



## Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

# Trail Tales

SEPTEMBER, 1999  
Vol. XVIII No. 9

### Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

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THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, IS BEING RESTORED TO FUNCTION AS A ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND MUSEUM. EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD A HAND IN THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE REASON TO BE PROUD. THE END RESULT WILL PROVIDE A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO EXPERIENCE AND APPRECIATE THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

THE STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN THREE SECTIONS: THE ORIGINAL FRAME ONE ROOM SCHOOL IN 1885 (REPLACING A LOG SCHOOL OF 1842), THE GOOD SIZED ADDITION, OF A SIMILAR STYLE, IN THE LATE 1920S AND A CONCRETE ADDITION AFTER THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED THERE.

THE CONCRETE ADDITION, A PERFECT FACILITY FOR RESEARCH AND FILING OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, PRESENTLY HOUSES DESKS OF MANY VARIETIES, GLASS CASES FOR DISPLAY OF LOCAL HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND A ROUND OAK STOVE.

THE FRAME CENTER ROOM WILL HOUSE THE FURNACE AND A HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE UNISEX RESTROOM, WITH THE MAIN AREA TO SERVE AS A MUSEUM.

THE EARLIEST ROOM WILL ENABLE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHILDREN IN EARLY MICHIGAN AND HOW THEY WERE EDUCATED. BRIGHTON DISTRICT TEACHERS ARE AT WORK PLANNING A CURRICULUM.

THE FRONT AND MIDDLE ROOMS HAVE BEEN READIED FOR INSTALLATION OF HEATING, ELECTRICITY AND PLUMBING. (A NEW SEPTIC IS IN - \$5500. +.) FOLLOWING THOSE JOBS (FOR WHICH KNOWLEDGEABLE VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED), INSULATION, FLOORING, WALLS AND PAINTING (VOLUNTEERS!!!) CAN BE COMPLETED.

DONATIONS OF MATERIALS, SUCH AS INSULATION, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, LUMBER, PAINT, WILL BE A MAJOR HELP. FUNDRAISING IS ONGOING. A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION CAN PAY SOME OF THE BILLS. THE SOCIETY IS A 501 (c) 3 ORGANIZATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. DONATIONS OF \$100.00+ WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR FUTURE COMMEMORATION. CALL CHRIS WARD, 810/229-0560, OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402, IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY - PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL, MATERIAL.



#### Dates to Remember:

- SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 1 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 8, 5-8 P.M. AND 28, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- 25, 8-6 P.M., HARVEST FEST, MAIN ST.
- \* 27, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETS. WELCOME.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: BILL & GLORIA McCONNELL (NC '00),  
RICHARD & BARBARA SMITH ('01).

BUS/PROF: \*SUE HAMILTON (HOWELL).

COUPLES/INDIV: EUGENIA ANDERSON (ST. CLAIR  
SHORES), W. CHARLES & JOAN M BROWN, \*DON &  
KAREN BIERER, \*RON & CATHY DOUGHTY, \*AMY  
CLARK, \*STEPHEN CLARK (BOTH MIDLAND), DORO-  
THY FOSTER (CA '00), \*JASON HOFF (TX), \*JOHN  
& TANYA MACLEAN, ALICE NEWCOMB ('01).

\*THE SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH ARE AN  
ENCOURAGING SIGN TO HARD WORKING BOARD MEM-  
BERS. WELCOME!!! ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO  
BOARD MEETINGS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY/ALL  
PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY. AMY, STEPHEN AND  
JASON ARE STUDENTS WHOSE DUES HAVE BEEN PAID  
BY LOIS CLARK. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS  
TO CONSIDER MAKING SUCH GIFTS.

EACH NEWSLETTER CARRIES "ADDRESS CORREC-  
TION REQUESTED". EACH RETURNED ITEM COSTS  
THE SOCIETY .33¢ (PLUS THE COST OF ORIGINAL  
MAILING). PLEASE CALL 810/229-6402 WITH  
ADDRESS CHANGES; IF THERE IS A PERIOD OF  
TIME YOU'RE "TEMPORARILY AWAY"; OR YOU MAY,  
AS MANY DO, PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE ADDRESS  
FOR THE MONTHS YOU'LL BE IN FLORIDA, ARI-  
ZONA, NORTHERN MICHIGAN, ETC. THIS INFOR-  
MATION WILL BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE,  
AS IS ALL SUCH INFORMATION. THANKS FOR  
YOUR HELP.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, JOHN & JANICE  
FIELD AND NANCY FREDENBURG FOR HELP IN GET-  
TING THE AUGUST ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES IN  
THE MAIL.

...DICK SMITH FOR HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL  
LAKE CHURCH CAMP.

...MARGARET SQUIRE FOR HER DONATION TOWARD  
THE DELIVERY EXPENSE OF THE GRAVE MARKERS  
FOR VETERANS AT THE VILLAGE CEMETERY.

...ALENE ANDERSON (CHARLEVOIX) FOR PHOTOS  
OF EARLY BRIGHTON WE COPY FOR ARCHIVES AND  
FOR HER CONTINUED SUPPORT.

...DETROIT EDISON, HELEN LEITZ AND CHILDREN  
AND LOIS CLARK FOR DONATIONS TO THE LYONS  
SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT.

...NANCY FREDENBURG FOR OVERSEEING THE  
SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE FARMERS' MARKETS, ART  
FAIR AND SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERTS. BARB SMITH,  
AGGIE SULLIVAN AND JOANNE SWONK HELPED OUT.

...EUGENIA ANDERSON AND FOUR CHILDREN WILL  
BE ON THE SIGNATURE QUILT.

## RESTORATION/PRESERVATION

ARCHIVES: EARLY 50s BRIGHTON ARGUS ISSUES  
ARE UNDER SCRUTINY. NEWSWORTHY COLUMNS ARE  
BEING APPROPRIATELY FILED. (IT WILL BE GOOD  
TO HAVE A REAL ARCHIVE FILING FACILITY  
ONE DAY.)

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN,  
231-2957, LOOKING FORWARD TO PUBLICATION  
IN 2YK.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER  
25, 9-NOON, SCOUTS OF TROOP 350 WILL BE AT  
THE CEMETERY (BY THE MILL POND) ENGAGING  
IN A GROUNDS CLEAN UP. YOU CAN ALSO HELP.  
BRING A RAKE, PRUNING CLIPPERS, ETC.

THE BALANCE OF THE DELIVERY CHARGE FOR THE  
VETERANS' GRAVE MARKERS HAS BEEN PAID.  
DESCENDANTS OF THOSE VETS MAY WISH TO HELP  
WITH REIMBURSEMENT. THEY'LL ALSO HAVE THE  
SATISFACTION OF REPAYING A TINY BIT OF THE  
SACRIFICE THESE MEN MADE. OF COURSE, ANY  
AMERICAN CITIZEN CAN HAVE THAT SATISFACTION.

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

LYONS SCHOOL: THE CEILING HAS BEEN CLEANED  
(THNX TO DAVE PETTIGROVE), THE EXCAVATING  
OF THE HEATING DUCTS IS DONE (THNX TO BERT  
BAIR, NORM CATRELL, NANCY FREDENBURG AND  
HER NEPHEW CHRIS, JOANNE SWONK AND CHRIS  
WARD), PLUMBING INSTALLATION IS UNDERWAY  
(THNX TO JOHN PALERMO), THE PORCH ROOF ON  
THE BACK IS GONE (THNX TO NORM, NANCY AND  
DAVE). STAN SCHAFFER HAS BEEN A GUIDING  
FACTOR IN THIS RESTORATION.

HAROLD JARVIS, JR.

PAUL DE LUCA

THE SOCIETY EXTENDS SINCERE  
SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILIES

BOTH THESE MEN MADE VALUABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
BRIGHTON COMMUNITY.

SOCIETY AT HARVEST FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 8-6 P.M.  
BOOTH ATTENDANTS NEEDED!

CONTACT NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100 OR  
MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402

...BILL & GLORIA McCONNELL (NC) FOR A CON-  
TRIBUTION WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP.

...JOANNE SWONK. WE'RE ON LINE WITH THE  
INTERNET. THE ADDRESS IS: [HTTP://COMMUNITY.  
MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS](http://community.mlive.com/cc/bahs)

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, CAN BE SEEN 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, BIRTHDAY, 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., MUGS \$5., SUPPLIES DWINDLING; POST CARDS PKG 6/\$3. EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES; NOTE PAPER \$2.50; 11"x14" PHOTOS OF THE MILL POND AND DAM, c. 1940, \$25. 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 NAUGHTY '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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

SEPT. 10/12, 11 A.M./8 P.M. WYANDOTTE "HERITAGE DAYS '99". 734/324-7297.

CONCERTS, LIVING HISTORY, TOURS, FOOD.

SEPT. 12, 10-4 P.M. FLEA MARKET & VILLAGE TOURS. GREENMEAD HISTORIC PARK, LIVONIA. 248/477-7375.

SEPT. 17/19 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN 125TH ANNUAL MEETING, KALAMAZOO.

SEPT. 19, NOON-5 P.M. BELLEVILLE AREA HOME TOUR. 734/697-1944.

SEPT. 19, 2P.M. PROGRAM ON GENEALOGY, GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY. FIRE HALL, 11411 E. GRAND RIVER.

SEPT. 25, 8:45-1 P.M. MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK WORKSHOP ON YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR 25% STATE TAX CREDIT WHEN RESTORING YOUR HISTORIC PROPERTY. REG. SEPT. 20. 248/625-8181. \$8.50.

SEPT/DEC. TRAIN TOURS. BLUEWATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER NRHS, P O Box 296, ROYAL OAK, MI 48068.

SEPT. 26, 3 P.M. BRIGHTON SR. CENTER FAMILY VARIETY SHOW/BRIGHTON COMMUNITY ED. AT BCPA. \$10.00.

OCT. 5, 1 P.M. GEO. WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, BRIGHTON LIBRARY, BY PHILLIP LIVINGSTON CHAP. DAR. RSVP BY 9-24-99 TO 810/227-7687. BARB SMITH.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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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. JOHN DUCKERINGS' YAZOO FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

THE 1880 CENSUS IS THE FIRST THAT RECORDS THE JOHN DUCKERING FAMILY IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY. BY THEN THEY ARE WELL SETTLED INTO THEIR HOME ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD SOUTH OF HYNE ROAD. THE HOUSEHOLD INCLUDES JOHN (38), HIS WIFE EMILY (OR ERMA, 33) AND FOUR CHILDREN, TWO BOYS AND TWO GIRLS AGES 2-10. (TWO MORE DAUGHTERS ARE BORN LATER.)

JOHN WAS TEN WHEN HIS PARENTS EMIGRATED FROM ENGLAND IN 1851, SETTLING IN NEIGHBORING OAKLAND COUNTY. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF SIBLINGS BUT OUR LIMITED RESEARCH MATERIALS PROVIDE FEW DETAILS.

JOHN AND EMILY PURCHASED THE E $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$  AND THE NW $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE SE $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 11 IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, 120 ACRES, IN 1876; AND AT THE SAME TIME, 40 ACRES IN SECTION 35, APPROXIMATELY 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  MILES DISTANT IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP. BOTH PARCELS WERE SOLD TO THEM BY AARON AND SARAH PALMER WHO HAD MOVED CLOSER TO MILFORD SHORTLY BEFORE.

THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THESE TWO PIECES HAD HELD THEM FOR ONLY A FEW YEARS; PROBABLY BOUGHT ON SPECULATION IN MICHIGAN TERRITORY'S PIONEER DAYS. JOHN VANLEUVEN, IN 1834, COMBINED THESE TWO SEPARATE PARCELS AND SOLD TO PHILLIP AND EXPERIENCE CRIPPEN IN THE 1850s. THE PALMERS HAD PURCHASED BOTH PIECES FROM THE CRIPPENS IN 1867.

THE 1859 MAP INDICATES A STRUCTURE WHICH WAS PROBABLY BUILT BY THE CRIPPENS. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE DUCKERING HOME C. 1900 WHEN THE YAZOO FARM IS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS. THE UNUSUAL NAME MAY HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATION TO THE DUCKERING FAMILY HERITAGE, SERVING AS A LINK TO THE PAST. IT MAY HAVE BEEN INDICATIVE OF THE SLANG OF THE TIMES OR JOHN DUCKERING HAD A WELL DEVELOPED SENSE OF HUMOR.

TWO OF THE DUCKERING DAUGHTERS MARRIED LOCAL RESIDENTS. LAURA MARRIED SAM McCLEMENTS, SON OF JOHN WHO CAME TO MICHIGAN C. 1870 FROM IRELAND. MARY MARRIED W. L. BIDWELL, GRANDSON OF PIONEER SETTLER SETH BIDWELL. SON GEORGE IS THE ONLY CHILD STILL ON THE FARM AT THE TIME OF JOHN DUCKERING'S DEATH IN 1923.

SHORTLY AFTER JOHN'S PASSING (EMILY DIED IN 1922), GENERAL MOTORS WAS PURCHASING LAND ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PROVING GROUND FOR THEIR MOTOR CARS. THE 80 ON THE EAST SIDE OF PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD IS NOW BEHIND AN ENCLOSURE, OUT OF VIEW. THE OLD FARM HOUSE WAS SOON REMOVED. ON THE WEST SIDE OF PLEASANT VALLEY THE ONCE-PRODUCTIVE FARM NOW CONSISTS OF SMALL PARCELS WITH MORE HOMES AND FAMILIES. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY ATLASES; EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. PLEASE CONTACT US, 810/229-6402, WITH ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS.)