



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

DECEMBER 2001
Vol. XX No. 12

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

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

THE SOCIETY IS MAKING READY TO ENTER 2002. SHERYL VIGMOSTAD WILL SERVE AS V.P. MINDY KINSEY TAKES THE POSITION OF TREASURER. (THIS WILL GIVE MARGE WHITE A BIT OF A REST. SHE HAS RECORDED THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL AFFAIRS FOR OVER 10 YEARS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPRESS SUFFICIENT THANKS FOR SUCH LONG, DEDICATED SERVICE.) DIRECTORS ELECTED WERE NANCY FREDENBURG, CAROL McMACKEN AND JIM VICHICH. MARIEANNA BAIR SERVES AS PRESIDENT FOR 2002.

A DIRE NEED EXISTS FOR A MEMBER TO SERVE AS SECRETARY TO RECORD THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS. A VOLUNTEER WHO IS ABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY IS MOST NECESSARY. CALL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS POSITION. IF THE MEETING TIME/DATE IS HOLDING YOU BACK CALL BAIR, 229-6402, SO OTHER ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

A 20TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE, DONATED BY KROGER IN BRIGHTON, ADDED TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SOCIETY'S ORGANIZATION. SUCCESSES OF THE PAST 20 YEARS INCLUDE PRESERVATION OF THE OLD TOWN HALL; RECOGNITION OF LOCAL HISTORIC SITES; TRANSCRIPTION OF CEMETERIES AND ENCOURAGING THEIR PROPER CARE; COMPILING GENEALOGIES, GATHERING EARLY MEMORIES AND HISTORY OF THE AREA; PROMOTING ARCHIVAL RESEARCH; PROMOTION, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF EARLY IMPLEMENTS AND STRUCTURES ESPECIALLY THE FUNCTIONAL RESTORATION OF LYONS SCHOOL. ALL GIVE EVIDENCE THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN/WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE SENSE OF PLACE OF THE BRIGHTON AREA.

THE VALUE OF YOUR SUPPORT AS A MEMBER, DONOR, SERVE ON THE BOARD OR ON A PROJECT CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ITS MISSION WILL FIND SOME WAY TO ASSIST.



Dates to Remember:

DEC. *4, 11, 6 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATIONS.
6, 13, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.
810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.

*LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, BRIGHTON.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK 01/02.

COUPLE/INDIV: JOE & IRENE MIKE 02/03.

THE SUPPORT OF NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS DURING 2001, IS MOST ENCOURAGING.

DURING DECEMBER, IN ORDER TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY TO DUES PAYING MEMBERS, A REVIEW OF THE MAILING LIST FOR THE NEWSLETTER MUST BE MADE.

TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN THE SOCIETY AND ITS MISSION INQUIRERS' ADDRESSES ARE ADDED TO THE LIST DURING THE YEAR. IF THERE IS NO RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF MEMBERSHIP OR DONATION IT IS ASSUMED CONTINUED RECEIPT OF TRAIL TALES IS NOT DESIRED. IF YOUR ISSUE IS STAMPED "COMPLEMENTARY COPY" NO DUES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THE YEAR OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOTED ON THE ADDRESS LABEL - "01" = PAID FOR 2001, ETC. DOES MORE NEED TO BE SAID?

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND SHIRLEY RITTER FOR THEIR HELP IN PREPARING THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES FOR MAILING.

...THE SEVERAL WHO RELAYED COMMENTS RE: THEIR MEMORIES TO ADD TO THE BURT MILLER ARTICLE IN THE LAST ISSUE.

...JEANETTE JOHNSON FOR HER DONATION TO COST OF DOOR MATS/RUNNERS FOR THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...NORM CATRELL FOR HIS DONATION FOR USE IN THE ARCHIVES CENTER.

...THE DAVE BARTON FAMILY FOR THEIR CONTINUED STORAGE OF THE SOCIETY'S RESTORED BUGGY.

...DAVE PETTIGROVE AND BILL DAMM FOR THEIR HELP IN MOVING THE BUGGY.

...MIKE CORRIGAN FOR DONATING A VEHICLE AND DRIVER TO MOVE THE BUGGY.



PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: FILES OF HISTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE BEING PLACED INTO BINDERS ACCORDING TO THE STREETS ON WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED FOR QUICKER RETRIEVAL.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: PROOFREADING WILL BEGIN SOON PER CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, CHAIRMAN OF THIS PROJECT. 2002 WILL SEE THE SELECTION OF A PUBLISHER AND RAISING OF SPONSORSHIPS.

LYONS SCHOOL: TUESDAY EVENINGS, 6 P.M., YOU WILL FIND WORKERS PREPARING THE ARCHIVES ROOM. MUCH ARCHIVAL MATERIAL IS STORED IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE IT IN ONE PLACE. YOUR HELP IS NECESSARY. DECEMBER TUESDAYS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. SCHEDULE SEVERAL TO BEGIN IN JANUARY FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. CALL 810/229-6402 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CONSIDER YOUR 2001 DONATION

BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2001, REVIEW YOUR ANNUAL TAX STRATEGY. A GIFT TO THE SOCIETY, AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION MAY BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A GIFT IN SOMEONE'S NAME, OR A TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL PERSON OR IN MEMORY OF A DEPARTED LOVED ONE.

YOUR DONATION MAY SPECIFY GENERAL FUND, THE LYONS SCHOOL, OR TOWARD A PROJECT - ORAL HISTORY, HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, ARCHIVES, HISTORIC SITE MARKERS, ETC. CHECK SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...PEOPLE TO INDEX CEMETERY FILES.

...DONATION TO THE NON PROFIT PERMIT MAILING FEE. (\$125.00 FOR 2002).

...PAYING ONE MONTH'S NEWSLETTER PRINTING COST. (\$185.00).

PLEASE NOTE

THE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST IS USED ONLY FOR SOCIETY PURPOSES. IT IS NOT LENT OR SOLD.

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. 810/229-9100 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.

A NEW PROJECT IN THE WORKS

IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUNG FARMER COMMITTEE OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND MSU, A COMPLETE STATEWIDE SURVEY OF FARMSTEADS IS BEING UNDERTAKEN. ONE OBJECTIVE IS THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF EXISTING FARMSTEADS, ESPECIALLY EXISTING BARNs AND OUTBUILDINGS.

BEFORE ALL OF THESE EVIDENCES OF FARMSTEADS ARE LOST TO SUBDIVISIONS, SHOPPING/OFFICE CENTERS, GOLF COURSES, ETC., IT SEEMS WISE TO AT LEAST HAVE A VISUAL RECORD OF AN EARLIER LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

SEVERAL SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL UNDERTAKE THIS SURVEY IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. GREEN OAK, GENOA AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS NEED SURVEYORS. CONTACT THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU, 517/546-4920 OR THE SOCIETY, 810/229-6402 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, INC., BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL, BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK, THE FENCE SPOT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAWRENCE AUTO BODY, YUM YUM TREE. THESE ARE LOCAL BUSINESSES WHOSE SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED. GIVE THEM YOUR CONSIDERATION, PLEASE.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #303
BRIGHTON, MI

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. M. BURTON FRANCIS' LINWOOD LAWN FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS LINWOOD LAWN FARM WAS PARTLY IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP AND PARTLY IN GENOA TOWNSHIP.

THE W½ NW¼ OF SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP (80 ACRES) WAS FIRST PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN MAY, 1833, BY EPHRIAM C. ALLEN OF GENESSEE, N.Y. MR. ALLEN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF MANY LAND SPECULATORS AS WE FIND HE SOLD LATER THAT SAME YEAR.

THE NE¼ NE¼ OF SECTION 24, GENOA TOWNSHIP (40 ACRES) WAS FIRST PURCHASED BY BENJAMIN J. BONTWELL OF WAYNE IN 1836. ALTHO' IN TWO DIFFERENT TOWNSHIPS THE LAND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BOUGHT AND SOLD AS ONE FARM. THE EAST END OF THE FARM WAS NOT FAR FROM ORE CREEK.

ALANSON P. DICKINSON AND WIFE, JANE, ARE OWNERS IN 1852 BUT SELL BY 1859. BY 1870 THEY LIVE IN BRIGHTON VILLAGE. DICKINSON SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR AS 1ST LT., CO. L, 9TH MICHIGAN INF. REG., ENLISTING FROM ROMEO, MICHIGAN. CHARLES AND ANNA MARIA DORR OWN THE FARM IN 1870, SELLING IT IN 1872. BY THAT TIME THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNSHIPS) IS THE SCENE OF DAILY PASSING OF STAGE COACHES, WAGONS AND BUGGIES. THE 1875 ATLAS INDICATES A HOUSE ON THE NW CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AND CROOKED LAKE (HERBST) ROAD. A HOUSE IS STILL ON THAT SITE.

IN 1895, THE FARM IS OWNED BY CARSTEN AND ADELAIDE DENKHAUS, BOTH BORN IN PRUSSIA. THEIR DAUGHTER, MARGARET, MARRIED M. BURTON FRANCIS MARCH 9, 1904. AT THAT TIME SHE IS A CHILDLESS WIDOW OF HARRY L. BITTEN. FRANCIS BRINGS HIS SON, HARVEY, (FROM AN EARLIER MARRIAGE) INTO THIS UNION.

M. BURTON FRANCIS, BORN 1877, DIED 1969, IS ONE OF THREE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH W. AND EUGENIA A. FRANCIS. JOSEPH IS A VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR, SERVING AS A CORPORAL IN CO I, 3RD MICHIGAN CAVALRY FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 1862/JUNE 2, 1865. THE MICHIGAN 3RD CAVALRY, CO. I, SERVED MOST OF THEIR TIME IN MISSISSIPPI, TENNESSEE AND TEXAS. FOLLOWING THE MARRIAGE OF M. BURTON AND MARGARET THE FARM IS IN THE CARE OF M. BURTON, A TOTAL OF ABOUT 115 ACRES. BEFORE HIS DEATH HE SAW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ON ORE CREEK AND THE FORMATION OF WOODLAND LAKE, THE CONSTRUCTION OF I-96 AND MAJOR CHANGES IN LAND USE IN THE AREA. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM FIRST LAND OWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ALSO EARLY ATLASES AND MICHIGAN IN THE WAR, 1861-1865. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. 810/229-6402. A MORE COMPLETE HISTORY WILL RESULT.)