

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

COMPLEMENTARY COPY

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

AN ADEQUATE LAYER OF INSULATION IS IN THE ATTIC. NEXT YEAR'S HEATING BUDGET SHOULD BE LESS. THE WINDOWS WILL NEED WORK TO PUSH THEM OPEN AND CLOSED MORE EASILY.

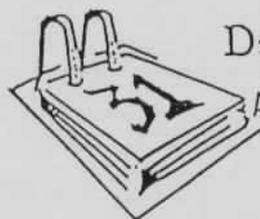
THE FLOOR FINISH IS COMPLETED AND IS BEAUTIFUL! A PROTECTIVE COVER IS IN PLACE SO WORK CAN BEGIN ON THE CLEANING AND RESTORATION OF SCHOOL DESKS.

CALL 810/229-6402 TO LET MARIEANNA BAIR KNOW WHEN YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THIS JOB. HER HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE - SHE WILL WORK YOU INTO HER SCHEDULE. WE'RE GETTING NEAR A COMPLETION DATE, FOLKS - LET'S GET THIS COMPONENT OF THE RESTORATION FINISHED.

AFTER THE BACK ROOM IS EMPTIED OF DESKS, ETC., WORK CAN BEGIN ON REFURBISHING WHAT WILL BE THE ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY. THE MANY BOOKS, PHOTOS, OTHER WRITTEN MATERIALS AND ANTIQUE ITEMS CAN BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE STORAGE LOCKER. AT THE SCHOOL THESE WILL BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE WITH LONG TERM, PROPER ARCHIVAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PROTECT THESE IRREPLACEABLE ARTICLES.

MIKE DUFFY'S PRESENTATION

THE FOLKS WHO ATTENDED THE MARCH 11, GENERAL MEETING WERE ENTERTAINED IN THE LIVELY MANNER OF THIS LONG TIME DETROIT FREE PRESS TV CRITIC. HE FIELDLED QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND ALL DELIGHTED IN REMEMBERING EARLIER TV PROGRAMS. CONSIDERATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPACT OF THE MEDIUM ON OUR LIVES WAS MUCH DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED.



Dates to Remember:

- APRIL 12, 19, 26, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- * 11: 5-8 P.M. & 24: 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 23: 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME!



APRIL 2001
Vol. XX No. 4

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MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: BOB & DIANE ASSENMACHER, BOB & MARGARET BOWLAND, JOAN M. BROWN, *MICHAEL & ERICA CAMERON, BOB & BETSY HERBST, ELIZABETH HERBST, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST, RUDY & DOREEN MEFFERT, RITA POLASKE, ED & CONNIE SHERMAN, HORACE & YVONNE TAYLOR, BILL & GEORGIANA VALLIENCOURT, JIM & VICKI VICHICH (O2), LORRY WAGNER, HERB & ARLENE WARNER AND FRANCES YOUNG (LAPEER).

*A GENUINE WELCOME TO THE CAMERONS. YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED. THE MANY RENEWING MEMBERS SERVE AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL OF US.

DON'T REMEMBER IF YOU'VE PAID MEMBERSHIP DUES? THE YEAR FOR WHICH DUES HAVE BEEN PAID IS NOTED ON THE MAILING LABEL. IF THE NUMBER IS 01 OR HIGHER YOU'RE ALL SET. IF LOWER - PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING. IF THERE'S NO NUMBER OR A "COMPLEMENTARY COPY" STAMP IS ON THERE.....

IT WOULD BE NICE TO CONTINUE PROVIDING TRAIL TALES TO YOU BUT THAT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO THE MANY WHO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY. THE SOCIETY DOES NOT MANUFACTURE A PRODUCT TO PROVIDE INCOME. ONLY DUES, DONATIONS AND SALES OF TILES, ETC., ENABLE THE CONTINUATION OF THE MISSION OF PRESERVING, ADVANCING AND DISSEMINATING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

THAT THERE MAY BE AN ERROR IS POSSIBLE; LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR FOR HELP WITH MAILING THE MARCH ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES.

...BETTY HERBST, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST AND FRANCES YOUNG FOR THEIR LYONS SCHOOL DONATIONS WITH THEIR DUES.

...BILL & JACKIE DAMM AND DAVE & MARILYN PETTIGROVE FOR HELP AT LYONS SCHOOL.

...BOB & DIANE ASSENMACHER, HORACE & YVONNE TAYLOR AND HERB & ARLENE WARNER FOR THEIR PRESERVATION PROJECTS DONATIONS WITH DUES.

...JOAN PINNEY RICE (CA) FOR OVER 60 PHOTOS FROM HER FATHER'S INVENTORY AS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE 1930s, 1940s +.

...JOHN & JANICE FIELD FOR COMPLETING TRANSCRIPTION OF THE KENSINGTON CEMETERY.

...DAVE LEHMAN FOR MEMENTOS OF THE BRIGHTON J.C.S FROM THE MID 1950s.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: THE 1890 RESIDENT RECORDS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY WERE PURCHASED BY DONATIONS. DONATIONS OF PHOTOS, ETC., ARE INCLUDED AND FILED AND CROSS INDEXED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. WANT TO HELP? 810/229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, IS ALWAYS EXCITED AS SHE REPORTS THE PROGRESS BEING MADE. YOU CAN RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW.

ORAL HISTORY: BE AMONG THOSE RECORDING HISTORIES AND STORIES OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS. THEY WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: CAMERA AND FILM WILL BE PROVIDED, PLUS A LIST OF STRUCTURES TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED. WE WON'T HAVE A RECORD ONCE THEY'RE GONE.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE SOCIETY IS
EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF

ALICE BETH (HALL) SPRAGUE

MARIE O'DELL

EMMAJEAN SCHMIDT

PAUL KNOPP

ALICE AND MARIE WERE NATIVES OF THE AREA, EMMAJEAN WAS A LONG TIME RESIDENT. ALL WERE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. PAUL WAS A 'FRIEND' OF THE SOCIETY.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

THE FENCE SPOT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AND THE YUM YUM TREE HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S MISSION. THEY DESERVE OUR PATRONAGE.

THANKS...CONT.

...DAVE BARTON'S FAMILY FOR TRANSFERRING PROJECT MATERIAL ON WHICH HE WAS WORKING. THIS INCLUDED 10 ERA PLAT MAPS OF THE CITY; A COPY OF "FIRST LANDOWNERS IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND A FRAMED PHOTO OF THE MILL POND C. 1940.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...BOX OF ADDRESS LABELS - AVERY #5351.

...BOOKS OF 1ST CLASS POSTAGE STAMPS, FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ARCHIVES MAILING.

...THREE HOLE NOTEBOOKS, 1 1/2" D RING; TO PROPERLY FILE ARCHIVAL INFORMATION.

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/\$5.; 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.

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, ETC.

SUMMER/FALL: NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MICHIGAN BLUE WATER CHAPTER SCHEDULING TRIPS, THRU MICHIGAN AND CANADA. ALSO MONTHLY PROGRAMS. 248/541-1000 OR 800/594-5162 FOR INFO.

APRIL 20-21: ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY CONF., WSU DETROIT. ARCHIVAL WORKSHOPS, ORAL HISTORY, TEACHING, GENEALOGY, PRESERVATION, ETC. 248/224-0786. 229-6402 FOR BROCHURE.

APRIL 21: 8:30-4. INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF APPRAISERS' SEMINAR. LIVONIA MARRIOTT. 248/314-0305.

APRIL 26/28: MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE. SPEAKERS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION, ADAPTIVE REUSE, URBAN ENVIRONMENTS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC. 213/224-3487.

APRIL 28: 6 P.M. LIVINGSTON RECYCLE WASTE WATCHERS DINNER. 517/548-4439.

MAY 10: 10-4, BRIGHTON GARDEN CLUB WILDFLOWER SALE. FIRST UNITED METH CHURCH. 810/229-8487

MAY 11: MICHIGAN ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, MT. PLEASANT. 248/477-7375.

MAY 19: ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP, NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY, NOVI. 248/349-6774.

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

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AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. ROBERT LONGTHORN'S HILLCREST FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

THE 80 ACRE HILLCREST FARM OF ROBERT LONGTHORN WAS LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF FLINT ROAD, SOUTH OF HILTON ROAD; E½ SE SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. PRIOR TO HIS PURCHASE IT HAD BEEN OWNED BY HENRY J. WARNER. IT WAS ORIGINALLY BOUGHT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER 16, 1836, BY JOHN DEAN (PENNSYLVANIA) AND WIFE SALLY, (NEW HAMPSHIRE). THEY WERE AMONG THE LARGE NUMBER OF SETTLERS WITH THAT SURNAME WHO CAME AT AN EARLY DATE FROM THE EAST AS THE ROUTE BECAME MORE ACCESSIBLE. IT IS LIKELY THEY CAME BY WAY OF THE NEWLY OPENED ERIE CANAL.

ROBERT, HIS PARENTS HENRY AND ANNE (WOULDS) LONGTHORN, TWO BROTHERS (GEORGE AND JAMES) AND A SISTER (BETSEY) CAME FROM ENGLAND C. 1860 AND TO MICHIGAN SHORTLY AFTER. ANNE'S BROTHER, THOMAS (B. 1823 IN ENGLAND) WAS A COLLEAGUE OF TIM WARNER (B. 1820 IN NEW YORK) WHO CAME TO THE AREA IN 1837. BOTH WERE YOUNG, EARLY SETTLERS IN THE AREA. THOMAS ARRIVED HERE IN 1855. ROBERT'S SISTER, BETSEY, IS WITH HER UNCLE TOM WOULDS AND HIS WIFE, IN 1870, ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD.

PIONEERS, AS THE LONGTHORNS AND THE WOULDS, OFTEN CAME IN INFORMAL FAMILY GROUPS. THIS WAY THEY COULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER FINANCIALLY, SOCIALLY AND SHARE THE LABOR. IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE TODAY INTO WHAT A WILDERNESS THEY WERE MOVING. AS LATE AS 1845 WOLVES PLAGUED A SLEIGH LOAD OF LUMBER MALCOME FITCH AND HIS NINE YEAR OLD SON, HENRY, WERE BRINGING FROM A MILL IN FLINT. AT THE 1907 BRIGHTON HOMECOMING HENRY RECOUNTS THE DARKNESS THAT OVERCAME THEM ON FLINT ROAD AND HOW THE PURSUING WOLVES BECAME BOLDER UNTIL THE RACING HORSES AND SLEIGH CAME WITHIN A BLOCK OF GRAND RIVER ROAD. CAN WE POSSIBLY IMAGINE HOW DARK A CLOUDY JANUARY SKY COULD BE?

IT IS LIKELY LONGTHORN RAISED SHEEP ON HIS LAND. A LARGE PORTION IS COMPOSED OF HILLS, NOT CONDUCTIVE TO BEING PLOWED.

AN 1859 MAP INDICATES A GRAVEYARD IN THE FAR NW¼ NW¼ OF SECTION 29, JUST SOUTHEAST OF ROBERT'S PROPERTY. THIS WAS A PART OF THE EXTENSIVE ACREAGE OWNED BY THE DEANS. AS LATE AS 1935, THE SMALL CEMETERY IS NOTED ON THE PLAT MAP. PERHAPS SOMEONE CAN TELL US WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM FIRST LANDOWNERS AND EARLY SETTLERS AND LANDOWNERS BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; CENSUS RECORDS AND PLAT MAPS. ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS ARE WELCOMED.)