



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

SEPTEMBER 2000
VOL. XIX No. 9

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

BLITZ BUILD, OCTOBER 28 AND 29, 2000

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LYONS SCHOOL
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PIET LINDHOUT AND ASSOCIATES, WHO HAVE BEEN A MAJOR SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S RESTORATION OF LYONS SCHOOL, HAVE DETERMINED, WITH THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE BRIGHTON ROTARY CLUB, TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO A CONCLUSION. OCTOBER 28 AND 29 HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A "BLITZ BUILD".

WORK WILL COMMENCE AT DAWN AND CONTINUE 'TILL DARK EACH DAY. VOLUNTEER WORKERS ON ALL SHIFTS ARE NEEDED.

ROTARY MEMBERS ARE DEDICATING THEIR COMPLETE EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE SOCIETY IN THE FULFILLMENT OF THIS PROJECT. (READ - DREAM)

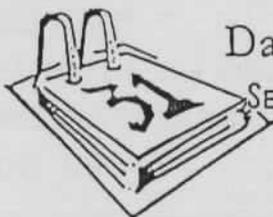
CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE AND PLENTY OF FOOD.

THE INTERIOR CARPENTRY, FINAL PLUMBING, FINAL ELECTRICAL SERVICE, EXTERIOR PORCH AND SIDEWALKS ARE ON THE 'TO DO' LIST.

"THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S LONG TERM PROJECT IS CLOSE TO COMPLETION. THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THE BUILDING THIS FALL AND TO OPEN THE CLASSROOM TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IS WONDERFUL", SAID PIET.

DONATIONS OF FUNDS AND MATERIALS WILL BE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. FUNDS MAY BE SENT TO THE SOCIETY, P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON, 48116.

CONTACT PIET, 227-5668, 8:30/6:30, TO OFFER YOUR SERVICES OR TO DONATE BUILDING MATERIALS.



Dates to Remember:

- SEPT. 7, 14, 21, 28, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVE FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- * 13, 5-8 P.M. AND 26, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 25, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME!

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: BRIGHTON PROF. TAX SERVICE, INC.

COUPLES/INDIV: HUGH & REBECCA MUNCE (01), CHARLES & NORMA JEAN PLESS (ROSCOMMON,01), FLORENCE SULLIVAN (01), HERB & ARLENE WARNER (MLFD).

A GROWING MEMBERSHIP ENCOURAGES THOSE ACTIVELY INVOLVED. IT ALSO ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO BECOME MEMBERS. WHEN YOU PATRONIZE THEM LOOK FOR THE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, JUNE KIMBLE, & SHIRLEY RITTER FOR THEIR HELP WITH MAILING THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER.

...CHARLES AND NORMA PLESS FOR THEIR MEMORIAL TO DORIS PRIESKORN TO THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...NANCY FREDENBURG, TOM & AUDREY LEITH, BILL & JACKIE ARMSTRONG AND AGGIE SULLIVAN FOR THEIR HELP AT THE BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR.

...BRUCE OWENS FOR THE WOOD ROCKING TOY AS FIRST PRIZE IN THE RAFFLE; NANCY HACKNEY FOR THE NEEDLEPOINT PICTURE AND TO KATHERINE HAMPTON FOR THE 91x91 HAND MADE QUILT FOR THE RAFFLE.

...AUDREY JACOBY FOR AN ORIGINAL "POEMS AND SONGS" BY AUGUSTA MACOMBER, 1862/1908. SHE HAS ALSO LENT AN ALBUM WITH LYONS FAMILY PHOTOS.

...JOE MIKE FOR THE PAINTING OF THE LYONS SCHOOL TO BE HUNG IN THE SCHOOL UPON COMPLETION OF RESTORATION.

...GM VOLUNTEER PLUS FOR THE GRANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF LORRY WAGNER.

...JOHN AND JANICE FIELD FOR SEEING TO THE REPAIR OF CHARLES H. DENNISON'S VETERAN MARKER WHICH WAS DAMAGED DURING BOARD WALK CONSTRUCTION; ORDERING A MARKER FOR AARON NEWMAN WHOSE CIVIL WAR SERVICE WAS ONLY RECENTLY LEARNED, BOTH IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. ALSO FOR THEIR CONTINUED EXCELLENT WORK ON AREA CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, BOGAN INSURANCE AGENCY, BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL, BRIGHTON PROFESSIONAL TAX SERVICE, INC, FENCE SPOT, SUE HAMILTON, P.C., HERRMANN FUNERAL HOME, HOME TOWN NEWSPAPERS, LAWRENCE AUTOBODY, LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER OF BRIGHTON, HERB AND RUTH MUNZEL, PDQ/BUS IMAGING GROUP AND PYRAMID CONCRETE.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: ARGUS CLIPPINGS ARE BEING REVIEWED FOR ARCHIVAL FILING. TO HELP CALL 810/229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IS CONTINUING HER RESEARCH AND WRITING.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: CALL A BOARD MEMBER TO HELP WITH DEDICATION CEREMONIES FOR THE HISTORIC SITE MARKER.

ORAL HISTORY: LORRY WAGNER, 231-3328, IS CONTINUING THIS VITAL AND NECESSARY PROJECT. CALL HER TO LEARN MORE.

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT

TO CONTINUE ITS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION/DISSEMINATION EFFORTS THE SOCIETY MUST BE IN A CONTINUAL FUND RAISING MODE. ON PAGE 3 ONE FINDS A VARIETY OF ITEMS THAT CAN BE PURCHASED.

THE RECENT DONATION OF A WOOD ROCKING TOY, BY BRUCE OWENS, A HAND MADE QUILT BY KATHRINE HAMPTON AND A NEEDLEPOINT PICTURE BY NANCY HACKNEY ENABLES THE SOCIETY TO CONDUCT A RAFFLE. A RAFFLE TICKET IS ENCLOSED. SEND THE STUB AND YOUR \$5.00 TO THE SOCIETY, P O Box 481, BRIGHTON. MORE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER. THE DRAWING WILL BE OCTOBER 23. ALL PROCEEDS ARE DESIGNATED TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT.

DOEN'T HAVE ANY USE FOR ANY OF THESE ITEMS? THEY CAN BE DONATED BACK TO THE SOCIETY. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT.

PHIL SMITH TEACHES CLASS

COMMUNITY ED IS OFFERING A CLASS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 21 FOR SIX WEEKS 7:30-9 P.M. IT WILL BE TAUGHT BY PHIL SMITH, EMU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM GRADUATE.

THE SOCIETY EXTENDS SYMPATHY
TO THE FAMILY OF
FLOYD FULLER

FLOYD WAS A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF
THE AREA AND CHARTER MEMBER
OF THE SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE COMING UP SOON. CONSIDER HOW YOU MAY BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED BY SERVING ON THE BOARD.

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.

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.

COVERLETS, \$49., RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN.

A NEW TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$30., DEPICTING THE BRIGHTON RAILROAD DEPOT AND TRAIN IS AVAILABLE. A FINE COMPANION TO THE COVERLETS ABOVE. 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.

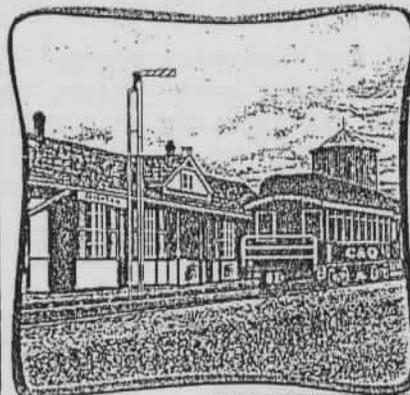
WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

HERITAGE HILL ASSOC, GRAND RAPIDS. TOUR 13 HISTORIC BUILDINGS, HOMES, ETC. OCT. 7 & 8. 800/642-3728.

BELLEVILLE AREA HOME TOUR. FIVE HOMES, SCHOOL, MUSEUM. \$10. SEPT. 17, 12-5. 735/697-1944.

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM. EXHIBIT OF REPRODUCTION INAUGURAL BALL GOWNS OF 14 FIRST LADIES. THRU FEB. 1, 2001. 155 W. MAIN, PLYMOUTH.

WYANDOTTE HERITAGE DAYS. TOUR TWO TALL SHIPS, CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES, LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENTS, MUSEUM, FOOD, ETC. SEPT. 8-10. 734/324-7297.



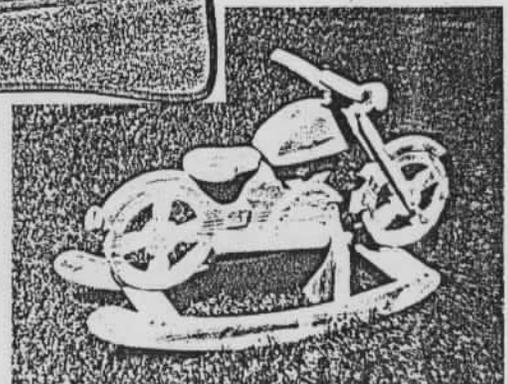
jacquard woven in full color
 100% cotton.

This custom-designed pillow measures 16" x 16" and is backed in cotton twill. The Brighton Train Pillow is offered for only...

\$30

DEPOT,
 TRAIN
 PILLOW

ROCKING
 TOY
 PRIZE



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

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BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION AS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. HENRY WEBER'S WILLOW BROOK FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

ORIGINALLY PURCHASED BY RICHARD J. AND MARTHA LYONS IN 1834, THE W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ AND E $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 22, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, WAS IN THE HANDS OF HENRY WEBER C. 1900. AT THAT TIME THE ORIGINAL 120 ACRES TOTALED 118.5 ACRES. IN 1842 RICHARD AND MARTHA HAD SET ASIDE LAND FOR USE AS A SCHOOL FOR THE LADS AND LASSIES OF DISTRICT #8; THAT IS, SO LONG AS THE SITE WAS USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH SIDE BY BUNO ROAD IT IS WELL WATERED BY MANN CREEK ON ITS WAY TO WOODRUFF CREEK ON ITS WAY TO THE HURON RIVER.

IN 1935 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PURCHASED THE SCHOOL SITE FROM HENRY AND LYDIA WEBER. BY THEN HENRY HAS BEEN FARMING HIS WILLOW BROOK FARM IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO HIS NEIGHBORS. HAY AND GRAIN IS RAISED, ALSO PIGS, SHEEP, CATTLE, HORSES AND PROBABLY THE USUAL BARN-YARD FOWL. HE SHIPPED MILK FOR SOME TIME AND THEN CREAM, WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY BE MORE PROFITABLE.

HENRY WAS NOT KNOWN FOR HIS PATIENCE. HE PAID DEARLY FOR THAT. IN 1920, WHILE HARVESTING GRAIN, HE WAS PUSHING THE BUNDLES INTO THE MACHINE TO HURRY THE PROCESS. HE LOST FOUR FINGERS ON HIS LEFT HAND (AND WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE).

IT WAS 1928, DURING THE THRESHING PROCEDURE, WHEN A STONE MUST HAVE STRUCK A SPARK AND WITHIN MINUTES THE ADJACENT STRAW STACK, GOLDEN AND DRY, WAS FIREY RED AND FLAMING. THE NEARBY BARN SOON WAS ENGULFED IN THE CONFLAGRATION. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO GERALD BAUER THAT HIS THRESHER WOULD ALSO GO UP IN SMOKE. HE LITERALLY PULLED THE HUGE MACHINE OUT OF HARM'S WAY BY THE LONG, WIDE BELT WHICH NORMALLY TRANSFERRED POWER FROM THE STEAM ENGINE PLACED SOME DISTANCE AWAY. THIS IS NOT THE NORMAL MANNER IN WHICH THE THRESHER IS MOVED. IT WAS 1930 BEFORE THE NEW BARN WAS BUILT.

HERB WARNER REMEMBERS WORKING FOR HENRY AND REMEMBERS ALSO THE PLAYER PIANO IN THE FRONT ROOM, AND THE MUSIC IT PERFORMED AUTOMATICALLY.

BEING A FARMER IS NOT AN EASY JOB NOR WILL AN UNAMBITIOUS PERSON BE ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING. HENRY WAS A SUPPORTIVE FATHER TO SON KENNETH WHO BECAME AN ATTORNEY. LYDIA WAS CONFINED TO A WHEEL CHAIR AND TRIED HER BEST TO BE A HOME MAKER AND MOTHER. JIM AND VICKI VICHICH HAVE OWNED THE HOMESITE SINCE 1977. THEIR PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ABILITIES HAVE BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE. THE OLD HOUSE WILL ENJOY MORE YEARS. THE 1859 MAP WOULD INDICATE THE HOUSE IS OVER 140 YEARS OLD. IT IS ONE OF THE LESSENING NUMBER OF EARLY HOMES STILL STANDING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR, FROM EARLY ATLASSES; "EARLY LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS IN LIVINSTON COUNTY" AND EARLY OBITUARIES COPIED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; AND A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH HERB WARNER. ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS WELCOMED.)