



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

FEBRUARY 2001

Vol. XX No. 2

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR
MARIEANNA BAIR
810/229-6402

VICE PRESIDENT
SHERYL VIGMOSTAD
810/227-7506

SECRETARY

TREASURER
MARGE WHITE
810/227-3968

DIRECTORS

NANCY FREDENBURG
810/229-9100

CAROL McMACKEN
HISTORY BOOK
810/231-2957

JIM VICHICH
LYONS SCHOOL
810/227-4840

CHAIRPERSONS

JIM VICHICH
MEMBERSHIP
810/227-4840

ANNE STRATIGOS
HOSPITALITY
NEWSLETTER DIST.

CHRIS WARD
LYONS SCHOOL
810/229-0560

HERB WARNER
LYONS SCHOOL
810/229-6504

JOHN & JANICE
FIELD
CEMETERIES
734/449-4535

LORRY WAGNER
ORAL HISTORY
810/231-3328

JANUARY 13, THE SCHOOL ROOM WAS AGAIN NOISY WITH POWER SAWS, HAMMERS AND SHOUTED MEASUREMENTS. YOUR EDITOR WAS AWESTRUCK WATCHING THE ALMOST RIVER DANCE PERFORMANCE OF NINE YOUNG MEN.

THEY DONATED THEIR ENERGY, TIME AND A WEEKEND DAY TO PUTTING DOWN THE FLOORING. THE SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY IS MOST GRATEFUL.

MANY THANKS GO TO THEIR FAMILIES WHO, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, ALSO CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY.



BACK ROW: DAVE WALKER, JIM DETZEL, STAN SCHAFFER, PIET LINDHOUT,
FRONT ROW: RON CLEVELAND, ED BOTTUM, JEFF TOOLE, CHRIS WARD,
BOB KING.



Dates to Remember:

- FEB. 8, 15, 22, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVE FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- * 14, 5-8 P.M. AND FEB. 27, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 26, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME!

*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL) AND MIKE AND JANET WOODFORD.

BUS/PROF: YUM YUM TREE.

COUPLES/INDIV: BERT & MARIEANNA BAIR, LOIS CLARK (MIDLAND), IRENE ELLIS, GENE & JUDY DAHLIN, MARK & CHARLOTTE GODIN, FRED GREUZKE, DOUGLAS & CAROL REARICK, PHYLLIS SCHAEFER (FENTON), DAN & EMMA JEAN SCHMIDT, PAUL & CAROL SPANGLER, JIM & JOANNE SWONK, BOB WATSON (HOWELL), BERNON & BETTY YOUNG (FL), CARMEN STEVENS.

APOLOGIES TO DR. HARRY AND CAROL DAVIS; THEY WERE NOT RECOGNIZED AS PATRON MEMBERS LAST MONTH. MANY THANKS.

CARMEN STEVENS' MEMBERSHIP IS A GIFT FROM ALENE ANDERSON. MORE OF US MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER A GIFT LIKE THIS.

OUR READERS ARE INVITED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME MEMBERS. RECEIPTS FROM DUES PAY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND FOR THE PRINTING AND MAILING OF TRAIL TALES. ONLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT CAN THIS SOCIETY CONTINUE ITS MISSION OF COMPILING AND MAKING AVAILABLE THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THIS AREA. WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF THE PRESERVATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN & JANICE FIELD AND SHIRLEY RITTER FOR THEIR HELP GETTING THE JANUARY ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES IN THE MAIL.

...LOIS CLARK, VAL & KATHY JACOBY, JIM & JOANNE SWONK FOR INCLUDING DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT WITH THEIR DUES.

...BRIGHTON COMMERCE BANK FOR ITS DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT.

...BOB WATSON AND BERT & SHARON KISAK (THE YUM YUM TREE) FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE PRESERVATION FUND.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE YUM YUM TREE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP. THEY DESERVE OUR PATRONAGE.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: SEVERAL HOURS EACH WEEK ARE DEVOTED TO THE SORTING AND FILING OF ARTICLES OF LOCAL HISTORICAL INTEREST. DURING WW II VARIOUS SUPPORTIVE HOME FRONT ORGANIZATIONS WERE FORMED. ONE OF THESE WAS THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS. WE HAVE LEARNED OF A "UNIT SCRAPBOOK" COMPILED BY THE GOLD STAR COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #235. DO ANY OF OUR READERS KNOW OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THIS SCRAPBOOK? IT, OR A COPY, HAS A PLACE IN THE SOCIETY ARCHIVES.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, CONTINUES HER RESEARCH AND WRITING. A LIST IS BEING COMPILED OF THOSE WISHING TO ORDER THIS BOOK.

ORAL HISTORY: IN THE NEWSLETTER OF ANOTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY WE LEARN OF A PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR'S SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO HIS CLASS. #1. "HOW MANY OF YOU CAN TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?" ALL HANDS WERE RAISED. #2. "HOW MANY CAN TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR GRANDPARENTS?" ABOUT 3/4 OF THE CLASS RESPONDED. #3 "HOW MANY CAN TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR GREAT GRANDPARENTS?" OUT OF 60 STUDENTS TWO HANDS WERE RAISED. THINK ABOUT THAT. WITHIN THREE GENERATIONS OUR ANCESTORS ARE ALL BUT FORGOTTEN. WHAT ABOUT YOU THREE GENERATIONS HENCE? WILL YOUR GREAT GRANDCHILDREN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU? WHAT LEGACY WILL YOU LEAVE? WILL YOU BE FORGOTTEN TOO? IT WOULD BE FITTING FOR US TO WRITE OR RECORD ABOUT OUR LIVES AND WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS. CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS PROJECT? THE SOCIETY HAS SUGGESTED PROCEDURES, A LISTING OF QUESTIONS AND TAPE RECORDERS FOR YOUR USE. 810/229-6402 FOR INFO.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: SPRING WILL SOON BE HERE (HONEST). PLAN NOW TO HELP COMPLETE PICTURE TAKING OF EARLY AREA HOMES BEFORE TREE LEAVES OBSTRUCT THE VIEW. 810/229-6402.

BOARD MEMBERS ESSENTIAL

MANY THANKS TO LISA PALERMO WHO FINDS SHE MUST GIVE UP THE POSITION OF RECORDING SECRETARY. THIS POSITION NEEDS TO BE FILLED FOR THE SOCIETY TO FUNCTION. A FEW MORE DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE AS DIRECTORS ALSO. YOU WILL FIND IT INSPIRING TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED WITH THE PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS.

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.

GENERAL MEETING ON TAP

PUBLIC INVITED

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2-4 P.M. THE SOCIETY IS PRIVILEGED TO PRESENT MIKE DUFFY. MIKE HAS BEEN THE TV CRITIC WITH THE DETROIT FREE PRESS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS.

MIKE WILL TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF TV. HE WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT TV PROGRAMMING, PERSONALITIES, PRODUCERS, ETC.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY MEETING ROOM. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

FEBRUARY 28, 8 P.M. MARK OPPAT, AN AUTHORITY ON ANTIQUE RADIOS, WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE FARMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE PROGRAM WILL BE HELD IN THE LOWER MEETING ROOM OF THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY AT LIBERTY AND STATE.

APRIL 1, 9:30-5, THE 33RD ANTIQUARIAN BOOK AND PAPER SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THE LANSING CENTER, 333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., AVE., LANSING. AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE THE 12TH GENEALOGY AND HISTORY BOOK FAIR WILL BE HELD.

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, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. JOHN TAYLOR'S OAKDALE FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

SINCE THE ARRIVAL IN THE AREA, IN 1857, OF JOHN L. SR. AND WIFE MAHALIA ROBERTS, THE TAYLOR NAME HAS BEEN WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED. BOTH JOHN AND MAHALIA WERE BORN IN MICHIGAN WHICH SUGGESTS THEIR PARENTS CAME TO THIS STATE AT AN EARLIER DATE.

MAHALIA MUST HAVE BEEN A STURDY WOMAN TO COME WITH JOHN TO COMMENCE FARMING AT A TIME OF NATIONAL RECESSION. AMONG THE TEN CHILDREN BORN TO THEM FROM 1856 THRU 1877, IT APPEARS ALL, EXCEPT THE LAST, MIRTIE, LIVED INTO ADULTHOOD. (HOWEVER, CORRA, THE EIGHTH, DIED AT 21.)

JOHN SR., WAS A FARMER AND DEALT IN STOCK. 1875 LIVINGSTON COUNTY BUSINESS NOTICES LIST HIM AS "ENGAGED IN GENERAL FARMING". (BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, SEC. 10, E½ SE¼ 90 ACRES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HYNE ROAD.) BY 1895 HE HAS 120 ACRES IN SECTIONS 9 AND 10, ON MAXFIELD LAKE ROAD IN THE WOODRUFF CREEK WATERSHED; AN AREA ESPECIALLY SUITED FOR GENERAL FARMING.

SON, JOHN JR., WAS BORN IN 1867. AS WITH MOST OF HIS SIBLINGS JOHN (# 6) MARRIED A YOUNG WOMAN FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD. FLORA JACOBS BECAME HIS WIFE MARCH 12, 1896. BORN IN 1873 SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF CHARLES JACOBS WHO WAS BORN IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP IN 1846. JOHN AND FLORA HAD FOUR CHILDREN: CLARENCE, LILLIAN, RUTH AND MILDRED BELLE. AS THEIR PARENTS HAD DONE THE CHILDREN MARRIED LOCALLY.

C. 1900 JOHN L. JR., IS THE OWNER OF OAKDALE FARM, CONSISTING OF 40 ACRES IN SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. GRAND RIVER ROAD RUNS THRU THE MIDDLE, WHERE HILTON ROAD JOINS. NEARBY, ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF HILTON THERE ARE ANOTHER 80 ACRES THROUGH WHICH ORE CREEK FLOWS. THIS IS JUST EAST OF AN 80 HIS FATHER-IN-LAW OWNS. (THIS IS BEFORE THE FORMATION OF WOODLAND LAKE.)

THERE ARE STILL MANY DESCENDANTS OF JOHN SR., AND MAHALIA IN THE AREA. BECAUSE OF THIS TREPIDATION IS FELT BUT WE HAVE MUSTERED COURAGE SUFFICIENT TO GIVE AN ACCOUNTING OF THE HISTORY OF THIS FARM. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM "EARLY LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY" AND OBITUARIES COLLECTED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; GENEALOGICAL REFERENCES PROVIDED BY JANE TOMLINSON; AND ATLAS AND CENSUS RECORDS. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS WELCOMED. 810/229-6402.)