



## 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

JULY 2000  
VOL. XIX No. 7

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

### LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

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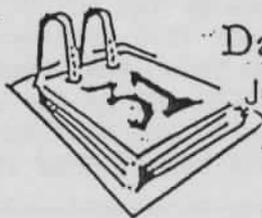
SUMMER IS A BUSY TIME FOR AREA CONTRACTORS OF ALL TYPES OF EXPERTISE. CHAIRMAN, CHRIS WARD HAS BEEN MAKING CONTACTS WITH CONTRACTORS FOR CAULKING, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING, ETC. ALL ARE WILLING TO EITHER DONATE OR DISCOUNT TIME AND LABOR TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT. ALL ARE PROUD TO HAVE A HAND IN THIS RESTORATION. ALL ARE VERY BUSY WITH LOCAL CONSTRUCTION.

SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS HAVE OFFERED TO HELP, AS SOON AS A DATE/TIME IS SET. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS HELP MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO PURCHASE THE MATERIALS NECESSARY. PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. EVERYONE'S COOPERATION IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED.

WATER IS IN THE BUILDING. WHEN THE NEW WELL WAS DRILLED AND INSTALLED IT WAS NECESSARY TO REMOVE SEVERAL OF THE FENCE POSTS AND THE BOARDS IN ORDER TO MOVE THE EQUIPMENT INTO PLACE. THESE POSTS NEED TO BE PUT BACK IN PLACE AND THE SEVERAL BOARDS ATTACHED AGAIN. IT MAY TAKE A HALF DAY TO GET THIS DONE. THE POSTS AND BOARDS ARE STILL THERE, INSIDE THE YARD. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REDO THE POST HOLES. A POST HOLE DIGGER IS IN THE SCHOOL. CONTACT CHAIRMAN CHRIS, 229-0560, OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402, FOR A KEY.

A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH SHOVELS AND RAKES CAN DO THE MINOR GRADING NEEDED TO LEVEL THE GROUND SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE MOWING THE GRASS EASIER. SOME GRASS SEED WILL NEED TO BE SPRINKLED OF COURSE. AGAIN CONTACT CHRIS OR MARIEANNA TO GET THIS DONE.

THANKS TO FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS WHOSE SUPPORT IS SO VERY NECESSARY. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THE SOCIETY IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. THE SOCIETY'S ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116.



#### Dates to Remember:

- JULY 13, 20, 27, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVE FILING.  
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 12, 5-8 P.M. AND 25, 1-5 P.M. FOR  
GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- \* 24, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.  
WELCOME!

\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.\*

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: TED CARMACK (ALLEN PARK 01).

BUS/PROF: HOME TOWN NEWSPAPERS. \*

COUPLES/INDIV: CAROLINA DeLUCA (HOWELL), NANCY FREDENBURG, DALE HERMSEN (HOWELL), RUDY & VIRGINIA HERRMANN, WALTER & MERILYN JOLLITZ (01), HAROLD & MARYANN LEITZ, MARK & BONNIE MATHISEN (CA), JENNIFER SCOTT, PAUL & KAY SPANGLER, SHERYL VIGMOSTAD.

IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF TRAIL TALES COULD BE MAILED TO EVERYONE, WHETHER DUES HAVE BEEN PAID, OR A DONATION MADE, OR NOT. HOWEVER THE SOCIETY IS NOT AN INCOME GENERATING ORGANIZATION. IT SURVIVES ON DUES AND DONATIONS.

CHECK THE DATE ON THE MAILING LABEL - IF IT DOESN'T SHOW 00 OR MORE YOUR ANNUAL DUES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED. IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER, IF YOU WISH TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE SOCIETY PROJECTS, IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION YOU SHOULD CONSIDER SENDING IN YOUR DUES.

THE REMOTE (?) POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT AN ERROR HAS BEEN MADE RE: THE DATE ON THE LABEL. PLEASE CONTACT 810/229-6402.

\*SINCERE WELCOME TO HOME TOWN NEWSPAPERS.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...NORM CATRELL, LIBBY EISENHARDT, JUNE KIMBLE AND LISA PALERMO FOR HELPING MAIL THE JUNE NEWSLETTER.

...DIANE NEEDHAM, HIGHLAND TWP HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FOR SENDING INFORMATION OF PEOPLE FROM THE BRIGHTON AREA WHO ARE INTERRED AT THE HIGHLAND CEMETERY. IT IS GOOD WHEN NEIGHBORING HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SHARE THESE KINDS OF RECORDS.

...PHIL SMITH FOR GETTING THE BALL ROLLING ON A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A BROCHURE FOR A HISTORIC SITE WALKING TOUR OF BRIGHTON.

...THE BOGAN INSURANCE AGENCY FOR DONATING THE CASE OF TYPING PAPER NOTED IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER.

...RAY LANE OF THE BRIGHTON AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR HELPING REMOVE SEVERAL BAGS OF CONSTRUCTION TRASH FROM THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...CALLIGRAPHY BY VICTORIA FOR THE FINE WORK ON THE BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES. EACH IS RECEIVING ONE.

...AMERICAN LEGION POST #235 FOR THEIR DONATION.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: LISA PALERMO IS COMPILING THE HISTORY OF BUSINESS ADDRESSES IN THE AREA. NOT ALL SITES REMAIN IN THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION. FIRES AND DEMOLITION HAVE TAKEN A TOLL. JANICE FIELD AND MARIEANNA BAIR ARE REVIEWING THE "YESTERYEARS" AND SOCIAL COLUMNS OF THE MID 1950s COLUMN OF THE NEWSPAPER. THESE PROVIDE INFORMATION RE: THE POLITICAL, CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS OF THE TIMES. YOU'RE WELCOME TO HELP. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IS AWARE MANY ARE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE COMPLETION OF THIS AREA'S HISTORY. YOUR PATIENCE WILL BE REWARDED.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: WE'RE STILL WAITING ON DELIVERY OF THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER. 810/229-6402 TO HELP WITH THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.

ORAL HISTORY: LORRY WAGNER IS CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS OF LONG TIME AREA RESIDENTS. 229-6402 TO HELP.

PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY: JOHN AND JANICE FIELD ARE TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TO THE TRANSCRIBING OF THIS CEMETERY AND THE KENSINGTON CEMETER. THE AREA'S EARLIEST SETTLERS ARE INTERRED AT THESE SITES.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...BOOTH HELPERS AT THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR IN BRIGHTON, AUGUST 12/13. A FEW HOURS WOULD BE GREAT. PLEASE CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100. RECRUITS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO HELP AT THE BOOTH AT THE FARMERS' MARKET ON SATURDAYS.

...DIRECTORS OR CHAIRPERSONS FOR A HOME TOUR, A RAFFLE, A SALE; DEVELOP REGULAR PUBLICITY TO THE MEDIA OF SOCIETY EVENTS, NEEDS, ETC.

...PERSONS TO HELP WITH THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY HISTORIC SITE MARKER DEDICATION.

MUCH OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE SOCIETY TAKES PLACE WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEERS WHO SPEND MANY HOURS. PLAN AHEAD, BE A WORKER AND BE ACTIVE IN YOUR SOCIETY. DON'T HAVE MANY HOURS? THERE ARE JOBS THAT CAN BE DONE IN SHORT SPURTS.

...LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT DONATIONS FROM TED CARMACK AND JOHN AND JOYCE ROGERS.

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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

HOWELL AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. OFFER TRAIN RIDES DURING THE MELON FESTIVAL WEEKEND. SPAG'S SPECIALTIES, HOWELL, WILL HAVE TICKETS (\$8.00) AVAILABLE MID JULY. 517/548-6878.

WATERLOO FARM MUSEUM. QUILT SHOW AUGUST 5, 10-4 P.M. CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT AUGUST 5, 10-4 AND AUGUST 6, 1-4 P.M. 517/655-3089.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, BRIGHTON BAR GRILL, FENCE SPOT, SUE HAMILTON, P.C., HERRMANN FUNERAL HOME, HOME TOWN NEWSPAPERS, LAWRENCE AUTOBODY, HERB AND RUTH MUNZEL, PDQ/BUS IMAGING GROUP AND PYRAMID CONCRETE.

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 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.

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.

RE: RESTORATION OF LANDMARKS IN EUROPE FOLLOWING WW II. "...AT A TIME WHEN BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE WERE UNCERTAIN AT BEST, THE PAST OFFERED A REASSURING SENSE OF FAMILIARITY AND PERMANENCE. RESTORING TANGIBLE LINKS WITH THE PAST WAS A WAY TO REESTABLISH THE SENSE OF CONTINUITY THAT FOSTERS STABILITY IN A SOCIETY.

THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY - IS SOMETHING WE ALL SHARE. THE YEARNING FOR A CONNECTION WITH SOMETHING REAL AND MEANINGFUL IS WHAT MAKES US PRESERVATIONISTS, NO MATTER WHAT COUNTRY WE CALL HOME."

EXCERPT FROM EDITORIAL BY RICHARD MOE, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. JULY/AUGUST ISSUE PRESERVATION MAGAZINE.

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, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUE. THE McDONNELL BROTHERS' ELM FARM AND M. McDONNELL'S SPRING BROOK FARMS ARE THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

SEVERAL McDONNELLS ARE LISTED AS FIRST LANDOWNERS IN THE AREA: CHARLES IN OSCEOLA, AND JAMES AND MICHAEL BOTH IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIPS. A JOHN McCONNELL, OF MONROE, N.Y. RECORDED, ON MAY 11, 1833, A PURCHASE OF 160 ACRES IN SECTION 26 OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. (BUNO AND SPENCER ROADS AREA.) SOME McDONALDS PURCHASED LAND IN GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS. THE HANDWRITTEN EARLY DOCUMENTS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO CLEARLY DETERMINE ACCURATE SPELLING.

PATRICK AND ROSE McDONNELL, OF NEW YORK, BOUGHT THE LAND IN SECTION 26 IN 1852 AND 1860. THEY ALSO BOUGHT, IN 1869, IN SECTION 25. THE 1875 RECORD INDICATES THEY SOLD THESE PIECES. IS THE JOHN McCONNELL, THE SPELLINGS VARY, RELATED TO THE PATRICK McDONNELL WHO PURCHASED JOHN'S PROPERTY (BRIGHTON SECTION 26) IN 1852? BOTH ARE FROM NEW YORK. WE HESITATE TO DRAW UNSUBSTANTIATED CONCLUSIONS.

NOT ALL OF THE McDONNELLS WHO BOUGHT LAND IN THE COUNTY LIVED ON THE LAND AT THE TIME. THE VARIOUS SPELLINGS (MacDONALD/MCDONALD) IN WHICH LAND TRANSACTIONS ARE RECORDED PROHIBIT US FROM ASCERTAINING ACCURATE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITHOUT MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH. AT ONE TIME ROSE McDONNELL'S (PATRICK'S WIFE) NAME IS ON THE 360 ACRES BOUNDED BY BUNO ROAD ON THE NORTH, SPENCER ON THE SOUTH WITH KENSINGTON ROAD DIVIDING ON THE SECTION LINE.

THE McDONNELL BROS ELM FARM MAY HAVE BEEN PATRICK (B. 1873), ALEXANDER (B. 1875), JAMES (B. 1880), JOHN (B. 1890) AND RICHARD (B. 1894), THE SONS OF JAMES (B. 1838) AND MARY (B. 1848?)

THE M. McDONNELL SPRING BROOK FARM MAY BE A COUSIN, MICHAEL (B. 1855). THE LAST McDONNELLS TO OWN THE SECTION 26 PROPERTY WERE MICHAEL'S CHILDREN: DUNCAN, ROSE MARY, DOROTHY, GERTRUDE AND JESSIE. SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS MARRIED, THE OTHERS WORKED IN OFFICES IN DETROIT.

AS HAS OCCURRED WITH MUCH OF THE AREA'S ACREAGE, SMALL PARCELS WERE SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BUILT COMFORTABLE HOMES ON THE ROLLING REAL ESTATE. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SALE OF THESE SMALLER PIECES EVEN AS THESE REGULATIONS REINFORCE THE "SPRAWL" WITH WHICH WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR. OTHER LAND OWNERS IN SECTIONS 25 AND 26 INCLUDED: WM. STERLING, NEW YORK CITY, DANIEL DURFEE, MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM NEW YORK CITY. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE, IF NOT LIKELY, THESE FAMILIES KNEW EACH OTHER FOR SOME TIME AND DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STRIKE OUT FOR THE WILDERNESS TOGETHER. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASSES OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. ALSO FIRST LAND OWNERS, EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS, COPIES OF LOCAL OBITUARIES AND RECORDS OF CALVARY CEMETERY ALL BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)