



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

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

AUGUST 2001
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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

LYONS SCHOOL DEDICATION, THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 6 P.M.

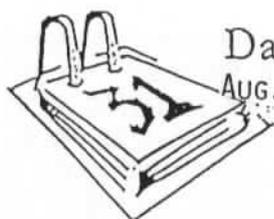
11455 BUNO RD., BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP
BETWEEN VAN AMBURG AND PLEASANT VALLEY ROADS

SAVE THE DATE! ALL ARE INVITED TO THIS LONG-AWAITED DAY. TENTS, ETC., HAVE BEEN ORDERED; REFRESHMENTS ALSO; LOTS OF CLEANING, PAINTING, ETC., ETC., ARE ONGOING. THE OLD SCHOOL IS REALLY LOOKING GOOD, AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

ALUMNI WILL BE THERE, NEIGHBORS, SOCIETY MEMBERS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE PUT HEART AND SOUL INTO THE FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION OF LYONS SCHOOL WILL BE THERE. HOPE YOU WON'T BE LEFT OUT.

DISPLAY CABINETS WILL HAVE EXHIBITS FOR YOUR VIEWING. A SCRAPBOOK OF THIS LONG PROCESS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO TRACE THE SCHOOL'S RESTORATION. ALSO A SCRAPBOOK OF SOCIETY ACTIVITIES SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1981. ANY PICTURES OR OTHER MEMORABILIA WILL BE WELCOME TO HAVE ON DISPLAY.

THIS PROJECT PROVES AGAIN THAT MANY IN THE COMMUNITY ARE CONVINCED IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT EVIDENCE OF OUR PAST. THEY ARE CONVINCED THIS WILL NOT BE ONE OF THOSE PARTS THAT DISAPPEARS. THESE PARTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY, GIVE THEM A SENSE OF PLACE; A SENSE OF STABILITY; A SENSE OF 'THEY DID IT, WE CAN TOO.'



Dates to Remember:

- AUG. *9, 6 P.M. DEDICATION OF LYONS SCHOOL.
11,12, 10-5. SOCIETY BOOTH AT ART FAIR.
16,23,30: 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
*7,14,21,28, 6 P.M. DESK RESTORATION,
ETC., AT LYONS SCHOOL.
*27, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

*LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: CAROLINA DeLUCA (02), *RUBEN & EVELYN GALLEGOS, *FAY HALL (CA), ESTHER JARVIS (02), DAVID LEHMAN (02), JOHN & LISA PALERMO (02), SHERYL VIGMOSTAD.

*A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS RUBEN AND EVELYN GALLEGOS AND FAY HALL WHO IS FROM CALIFORNIA.

IT IS ALSO GRATIFYING TO RECORD SUCH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF RENEWALS. THESE ARE THE FOLKS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE AIMS AND GOALS OF THE SOCIETY'S MISSION.

TO DETERMINE IF YOUR DUES ARE PAID FOR 2001 CHECK THE MAILING LABEL. "01" (OR LATER) WILL CONFIRM YOU'RE UP TO DATE. AN EARLIER DATE "99" OR "00" SAYS THE SOCIETY IS IN NEED OF YOUR SUPPORT. NO DATE? THE SOCIETY BELIEVES IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER, HOWEVER SOMEONE IS PAYING THE BILL. IT IS HOPED YOUR SUPPORT CAN BE RELIED UPON.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR AND JOHN & JANICE FIELD FOR HELPING GET JULY TRAIL TALES MAILED.

...CAROLINA DeLUCA, FAY HALL AND DAVE LEHMAN FOR INCLUDING DONATIONS WITH THEIR DUES.

...RUBEN & EVELYN GALLEGOS FOR DONATING A DOZEN "D" RING THREE HOLE NOTEBOOKS.

...MR. & MRS JACK WHITEHEAD FOR A DONATION.

...ESTHER JARVIS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL DONATION IN MEMORY OF HAROLD JARVIS, JR., A NATIVE OF BRIGHTON.

...HOWELL DAVIS AND DIANE MANNOOCH FOR DESKS DONATED.

...JIM DeJOHN, HAROLD SALOW AND DICK WEAIRE FOR TRANSPORTING THE BOOKCASE FROM CONWAY TOWNSHIP.

...JERRY BAIR FOR USE OF TRAILER FOR MOVING THE BOOKCASE.

...BILL ANDERSON; ED BOTTUM; TOM COATES, JR. AND SON; JUDY DAHLIN; JIM DeJOHN; NANCY FREDENBURG; BETSY HERBST; JUDY KLINE; PIET, JANE AND DANA LINDHOUT; DIANE AND SEAN MANNOOCH; BILL METZ; KEVIN ROACH; STAN SCHAFFER; GI GI VALLIENCOURT; CHRIS WARD; DICK WEAIRE AND WIFE; FOR INNUMERABLE HOURS OF WORK ADJUSTING WINDOWS TO WATERING THE YARD.

...JIM DeJOHN AND JUDY KLINE FOR MOVING THE DESKS DONATED BY HOWELL DAVIS.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: COMPILING DATA AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MOVING INTO THE ARCHIVES ROOM AT THE LYONS SCHOOL.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: MANY ARE AWAITING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS FINE BOOK. CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, IS WORKING DILIGENTLY. SHE APPRECIATES YOUR HELP.

LYONS SCHOOL: WHEN YOUR EDITOR ARRIVES AT THE SCHOOL SHE ALWAYS FINDS JOBS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. WEEDS ARE PULLED, DESKS AND FURNITURE CLEANED, WINDOWS CLEANED AND PAINTED, ETC. JULY 31, ABOUT 15 PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED LABOR AND MATERIALS. EAVES WERE SCRAPED AND PAINTED, THE RAMP RAILING PAINTED, BATHROOM CLEANED, 9.5' LONG BOOK CASE INSTALLED, PIANO AND ORGAN MOVED, EXTERIOR LAMPS INSTALLED, AC AND WATER HEATER TURNED ON, ETC. IT IS A GENUINE PLEASURE TO BE INVOLVED WITH SO MANY WHO REALLY CARE ABOUT THE COMPLETION OF THE FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION OF THIS FORMER RURAL SCHOOL. THE SOCIETY IS AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH HAS BEEN SO GENEROUS.

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SINCERE SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF
JEAN LEITH LANNING
AND
FRENCE 'BUD' STEDMAN
LIFE-LONG RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

ALSO TO THE FAMILIES OF
HOMER DOTHAGER
AND
CHERYL STOCKMAN
ALL OF THE ABOVE WERE SOCIETY MEMBERS.

LYONS SCHOOL NEEDS...

...PICTURES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

...AN INTERIOR FLAG STAND AND AN EXTERIOR FLAG POLE.

...REPAIR OF WALL MAPS.

...BASE CABINETS FOR BATHROOM AND ARCHIVES ROOM.

...PEOPLE TO BECOME "FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL."

...SOMEONE TO BRING THE OLD ROUND WOOD STOVE BACK TO LIFE.

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.; NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50; COPIES OF 1875 PLAT MAPS OF BRIGHTON, GENOA, GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR \$1.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS \$8. SHOW THE OLD TOWN HALL AS DO MUGS @ \$5. AND TOTE BAGS @ \$15. COVERLETS, RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN, \$49. ALL THE ABOVE AT 810/229-6402.

A NEW TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$30., DEPICTING THE BRIGHTON RAILROAD DEPOT AND TRAIN IS AVAILABLE. A FINE COMPANION TO THE COVERLETS ABOVE. 810/220-7934 TO ORDER.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT, ON WHICH ARE EMBROIDERED SIGNATURES FOR A DONATION OF \$10.00, HAS ROOM 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

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

AUGUST 11, 12 MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN MILFORD MEMORIES BY SELLING ROOT BEER FLOATS, PENNY CANDY AND LEMONADE ALONG WITH A CEMETERY WALK AT OAK GROVE CEMETERY. SEPTEMBER 15, 16, THEY'LL BE CONDUCTING THEIR HOME TOUR, AND A FLEA MARKET.

...PEOPLE TO CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 810/220-7934, TO HELP IN THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR, AUGUST 11, 12. A COUPLE OF HOURS WILL BE A BIG HELP. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOOD P.R. FOR THE SOCIETY.

AUGUST 18, 2-4 P.M. GREEN OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL HOST GREEN OAK DAY AT GREENOCH MILL, 10470 RUSHTON RD. GEORGE DE ANGELIS WILL PRESENT THE HISTORY OF THE "OLD MILL". BRING A PICNIC LUNCH, AND LAWN CHAIR - EAT BY THE OLD MILL STREAM. 248/486-3578 FOR MORE INFO.

...SOMEONE TO SERVE AS SOCIETY SECRETARY AND SOMEONE TO SERVE AS TREASURER. MARGE WHITE HAS BEEN TREASURER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. SHE DESERVES A BREAK. 810/229-6402.

SOMEONE TO PROMOTE AND HELP PREPARE APPLICATIONS FOR MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE MARKERS. 810/229-6402 FOR APPLICATIONS.

NOW THRU' NOVEMBER, PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM IS EXHIBITING DOLL HOUSES AND MINIATURES.

...FIRST CLASS STAMPS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ARCHIVAL POSTAGE NEEDS.

...CASE OF 8 1/2 x 11 WHITE COPY PAPER.

...3 HOLE NOTEBOOKS, 1 1/2-2", D RING TO PROPERLY FILE ARCHIVAL INFORMATION.

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

LYONS SCHOOL AND ITS HISTORY

RICHARD J. LYON WAS APPARENTLY ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE TRUSTED BY MANY. A CARVER AND GUILDER IN NEW YORK CITY HE WAS A MEMBER OF A GUILD MADE UP OF OTHER PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS. A CHOLERA EPIDEMIC HAD DESCENDED ON THE CITY IN 1832 AND MANY MADE PLANS TO LEAVE THE AREA. RICHARD WAS ENTRUSTED WITH FUNDS (\$8000.00 +) TO PURCHASE HUNDREDS OF ACRES IN MICHIGAN FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GUILD.

WITH WIFE MARTHA, AND A TWO YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, CAROLINE, HE MOVED HIS FAMILY TO LIVINGSTON COUNTY. IT IS LIKELY THEY CAME BY WAY OF THE ERIE CANAL, STEAMER OVER LAKE ERIE AND LANDED IN DETROIT. RICHARD PURCHASED OVER 1000 ACRES IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP FOR OTHER GUILD MEMBERS. WHEN ONE TRAVELED WEST OF DETROIT IT WAS BY FOOT OR HORSEBACK INTO A WOODED WILDERNESS LIBERALLY SPRINKLED WITH MARSHES AND LAKES. THE ONLY TRAIL WAS THE INDIANS' GRAND RIVER TRAIL BRUSHED OUT BARELY ENOUGH FOR A PERSON ON FOOT. WITH THEIR HOUSEHOLD GOODS IN TWO WAGONS PULLED BY OXEN AND THREE MILK COWS, RICHARD AND HIS FAMILY TRAVELED THREE DAYS TO COME FROM DETROIT.

FOLLOWING THEIR ARRIVAL THE FAMILY NAMES OF ARMS, WOULD, YOUNG, PROSSER, ROGERS, IRA AND TIM WARNER, BEACH, MORGAN, CONELY, McDONALD IN THE EARLY RECORDS OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. THE FIRST ONES ON THE SCENE OFTEN HOUSED OTHER NEWCOMERS IN THEIR OWN ONE ROOM LOG CABINS AND HELPED BUILD THEIR CABIN. MOST OF THESE PIONEERS ALSO HAD THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEM.

AFTER SHELTER WAS PROVIDED AND CROPS PLANTED THESE SETTLERS BEGAN TO REPAIR THE LACK OF EDUCATION WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT FAR TO THE EAST. THEY HAD COME SEARCHING FOR NEW LIVES AND HOMES AND REALIZED THEIR CHILDRENS' EDUCATION WAS NEXT ON THE PRIORITY LIST. AS WAS OFTEN THE CASE, A RESPONSIBLE PIONEER DEDICATED AN ACRE FOR THE LOCATION OF A SCHOOL, LOG OF COURSE. RICHARD AND MARTHA WERE NO EXCEPTION. IN 1842 THE LOG SCHOOL FOR DISTRICT #8 WAS ERECTED. THE CHILDREN OF THE SETTLERS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE BEGAN ATTENDING 'LYONS' SCHOOL. IN 1885 THE SCHOOL BOARD DECIDED A FRAME BUILDING NEEDED TO BE ERECTED. AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS THE LOG STRUCTURE HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE WELL. THE WELL PROVIDED WATER, THE SUN AND OIL LAMPS PROVIDED LIGHTING, A WOOD STOVE, WARMTH, TWO OUT HOUSES AS SANITARY FACILITIES AND VERY YOUNG TEACHERS TAUGHT. NOW THERE WERE MORE DESKS, CHAIRS, A RECITATION BENCH, ROLL UP WALL MAPS AND PICTURES OF PRESIDENTS WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN HELPED PROVIDE INSPIRATION FOR ABOUT 20 STUDENTS.

ABOUT 55 YEARS LATER AN ADDITION WAS BUILT, TOILETS BROUGHT INDOORS, ELECTRICITY INSTALLED AND A LARGER STOVE. HOWEVER LUNCH CAME IN THEIR TIN BUCKET, BASEBALL, ANNIE-I-OVER, MUSICAL CHAIRS, ETC., WERE STILL PLAYED AT RECESS. THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL PICNIC, THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND SPELLING BEES OFTEN WERE COMMUNITY EVENTS.

AFTER WW II, AND IMPROVED HIGHWAYS SHORTENED THE TRAVEL TIME FROM DETROIT TO AN HOUR MANY FAMILIES MIMICKED THE LYONS OF 1833 AND MIGRATED TO THE BRIGHTON AREA. THEY, TOO, SOON REALIZED THE NEED FOR THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN. UNABLE TO CONTAIN AND EDUCATE THE GROWING NUMBERS OF STUDENTS RURAL SCHOOLS CONSOLIDATED AND THE OLD SCHOOLS WERE EMPTY. FEW REMAIN. FOLLOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TOWN HALL, THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OFFERED THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY THE BUILDING FOR RESTORATION. WITH COMPLETE LOCAL SUPPORT THE LYONS SCHOOL IS AGAIN A VIABLE STRUCTURE. (MARIEANNA BAIR, EDITOR.)