



# 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

FEBRUARY 2000  
VOL. XIX No. 2

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

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## LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

RONNI POWERS AND THE ELEMENTARY CAUCUS ARE AGAIN COLLECTING RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. THE DEPOSITS ARE DONATED TO THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL. IF YOU'D PREFER TO RETURN THE CONTAINERS YOURSELF YOU MAY SEND THE DEPOSIT REFUND SLIP, OR THE REFUND, TO THE SOCIETY.

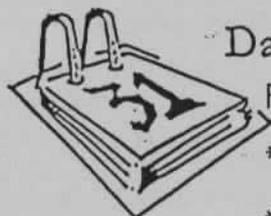
TO CONTINUE THE RESTORATION EFFORTS THUS FAR PUT FORTH, FUND RAISING MUST BE ONGOING.

THE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING TO DETERMINE FUTURE FUND RAISING EVENTS. THIS WILL BE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7 P.M. AT THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 100 LIBRARY DRIVE. YOUR INPUT WILL BE VERY NECESSARY.

PROJECT CHAIRMAN, CHRIS WARD, CONTINUES TO KEEP THE GOAL OF RESTORATION AT THE FORE. HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

SOCIETY MEMBERS BELIEVE THIS IS A WORTHWHILE PROJECT AND ARE COUNTING ON YOUR HELP. IN FACT, WITHOUT YOUR HELP ITS COMPLETION WILL BE FARTHER IN THE FUTURE AND MORE SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY.

YOU'LL ENJOY BEING ABLE TO SAY, "I HAD A HAND IN THIS."



## Dates to Remember:

- FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 9, 5-8 P.M. AND 22, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 21, 7 P.M. PLANNING FUND RAISING EVENTS FOR LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION. WELCOME.

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

## MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: THE FENCE SPOT.

PATRON: VAL AND KATHY JACOBY (FL).

COUPLES/INDIV: ALENE ANDERSON (CHARLEVOIX '02), BERT & MARIEANNA BAIR, ELAINE BLIGHT, LIBBY EISENHARDT, MARK & CHARLOTTE GODIN, MICHAEL & RENEE GOLEC, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST, DON HOMAN, DAVID LEHMAN, SUSAN LANNING (LIVONIA), DENNIS & MARIA LITTLEWORTH (FL), JOHN & LISA PALERMO, MARTY & LEE PAWLAK (SOUTH LYON), RITA POLASKE, ED & CONNIE SHERMAN, BUD STEDMAN (FL), PETER & ANNE STRATIGOS, FLORENCE A. SULLIVAN, ROBERT & RUTH WATSON (HOWELL), DON AND ALICE WYLAND.

THE ONGOING SUPPORT OF RENEWING MEMBERS IS WHAT KEEPS THE SOCIETY ALIVE. MEMBERS ARE THE SOCIETY. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GIVING MEMBERSHIP AS A GIFT? THIS IS A WAY OF EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN CARE ABOUT PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE? THE LAST TWO DIGITS OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES ARE PAID ARE ON THE MAILING LABEL. IF THERE IS NO DATE OR IT IS LESS THAN "00" PLEASE KNOW YOUR DUES NEED TO BE REMITTED. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE MEMORY OF FROM WHERE THE SETTLERS CAME, NOR FORGET WHAT THEY DREAMED AND ACHIEVED.

TRY ALSO TO CONSIDER HOW YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIETY, NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY BUT WITH YOUR TIME AND ENERGY.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE SOCIETY WITH 2000 MEMBERSHIPS: ADVANCE CRAFT, FENCE SPOT, LAWRENCE AUTO BODY, AND PDQ BIG.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...TO THESE MEMBERS WHO ADDED A DONATION TO THEIR DUES PAYMENTS: DON HOMAN, DAVID LEHMAN, DENNIS & MARIA LITTLEWORTH OF FLORIDA, ED & CONNIE SHERMAN, ROBERT & RUTH WATSON OF HOWELL AND BUD STEDMAN OF FLORIDA.

...VAL & KATHY JACOBY OF FLORIDA INCLUDED A DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT WITH THEIR DUES.

...BERT BAIR AND NORMAN & MARY ANN CATRELL FOR HELPING GET THE JANUARY ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES READY TO MAIL.

...SHERYL VIGMOSTAD FOR HER DONATION.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: WORK ON THE RECORDING THE HISTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESS SITES IS CONTINUING. NOTEBOOKS, WITH EACH ADDRESS, ARE BEING COMPILED, I.E. E. MAIN, W. MAIN, E. GRAND RIVER, US 23, ETC. WHEN COMPLETED EACH SITE WILL HAVE A COMPLETE HISTORY. WHERE POSSIBLE PICTURES WILL BE INCLUDED. CALL 229-6402 TO OFFER YOUR HELP.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: IT'S NOW ON THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER. A MARKER WILL SOON BE ORDERED. AN ANONYMOUS SUBSTANTIAL DONATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FOR THIS MARKER. THE CIVIL WAR VETERANS WILL HAVE AN APPROPRIATE MEMORIAL CREATED WHICH WILL INCLUDE ALL THE NAMES OF THE VETERANS INTERRED. SUGGESTIONS MAY BE SENT TO THE SOCIETY. DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THIS MEMORIAL. WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO SAY I CONTRIBUTED TO THAT? YOUR DONATION WILL BE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: CAROL Mc MACKEN, 231-2957, WORKS MANY HOURS ON THIS LONG AWAITED PROJECT. YOUR INFORMATION, PHOTOS, LETTERS, ETC., CAN HELP.

LYON SCHOOL: THE INSTALLATION OF A WELL, GETTING THE GAS HOOKED TO THE FURNACE, INSTALLING INSULATION, ELECTRICITY, ETC., IS UNDERWAY. CALL CHRIS WARD, 229-0560, OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, TO HELP.

...ANNE STRATIGOS WHO OFFERED TO HAND DELIVER THE NEWSLETTER TO BUSINESSES IN BRIGHTON CITY EACH MONTH. ALSO TO KEVIN ROACH WHO WILL HELP WHEN NEEDED.

...THE JACOBYS OF FLORIDA ALSO SENT GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION ON THE NATHANIEL MORGAN FAMILY FARM NOTED IN A RECENT ISSUE.

...THE SUBSTANTIAL ANONYMOUS DONATION TO THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER FOR THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY.

...JOHN CURRY OF LANSING, FOR GENEALOGICAL MATERIAL RE; THE LEWIS M. CURRY FAMILY. THEY WERE ONE OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS AND BUILDERS OF THE HOUSE ON THE NW CORNER OF S. EAST AND E. NORTH STREETS IN 1836. LEWIS WAS THE FATHER OF THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN THE 'VILLAGE' OF BRIGHTON, 1837. HIS SISTER, SARA, WAS THE FIRST WHITE GIRL, 1841. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1837 ON THE NOBLE PLAT IN "LOWER TOWN".

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.

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.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...INTERESTED PERSONS TO HELP WITH THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEM.

...PEOPLE TO DEVELOP SHORT PROGRAMS BASED ON 'GRANDMA'S TRUNK', 'GRANDPA'S BARN', 'AUNT EMMA'S KITCHEN', 'COUSIN WILLI'S SCHOOL DAYS', 'SISTER SALLY'S TOY BOX', 'UNCLE JOE'S CARPENTER'S TOOLS', ETC.

PRESENTED TO SCHOOL CHILDREN THESE WOULD PROVIDE A SENSE OF EARLY LIFE AND TIMES IN THE BRIGHTON AREA.

...PEOPLE TO CHAIR OR HELP WITH A PROJECT OR SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WE TEND TO TAKE CHILDREN FOR GRANTED, NOT REALIZING HOW HARD THEY TRY TO PLEASE US; AND HOW TERRIBLE THEY FEEL WHEN THEY THINK THEY HAVE FAILED.

---C. SOHNLY

THE SYMPATHY OF THE SOCIETY  
 IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF  
 JACK GEBBEN

JACK WAS A CHARTER MEMBER AND  
 FORMER BOARD MEMBER.  
 A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR SOCIETY GOALS.

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, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE McCABE BROTHERS' SHADY CREEK FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

MICHAEL, HUGH, THOMAS, PATRICK (3), JAMES, EDWARD AND MATHREW, McCABES ALL, AND THEIR WIVES, WERE BORN IN IRELAND. THEY CAME TO GREEN OAK, HAMBURG, UNADILLA AND GENOA TOWNSHIP BY WAY OF CANADA, NEW YORK OR ILLINOIS, TO FIND A LIFE TILLING THE SOIL. BY 1844, SEVERAL ARE LISTED AS RESIDENT TAXPAYERS IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP SECTIONS 9, 10, 15 AND 16. THIS CONCENTRATION OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS SOON ACQUIRED THE LOCAL NAME OF PADDYTOWN. THE MONAHAN, OR IRISH, CEMETERY, CORNER McCABE AND SILVER LAKE ROADS IS THE RESTING PLACE FOR MANY IRISH SETTLERS. CENSUS RECORDS INDICATE EDUCATION WAS IMPORTANT TO THE McCABES. CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE ATTENDED REGULARLY. ONE ALSO FINDS THAT THOSE 15 YEARS AND OLDER ARE OFTEN EMPLOYED BY NEIGHBORING FARMERS AND AS DOMESTICS. THE LARGE FAMILIES NEEDED THE CHILDREN'S INCOME TO SURVIVE.

MICHAEL AND THOMAS OF SHADY CREEK FARM, SONS OF PATRICK D. AND BRIDGET, WERE IN HAMBURG TOWNSHIP IN 1854. (SEC. 1, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , 160 ACRES PLUS 70 ACRES TO THE WEST IN SEC. 2. THIS IS BETWEEN HAMBURG AND BAUER ROADS ON HAMBURG ROAD. SHADY CREEK REFERS TO ORE CREEK FLOWING FROM BRIGHTON VILLAGE TO ORE LAKE AND ON.) THOMAS MARRIED MARY FAGAN, MICHAEL DID NOT MARRY. THEIR FOUR SIBLINGS WERE JAMES, MARGARET, PATRICK AND ALEXANDER. A YOUNG NEPHEW, THOMAS, ONLY CHILD OF JAMES, LIVED WITH THEM AFTER HIS PARENTS DIED IN 1892. AT THE AGE OF 16 HE DROWNED IN LIME LAKE, WHILE SWIMMING WITH FRIENDS.

TWO COUSINS, BROTHERS, ENLISTED IN THE CIVIL WAR. PATRICK, IN LT. JOHN GILLULY'S CO. I, 5TH INF., DIED OF DISEASE MARCH 3, 1862, AT ALEXANDRIA, VA. FELIX, CO. H., 22ND INF., DIED IN ANDERSONVILLE PRISON AUGUST 15, 1864, AND IS BURIED THERE. AT HOME INADEQUATE NUTRITION, UNSANITARY HOUSING AND THE STRENUOUS WORK OF THE WOMEN CONTRIBUTED TO HIGH CHILD MORTALITY RATES AMONG THE SETTLERS, INCLUDING THE McCABES.

AN M. McCABE IS LISTED AS A CHARTER MEMBER OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1853. PATRIC F. IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (ST. PATRICK'S) BUILDING IN 1864.

C. 1937, THE BOY SCOUT OF AMERICA, DETROIT COUNCIL, PURCHASED SHADY CREEK FARM AS A CAMP. PERHAPS THAT IS WHEN THE PRIME STANDS OF EVERGREENS WERE PLANTED. THE SITE IS NOW THE SETTING FOR ONE OF THE FINEST, MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE AREA.

(RESEARCH COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR AND LISA PALERMO FROM THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; YESTERYEARS OF GREEN OAK; EARLY CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASSES; AND MILTON CHARBONEAU'S FIRST LANDOWNERS, EARLY LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS AND EARLY OBITUARIES. ADDITIONS, ETC., WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)