



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

JULY, 1999
Vol. XVIII No. 7

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR
MARIEANNA BAIR
810/229-6402

VICE PRESIDENT
JOANNE SWONK
810/229-7887

SECRETARY
LISA PALERMO
810/220-1767

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

THE RESTORATION OF THE ONE ROOM LYONS SCHOOL IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP IS A PROJECT IN WHICH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY CAN PARTICIPATE.

WHERE ELSE CAN ONE FIND A ONE ROOM SCHOOL ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE? NOT NEAR BY. MANY OTHER SITES OF HISTORIC VALUE HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED, REMOVED OR SO ALTERED IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RECOGNIZE THEM.

OTHER COMMUNITIES FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO PRESERVE THEIR HISTORY. THE BRIGHTON COMMUNITY ALSO HAS A VITAL HISTORY. EVERYONE PARTICIPATING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN THIS PROJECT CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THOSE EFFORTS.

INDIVIDUALS AND LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS HAVE RESPONDED TO REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS: CASH, LABOR AND IN KIND MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES. HOWEVER THERE IS A LONG WAY TO GO. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS PROJECT CAN BE SENT THE SOCIETY.

AS IS TYPICAL OF SUCH A STRUCTURE, THE CEILING IS APPROXIMATELY 14' HIGH. TO INSTALL AN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, INSULATION, WALLS, CLEANING AND PAINTING OF CEILING AND WALLS, SCAFFOLDING IS NEEDED TO MAKE THESE TASKS EFFICIENT

AND SAFE. CAN YOU FURNISH SUCH SCAFFOLDING, OR RENT IT? JULY 17, 9-1 P.M. HAS BEEN SET AS A WORK DAY. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SCAFFOLDING AT THAT TIME. DEPENDING ON A CONTRACTOR'S SCHEDULE WORK DAYS ARE PLANNED WITH SHORT NOTICE. HAVE A FEW HOURS YOU CAN DONATE? CALL CHAIRMAN CHRIS WARD, 229-0560, JOANNE SWONK, 229-7887 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN BE CALLED. A LONG LIST OF VOLUNTEERS ASSURES SEVERAL WILL BE ABLE TO HELP FOR AN HOUR OR TWO.

EDNA PEACH TO VISIT GREEN OAK

LONG TIME RESIDENT, EDNA PEACH, WILL BE FETED AT A POT LUCK WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, NOON/3:30 AT THE GAGE HOUSE MUSEUM, 6440 KENSINGTON ROAD. EDNA NOW RESIDES IN ARIZONA. THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS HOSTING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDNA'S FRIENDS TO GREET HER.



Dates to Remember:

- JULY 8, 15, 22, 29, 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.
- * 17, 9-1 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL WORK DAY.
- * 26, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME!

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON DUES: TED CARMACK ('00, ALLEN PARK), HAROLD & ESTHER JARVIS ('00), BOB & RUTH WATSON (HOWELL).

COUPLES/INDIV. DUES: MARILYN CAMPBELL (IN), BILL BETTY FRANKLIN (AZ), ED & ELAINE KLINSKE.

ALL DONATIONS AND PROCEEDS FROM FUND RAISERS ARE DEDICATED TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

MAJOR ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES MUST BE PAID FROM DUES INCOME. THE LARGEST OF THESE EXPENSES IS THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. THE PRESENT DUES STRUCTURE IS INSUFFICIENT TO COMPLETELY COVER COSTS. PATRON AND BUSINESS DUES ARE A BIG HELP. THE SOCIETY BOARD BELIEVES REGULAR PUBLICATION OF TRAIL TALES IS DESIRABLE. MANY OF OUR READERS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THIS EXPENSE. CAN IT BE ASSUMED THEY WOULD WANT TO PAY THEIR SHARE? A CHECK FOR DUES OR TO ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND MARILYN PETTIGROVE FOR HELPING GET THE JUNE NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL.

...DON WYLAND FOR HELPING TO SELL THE UNNEEDED ITEMS AT THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...MARILYN CAMPBELL, HAROLD & ESTHER JARVIS AND BILL & BETTY FRANKLIN FOR INCLUDING A DONATION WITH THEIR DUES.

...MILTON CHARBONEAU FOR A COPY OF HIS TRANSCRIPTION OF THE BRIGHTON HILLS CEMETERY.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR A COPY OF THEIR TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY AND THE GREEN OAK PLAINS CEMETERY. WITH THESE KINDS OF INFORMATION WE ARE OFTEN ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THOSE RESEARCHING THEIR FAMILIES.

...LISA PALERMO FOR OFFERING TO SERVE AS SOCIETY SECRETARY.

...MIKE WOODFORD FOR ATTACHING THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT SIGN TO THE FENCE; FOR TRIMMING THE LARGE TREE NEARBY; FOR HELPING REARRANGE THE BACK ROOM AT THE SCHOOL.

...BERT BAIR FOR REMOVING THE HUGE YEW AT THE SIDE OF THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...DR. WM. METZ, LISA & JOHN PALERMO, DAVID PETTIGROVE, STAN SHAFER AND CHRIS WARD FOR A LOT OF WORK AT THE SCHOOL JUNE 12.

...ED BOTTUM, STAN SHAFER AND CHRIS WARD FOR DUSTY, HARD WORK JUNE 22 AND 23 AT THE SCHOOL.

...STEVE DAWDY FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR USE OF A DUMPSTER AT THE SCHOOL.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: NEWSPAPERS FROM THE 1950s ARE BEING REVIEWED, ARTICLES OF LOCAL INTEREST COPIED AND FILED. THIS IS BEING DONE AT MARIEANNA BAIR'S HOME EACH THURSDAY 1 P.M. INTERESTED? 229-6402. TRANSCRIPTIONS OF GREEN OAK PLAINS AND BRIGHTON HILLS CEMETERIES HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE SOCIETY. PHOTOS FROM THE YOUNG, BROWN, LYONS AND STILLSON FAMILIES WERE COPIED FROM ORIGINALS LOANED BY BERNON YOUNG. ALL OF THESE ITEMS ARE IMPORTANT ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN IS SPENDING COUNTLESS HOURS COMPILING RESEARCH AND MAKING CONNECTIONS RE: ITS PUBLICATION.

LYONS SCHOOL: CHAIRMAN CHRIS WARD, 229-0560, IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TOWARD ITS RESTORATION. THIS 1885 ONE ROOM SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, WILL ONE DAY SOON BE IN USE AS AN EXPERIENCE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO LEARN OF EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION, AS A MUSEUM OF AREA ARTIFACTS AND AS AN ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY. LABOR, IN-KIND AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. ALL DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: (NORTH OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BY THE MILL POND) JOHN AND JANICE FIELD ARE CONTINUING MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MARKERS TO MEMORIALIZE THE VETERANS BURIED HERE. CITY MOWING CREWS KEEP THE AREA LOOKING AS IF SOMEONE CARES. EVENTUALLY LIGHTING WILL BE INSTALLED AND BROKEN MARKERS REPAIRED.

STEVE SCOTT

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SINCERE SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY.

...RONNI POWERS, ET AL, FOR SUPERB EFFORTS IN COLLECTING AND TURNING IN RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS FOR THE DEPOSIT. (WE CAN ALL HELP THIS WAY. SEND YOUR REFUND SLIPS TO THE SOCIETY [OR THE REFUNDS].)

...ANN ARBOR NEWS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY AND THE OTHER GREEK REVIVAL HOME WHICH, AT ONE TIME, FACED THE RECENTLY DEMOLISHED LEE HOUSE.

...BRIGHTON ARGUS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN LOCAL HISTORY.

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

VISIT THE FARMERS' MARKET IN BRIGHTON JULY 10, 24 OR 31 AND YOU'LL FIND THE SOCIETY BOOTH. NANCY FREDENBURG WILL HAVE COVERLETS, PILLOWS, TILES, POST CARDS, ETC., ON DISPLAY. YOU'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON THE SOCIETY'S PURPOSE AND ITS ACTIVITIES. NANCY, 229-9100, WOULD ENJOY HAVING A BOOTH PERSON JOIN HER.

NANCY ALSO NEEDS SUPPORT AT THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE BRIGHTON ART FESTIVAL, AUGUST 14 AND 15. CAN YOU WORK A TWO HOUR SHIFT? PLEASE GIVE HER OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, A CALL. SAVE THEM HAVING TO MAKE A LOT OF CONTACTS.

JULY 18 AND AUGUST 22 A SOCIETY BOOTH WILL BE SET UP AT THE KIWANIS CONCERTS BY THE MILL POND. THESE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO LEARN ABOUT THE SOCIETY AND HOW YOU CAN HELP. SOCIETY PARTICIPATION DURING THESE VENUES IS DUE TO THE COOPERATION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE KIWANIS CLUB.

TILES, DEPICTING EARLY SITES, ARE REGULARLY AVAILABLE AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN STREET. COVERLETS ARE AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN.

NAT. RAILWAY HIST. SOCIETY, BLUE WATER CHAPTER. TRAIN TOURS PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CALL 1-800/594-5162 OR [HTTP://WWW.CONCENTRIC.NET/~BMCNRHS](http://www.concentric.net/~BMCNRHS) FOR INFO.

HIST. SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN, 125TH ANNUAL MEETING, KALAMAZOO, SEPT. 17-19. WALKING TOURS, PRESENTATIONS, PROGRAMS, GALAS. 734/769-1828 FOR INFO.

THE CITY OF SALINE HAS PURCHASED RENTSCHLER FARM PROPERTY. SALINE AREA HIST. SOCIETY IS DEVELOPING A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM OF 15 SITES INCLUDING THE FARM HOUSE AND OUT BUILDINGS - A PRE 1900 BARN. GUIDED TOURS ON SUMMER SATURDAYS, 1265 E. MICHIGAN AVE. 735/429-9621.

SEPTEMBER 25. LANSING. MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER WORKSHOP: "THE NEW MICHIGAN PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS; ARE THEY FOR YOU?" 248/625-8181 OR 810/229-6402.

GREEN OAK DAY, GREEN OAK TWP. HIST. SOCIETY. AUGUST 21, NOON/4 P.M. GAGE HOUSE MUSEUM, 6440 KENSINGTON ROAD.

PLYMOUTH MUSEUM CONTINUES TO "CELEBRATE THE CENTURY". 155 S. MAIN. 734/455-8940.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. AUGUST 5, 7 P.M. ENHANCING YOUR PEDIGREE CHARTS, LDS CHURCH, 1041 W. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL.

KENSINGTON FARM CENTER EXHIBIT: SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE'S "BARN AGAIN" JULY 17/AUG. 15. LECTURES, HANDS ON EXHIBITS, DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC. TIMBER FRAMING, HAYING, ROPE MAKING, ETC. 248/685-1561 OR 1-800/477-3178.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

NORTHVILL HIST. SOC., MILL RACE VILLAGE, JULY 18, 1 P.M. CROQUET TOURNAMENT, AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL.

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. HENRY CONRAD'S LAKE SIDE STOCK FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

HENRY'S FATHER, JACOB, CAME TO THE U.S. IN 1832, WITH BROTHERS PHILLIP AND CHARLES AND SISTER, MARY MAGDELENE, AS VERY YOUNG CHILDREN. THEIR PARENTS, CHARLES C. AND MARIA CATHERINE NADIG CAME BY SAILING VESSEL, AN ORDEAL OF WHICH OUR IMAGINATION IS INCAPABLE. IN THE EARLY 1830S GERMAN IMMIGRANTS CONSTITUTED A MAJOR PORTION OF THE STREAM OF NEWCOMERS ARRIVING IN THE U.S. HOW DOES ONE CONCEPTUALIZE THE CONDITIONS IN EUROPE, GERMANY IN PARTICULAR, WHICH WOULD PROMPT THIS FAMILY TO MAKE SUCH A MOVE, KNOWING ONE WOULD NEVER SEE THEIR HOMELAND AGAIN? EARLIER RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE WAS A PRIME FACTOR. HOWEVER DURING THE 19TH CENTURY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRIFE PROVIDED VALID REASONS. THIS WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM AND THEIR CHILDREN TO OWN LAND ON WHICH A HOME COULD BE BUILT AND PROSPERITY WAS A POSSIBILITY.

JACOB MARRIED NEIGHBOR ELIZABETH DORR IN 1856. HE WAS 34 AND HAD PURCHASED 120 ACRES IN SECTION 22 OF GENOA TOWNSHIP, BORDERING THE EAST SIDE OF COOKED LAKE. BY 1875, 255 ACRES WERE IN HIS NAME. AS HENRY AND HIS SIBLINGS MATURED THEIR NAMES ARE NOTED AS LAND OWNERS. AT THE TIME THAT FARMERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO NAME THEIR FARMS HENRY OWNED 265 ACRES, MUCH OF IT AROUND THE SOUTH END OF CROOKED LAKE AND ROUND LAKE. HENRY RAISED WHEAT AND CATTLE; LAKE SIDE STOCK FARM WAS AN APT TITLE.

ALTHO' THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN MARSH HAY FOR CATTLE, LAND WITH WATER WAS NOT TOO DESIRABLE AT THE TIME. ONE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT ALL THESE ACRES HAD TO BE CLEARED BEFORE THE PLOW COULD GO INTO THE GROUND. STRENUOUS WORK. HENRY MARRIED IDA GANGNUSS OCTOBER 24, 1894. (HIS BROTHER MARRIED HER SISTER AND HIS THREE SISTERS MARRIED AREA NEIGHBORS.)

WW I RESULTED IN CHANGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE U.S. THE AUTOMOBILE AND GRAVELED ROADS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR "CITY" PEOPLE TO FIND A RESPITE IN THE COUNTRY. HENRY'S PROPERTY BECAME A MAJOR ATTRACTION. ASTUTE DEVELOPERS PURCHASED LAND IN SECTION 22 AND PLATTED LOTS QUICKLY SOLD. BEFORE LONG COTTAGES AND HOMES BORDERED EVERY INCH OF THESE LAKES. IN 1927 BURROUGHS ADDING MACHINE COMPANY PURCHASED THE REMAINING LAKE PROPERTY AND FARM LANDS ALONG BRIGHTON ROAD, EVENTUALLY TOTALING 600 ACRES. AFTER MANY YEARS OF BURROUGHS 'FAMILY' VACATIONS, DEVELOPERS OF OAK POINTE BOUGHT THE 'FARMS' IN 1981. CHARLES, JACOB AND HENRY WOULD BE ASTOUNDED AT THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED WHERE THEY RAISED THEIR CATTLE AND CROPS. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY ATLASSES, OBITUARIES AND EARLY LAND OWNER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ALSO THE WRITINGS OF BILL PLESS. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS WILL BE GLADLY RECEIVED. 810/229-6402.)