



OCTOBER, 1999  
Vol. XVIII No. 10

# Trail Tales

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

## LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, IS BEING RESTORED TO FUNCTION AS A ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND MUSEUM. CHRIS WARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE LYONS SCHOOL COMMITTEE, REPORTS THAT THE HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM IS BEING INSTALLED. "WE'RE MAKING THE TURN FROM DEMOLITION TO RESTORATION," HE SAID.

WE ALL KNOW THE ONLY HEATING SYSTEM IN A ONE ROOM SCHOOL WAS A STOVE OR FURNACE IN ONE CORNER AND THE ONLY COOLING SYSTEM WAS TO OPEN DOORS AND WINDOWS. TO GET THE MOST USE FROM THIS RESTORATION THE BUILDING MUST BE FUNCTIONAL FOR TODAY. NOW IS THE TIME TO INSTALL THE A/C - AT THE SAME TIME AS THE HEATING SYSTEM. WITH HEAT IN THE SCHOOL THE ELECTRICAL AND PHONE CONNECTIONS CAN BE MADE EVEN IN COLDER WEATHER. TO CUT THE COST OF THIS HEATING INSTALLATION MANY THANKS GO TO NANCY FREDENBURG, HER NEPHEW CHRIS, NORM CATRELL, BERT BAIR, CHRIS WARD AND JOANNE SWONK FOR CLEARING THE WAY, UNDER THE FLOOR, FOR THE DUCTS. HUGE ROCKS, WHICH HADN'T BEEN SEEN IN OVER A CENTURY, HAD TO BE REMOVED. NOT AN EASY JOB.

AFTER INSULATION IS IN (YOUR HELP WILL BE WELCOME) THE WALLS AND FLOORS CAN BE FINISHED.

THANKS ALSO TO JOHN PALERMO FOR GETTING SOME OF THE INTERIOR PLUMBING UNDERWAY. WITH A NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM IN, THE TOILET FACILITY CAN BE COMPLETED. ANOTHER MAJOR EXPENSE WILL BE THE NEW WELL.

DAVE PETTIGROVE SPENT HOURS WASHING THE CEILING. A JOB WHICH HAD BEEN LOOKED UPON WITH DREAD. HE ALSO HELPED NANCY AND NORM REMOVE THE REMAINS OF A SMALL PORCH ROOF OVER THE BACK DOOR. ANOTHER WILL BE BUILT.

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

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### Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 14, 21, 28, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.  
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 13, 5-8 P.M. AND 26, 1-5 P.M. FOR  
GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 25, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: FENCE SPOT AND LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER OF BRIGHTON.

PATRON: DR. HARRY & CAROL DAVIS (00) AND BILL & GLORIA McCONNELL (NC 00).

COUPLES/INDIV: \*VIRGINIA DeLUCA (HOWELL 00), DOROTHY & ROYDON JONES (00), \*CELINA GLODEK, TIM & HELEN HURST, DICK & MARY JEAN RICHTER (FRASER 00).

\*WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS.

THANKS TO ALL FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF CONTINUED CONFIDENCE THE VIABLE GOALS OF THIS ORGANIZATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT.

### YEAR 2000 DUES INCREASE

AT THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING IT WAS DETERMINED IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BITE THE BULLET. GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS (DUES AND DONATIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND) ARE NOT MEETING GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES (THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION).

1998 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$3146.00 -  
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES = \$3225.00.

TO DATE (SEPTEMBER 1) GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$1848.00 AND GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES = \$2234. IT DOESN'T TAKE A FINANCIAL WIZARD TO SEE SOMETHING MUST CHANGE.

TO BE BRIEF - Y2K MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED. CAREFUL SCRUTINY BY THE BOARD RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING: INDIVIDUAL \$15.00, COUPLES \$25.00, PATRONS AND BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL \$50.00. A NEW CATEGORY WAS INSTITUTED: LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$500.00.

THE SOCIETY DEPENDS ON THE CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN GROWTH AND TO MOVE FORWARD. AS THE AREA GROWS THERE IS INCREASED DEMAND FOR INFORMATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA. A NUMBER OF VISITS, PRESENTING LOCAL HISTORY, HAVE BEEN MADE TO DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN. ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO PLANNERS OF LOCAL HISTORY EVENTS IN THE SCHOOLS. SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS, ETC., HAVE BEEN LED ON TOURS OF THE CITY.

THESE ACTIVITIES ALL INVOLVE OUR CHILDREN; OUR HOPE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM. THEY CAN BETTER DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE IF THEY KNOW FROM WHERE THEY COME. (MORE DETAILS ON THE BOARD'S DECISION ARE AVAILABLE AT 810/229-6402.)

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: RESEARCH ON EARLY 1950S ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS CONTINUES.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, LOOKING FORWARD TO PUBLICATION IN Y2K.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: THE NEW MARKERS, TO BE PLACED BY VETERANS', GRAVES WILL CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEM AND THE GROUP IN WHICH THEY SERVED. THE APPLICATION FOR A HISTORIC SITE MARKER HAS BEEN SENT TO THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER. THE MARKER WILL BE A ONE POST, TWO SIDED, DIFFERENT TEXT. A HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY AND A LIST OF VETERANS WILL BE INCLUDED. ANYONE WISHING TO HELP DEFRAY THE \$2700+ COST MAY MAKE A DONATION TO THE SOCIETY. AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO MEMORIALIZE THESE MEN.

CALL BRIGHTON POLICE, 227-2700, TO REPORT VANDALISM.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...NORM CATRELL, LISA CAVE, MARILYN PETTIGROVE AND JOANNE SWONK FOR THEIR HELP IN THE MAILING OF THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER. AND JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR HAND DELIVERY OF MANY OUT-OF-TOWN ADDRESSES.

...SCOUTS AND LEADERS OF TROOP #350 FOR CLEANING UP AND CUTTING OVERGROWN BRUSH AT THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. NANCY FREDENBURG AND THE FIELDS WERE ALSO THERE.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCEPTING THE NEW MARKERS FOR VETERANS IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY.

...THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ALLOWING THE SOCIETY TO HAVE A BOOTH AT THE HARVEST FEST AND TO LISA CAVE AND NANCY FREDENBURG FOR BEING THERE.

...BILL AND GLORIA McCONNELL AND DICK AND MARY JEAN RICHTER FOR DONATIONS WITH THEIR DUES.

...SHERYL JAMES FOR HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL FUND.

...MILTON CHARBONEAU FOR COPIES OF 1944 DAR AND HIS RECORDS OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY AND THE "OLD" KENSINGTON CEMETERY ON E. GRAND RIVER.

MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES, PROFESSIONALS, REALTORS, BANKS, ETC., RECEIVE THE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.

THE SOCIETY APPRECIATES THOSE WHO SUPPORT ITS EFFORTS BY BECOMING MEMBERS.

1999 IS A GOOD YEAR TO RENEW OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER .

## 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

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. 229-9100 TO ORDER.

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.

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.

## WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

OCT. 8, "THE NEW MICHIGAN PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS: ARE THEY FOR YOU?" FOUR HOUR WORK SHOP. ROCHESTER, MI 248/625-8181.

OCT. 10: 12/4 P.M., PIONEER DAY AT WATERLOO FARM. WATERLOO, MI.

OCT 10: 1-5 P.M. HISTORIC BARN TOUR, COLOMA MI. 616/468-6428

OCT. 17: 2-4 P.M., GREEN OAK TWP HIST SOC. ANNUAL MEETING. FIRE HALL, 11411 E. GRAND RIVER. 248/486-9113.

OCT. 28-30. MICH GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL SEMINAR, TRAVERSE CITY. 227-1726.

NOV. 3: 3:30/8 P.M. MULLING OVER MICHIGAN, 1999. GRAND RAPIDS COMM COLLEGE, FOR ALL WITH AN INTEREST IN HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES - TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS. 10-25-99 DEADLINE. 734/769-1828.

NOV. 4, 7 P.M. LIV. CO. GENEALOGICAL SOC. HOWELL. 227-1726.

NOV. 7: MICH. PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOW, NOVI. MI PHOTO HIST SOC. BOX 2278, BIRMINGHAM 48012-2278.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES/PROFESSIONALS HAVE BECOME MEMBERS IN 1999:

ANN ARBOR NEWS, BOSS ENGINEERING, BRIGHTON CHRYSLER, BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK, BRIGHTON FORD/MERCURY, FENCE SPOT, 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, 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

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BRIGHTON, MI

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### AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. JOHN LEARY'S WORDEN LAKE FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

TRUMAN B. WORDEN IS RECORDED AS A "FIRST LAND OWNER" IN GENOA TOWNSHIP, SECTION 25, IN THE SPRING OF 1835. THE GENOA TOWNSHIP PARCEL INCLUDED MOST OF THE LAKE WHICH NOW BEARS HIS NAME. HE ALSO PURCHASED PROPERTY IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, SECTION 31. (HOWEVER, HE DIDN'T LIVE ON THAT PROPERTY; HE APPARENTLY LIVED IN A LOG CABIN AT ABOUT 400 E. GRAND RIVER. THIS PLACE WAS KNOWN AS THE WORDEN HOUSE AND WAS USED AS A SCHOOL DURING THE 1840s.) WORDEN WAS THE FIRST DEATH IN THE VILLAGE, NOVEMBER 29, 1837, AND THE FIRST BURIED IN THE CEMETERY BY THE MILL POND. (THE 1880 CENSUS LISTS HIS WIFE, JANE, [BORN 1809] AS DIVORCED. THE ONLY PERSON SO IDENTIFIED IN THE BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP CENSUS.)

BY 1850, BEN CUSHING OWNS THE WORDEN LAKE SITE. THE CUSHINGS HAD A TAVERN AND HOTEL ON THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL IN BRIGHTON AT THE TIME. THEY WERE ALSO THE BUILDERS OF THE EASTERN HOUSE IN 1850, ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE TRAIL AND FITCH STREET, (MAIN) TO PRESERVE FOOD DURING THE SUMMER, ICE WAS CUT FROM WORDEN LAKE. AN EARLY PHOTO OF ICE HARVEST ON THE LAKE IS CAPTIONED "...ICE WAS CUT ON BIG WORDEN LAKE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS AND STORED IN SAWDUST IN AN ICE HOUSE FOR USE IN THE EASTERN HOUSE." (CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILROAD RESULTED IN A LITTLE WORDEN AND A BIG WORDEN LAKE.) BY 1895 A RAILROAD SPUR IS FOUND ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE LAKE. THAT PORTION IS OWNED BY H. NEWMAN. ICE WAS SHIPPED TO DETROIT AND OTHER CITIES. SEVERAL STRUCTURES ARE SHOWN ON THE ATLAS WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED ICE STORAGE BUILDINGS.

JOHN LEARY'S WORDEN LAKE FARM, IN THE 1895 ATLAS, INCLUDED THE SOUTH AND WEST PORTION OF THE LAKE. HE ALSO OWNED 40 ACRES IN THE SW $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 25 IN GENOA TOWNSHIP, WHICH FRONTED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF BRIGHTON ROAD JUST EAST OF THE CURVE AROUND LIME LAKE. (ANOTHER MAJOR SOURCE OF ICE.) JOHN PROBABLY FOLLOWED THE USUAL AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS OF THE TIME; RAISING CROPS AND, PERHAPS, CUT SOME OF THE MARSH HAY THAT WAS ALSO USED TO INSULATE ICE.

BY 1935 THE STUHRBURG BROTHERS OWN THE ICE BUSINESS SIDE OF THE LAKE AND ALSO RAN THE EASTERN HOUSE. DR. J. D. SINGER OWNS THE REMAINING 71 ACRES WHICH HAD CONSTITUTED LEARY'S WORDEN LAKE FARM.

BY THE LATE 1950s, A GROUP OF BUSINESS MEN HAS PURCHASED THE PROPERTY AND MUCH OF THE LAKE. IN 1961 SKIERS FROM SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ARE FLYING DOWN THE SLOPES OF MT. BRIGHTON. MT. BRIGHTON SUBDIVISION COMES INTO EXISTENCE AND HOMES AND CHURCHES LINE THE NORTH SIDE OF BRIGHTON ROAD, JOHN LEARY'S OLD FARM. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM FIRST LAND OWNERS OF LIV. CO. AND EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIV. CO. 1820/1870 AND EARLY OBITUARIES, ALL COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; VILLAGE CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION BY JOHN AND JANICE FIELD; CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASES. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.)