



Trail Tales

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

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

1998 WAS A YEAR DURING WHICH MANY WHO CARE ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY PUT IN TIME AND ENERGY TOWARD ITS FULFILLMENT.

MONTHLY PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TRAIL TALES HAS HELPED THE AREA BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR SUPPORT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION.

IN COOPERATION WITH THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND OTHERS A TWO DAY COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR WAS HELD AT ISLAND LAKE ON THE SITE OF THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD'S CAMP EATON. LISA CAVE AND JOANNE SWONK MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS EVENT.

SOCIETY ARCHIVES ARE REGULARLY BEING COMPILED AND FILED FOR REFERENCE. JOHN AND JANICE FIELD HAVE GIVEN MUCH TO THIS PROJECT. THE CITY OF BRIGHTON HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE IN PROVIDING A FILE CABINET AND STORAGE FACILITIES.

THE FIELDS HAVE ALSO HELPED BRING THE ATTENTION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL TO THE NEED FOR RESTORATION OF THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY. THE APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER FOR THE CEMETERY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. CEMETERY RECORDS HAVE BEEN COMPILED AND VETERANS' GRAVES' MARKERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. SEVERAL OTHER EARLY CEMETERIES NEED THE SAME T.L.C.

SEVERAL MEANS OF FUND AND COMMUNITY-AWARENESS RAISING HAVE BEEN PROMOTED BY NANCY FREDENBURG. A PILLOW WAS DESIGNED AND A SOCIETY BOOTH SET UP MANY SATURDAYS AT FARMERS' MARKET, THE KIWANIS-SPONSORED SUNDAY EVENING CONCERTS AND AT THE ART FAIR. SHE ALSO PROMOTED THE 1998 CERAMIC TILE PROJECT. (CONT. PAGE 2)



Dates to Remember:

- *JAN. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- * 13, 5-8 P.M. AND 26, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 25, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME.

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: JOE & PAULINE CHENOWETH, DR. HARRY & CAROL DAVIS, VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL), JERE & KAY MICHAELS, THOMAS & BONNIE RIUTTA.

COUPLES/INDIV: ROBERT & DIANE ASSENMACHER, EMIL & JOAN ENGEL, JANICE FIELD, NANCY FREDENBURG, BOB & BETSY HERBST, BILL & HELEN HYNE (CHELSEA), ROYDEN & DOROTHY JONES, BRENDA McCARTY, RICHARD & JUDY PARSONS, RITA POLASKE, JENNIFER SCOTT, *CHARYL STOCKWELL, FLORENCE SULLIVAN.

*CHARYL IS A NEW MEMBER; A GIFT FROM HER AUNT SHERYL VIGMOSTAD.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE THE LIFE AND BREATH OF THIS SOCIETY. THEY COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FIND OTHERS OF THE SAME DEDICATION.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR HELPING PREPARE THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR MAILING.

...GENEVA WISKEMAN, OF LANSING, FOR HER DONATION OF BLACKBOARD SLATE. SCOUT TROOP #350 LEADERS, DAVID SKINNER AND JEFF NEAL AND SCOUT ANDY SKINNER FOR USE OF THE COVERED TRAILER AND LABOR TO MOVE THE SLATE. ALSO TO D & H MOVING FOR USE OF BLANKETS.

...LYONS SCHOOL DONATIONS FROM JOE & PAULINE CHENOWETH AND JOE & IRENE ELLIS.

...OTHER DONATIONS FROM BOB & DIANE ASSENMACHER, KATHY & VAL JACOBY, ALICE SEGER, FLORENCE SULLIVAN AND SHERYL VIGMOSTAD.

(CONT. FR. PAGE 1)

ONE MEANS OF PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY IS WITH THE COMPILING OF A HISTORY BOOK. CAROL McMACKEN HAS BEEN COLLECTING, RESEARCHING AND WRITING. BEFORE LONG THIS PUBLICATION WILL BE READY.

THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT IS GAINING MOMENTUM. CHRIS WARD, CHRMN., AND JOANNE SWONK ARE GAINING SUPPORT FROM THE BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOLS AND THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WITHIN A YEAR IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO BRING TOGETHER A PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN, THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES AND A MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY IN ONE BUILDING. SUPPORT FROM JIM VICHICH AND ALUMNI HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. DRIVE BY THE SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, AND SEE THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER.

A HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY OF THE HOUSE AT 310 E. GRAND RIVER, THE LEE/STUHRBERG/RICE HUSE, HAS IDENTIFIED IT AS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CITY'S HISTORY. A COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY PHIL SMITH, 810/231-1178 AND LORI WAGNER, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIETY IS LOOKING INTO ITS PRESERVATION. IT CANNOT REMAIN AT ITS PRESENT SITE FOR LONG OR IT WILL RISK DEMOLITION. A SITE TO WHICH IT CAN BE MOVED AND SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS FOR ITS RESTORATION ARE REQUIRED. THE SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS FOR BOTH THE LYONS SCHOOL AND THE LEE HOUSE MAY BE MADE TO THE SOCIETY DESIGNATING ITS APPROPRIATION.

PRESERVATION EFFORTS OF AREA RESIDENTS AND GROUPS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED. REQUESTS FOR HISTORICAL INFORMATION ARE FULFILLED. BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH 4TH MONDAY, 7 P.M., IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE DISTRICT LIBRARY. YOU ARE WELCOME. GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD SEVERAL TIMES EACH YEAR TO WHICH THE PUBLIC IS INVITED. HISTORIC PRESERVATION SEMINARS ARE ATTENDED BY VARIOUS BOARD MEMBERS. THE CONTRIBUTION OF TIME, ENERGY AND FUNDS OF SO MANY WILLING MEMBERS ARE WHAT MAKES THIS SOCIETY TICK.

SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR SERVING ON THE BOARD ARE VITAL. NEEDED NOW! ARE A SECRETARY AND AN ORAL HISTORY CHAIRMAN TO ORGANIZE AND PROMOTE TAKING ORAL HISTORIES OF THE FEW REMAINING LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA. (BEFORE THAT RESOURCE IS GONE ALSO.)

BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP HAS TRANSFERRED EARLY RECORDS TO SOCIETY ARCHIVES. THE GENOA TOWNSHIP BOARD HAS DECIDED TO INSTALL PHOTOS OF EARLY GENOA HISTORY IN THE NEW HALL. THESE ACTIVITIES INDICATE A SENSE OF HISTORY IS EVIDENT.

IN 1999 WE SHOULD SEE: MORE APPLICATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER; THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS, TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY, ET AL; IMPROVED PUBLICITY VIA MEDIA, LOCAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE PUBLIC, I.E. LOCAL TOURS, SPEAKERS' BUREAU, ETC.; COMPLETION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION; PRESERVATION OF THE LEE HOUSE.

THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION OF THAT WHICH MAKES THE BRIGHTON AREA SO DESIRABLE CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS PRIMARY.

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, 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 \$15.00 SUPPLY DWINDLING.

POST CARDS PKG 6/\$3. EARLY LOCAL
STREET SCENES. MUGS 5\$. SUPPLY DWIND-
LING ALSO. NOTE PAPER \$2.50. 11x14

PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM \$25.
MARIEANNA BAIR, 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.

RING THE BELL FOR LYONS SCHOOL!

MEMBERS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION
STEERING COMMITTEE ARE DEDICATING MUCH
TIME, THOUGHT AND WORK TO SEE THIS PROJECT
COMPLETED.

THE CURRICULUM SUB COMMITTEE IS A GROUP OF
BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
EXCITED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF EXPOSING
STUDENTS TO THE EXPERIENCE OF A DAY IN A
ONE ROOM SCHOOL. EDUCATION IN EARLY MICHIGAN
WAS RATHER DIFFERENT THAN TODAY.

THE FUND RAISING SUB COMMITTEE IS COMPLE-

TING PREPARATION OF A BROCHURE DESCRIBING
WHY AND HOW THE RESTORATION CAN COME TO BE.
THE ANALYSIS OF ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE RES-
TORATION, PREPARED BY LINDHOUT ASSOCIATES
AND ARCHITECTS, INCLUDING FURNISHINGS, IS
\$60,000. COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT WILL RE-
SULT IN A MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHI-
VAL STORAGE FACILITIES, IN ADDITION TO THE
SCHOOL.

THE COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE
BRIGHTON COMMUNITY IS NECESSARY. YOUR CON-
TRIBUTION IS VITAL.

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. L.A. BECKER'S SUNNYSIDE FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE WELCOME.

BY THE MID 1850s MANY OF THE SETTLERS COMING TO THE AREA HAD IMMIGRATED FROM GERMANY. AMONG THESE WERE CARPENTER/FARMER HENRY BECKER, BORN 1831, AND WIFE MARGARET, AND JOHN, A FARMER, BORN 1834. IT WILL BE ASSUMED THEY ARE BROTHERS SINCE THEY HAVE THE SAME TOWN OF ORIGIN, WILLOFS, AND CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AS YOUNG MEN IN 1854. THREE BROTHERS AND A SISTER REMAINED IN GERMANY. HENRY AND MARGARET PURCHASED 160 ACRES JUST SOUTH OF BRIGHTON FROM DANIEL L. MARSH IN 1856 AND 1873. IT WAS INTERSECTED BY RICKETT ROAD AND LATER THE RAILROAD. THEIR CHILDREN WERE LEWIS, BORN 1862 AND ELIZABETH, BORN 1868. JOHN'S OBITUARY INDICATES HE LIVED IN GENOA TOWNSHIP AND LATER MOVED TO HOWELL.

WE'LL ASSUME ANOTHER JOHN BECKER, A BLACKSMITH, BORN 1835 IN GERMANY, AND EDWIN H. BECKER, A FARMER, BORN IN 1839 IN NEW YORK, WERE BROTHERS WHO PROBABLY CAME WITH THEIR PARENTS BEFORE 1839. THERE ALSO WERE THREE SISTERS: MARY SIBLEY, CARRIE CORRIGAN AND MRS. A.M. BLAKELY OF NEW YORK. THIS JOHN BECKER CAME TO BRIGHTON IN 1858 AND SOON AFTER MARRIED LOUISA DORR OF GENOA. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE BECKERS IN PARAGRAPH TWO AND THOSE IN PARAGRAPH THREE MIGHT HAVE BEEN COUSINS.

EDWIN H. HAD MARRIED MARTHA BEEBE IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO COMING TO THE AREA IN 1867. THEY BOUGHT 200 ACRES IN SECTION 9, GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP FROM LOCKLIN CLARK, NOVEMBER 19, 1872. A STRUCTURE IS SHOWN AT THE CORNER OF ACADEMY/PLACEWAY ROADS IN 1859. (A HALF BROTHER, COL. VANDERLIP OWNED PROPERTY TO THE NORTH INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF ISLAND LAKE.) MUCH OF THIS LAND WAS HIGH AND LEVEL; THE HURON RIVER FLOWING THROUGH THE SOUTH EAST CORNER. BY 1900 L. (LEWIS) A. BECKER, (HENRY AND MARGARET'S SON) IS OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AND THE ACREAGE UNDER CULTIVATION. ONE CAN ASSUME THAT MUCH OF THE PRODUCE RAISED WAS PURCHASED FOR USE BY THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD TO SUPPLEMENT SUPPLIES OF THOSE TRAINING AT NEARBY CAMP EATON. THE NAME, SUNNYSIDE, WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE SINCE MOST OF THE VIRGIN TIMBER WOULD HAVE BEEN LUMBERED. THIS LAND IS NOW PART OF THE MICHIGAN STATE ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA.

C. 1903, EDWIN H. AND MARTHA MOVED ONTO THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF W. MAIN AND 7TH STREET ON TWO ACRES IN GENOA TOWNSHIP. AT THE TIME OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH, AUGUST 14, 1926, EDWIN D. (B. 1863) IS LOCATED IN VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA. SISTER, ELIZABETH (B. 1869) IS IN BRIGHTON, MARRIED TO WILLIAM STANDLICK C. 1889. (COMPILED BY MARIE-ANNA BAIR. THANKS TO WRITINGS OF BILL PLESS; 1880 FEDERAL CENSUS FOR LIVINGSTON COUNTY, EDITED BY KERNIE KING; EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS AND COPIES OF EARLY OBITUARIES BY MILTON CHARBONEAU.)