



Trail Tales

MAY 2000
VOL. XIX No. 5

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

THE SOCIETY HAS HAD MUCH HELP FROM INDIVIDUALS, LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND BUSINESSES IN THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP.

MANY INTANGIBLE BENEFITS ACCRUE TO THE BUSINESS WHICH DONATES TO LOCAL PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS WITH IMPROVED GOOD WILL WHEN IT RECOGNIZES THE COMPANY AS A CARING BUSINESS.

ALL INVOLVED WITH A COMPANY DEVELOP A SENSE OF PRIDE KNOWING THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT CARES ABOUT THE COMMUNITY IS WHICH IT DOES BUSINESS.

EMPLOYEE MORAL CAN BE IMPROVED BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE WORKS FOR A COMPANY WHICH DEMONSTRATES A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY IN A SUBSTANTIAL MANNER.

GREATER TRUST IN THE LOCAL COMPANY IS DEVELOPED BY THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP RESULTS.

CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL FUNDING IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE WITH THIS RESTORATION. ONE FINDS VERY FEW ONE ROOM RURAL SCHOOLS STILL ON THE ORIGINAL SITE.

THOSE WHO'VE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO. THE SOCIETY IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO CHRIS WARD, 810/229-0560 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402. DONATIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE SOCIETY, P O Box 481, BRIGHTON 48116.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR
MARIEANNA BAIR
810/229-6402

VICE PRESIDENT

LISA PALERMO
810/220-1767

TREASURER
MARGE WHITE
810/227-3968

DIRECTORS

LISA CAVE
HIST. RES. SURV.
810/229-0683

NANCY FREDENBURG
ORAL HISTORY
810/229-9100

CAROL McMACKEN
HISTORY BOOK
810/231-2957

JIM VICHICH
LYONS SCHOOL
810/227-4840

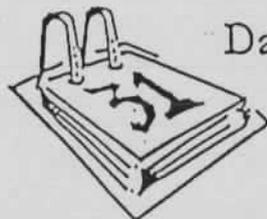
CHRIS WARD
LYONS SCHOOL
810/229-0560

CHAIRPERSONS

JIM VICHICH
MEMBERSHIP
810/227-4840

ANNE STRATIGOS
HOSPITALITY
810/229-5689

HERB WARNER
LYONS SCHOOL
810/229-6504



Dates to Remember:

- MAY 11, 18, 25, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
- * 10, 5-8 P.M. AND 23, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 22, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: SUE HAMILTON, P.C. (HOWELL).

LIFE: MARILYN CAMPBELL, INDIANA. THE FIRST LIFE MEMBERSHIP RECORDED. MARILYN HAS ANCESTORS INTERRED IN THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY. MANY THANKS FOR THE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE SOCIETY.

COUPLES/INDIV: MILDRED BENDER (01), TIM & HELEN HURST, TEDD & LINDA POTTER, AND DELORES YACKLEY.

OF THE MEMBERS RECORDED FOR 1999 68% HAVE RENEWED FOR 2000. THE BOARD LOOKS FORWARD TO THE DATE WHEN IT CAN BE REPORTED THE SOCIETY HAS A 100% MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL RATE. BE ASSURED EACH OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE GIVING 100%.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE? IF YOU SEE A 99 OR EARLIER NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE LABEL (OR NO NUMBER AT ALL) YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT UP TO DATE.

TO PRESERVE PRIVACY ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE NOT MADE PUBLIC. THE LIST IS FOR SOCIETY PURPOSES ONLY.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BUT ARE NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE CONSIDER AN APPROPRIATE DONATION.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...LISA CAVE, JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND SHIRLEY RITTER WHO HELPED PREPARE THE APRIL NEWSLETTER FOR MAILING.

...MARIAN BENDER WHO INCLUDED A DONATION WITH HER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

...MARGARET SQUIRE FOR HER DONATION.

...CITY OF BRIGHTON FOR A DONATION TO THE INSTALLATION OF A MARKER DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS INTERRED IN THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY.

...TEDD & LINDA POTTER WHO INCLUDED A DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

...ED BOTTUM, JIM DETZEL, BILL GARTLEY, DR. BILL METZ, STAN SCHAFER, AND CHRIS WARD FOR THEIR MANY HOURS OF WORK AT THE LYONS SCHOOL LAST MONTH.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: 1950/70s CLIPPINGS FROM THE BRIGHTON ARGUS ARE BEING FILED INTO CATEGORIES SUCH AS: BUSINESSES, TOWNSHIP AND CITY, AREA DEVELOPMENT, HOMES, RESIDENTS, CHURCHES ETC., ETC. THIS IS A LONG TERM PROJECT WHICH WILL ENABLE THE SOCIETY TO BETTER ANSWER RESEARCHERS' QUESTIONS. MALTBY AND SCRANTON MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND LINDBOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HAD PRESENTATIONS MADE ON THE EARLY DAYS OF THE AREA. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN ASSISTED WITH RESEARCH.

HISTORY BOOK: WORK IS CONTINUING. CONTACT CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THIS PROJECT.

LYONS SCHOOL: ANDY SKINNER OF BOY SCOUT TROOP #350 WILL BE OFFERING A LANDSCAPE PROJECT ON THE GROUNDS. HE IS APPLYING FOR EAGLE SCOUT RATING.

ORAL HISTORY: A BOOK, "ORAL HISTORY AND THE LAW", HAS BEEN PURCHASED. SEVERAL INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: THE CHECK FOR THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER IS IN THE MAIL. IT MAY BE 1-3 MONTHS BEFORE THE MARKER ARRIVES. THE TEXT PROVIDES A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY. HELP WILL BE NEEDED TO ORGANIZE A PROPER DEDICATION CEREMONY. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402. (SUGGESTIONS ON WHICH SITE TO PLACE ON THE HISTORIC SITE REGISTER NEXT?)

CORRECTION!

THE EDITOR'S ABJECT APOLOGIES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ELSA STEGENGA. WE RECENTLY INACCURATELY REPORTED HER AS DECEASED.

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

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

THE OLDER I GET THE MORE CLEARLY I REMEMBER THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPENED -
MARK TWAIN.

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.

GREEN OAK TWP HIST SOC: MAY 21, 2-4. GREENOCH MILL, RUSHTON ROAD, .5 MILES SOUTH OF TEN MILE. PROGRAM ON THE LIFE OF GOV. KINSLEY BINGHAM, ONE OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS IN GREEN OAK TWP. 248/486-3578.

WIXOM HIST. SOC: MAY 21, 1-4. ICE CREAM SOCIAL. 248/624-4557.

LIVINGSTON CO LAND CONSERVANCY: MAY 20, 1-3. BRIGHTON DIST. LIBRARY. DISCUSSION ON ITS MISSION, VIDEO ON WHAT LAND CONSERVANCY IS, INFORMATION ON THE PARKER FAMILIES' NATURE PRESERVE. 810/229-7634.

SOUTH LYON HIST SOC: MUSEUM OPEN THURSDAY, 1-4 AND SUNDAY 1-5.

PLYMOUTH HIST SOC: MUSEUM OPEN WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY 1-4. 155 S. MAIN ST., 734/455-8940.

PIONEER MEM ASSOC/FENTON, MUNDY TWP: MAY 13, 6 P.M. BUFFALO DINNER. 810/629-9878

MEMORIAL DAY

WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY? IT IS A DAY SET ASIDE TO COMMEMORATE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE MADE BY SO MANY. IT IS A MOST APPROPRIATE AND MEANINGFUL EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION.

IT IS MORE THAN A THREE DAY HOLIDAY TO PLAY. OBSERVING THIS DAY PROPERLY WILL MAKE US MORE THANKFUL THAT WE CAN PLAY.

GOING OUT OF TOWN? VETERANS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SPEND AN HOUR IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

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. SHADELAND, THE FARM OF GEORGE E. PLESS, IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

IT WAS 1841, WHEN GEORGE E. PLESS' GRANDFATHER, HENRY ANDREW (FREDERICH HEINRICH ANDREAS) PLESS PURCHASED 240 SEMI IMPROVED (SOMEWHAT CLEARED) ACRES ON THE GRAND RIVER INDIAN TRAIL, WEST OF BRIGHTON IN GENOA TOWNSHIP. (SECTION 11, SW NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NORTH OF HUGHES ROAD; SECT. 12, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, EULER ROAD; SECT. 13, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, STRADDLED THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL; SECT. 14, NE SE $\frac{1}{4}$, BAUER ROAD [HUBERT ROAD]).

FREIGHT WAGONS AND STAGES WERE OPERATING ON THE RECENTLY GRADED ROAD BETWEEN DETROIT AND HOWELL. HENRY AND MARIA (KLESSON), WHO HAD ARRIVED IN THE U.S. IN 1839) MOVED THEIR LARGE, YOUNG, FAMILY INTO A FRAME HOUSE BUILT IN 1838 BY TOM PINCKNEY. ALSO ON THE PROPERTY WAS AN 1834 LOG HOUSE, TWO FRAME BARNs AND A BLACK-SMITH SHOP. HE WAS THE FOURTH OWNER OF THIS PROPERTY. THE DEPRESSION OF 1837 FORCED THE EARLIER OWNERS TO SELL. IT APPEARS THAT ONLY THE YOUNGEST OF THEIR 10 CHILDREN WAS BORN IN MICHIGAN. THE OTHERS WERE BORN IN RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

THE PLESSSES WEREN'T FARMERS BY TRADE. HOWEVER THEY ADJUSTED WELL. THE BOYS LEARNED TO CLEAR LAND, DEVELOP IT AND PLANT CROPS WHICH GREW PLENTIFULLY IN THE VIRGIN SOIL. BY 1850, THE INDIAN RAIL HAD BEEN PLANKED AND EXCESS PRODUCE AND LIVESTOCK COULD BE TRANSPORTED TO CITIES ALONG THE TRAIL. THE GIRLS, AS WAS THE CUSTOM, COULD CARD AND SPIN WOOL, KNITTING MANY GARMENTS, BESIDES SEEING TO THE PRESERVATION OF FOOD AND THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE FAMILY.

CHILDREN OF NEARBY NEIGHBORS WERE THE LOGICAL FUTURE SPOUSES OF ANDREW AND MARIA'S CHILDREN: DINGLER, EULER, FISH, GEORGE, GROSTIC, HAZARD, TO NOTE A FEW. AS WILLIAM, PLESS, FROM WHOSE WRITINGS MUCH OF THIS RESEARCH WAS GLEANED, WRITES "...IN THOSE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS YOUNG MEN DIDN'T TRAVEL FAR TO FIND A WIFE." THE FATHER OF OUR SUBJECT, ANDREW CHRISTIAN (BORN AUGUST 14, 1830, IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA) MARRIED MARGARET EULER, MAY 8, 1860. IN 1861, HE AND BROTHER LEWIS BOUGHT THEIR PARENTS' FARM PROPERTY WITH ANDREW ACQUIRING THE ACREAGE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL.

ACQUISITION OF MORE ACREAGE INCREASED THE TOTAL OF LEWIS AND ANDREW'S PROPERTY TO 560 ACRES BY 1890. AT THAT TIME THE BROTHERS DIVIDED THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES TO THEIR SONS. (LEWIS' SON, FRED, AND GRANDSON, HARLOW, DEVELOPED THE PLESSLAND DAIRY.) ANDREW, IN TURN, DIVIDED HIS PROPERTY BETWEEN HIS SONS, CHARLES H. AND GEORGE E. GEORGE E. PRODUCED FRUIT, POTATOES, GRAINS, HAY, CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS ON SHADELAND. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM THE WRITINGS OF WILLIAM PLESS AND MILTON CHARBONEAU'S EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS MOST WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)