE, INC., SOMEWHERE IN TIME, STANLEY HOME BUILDERS, WOODLAND PARK/SALES, YUM YUM TREE.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. JOHN W. HUNTER'S CHERRY HILL FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

IT WAS 8171 WHEN WILLIAM AND RACHAEL HUNTER ARRIVED IN THE SOUTH LYON AREA FROM ONTARIO, CANADA. JOHN HUNTER'S PARENTS HAD BEEN BORN IN SCOTLAND, AS WERE SEVERAL OF HIS EIGHT SIBLINGS, BEFORE MIGRATING TO A NEW LIFE.

JOHN'S CHERRY HILL FARM LAY IN THE E $\frac{1}{2}$  OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 18, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP AND THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 19 (ON THE WEST SIDE OF HUNTER ROAD APPROXIMATELY  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILE NORTH OF HILTON ROAD) A TOTAL OF 120 ACRES. PRIOR TO C. 1900 THESE, AND OTHER TRACTS OF REAL ESTATE IN SECTIONS 18 AND 19 HAD BEEN BOUGHT FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES WITH A TOTAL OF 200 ACRES (INCLUDING JOHN'S 120) FOUND IN CHARLES PROSSER'S NAME BY 1846.

JANUARY 1, 1879, AT THE AGE OF 22, JOHN AND HATTIE PROSSER, CHARLES' DAUGHTER, WERE MARRIED. THE 1895 ATLAS LISTS JOHN AS OWNER OF 120 ACRES AND IT IS ASSUMED HE CONTINUED THE FARMING PRACTICES OF HIS FATHER-IN-LAW. JOHN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, FRANK, OWNS THE OTHER 80 (PLUS MORE NEAR BY).

IN 1910 JOHN IS EMPLOYED AS A RURAL ROUTE MAIL CARRIER FOR THE BRIGHTON POST OFFICE. THIS OCCUPATION HE HELD UNTIL ONE YEAR BEFORE HIS DEATH IN 1926. BOTH JOHN AND HATTIE ARE BURIED IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY.

JOHN AND HATTIE HAD FOUR CHILDREN. ONE DIED AS AN INFANT. AT THE TIME OF JOHN'S FUNERAL THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER, MINA, WAS MARRIED TO T. A. KIDD AND LIVED IN ANN ARBOR. SON PERRY LIVED IN WYOMING AND SON HOWARD LIVED IN PONTIAC. BROTHERS LEVI, DANIEL, ALPHEUS, ENOCH, WILLIAM AND ROBERT SURVIVED HIM. BROTHERS THOMAS AND JAMES HAD PASSED ON.

THE NAME OF JOHN'S FARM, CHERRY HILL FARM, GIVES US A CLUE TO HIS AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS. THE SITE IS NORTH OF WOODLAND LAKE AND RATHER HILLY. THE MAJORITY OF PROSSER'S ORIGINAL 200 ACRES NOW HOUSES THE WOODLAND HILLS SUBDIVISION NORTH AND SOUTH. PLAT MAPS SHOW THE HOUSE OWNED BY CHARLES PROSSER AND THEN JOHN HUNTER WAS PROBABLY LOCATED SOMEWHERE AROUND THE ENTRANCE TO WOODLAND HILLS SUBDIVISION NORTH. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR AND LISA PALERMO; FROM FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND EARLY OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ALSO FROM EARLY ATLASES. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WILL BE MOST WELCOME.)