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# Trail Tales

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

## OFFICERS

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810/229-6402

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## LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

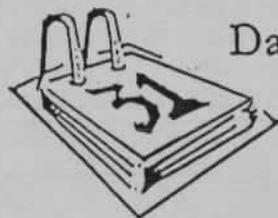
WORK ON RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, IS CONTINUING. A FUNCTIONAL BUILDING WILL BE THE END RESULT. THE MANY WHO HAVE DONATED FINANCIALLY, BY PROVIDING LABOR AND/OR MATERIALS, AND WITH VARIOUS OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT WILL HAVE REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WILL HAVE A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION BY SPENDING TIME THERE. THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR A SMALL MUSEUM FOR DISPLAY OF LOCAL ARTIFACTS AND AN ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY.

THE HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING IS ALMOST COMPLETE AND THE SUB FLOOR IS IN. (THANKS TO THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF STAN SCHAFER.) WHEN THE GAS IS CONNECTED TO THE FURNACE WORK CAN CONTINUE DURING COLD WEATHER. WHAT'S NEXT? ELECTRICAL WIRING, INSULATION, WALLS, PLUMBING, ETC.

ALL OF THIS CAN COME TO A SCREECHING HALT IF THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO KEEP UP WITH THE EXPENSE INVOLVED. THE SOCIETY IS ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER AN END-OF-YEAR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROJECT. THE SOCIETY IS A 501(c)3 NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL ASSURE THE COMPLETION OF THIS RESTORATION PROJECT. YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP MAINTAIN THE HISTORY OF THE AREA. YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL STAY IN THE COMMUNITY.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CALL CHRIS WARD, 810/229-0560 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.



## Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 4, 11, 18, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.  
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 10, 5-8 P.M. AND 23, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
  - \* 22, 7 P.M. SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING. ANNUAL MEETING. ELECTION. WELCOME.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

BUS/PROF: \*GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND AND \*HILTON SCHOOL ELEMENTARY PTO.

COUPLES/INDIV: PAT & JOSIE ARNOLD (01), DON & RICCI BANDKAU (00), \*BOB & MARGARET BOWLAND, MIKE & BARB EMMOREY (00), BARBARA FOLKMAN, BOB & BETSY HERBST, WALT & MERILYN JOLLITZ, JOSEPHINE HYNE (CHELSEA 00), DORIS HOUSNER, JEANETTE JOHNSON (00), \*HAROLD SALOW (00), \*DAVID & PAULA SKINNER

\*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS. YOU ARE NEEDED!

TO ASSURE AN ACCURATE MAILING LIST, "RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED" IS ON EACH NEWSLETTER. WHEN THE POST OFFICE RETURNS A COPY WITH A CORRECTED ADDRESS IT COSTS THE SOCIETY AN ADDITIONAL .33¢. CALL 229-6402 WITH: ADDRESS CORRECTIONS, "REMOVE FROM LIST", "DON'T SEND FOR (A TIME PERIOD)" OR PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE ADDRESS IF YOU WISH. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AS IS ALL SUCH INFORMATION.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL AND NANCY FREDENBURG FOR THEIR HELP IN THE MAILING OF THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.

...DORIS HOUSNER, JOSEPHINE HYNE AND JEANETTE JOHNSON FOR SENDING DONATIONS WITH THEIR DUES.

...GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND, HILTON ELEMENTARY PTO, HAROLD SALOW AND SHERYL VIGMOSTAD FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT.

WE ARE LIVING AT THE 'TURN OF THE CENTURY'. HELP PRESERVE THE PAST CENTURY FOR THE NEXT.

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.

ARCHIVES: RESEARCH OF EARLY 1950S ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS AND AREA HISTORY CONTINUES. JOIN US. 810/229-6402.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, PLANS TO PUBLISH IN Y2K.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: VARIOUS SECURITY DEVICES WILL BE INSTALLED BY THE CITY SHORTLY. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF VANDALISM TAKING PLACE. CALL BRIGHTON POLICE, 227-2700, TO REPORT VANDALISM.

WE SHOULD BE HEARING SHORTLY FROM THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ON THE STATUS OF THE HISTORIC SITE APPLICATION. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE COST OF THE MARKER, \$2700.00+, TO THE SOCIETY. AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO MEMORIALIZE THOSE PIONEERS BURIED THERE.

#### MEMBERSHIP CARD?

MANY MEMBERS PREFER TO RECEIVE A CARD CONFIRMING DUES PAYMENT. (THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES ARE PAID IS NOTED ON THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LABEL.) IN AN EXPENSE REDUCTION MOVE THESE WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED UNLESS REQUESTED. MEMBERS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO REQUEST A CARD IF DESIRED.

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7 P.M.

SOCIETY BYLAWS REQUIRE THE HOLDING OF AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP. SOCIETY BUSINESS AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE GOVERNING BOARD WILL TAKE PLACE. ALL POSITIONS ON THE BOARD ARE SCHEDULED FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION BY THOSE ATTENDING.

ANY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY MAY SERVE ON THE BOARD. NOMINATIONS NEED THE APPROVAL OF THOSE NOMINATED.

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BRIGHTON ROOM AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DRIVE. (WHERE'S THE BRIGHTON ROOM? ENTER THE LIBRARY, CONTINUE TO THE INFORMATION DESK AND TURN RIGHT TO THE END OF THE HALL.)

MORE INFORMATION? MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.

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.

WISH LIST

AN ACTIVE ORGANIZATION ALWAYS HAS ONE

1. OFFERS OF PHYSICAL LABOR AT THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION. (FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.)
2. ORAL HISTORIANS. THE RECORDING OF MEMORIES OF THIS AREA SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. POLICIES, PROCEDURES, ETC., ARE IN PLACE.
3. RESEARCHERS FOR PROPER RECOGNITION OF AREA HISTORIC SITES. THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF THE AREA (TOWNSHIPS ALSO) BEHOOVES US TO RECOGNIZE AND PRESERVE ITS EARLY FOUNDATIONS. THE OLD TOWN HALL, LYONS SCHOOL, ETC., HAVE HAD MARKERS PLACED. THE VILLAGE CEMETERY APPLICATION IS IN PROGRESS. SOME EARLY STRUCTURES REMAIN. HOWEVER SITES CAN ALSO BE MARKED: FIRST HOSPITAL, TAVERN, GAR HALL, FOUNDRY, SCHOOL, ETC. WE HAVE A HISTORY WHICH SHOULD BE CONFIRMED.
4. VOLUNTEERS TO CONCENTRATE ON RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HISTORIC SITE MARKERS, ARCHIVES, PRINTING OF THE HISTORY

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.

BOOK, AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR LYONS SCHOOL UTILITIES, ETC.

5. PEOPLE TO DIRECT DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCES IN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING TOWNSHIPS.
  6. THE TRANSCRIBING OF LOCAL CEMETERIES: CHILSON, BENEDICT/BENJAMIN, PLEASANT VALLEY, ETC. THESE ARE INVALUABLE TO RESEARCHERS.
  7. DEVELOP A GRANDMOTHER'S TRUNK OR A SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR USE IN SCHOOLS.
  8. ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY EVENTS.
- CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER IF ANY OF THESE INTEREST YOU.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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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. LEONARD L. MORGAN'S LILAC LAWN FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

LEONARD LEWIS MORGAN, c. 1900, IS OWNER OF 71 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SPENCER ROAD WEST OF VAN AMBERG, LILAC LAWN. THIS WAS A PART OF SOME OF THE ACREAGE HIS FATHER, NATHANIEL G., SR., OWNED IN 1859, ABOUT THE TIME LEONARD WAS BORN.

CYRENUS AND NATHANIEL G., SR., MORGAN, WITH TIM WARNER, ABRAM DEAN, E. G. DURFEE, WILLIAM TUNIS AND OTHERS CAME FROM NEW YORK c. 1835-37. AS STATED IN TUNIS' OBITUARY THEY "...CAME TO THIS COMMUNITY (BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP) WHEN IT WAS ALL A WILDERNESS." THESE MEN ACQUIRED SIZEABLE ACREAGE IN SECTIONS 22, 27, 28, AND 29 AND CLEARED IT FOR FARMING. ONE CAN ASSUME THEIR FRIENDSHIP CONTINUED AND THAT THEY SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF NEED.

BY 1875, THE HOLDINGS OF NATHANIEL G. AND WIFE, ELIZA JANE, HAD INCREASED TO ALMOST 80 ACRES PLUS 80 MORE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SPENCER ROAD. NATHANIEL WAS A BUTCHER, AS WERE SOME OF HIS BROTHERS, AND A DROVER. CATTLE WERE PURCHASED FROM AREA FARMERS AND HERDED, DOWN THE GRAND RIVER ROAD TO THE DETROIT STOCK YARD, BY HORSE AND BUGGY. THE RETURN JOURNEY AFTER SUCH A TRIP WAS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL. RACING HOME WITH THE CASH, THROWING THE HORSE'S REINS TO HIS WIFE, HE HURRIED TO CONCEAL THE MONEY. IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR ROBBERS TO MAKE THEMSELVES COGNIZANT OF WHICH DROVER WAS CARRYING MUCH CURRENCY. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE RAILROAD, AND LEARNING THAT A BETTER PRICE COULD BE HAD BY SELLING IN BUFFALO, N.Y., HE SHIPPED A HERD ON THE TRAIN. HOWEVER, THE MAN IN CHARGE DID NOT COME BACK WITH THE CASH. ANOTHER WAS SENT TO RETRIEVE HIM BUT HE DIDN'T RETURN EITHER. NATHANIEL'S 80 ACRES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SPENCER WAS LOST IN THE DEAL.

AS WITH MANY OF THE EARLY PIONEERS, THE MORGANS (THOSE WHO HADN'T BROUGHT SPOUSES WITH THEM FROM THE EAST) MARRIED NEIGHBORING OFFSPRING; THEIR ANCESTORS HAVING BEEN ACQUAINTED FOR MANY YEARS. NATHANIEL G. AND ELIZA HAD ELEVEN CHILDREN. SOME OF THE BOYS, AS TEENAGERS, WORKED FOR NEIGHBORING FARMERS. THEIR SON, LEONARD, FOLLOWED THE PROFESSION OF BUTCHER AND LIVED ON THE HOMESTEAD ON SPENCER ROAD. HE AND WIFE, ELLA, HAD ONE CHILD WHOM THEY NAMED NATHANIEL. HE MARRIED KATHERINE PYLE AND ALSO HAD ONE SON, ROBERT. ROBERT AND MAXINE RAISED A FAMILY OF FOUR BEFORE SELLING 20 ACRES TO THE BRIGHTON SCHOOL DISTRICT.

UNTIL 1973, THE OLD HOUSE AND BARN STOOD ON THE SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY SPENCER ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. ROBERT AND HIS FAMILY WERE THE LAST OF THE MORGANS IN THE OLD HOUSE. (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 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND EARLY ATLASSES. THANKS ALSO TO ROBERT MORGAN FOR HIS ASSISTANCE. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.)