



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

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

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

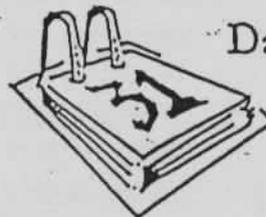
TO REPLACE THE DETERIORATING LOG SCHOOL, BUILT ON LAND DONATED BY RICHARD AND MARTHA LYON IN 1842, THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 CONSTRUCTED THE FRAME ONE ROOM SCHOOL IN 1875. STILL ON SITE, 11455 BUNO ROAD, THE BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP STRUCTURE IS UNDER RESTORATION BY THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE BELL TOWER AND BELL HAVE BEEN REPLACED, PROPER STYLE WINDOWS INSTALLED (WITH SHUTTERS FOR SECURITY), THE ROOF LINE EXTENDED OVER LATER ADDITIONS, A NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM AND WELL ARE IN, THE FURNACE AND AC INSTALLED, A FOUR BOARD FENCE ERECTED, INTERIOR GUTTED, SUB FLOOR IS IN AND THE EXTERIOR PAINTED. ALL THIS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS BUILDING ONE OF VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN WILL ENJOY OF MICHIGAN'S EARLY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THERE WILL BE DISPLAY FACILITIES AND A GOOD SIZED ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AREA WILL BECOME AVAILABLE.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF LABOR, MATERIALS AND CASH ARE NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT THAT ALREADY DONATED. BATHROOM FACILITIES, ELECTRICAL WIRING AND INTERIOR CARPENTRY NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND COMPLETED. THE GAS WILL SOON BE HOOKED UP TO THE FURNACE.

ALL DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THEY MAY BE SENT TO THE SOCIETY, P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON 48116. CALL CHRIS WARD, CHAIRMAN, 229-0550 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 FOR MORE INFO.



Dates to Remember:

- MAR. 2, 9, 26, 23, 30, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- * 8, 5-8 P.M. AND 21, 1-5 P.M. FOR
GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 27, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.
WELCOME.

BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: DOUGLAS AND CAROL REARICK.

COUPLES/INDIV: BILL & JACQUE ARMSTRONG, DAN BIERER, DUANE & THELMA DUNCAN, BOB & SHIRLEY KNIGHT, TOM & AUDREY LEITH (01), BERENDA McCARTY, *CLEO MORAN, ROLAND & JANE OWENS, GREG PARK (OHIO), RICH AND MARY RAY, TOM & BONNIE RIUTTA, MARGARET SQUIRE, BUD STEDMAN (FL. 01), JIM & JOANNE SWONK (L.S.), FRANCIS YOUNG (LAPEER), JIM & VICKI VICHICH, BILL & CHARMAINE ZINK.

*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER CLEO MORAN. (L.S.) MEMBERSHIP VIA LYONS SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

THE SOCIETY HAS SEVERAL PROJECTS PROMOTING THE PRESERVATION OF THE AREA'S HISTORY.

1. THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT PROMOTES THE PRESERVATION OF MEMORIES OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS. AN INSPIRING PROJECT.
2. THE ARCHIVES PROJECT FILES INFORMATION OF THE AREA'S HISTORY IN A MANNER PROMOTING RESEARCH.
3. THE COMPLETION OF AN AREA HISTORY BOOK IS SOON TO BE REALIZED.
4. THE TRANSCRIPTION OF AREA CEMETERIES NEEDS TO BE UNDERTAKEN. AS WITH THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY THE RESULTANT INTEREST WILL PROMOTE THEIR PROPER CARE.

YOUR SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF MEMBERSHIP, CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROJECTS AND OTHER WILL MAKE THE SOCIETY A MORE VIABLE ENTITY.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...LISA CAVE, LIBBY EISENHART, LISA PALERMO AND SHIRLEY RITTER FOR HELP IN GETTING THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL.

...DUANE & THELMA DUNCAN, MARGARET SQUIRE AND BUD STEDMAN (FL) FOR SENDING DONATIONS WITH THEIR DUES.

...GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK FOR OUR ARCHIVES.

...SEN. MIKE ROGER'S OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.

...DELORES A. YACKLEY AND LEWIS STEEL COMPANY FOR DONATIONS TO ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.

...THE DETROIT NEWS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: COMPILING/RECORDING INFORMATION FROM EARLIER PRESS CLIPPINGS ON AREA INDIVIDUALS, COMMERCIAL VENTURES, TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION, CHANGES IN THE AREA, ETC. HELP IS INVITED. 229-6402.

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

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: LOCATED BEHIND ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, IT IS NOW ON THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER. PLANNING FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE MARKER WILL BE UNDERWAY. YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED. 810/229-6402.

LYONS SCHOOL: THANKS TO KEENAN & LYNN CLUSKEY FOR THEIR RETURNABLE CONTAINER DEPOSIT DONATION; TO FRANCIS YOUNG AND JIM AND JOANNE SWONK FOR THEIR DONATIONS. ALSO TO THOSE WHO DONATED IN MEMORY OF JOE ELLIS AND GLORIA FOX McCONNELL.

SOCIETY V.P. RESIGNS

IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO REPLACE JOANNE SWONK WHO HAS TENDERED HER RESIGNATION AS V.P. JOANNE HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE ON THE LYONS SCHOOL COMMITTEE, SUPPORTED RESTORATION AND THE FORMATION OF THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE. SHE'S ALSO BEEN A MAJOR HELP IN THE ARCHIVES AND SOCIETY HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEES.

YOU'RE STILL NEEDED. JOIN US WHEN EVER POSSIBLE.

THE SYMPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY
ARE EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF

JOSEPH ELLIS

AND

GLORIA MC CONNELL

JOE WAS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE
COMMUNITY AND SERVED THE COUNTY
AS CLERK FOR MANY YEARS.

GLORIA GREW UP HERE AND
GRADUATED FROM BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL.

BOTH WERE LONG TIME MEMBERS
OF THE SOCIETY.

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.

NOT SURE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE SOCIETY?

WHETHER A MEMBER OR NOT YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED.

LYONS SCHOOL: INSTALLATION OF INSULATION, RESTORATION OF DESKS, ETC., BECOME A 'FRIEND OF LYONS SCHOOL'.

ORAL HISTORY: BECOME AN INTERVIEWER OR AN INTERVIEWEE.

FUND RAISING: PROMOTE THE SALE OF TILES, PILLOWS, COVERLETS, ETC., ETC.

PUBLICITY: PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES TO THE PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE SOCIETY BOARD CAN ALWAYS MAKE USE OF ANOTHER DIRECTOR OR COMMITTEE CHAIR.

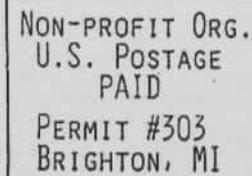
WITH JOANNE SWONK'S RESIGNATION A V.P. IS ALSO NEEDED. PLEASE CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WITH YOUR OFFER TO HELP.

JIM VICHICH HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. MANY THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO TOM AND AUDREY LEITH WHO HAVE HAD THIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANY YEARS; VERY CAPABLY DONE.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES HAVE PAID YEAR 2000 DUES. PLEASE PATRONIZE THEM.

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, FENCE SPOT, LAWRENCE AUTOBODY, PDQ/BUS IMAGING GROUP AND HERB AND RUTH MUNZEL. THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE SOCIETY AND ITS PURPOSES IS INSPIRING.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE FRUIT RIDGE FARM OF H.M. TUNIS IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

GROUPS OF SETTLERS UNITED AS THEY HEADED WEST TO MICHIGAN FROM NEW YORK IN THE 1830s; MANY OF THEM LONG TIME FRIENDS. (NOT UNLIKE THE WAGON TRAINS WHICH 'WENT WEST' A FEW YEARS LATER.) ARRIVING IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP THEY FOUND NO LIVING QUARTERS, MERELY A WILDERNESS. SOME LAND WAS LEVEL, SOME WET, MUCH ROLLING, ALMOST ALL HEAVILY FORESTED. A LOG HOUSE, BUILT BY WILLIAM VALENTINE, WHO HAD RETURNED TO NEW YORK, BECAME SHELTER FOR 12, SOON FOR 22, PERSONS FOR THREE WEEKS UNTIL THE MEN BUILT HOUSES FOR THEIR FAMILIES. AMONG THESE WAS WILLIAM TUNIS WHO, IN AUGUST, 1836, TOOK UP 280 ACRES IN SECTION 17. MUCH OF THIS IS NOW PART OF A SUBDIVISION, PINE CREEK (N.W. OF SCHOOL LAKE) WITH LOVELY HOMES IN THE HILLS. HE IS LISTED AS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 24, 1853. BY 1859 HE OWNS 110 ACRES IN SECTION 28 (SOUTH OF BUNO ROAD, EAST OF U.S. 23, NORTH OF E. SPENCER ROAD). COLONIAL VILLAGE SUBDIVISION (MID 1960s) AND BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP HALL (1984) ARE LOCATED ON THE NORTH 50 ACRES OF THIS PROPERTY. THE SOUTH 60 ARE STILL IN HIS NAME IN 1895. (IN 1935, HIS DAUGHTER, ALICE (EUGENE) HICKS IS RECORDED AS OWNER.)

RESEARCH INDICATES HOLMES TUNIS IS PROBABLY A SON OF WILLIAM. IN JULY, 1866, HOLMES HAS MARRIED AMY ANN BUCK, DAUGHTER OF WARREN AND ANN BUCK WHO CAME FROM MASSACHUSETTS IN 1842. (THE BUCKS LIVED JUST TO THE SOUTH IN SECTION 20, ALONG HILTON ROAD AND, WHAT WAS CALLED FLINT, ROAD.) BY 1895, HOLMES' NAME IS ON THE PLAT MAP ON THE BUCK'S 80. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY FORCES THE WRITER TO ASSUME THAT HOLMES TUNIS' FRUIT RIDGE FARM WAS LOCATED ON THIS PIECE. THE LAY OF THE LAND IS SUFFICIENTLY LEVEL AND DRY.

BY 1895 H.M. TUNIS' NAME IS ON THE N½ OF SECTION 30; 68 ACRES BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY CHALLIS ROAD WITH GRAND RIVER ROAD RUNNING THROUGH THE EAST PART. ALSO 18 ACRES JUST INTO SECTION 29 TO THE NORTH ON THE EAST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER. YEAR 2000 FINDS RESTAURANTS, LAW OFFICES, BANKS, THE POST OFFICE AND THE LIBRARY ON THIS SITE, WITH THE BRIGHTON MALL ON THE EAST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER.

WITH HIS HEALTH FAILING AND THE CHILDREN GROWN, HOLMES AND AMY MOVED INTO TOWN ABOUT 1915. HOLMES DIED NOVEMBER 6, 1925, AND AMY TWO DAYS LATER. BOTH ARE BURIED IN THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY. BY 1935 THE TUNIS NAME CANNOT BE FOUND ON LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLAT MAPS. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND EARLY CENSUS RECORDS. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. 810/229-6402.)