



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

JUNE 2000
VOL. XIX No. 6

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

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810/229-6504

THE YARD AT THE LYONS SCHOOL NEEDS SPRUCING UP.

SOME GRADING/SMOOTHING IS NECESSARY FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF THE SEPTIC AND THE WELL LAST FALL.

SEVERAL FENCE POSTS HAD TO BE REMOVED TO ALLOW EQUIPMENT INTO THE SITE. THESE NEED TO BE REINSTALLED.

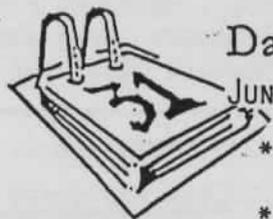
STONES, WHICH RAISE HAVOC WITH LAWN MOWERS, NEED TO BE REMOVED.

NEED KINDLING WOOD? A SUPPLY IS AVAILABLE.

INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS HAS BEEN PUT INTO SEVERAL LARGE PLASTIC BAGS. CAN YOU DONATE SPACE IN A DUMPSTER INTO WHICH THESE CAN BE PLACED?

TAKING CARE OF THESE SEVERAL ITEMS WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE SITE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE MUST BE RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBORS.

PLEASE CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402, IN REGARDS TO ANY OF THE ABOVE. OR IF YOU'D LIKE A TOUR.



Dates to Remember:

JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVE FILING.
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.

* 14, 5-8 P.M. AND 27, 1:45 P.M. FOR
GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.

* 26, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.
WELCOME!

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL.

PATRON: FRED & BONNIE CORRIGAN

COUPLES/INDIV: HAROLD SALOW AND BILL & JANE TOMLINSON (01).

PLEASE CHECK THE LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. IF THE NUMBER IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER IS LESS THAN '00' YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT UP TO DATE. TO CONTINUE ITS WORK THE SOCIETY NEEDS EVERYONE'S SUPPORT, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE. A HIGH NUMBER OF MEMBERS GIVES REASON TO BUSINESSES (COMMERCIAL AND SERVICE) AND PROFESSIONALS TO ALSO BECOME MEMBERS.

IF YOU FIND NO NUMBER ON THE LABEL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A COMPLEMENTARY COPY. YOUR INTEREST IS IMPORTANT. THE SOCIETY BUDGET FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS LIMITED. ANYONE CAN FIGURE OUT THAT THE SOCIETY MUST USE ITS INCOME RESPONSIBLY. REDUCING THE MAILING LIST MUST BE CONSIDERED.

MANY PICK UP THE NEWSLETTER AT THEIR BANK, THE POST OFFICE, DOCTOR'S OFFICE, ETC. PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE ARE IN ERROR AS TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...HAROLD SALOW AND BILL & JANE TOMLINSON FOR THE EXTRA DONATION SENT WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP.

...JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR THEIR HELP IN GETTING THE MAY NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL.

...NANCY FREDENBURG FOR ATTENDING A WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING THE WORKINGS OF A BOARD AND FOR PREPARING MATERIAL FOR BOARD MEMBERS TO PERUSE BEFORE WE MEET.

...JIM & VICKI VICHICH FOR HOSTING THE BOARD FOR OUR OWN WORKSHOP ON THE ABOVE. YOUR SOCIETY BOARD IS COMPOSED OF VOLUNTEERS WHO BELIEVE THE MISSION AND PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY HAVE VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY. EACH OF THEM GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND.

...SHERYL VIGMOSTAD FOR COMING FORWARD TO SERVE AS V.P. (IF ANY OTHER OF OUR READERS WISH TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE SOCIETY - PLEASE CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.)

...FULISA SHEPHERD OF BATTLE CREEK WHO HAS BEEN HELPING COMPILE INFORMATION ON THE PLEASANT VALLEY AND THE KENSINGTON CEMETERIES. BOTH IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND LISA PALERMO CONTINUE FAITHFULLY WORKING ON THIS PROJECT. SOME OF THE MATERIALS IN THE ARCHIVES IS A COPY OF COPIES. THESE ARE DIFFICULT TO RESEARCH. STEPH LEITH HAS BEEN TYPING THESE WHICH IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF READABILITY SUBSTANTIALLY.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IS CONTINUING HER WORK ON THIS PROJECT. CALL IF YOU CAN ASSIST.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: THE WALK ALONG THE EDGE OF THE MILL POND IN TOWN IS COMPLETE. THERE ARE STILL SOME REPAIRS AND CLEANUP NECESSARY IN THE CEMETERY DUE TO CONSTRUCTION. WHAT IS CONSIDERED THE BEST SITE FOR THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER HAS BEEN DETERMINED. WANT TO HELP WITH THE DEDICATION CEREMONY? CALL 810/229-6402.

ORAL HISTORY: LORRY WAGNER HAS CONDUCTED SEVERAL INTERVIEWS LAST MONTH. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP OR BE INVOLVED, CALL 810/229-6402.

SINCERE SYMPATHIES
OF THE SOCIETY
ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF
LUCILE PRIESKORN
SHE WAS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF
THE SOCIETY AND THE COMMUNITY

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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

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

...MORE THANKS...

...LISA AND JERRY CAVE FOR PROVIDING TWO CARTRIDGES FOR THE COPY MACHINE.

WE NEED...

...A CASE OF TYPING PAPER.
...PEOPLE VOLUNTEERING TIME TO THE VARIOUS PROJECTS.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
(PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP + 4 DIGIT)SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? () YES () NO
() 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 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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ALL SUMMER INTO DECEMBER THE BLUE WATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER HAS SCHEDULED RAIL AND CRUISE TRIPS. WRITE BLUE WATER, P O BOX 296, ROYAL OAK, 48068 OR 800/594-5162 OR HTTP://WWW.BLUEWATERNRHS.COM

WAYNE STATE UNIV.: "SAVING THE PAST TO BUILD THE FUTURE..." JUNE 21, 8-10/30 A.M. 313/577-5071.

GABRIEL RICHARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF STE ANNE DE DETROIT PARISH IN 2001. DESCENDANTS OF EARLY DETROIT FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO SHARE HISTORY. 313/963-1888.

WATERLOO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, STOCKBRIDGE: MICHIGAN LOG CABIN DAY, JUNE 25. HTTP://SCS.K/2.MI.US/~WATERLOO

NORTHVILLE: MILL RACE VILLAGE OPEN SUNDAY AFTERNOONS, 1-4, JUNE/OCTOBER. 248/348-1845.

To be nobody but yourself – in a world that is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else – means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight.

e.e. cummings

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 FARMERS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. LAKE VIEW, THE FARM OF WILLARD BEACH, IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

IN 1839, WILLARD'S PARENTS, SMITH (B. 1800, N.Y.) AND HARRIOT (B. 1802, N.J.) MOVED WITH THEIR YOUNG FAMILY TO UNBROKEN LAND IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. SMITH HAD BOUGHT 160 ACRES, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SECTION 22 (PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE N. OF BUNO) SIGHT UNSEEN, AS WAS AS OFTEN THE CASE, IN 1833.

AS THE BEACHS' EARLIEST NEIGHBORS, WILLIAM O. AND MARY ANN VALENTINE HAVE ACQUIRED THE REPUTATION OF WELCOMING NEWCOMERS INTO THEIR CABIN UNTIL NEW LOG HOUSES COULD BE BUILT. THE 1850 CENSUS RECORDS WILLIAM, JR. IS LIVING WITH WILLARD AND HIS WIDOWED MOTHER, HARRIOT. WILLIAM'S BROTHER, JAMES, IS LIVING IN THE AARON BEACH HOUSEHOLD A HALF MILE SOUTH. THESE BOYS HAVE LOST BOTH PARENTS. THE FATHER DIED IN JANUARY AND MOTHER THE FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER, 1843. THEY ARE THE FIRST TWO BURIALS OF RECORD ON THE TWO ACRES SET ASIDE ON SMITH'S FARM FOR A GRAVE YARD, AS NOTED ON THE EARLIEST MAPS. SMITH'S IS THE NEXT GRAVE DUG IN THE PLOT, 1849.

UPON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, THE PROPERTY CAME TO WILLARD. HE MARRIED NEIGHBOR ALVIRA BIRD, C. 1850; ALSO BORN IN NEW YORK. (HER FAMILY CAME TO THE AREA ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS WILLARD'S. IT IS POSSIBLE THE FAMILIES WERE ALREADY ACQUAINTED.) WILLARD AND ALVIRA HAVE TWO CHILDREN. JANE IS BORN IN 1852 AND WILBUR S. IN 1858. BY 1852, WILLARD HAS BOUGHT THE W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SECTION 23, ACROSS THE ROAD, WHICH INCLUDES BEACH LAKE. ABOUT 1874 SOME OF THIS LAND IS TRANSFERRED TO THE WESLYAN METHODIST CHURCH CONGREGATION FOR A BUILDING SITE. (NE CORNER PLEASANT VALLEY/JACOBY ROAD) BEFORE LONG THE BEACH CEMETERY BECOMES THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY. IN 1890 WILLARD'S TAX BILL WAS \$54.05.

WILLARD DIED IN 1907 AND SON, WILBUR, IN 1916. WILLARD'S OBITUARY READS "HE WAS A MAN OF STERLING INTEGRITY AND UNQUESTIONABLE MORALITY." FATHER AND SON ARE RESTING IN THE SAME CEMETERY AS THEIR ANCESTORS.

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WILLARD'S LAKE VIEW FARM HAS BEEN UNDER CULTIVATION. BY 1935 IT IS OWNED BY THE DUNK REALTY CO. BEFORE 1979 A DAM HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON MANN CREEK AND LAKE MORaine SUB IS WELL UNDERWAY. BEACH LAKE IS NOW THE SITE OF MANY FINE HOMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR THE 'COUNTRY' ATMOSPHERE. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM: FIRST SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND COPIES OF OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ALSO FROM CENSUS RECORDS, PLAT MAPS AND PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY LISTINGS. CORRECTIONS/ ADDITIONS WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)