



# Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

[HTTP://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS](http://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS)

# Trail Tales

DECEMBER 2000  
Vol. XIX No. 12

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

## OFFICERS

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HOSPITALITY  
NEWSLETTER DIST.  
810/229-5689

HERB WARNER  
LYONS SCHOOL  
810/229-6504

## Contributors to The Lyon School Blitz Build Weekend

### Sponsored By

- The Brighton Rotary

### Monetary Contributors

Lionel Korb  
Michele's Salon  
Brighton Commerce Bank

### Material Contributors

N.A. Mans Lumber  
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Schemer Construction  
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Laundry Electric  
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Approved Plumbing  
Turner Construction  
Schemer Construction  
Done Rite Insulation  
Macaulay Construction  
Community Servants for Christ



## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: WHITNEY & JUNE KIMBLE.

INDIV/COUPLES: JOHN S. ALLEN (FL),  
MARIAN CARNEY, HOMER & EVELYN DOTHAGER  
(IL), TIM & HELEN HURST, ESTHER L. JAR-  
VIS, JEANETTE JOHNSON (O2), JOHN & RUTH  
LePATOUREL, BRENDA McCARTY, SHIRLEY  
RITTER, RANDALL & KYLE WILSON.

WHEN SO MANY MEMBERS RENEW EACH YEAR  
BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRS ARE ENCOURAGED.  
THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT? HOWEVER  
THEY CAN ALWAYS USE MORE ACTUAL INVOL-  
VEMENT. THAT CAN INCLUDE SERVING ON THE  
BOARD, ASSISTING WITH ORAL HISTORY, HIS-  
TORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, ARCHIVES, HISTORY  
BOOK, LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION, ETC.  
ALSO HELPING AT THE BOOTH AT FARMERS'  
MARKET, ART FAIR, SUNDAY CONCERTS,  
PARADES, ETC.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS AP-  
PROPRIATE. ADMINISTRATION SUPPLIES ,  
POSTAL EXPENSES (P O BOX RENT \$45.,  
ANNUAL NON PROFIT MAILING FEE \$100.).  
NEWSLETTER PRINTING (\$185. PER MO.) AND  
MAILING (\$60+. PER MO.).

IF NONE OF THESE TURN YOU ON CALL MARIE-  
ANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402, AND SHE CAN SUG-  
GEST OTHER POSSIBILITIES.

THE SOCIETY IS AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

FOR THE GIFT THAT CAN'T GO WRONG, GIVE  
A MEMBERSHIP.

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## ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 27, 2000

THE MAIN BUSINESS TRANSACTED WAS THE ELECTION  
OF THE 2001 BOARD. OF THOSE PRESENT THE PRESI-  
DENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER WERE RE-  
ELECTED AS WERE NANCY FREDENBURG, JIM VICHICH  
AND CAROL McMACKEN TO DIRECTOR POSITIONS.

SEVERAL MORE DIRECTORS ARE NEEDED AND THE  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY NEEDS TO BE FILLED. A  
MEMBER WHO CAN ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS REGU-  
LARLY TO RECORD BOARD ACTIVITIES IS NEEDED  
TO SERVE AS SECRETARY.

ALSO NEEDED ARE CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE HISTORIC  
RESOURCE SURVEY, FUND RAISING, PREPARATION  
OF GRANT AND HISTORIC SITE APPLICATIONS,  
STOCKING OF SALES ITEMS, PHOTOGRAPHING OF  
EARLY STRUCTURES BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SOCIETY ACTIVITY

IF ONE HAD UNLIMITED SPACE THIS REPORT  
WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO PREPARE. MUCH  
HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN 2000.

ALL YEAR LONG MANY ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS HAVE  
WILLINGLY CONTRIBUTED MUCH TIME, LABOR AND  
MATERIALS TO THE RESTORATION OF THE 1885  
LYONS ONE ROOM SCHOOL IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP.  
THIS ALL CULMINATED IN THE 'BLITZ BUILD'  
THE END OF OCTOBER. IT WAS ASTONISHING TO  
SEE WALLS, FLOORS, PLUMBING, PAINTING, DOOR  
INSTALLATION, LANDSCAPING, RAMP BUILDING,  
FENCE AND EXTERIOR PAINTING HAPPEN AS DOZENS  
OF PEOPLE EXERTED EVERY EFFORT. DURING THE  
YEAR WATER, HEATING, PLUMBING, ELECTRICITY,  
CONCRETE WALKS (INFRASTRUCTURE) WAS INSTALLED.

CHRIS WARD, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP CLERK, HAS  
WORKED WITH DEDICATION ON HIS GOAL AS CHAIR-  
MAN OF THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION. IT  
TAKES PEOPLE LIKE HIM TO STIMULATE OTHERS  
IN THAT DIRECTION.

THE SCHOOL RESTORATION WAS AN IMPRESSIVE RE-  
SULT ONE CAN SEE. OTHERS DEDICATED THEMSELVES  
TO LESS VISIBLE, BUT MOST NECESSARY PROJECTS.

SEVERAL LONG TIME RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN INTER-  
VIEWED FOR THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM. LORRY  
WAGNER AND SHERYL VIGMOSTAD ARE CONTINUING  
THEIR EFFORTS.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS MAILED BY SEVERAL  
WILLING MEMBERS. JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND  
ANNE STRATIGOS HAND DELIVER ABOUT 250. CER-  
TIFICATES FOR BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS  
ARE PREPARED. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO  
SEVERAL LOCAL SCHOOL GROUPS AND OTHERS ON  
LOCAL HISTORY. THE BOARD REGULARLY ASSESSES  
THE MANNER IN WHICH IT CONDUCTS BUSINESS.  
GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE PREPARED, POLICIES  
ARE REVIEWED, NEW PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED  
AND VARIOUS FUND RAISING POSSIBILITIES ARE  
ANALYZED. THE SOCIETY IS INVOLVED WITH OTHER  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNING BODIES  
IN DEVELOPING AN AWARENESS OF THE VALUE TO  
OUR SENSE OF PLACE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
AND RESTORATION.

HER DEDICATION TO THE WRITING OF THE HISTORY  
OF THE AREA WHICH PRACTICALLY POSSESSES  
CAROL McMACKEN'S LIFE IS AWE INSPIRING.

WE EXPRESS DEEP GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
PROVIDED INSPIRATION AND SUPPORT. WE WILL  
ATTEMPT TO BE CONSIDERED WORTHY IN THE YEAR  
TO COME. MARIEANNA BAIR

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.

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.

COVERLETS, \$49., RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN.

A NEW TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$30., DEPICTING THE BRIGHTON RAILROAD DEPOT AND TRAIN IS AVAILABLE. A FINE COMPANION TO THE COVERLETS ABOVE. 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 OR 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.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN & JANICE FIELD, JUNE KIMBLE, SHIRLEY RITTER FOR HELPING GET THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL.

...SUVCW (SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR) FOR THEIR CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION RECOGNIZING THE SOCIETY'S PRESERVATION EFFORTS AT THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY. A COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE WAS HELD NOVEMBER 12 AT THE LT. COL. JOHN GILLULY MEMORIAL.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR THEIR TRANSCRIPTION OF THE KENSINGTON CEMETERY.

...JOHN CURRY AND STEPHEN LEITH FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE PURCHASE OF THE 1890 CENSUS, AND OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE ARCHIVES.

...ESTHER JARVIS AND JEANETTE JOHNSON FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDED WITH THEIR DUES.

...BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY FOR THE USE OF THE BRIGHTON ROOM FOR BOARD MEETINGS.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING HAVE PAID YEAR 2000 DUES. PLEASE RECOGNIZE THEM WITH YOUR PATRONAGE.

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, ANN ARBOR NEWS, BOGAN INSURANCE AGENCY, BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL, BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK, BRIGHTON PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE, INC., FENCE SPOT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SUE HAMILTON, P.C., HERMANN FUNERAL HOME, HOME TOWN NEWSPAPERS, LAWRENCE AUTOBODY, LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER OF BRIGHTON, HERB AND RUTH MUNZEL, PDQ/BUS IMAGING GROUP AND PYRAMID CONCRETE.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLASS OFFERED

BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 7:30-9, A SIX WEEK CLASS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION WILL BE PRESENTED BY PHILLIP SMITH (EMU HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRAD) IN COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY ED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

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, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION AS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. MYRON WEST'S FAIR VIEW IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

IN THE 1870 CENSUS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY WE FIND THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF MYRON WEST LIVING IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. HE IS WORKING FOR HIRAM NICHOLS WHO HAS 120 ACRES IN SECTION 35, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . (THE PRESENT SITE OF BRIGHTON HOSPITAL. THE HOUSE, WHICH FORMED THE NUCLEUS OF THE HOSPITAL WAS MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION FROM A SITE MUCH CLOSER TO THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL.)

BY 1895 WEST OWNS 80 ACRES ABOUT ONE MILE NORTH, FAIR VIEW, SECTION 26, N $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ . ROBERT EDGAR, FROM IRELAND, AND WIFE, NANCY WHALEN, OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, N.Y., HAD PURCHASED THIS 80 ACRES FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BY 1835. ONE NOTES A HOUSE ON THE SITE ON THE 1859 ATLAS. (IT'S LIKELY THE LUMBER WAS SAWED AT THE NEARBY WOODRUFF MILL ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD.) IN 1879 THIS WAS TRANSFERRED BY ROBERT, WHO DIED THE NEXT YEAR, TO HIS 24 YEAR OLD SON EMERY. HIS WIDOWED SISTER, MATHILDA HUDSON, AND HER THREE CHILDREN ARE LIVING THERE, AS IS HIS 71 YEAR OLD MOTHER NANCY. AT THIS TIME EMERY IS FARMING. IT WOULD APPEAR BROTHER WALTER (WIFE SARAH AND ONE YEAR OLD MARGERY) ARE PROBABLY LIVING IN THE SMALLER OF THE TWO HOUSES, JUST SOUTH OF THE LARGER. ALL ARE DEPENDENT ON THE FARM.

MYRON WEST, BORN IN FARMINGTON FEBRUARY 12, 1851, WAS THE SECOND OF FIVE BROTHERS. BY THE TIME HE IS RECORDED AS THE OWNER OF THIS 80 ACRE FARM, HE HAD MARRIED KATIE V. FERGUSON, A NEIGHBOR'S DAUGHTER, JANUARY 5, 1881. HE DID GENERAL FARMING, RAISING GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK. WHEN THE MILK FACTORY WAS ESTABLISHED IN BRIGHTON, HE, AS MANY OTHERS, SWITCHED TO DAIRY FARMING.

THEIR ONLY CHILD, CARRIE VIOLA, MARRIED RUFUS DARLINGTON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1913, AND LIVED IN THE SMALLER HOUSE UNTIL AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH IN 1935. CARRIE WAS STILL ON THAT FARM WELL INTO THE 3RD QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THE PRESENT BARN IS NOT THE ORIGINAL. THAT BURNED C. 1930 AS A RESULT OF CARRIE'S SON, VERN, PLAYING WITH MATCHES.

MYRON, WHO DIED IN 1923, KATIE, CARRIE AND RUFUS ARE BURIED IN THE KENSINGTON CEMETERY AS ARE ROBERT AND NANCY EDGAR. THE SMALL HOUSE IS PRESENTLY IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR. THE LARGER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNDERGOING REPAIRS FOR SOME TIME. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM "EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS" AND OBITUARIES BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; EARLY CENSUS RECORDS, ATLASES AND INTERVIEW OF HERB WARNER. ADDITIONS/ CORRECTIONS WELCOME.)