



# Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

# Trail Tales

FEBRUARY, 1999  
VOL. XVIII No. 2

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

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR  
MARIEANNA BAIR  
810/229-6402  
VICE PRESIDENT  
JOANNE SWONK  
810/229-7887  
SECRETARY

TREASURER  
MARGE WHITE  
810/227-3968

## DIRECTORS

LISA CAVE  
HIST. RES. SURV.  
810/229-0683

NANCY FREDENBURG  
ORAL HISTORY  
810/229-9100

CAROL McMACKEN  
HISTORY BOOK  
810/231-2957

JIM VICHICH  
LYONS SCHOOL  
810/227-4840

CHRIS WARD  
LYONS SCHOOL  
810/229-0560

## CHAIRPERSONS

TOM & AUDREY LEITH  
MEMBERSHIP  
810/229-6165

ANNE STRATIGOS  
HOSPITALITY  
810/229-5689

HERB WARNER  
LYONS SCHOOL  
810/229-6504

## COLLECTIBLES PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7-9 P.M.

NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES AND COFFEE BOUTIQUE OWNER, CLARENCE HINES, WILL PRESENT A SHORT PROGRAM ON "TODAY'S COLLECTIBLES".

WHAT'S 'DEPRESSION' GLASS? CLARENCE CAN HELP US LEARN. HE WILL TRY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS IF POSSIBLE. AN IN-STORE SCAVENGER HUNT IS PLANNED WITH A PRIZE TO THE WINNER.

THE SOCIETY INVITES THE PUBLIC TO THIS INFORMATIVE EVENT. BRING A FRIEND. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

## FUND RAISING FOR LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION UNDERWAY

CHAIRMAN, CHRIS WARD, BRIGHTON SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JOYCE POWERS, LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES V.P. BOB KING AND SOCIETY PRESIDENT MARIEANNA BAIR, PRESENTED A PROGRAM ON THE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP.

DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURES WERE DISTRIBUTED. ALL THOSE PRESENT, AND CERTAINLY ALL IN THE COMMUNITY, ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROJECT. THIS RESTORATION WILL GIVE ELEMENTARY CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT EDUCATION IN EARLY MICHIGAN BY SPENDING A DAY, OR SEVERAL, AS STUDENTS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. A FITTING COMMEMORATION AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

THIS FRAME STRUCTURE, BUILT IN 1885 TO REPLACE THE 1842 LOG SCHOOL, HAS HAD SEVERAL ADDITIONS. A C. 1927 ADDITION WILL SERVE AS A MUSEUM; A C. 1962 CONCRETE ROOM IN THE BACK WILL BE A FINE STORAGE FACILITY FOR AREA ARCHIVES. (SEE SCHOOL P.3)



## Dates to Remember:

- \* FEB. 9, 16, 23, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
  - \* 10, 5-8 P.M. AND 23, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM. 18, 7-9 P.M. PUBLIC PROGRAM. "TODAY'S COLLECTIBLES". 116 W. MAIN. SEE ABOVE.
  - \* 22, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME.
- \* BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: ERV & DOROTHY BANDKAU, BERNIE & BONNIE CORRIGAN, DOROTHY HARTMAN, MARIE O'DELL.

BUS/PROF: PAULA GARDNER (AA News), \*PETER MCNENLY.

COUPLES/INDIV: WAYNE & SALLY BALDWIN (GR RAP.) \*BECKY CARTIER (HOWELL), LOIS CLARK (MIDLAND), JOE & IRENE ELLIS, MARK & CHARLOTTE GOODIN, HELEN MAE MICHAELS, SHANNON OAK, JOHN G. PARK (FLINT), PHIL & JEANNE SMITH, \*CARMEN STEVENS, WM & GEORGIANA VALLIENCOURT, LORRY WAGNER, WM & CHARMAINE ZINK.

\*PETER, BECKY AND CARMEN ARE NEW MEMBERS. WELCOME! BECKY AND CARMEN'S DUES WERE GIFTS. A MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS A FINE GIFT AND PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIETY AND ITS PROJECTS. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO RENEW. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES CONTINUE TO RISE, I.E. POSTAGE RATES. THE BOARD MUST GIVE CONSIDERATION TO AN INCREASE IN THE DUES STRUCTURE. PATRON AND BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS REALLY HELP A LOT.

## THANKS TO

...NORM CATRELL AND JOHN & JANICE FIELD FOR THEIR HELP IN GETTING THE JANUARY ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES MAILED.

...DONATIONS FROM JESSE B. COOLEY POST #235, AMERICAN LEGION AND MARK & CHARLOTT GOODIN, AND AN ANONYMOUS DONOR.

...ALENE ANDERSON FOR A PHOTO OF BILL PLESS AND KATHERINE STUHRBERG HAMPTON.

...LEE HOUSE PRESERVATION PROJECT DONATIONS FROM LOUIS & PHYLLIS CHMURA, MICHAEL & RENEE GOLEC, RON & SUE KELLY, JOHN & BEV LABELLE, MIKE & JACKIE PERANTONI, MILLTOWN QUESTERS, PHIL & JEANNE SMITH, RICHARD & SARA THOMAS, LORRY WAGNER.

...LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT DONATIONS FROM LOIS CLARK OF MIDLAND, A DESCENDENT OF RICHARD & MARTHA LYONS; AND HELP FROM THE BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS IN DISPLAYING THE SIGN ON THE FENCE.

...PIET LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES FOR THEIR SERVICES.

## SOCIETY SECRETARY NEEDED

BOARD MEETINGS GO SLOWLY WHEN THE PRESIDENT HAS TO TAKE NOTES. CAN YOU, FOR A YEAR, RECORD BOARD MEETING ACTIVITIES? MINUTES AND AGENDA SHOULD BE PREPARED AND MAILED SO THAT BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE THEM SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO VOLUNTEER.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: JOHN AND JANICE FIELD ARE ASSISTING WITH LOCAL RESEARCH. SOMETIMES WE MEET AT A LOCATION OTHER THAN THE LIBRARY. CALL 229-6402 TO CONFIRM THE SITE. TUESDAYS 1-3 P.M. NOT GOOD? LET US KNOW WHEN IS.

WE RECENTLY SPOKE TO THE FOLKS AT THE SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCH ON "ALONG THE TRAIL IN BRIGHTON". TOM LEITH AND LYLE ARE SCHEDULED FOR THIS MONTH. CALL 229-1464 FOR INFO. THESE GENTLEMEN HAVE A FINE MEMORY OF AREA HAPPENINGS 40-50 YEARS AGO. WE WILL BE BACK MARCH 4 TO CONCLUDE (ALONG THE TRAIL IN BRIGHTON".

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, HAS A LOT OF MATERIAL PUT TOGETHER. WANT TO HELP? CALL HER.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: NO WORD YET ON THE HISTORIC SITE REGISTER APPLICATION. TREE AND BRUSH CUTTING WILL BEGIN SOON.

LEE HOUSE: PHIL SMITH, 231-1178, AND LORI WAGNER, 231-3328, ARE CONTINUING THEIR SEARCH FOR A MEANS OF PRESERVING THE LEE/STUHRBERG/RICE HOUSE, 310 E. GRAND RIVER. IT MUST BE REMOVED SOON TO AVOID DEMOLITION. THIS IS, OF COURSE, ON PRIVATE PROPERTY ON WHICH IT IS LOCATED. ONE SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER ONE'S OWN PROPERTY. HOWEVER THIS BUILDING BRINGS TO MIND THE VERY EARLY SETTLERS IN THE AREA AND THE EFFORTS MADE TO SUPPORT ITS DEVELOPMENT. IN THAT SENSE THIS BUILDING IS A VITAL PART OF THIS COMMUNITY. MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY SHOULD BE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE STRUCTURE.

THE DEMOLITION OF THIS BUILDING WILL BE ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HOW LITTLE THIS AREA APPRECIATES THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US. THE BUILDING OF THIS STRUCTURE, C. 1840, DISPLAYS A CONFIDENCE THAT THIS SETTLEMENT WOULD GROW TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL ENTITY IN THE WILDERNESS. BRIGHTON IS NO GHOST TOWN. THE LOSS OF THE LEE HOUSE WOULD BE ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF LIFE BEING SUCKED OUT OF THIS COMMUNITY. BUILDINGS LIKE THIS ARE WHAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE AREA'S LIVABILITY. THEY ADD IMMEASURABLY TO OUR QUALITY-OF-LIFE. THIS BUILDING CAN BE REHABILITATED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE ANOTHER 158 YEARS. ARE WE WILLING TO DIG INTO OUR OWN POCKETS TO KEEP BRIGHTON A LIVABLE COMMUNITY? WEB PAGE ADDRESS: [HTTP://MEMBERS.TRIPOD.COM/~SAVELEEHOUSE](http://members.tripod.com/~saveleehouse)

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.

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 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

JUNE 27, 1999. LOG CABIN DAY. WRITE LOG CABIN SOCIETY OF MI, 3503 EDWARDS RD., SO-DUS, MI 49126, FOR LOCATIONS OF 79 LOG STRUCTURES IN MI. 616/944-5719.

GREAT LAKES QUILTING, MSU MUSEUM, MSU, E LANSING 48824-1045, FOR SCHEDULE OF 1999 WORKSHOPS, SHOWS, INFO.

WRITE BLUEWATER MI CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P O BOX 296, ROYAL OAK, MI 48068-0296 FOR INFO ON PLANNED TRIPS. 248/541-1000.

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P O BOX 37, STOCKBRIDGE, MI 49285 FOR CALENDAR, 1999.

LYONS SCHOOL, CONT. FROM P. 1

INTERIOR RESTORATION, UTILITIES, FURNISHINGS, ETC., ARE NEEDED. THE CONSTRUCTION OF WINDOWS IN THE ORIGINAL STYLE, A NEW BELL TOWER AND BELL, A NEW ROOF, FOUNDATION REPAIR, NEW SIDING, ETC., HAVE PROVIDED AN IMPRESSIVE BEGINNING.

SOME FURNISHINGS HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED; SOME NEED RESTORATION. CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE DESIGNATED TO THE BELL AND TOWER, THE WINDOWS, SIDING, PAINT, ETC. ALL DONATIONS, MONETARY AND IN-KIND, WILL BE PERMANENTLY APPROPRIATELY RECOGNIZED. CHECK OUT THE LYONS SCHOOL "RING THE BELL" SIGN AT E. MAIN AND SPENCER ROAD.

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

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

### AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. WIRT BEURMANN'S THE MAPLES IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

WIRT BEURMANN AND WIFE LIVED AND FARMED AT THE MAPLES AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THE 95 ACRES WERE LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF BRIGHTON ROAD, JUST EAST OF CLIFFORD.

HIS FATHER, GEORGE EDWARD, UNCLAS CHARLES EMIL, WILLIAM H. AND HENRY AND AUNT EMMA, HAD COME, WITH THEIR MOTHER, TO GENOA IN 1840. THEIR FATHER, HENRY, OWNER OF A MERCANTILE BUSINESS IN HAMBURG, GERMANY, HAD DIED SHORTLY BEFORE. ONE SURMISES THE BUSINESS WAS SOLD WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED THE FUNDS FOR THE JOURNEY. A BRAVE MOTHER AND YOUNG FAMILY SET OUT FOR A NEW LIFE. AFTER ENDURING A TEN WEEK OCEAN VOYAGE THE FAMILY WAS IN THEIR LOG CABIN FOR CHRISTMAS THAT YEAR.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE FOUR SONS BUILT THEIR OWN HOMES, DAUGHTER EMMA MATFELDT MOVED TO ILLINOIS WITH HER HUSBAND. (IT SEEMS LIKELY SHE MARRIED BEFORE COMING TO THE U.S.) IN THAT AREA GENOA TOWNSHIP IS QUILT ROLLING. HOWEVER CATTLE, OF THE BEST VARIETY, HORSES, BOTH PLOW AND BUGGY, HELPED THE BEURMANNS GET A GOOD START, WITH LOTS OF HARD WORK, IN A NEW COUNTRY. ONE CAN ONLY IMAGINE THEIR DIFFICULTIES. ONLY A FEW ACRES WERE CLEARED FOR FARMING WHEN THEY ARRIVED.

IN 1895 WIRT'S MOTHER, MARY E. (HOAGLAND), OWNED THE PROPERTY, HIS FATHER, GEORGE EDWARD, HAVING DIED IN 1875. SALES OF 40 AND 35 ACRES REDUCED HER HOLDINGS TO THE 95 ACRES. EARLIER HIS FATHER HAD OWNED THE ENTIRE SE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 27 PLUS 10 ACRES IN SECTION 26 = 170 ACRES. THE 1859 ATLAS HAS GEORGE EDWARD'S NAME ON THE E $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 27, SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING IN GENOA. GEORGE'S BROTHER, CHARLES EMIL, OWNED E $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SECTION 35, JUST ACROSS THE STREET. BOTH GEORGE AND CHARLES' HOUSES ARE STILL STANDING.

OUR RESEARCH INDICATES THE YOUNG MEN WERE INDUSTRIOUS AND CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS MEMBERS OF A DEVELOPING COUNTY. WHEN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION (THE STATE ORGANIZATION THE FORERUNNER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN) WAS FORMED IN 1871, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTENNIAL IN 1876, CHARLES EMIL IS LISTED AS A MEMBER, AS IS GEORGE EDWARD. BOTH BROTHERS ARE ALSO CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1853. CHARLES E. WAS SHERIFF OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY 1876, 1878; THEN SERVED FOR MANY YEARS AS POSTMASTER IN HOWELL. BROTHER WILLIAM H. HELD THE POSITION OF GENOA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL INSPECTOR FOR 1844 AND 1846. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND EARLY COUNTY ATLASES; EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS AND COPIES OF EARLY OBITUARIES BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; RESEARCH HELP OF JOHN AND JANICE FIELD. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE WELCOME.)