AREA FARMS C. 1900

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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 51. (However, he did not 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, 1857, and the first buried in the cemetery by the mill pond. The 1880 Census lists his wife Jane. John 1891 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 anditch 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 8th 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.

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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 Marianna 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 Charbonneau. Village Cemetery transcription by John and Janice Field; census records and atlases, corrections and additions will be gratefully received.)

OFFICERS
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810/229-6402

Vice President
Joanne Swink
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Lyons School
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Lyons School
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Membership
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Anne Stratigos
Hospitality
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Larry Wanner
Lyons School
810/229-6500

Dates to Remember:
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Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

11/5-8 P.M. and 26, 1-5 P.M. for genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.
12/5, 7 P.M. Society Board meets. Welcome.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Oxndorf Dr.
MEMBERSHIPS
BUS/PROF: Fence Spot and Little Professor Book Center of Brighton.

PATRON: Dr. Harry & Carol Davis (00) and Bill & Gloria McDonnell (NC 00).

COUPLES/INDIV: *Virginia DeLuca (Howell 00), Dorothy & Roydon Jones (00), Celina Grolek, Tim & Helen Hurst, Dick & Mary Jean Richter (Frazier 00).

*Welcome to our new members.

THANKS TO ALL FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF CONTINUED CONFIDENCE THE VAILABLE 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 = $3164.00, General Fund expenditures = $2235.00.

To date (September 1) General Fund receipts = $1208.00 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: Individ $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.

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PRESEVATION/RESTORATION
ARCHIVES: Research on early 1950s issues of the Brighton Argus continues.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 221999, 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 Smith for their help in the mailing of the September newsletter. John and Janice Fields for hand delivery of many out-of-town addresses.

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Bill and Gloria McDonnell and Dick and Mary Jean Richter for donations with their dues.

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Hilton Chabonow for copies of 1941 DAR and his records of the Baptist Church Cemetery and the “Old” Kensington Cemetery or E. Grand River.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DOATION FORM
P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Send membership card? (YES) (NO)

(DUES) $25.00 Patron $12.00 Couple $20.00 Student (K-12, College)

$25.00 Bus/Post. $7.00 Individual

DONATION: $10.00 ($20.00) ($50.00) ($100.00) ($500.00)

Society is an Income Tax Deductible Organization. 501(c)(3).


Fund-Raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Hugs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature quilts, Special events, Tote bags.

Administrative of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee members, Newsletter, Publicity.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

With Early Local Scenery, PKG of 5/$7.50, Mugs @ $1.00, Tote bags $3.00, Note paper @ $2.50, 11x14 photos of the mill pond and dam @ $2.50, copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1.00, make an interesting DISPLAY. Needlepoint kits $5. Show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

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. 10, 7-8 p.m., Pioneer Day at Waterloo Farm, Waterloo, MI.
Oct 10, 1-5 p.m., Historic Barn Tour, Coloma, MI 616/686-6626.
Oct 17, 2-4 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc Annual Meeting, Fire Hall, 11141 E. Grand River, 248/460-9115.
Nov. 3, 5:30-8 p.m., Rumbling Over Michigan, 1999, 517/556-2900.
Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m., St. Ignace Founders Day, 435 Lake Ave., St. Ignace, MI 906/627-1766.
Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Michigan Historical Society, 527 N. Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 517/483-4422.
Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Appleton Mill, Visitor Center, 248/645-3200.
Nov. 19, 7 p.m., Heritage House, 248/645-3200.
Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Michigan Historical Society, 527 N. Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 517/483-4422.
Nov. 24, 7 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc, 248/460-9115.
Nov. 26, 7 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc, 248/460-9115.
Nov. 27, 7 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc, 248/460-9115.
Nov. 28, 7 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc, 248/460-9115.
Nov. 29, 7 p.m., Green Oak Twp Hist Soc, 248/460-9115.
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1998 General Fund receipts = $31,616.00
General Fund expenditures = $32,225.00.

To date (September 1) General Fund receipts = $14,808.00 and General Fund expenditures = $22,324.00. It doesn't take a financial wizard to see something must change.

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Individual $15.00.
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A Tapestry Pillow, $25.00 goes well with the coverlets. 229-9100 to order. TILES, 15 DIFFERENT LOCAL SITES, ARE SHOWN ON BLUE/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.

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Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

October 1999
Vol. XVIII No. 10

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Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402
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810/229-7837
Secretary
Lisa Palermo
810/220-1767
Treasurer
Marge White
810/227-9964

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Lisa Calk
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810/229-8100
Carol McGaffin
Restoration
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Chris Ward
Lyons School
810/229-6000
Fred Warner
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

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Oct. 29, 7 P.M. Society Board meets. Welcome.

Brighton District Library, 200 Oxndorf Dr.

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Lyons School, 11455 Buro 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 the 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. We are also going to install a heater so we can open the windows and have the heater on at the same time. 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 Nancyenedor, her nephew Chris Nonn Catrell, Beth Bair, Chris Ward and Joanne Schow for clearing the way, under the floorboards, 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 under way. 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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