

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

AN EARLY MAY DATE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL AND ITS USE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE AN EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION. A PORTION OF THE BUILDING WILL BE SET ASIDE AS AN ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY WITH MATERIALS OF LOCAL HISTORICAL INTEREST. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN AREA FOR USE AS A MUSEUM FOR DISPLAY OF AREA ARTIFACTS AND SOCIETY MEETINGS. A RAMP HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED AND A RESTROOM ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. AS WE WRITE A PROPER FINISH IS BEING APPLIED TO THE FLOOR.

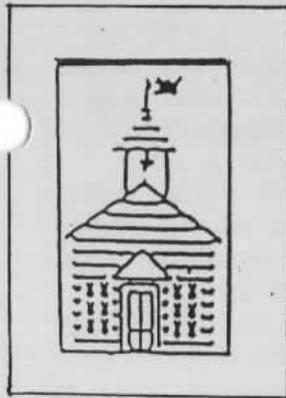
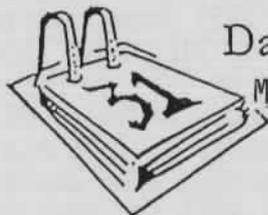
ALL OF THIS RESTORATION/RENOVATION IS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE MANY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE FELT STRONGLY THIS IS A PROJECT WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO OTHERS FOR YEARS TO COME. FOR A COMMUNITY TO GO COURAGEOUSLY INTO THE FUTURE IT MUST BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP TO ITS PAST. WITH BUILDINGS LIKE THIS ONE ROOM SCHOOL THIS RELATIONSHIP CAN BE BETTER RECOGNIZED.

GENERAL MEETING SET - PUBLIC WELCOME

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. HE WILL TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF TV. MIKE WILL BE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT TV PROGRAMS, PERSONALITIES, PRODUCERS, ETC. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY MEETING ROOM. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE OFFERED.

Dates to Remember:

- MAR. 8, 15, 22, 29, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVE FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- * 11, 2-4 P.M. GENERAL MEETING WITH MIKE DUFFY. PUBLIC WELCOME!
- * 14, 5-8 P.M. & 27, 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- * 26, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING. WELCOME!



MARCH 2001
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OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR
MARIEANNA BAIR
810/229-6402

VICE PRESIDENT
SHERYL VIGHOSTAD
810/227-7506

SECRETARY

TREASURER
MARGE WHITE
810/227-3968

DIRECTORS

NANCY FREDENBURG
810/229-9100

CAROL McMACKEN
HISTORY BOOK
810/231-2957

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LYONS SCHOOL
810/227-4840

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MEMBERSHIP
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LYONS SCHOOL
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810/231-3328

BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 100 LIBRARY DR.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: THE FENCE SPOT.

PATRON: JACK & BEVERLY LABELLE AND RON & JILL MOREY (MILAN).

COUPLES/INDIV: BILL & JACKIE ARMSTRONG, WAYNE & SALLEY BALDWIN (GRAND RAPIDS), ERV & DOT BANDKAU, DAN & KAREN BIERER, ELAINE BLIGHT, BILL & MARIANNE COMISKEY, DUANE & THELMA DUNCAN, JANICE FIELD, BARBARA FOLKMAN, NANCY FREDENBURG, WALLY & MERLYN JOLLITZ, PETE & MARY ANN LEITZ, TIM & LESLIE McMACKEN (ANN ARBOR), MARK & CAROL McMACKEN, CLEO MORAN (SOUTH LYON), TOM & BONNIE RIUTTA, JENNIFER SCOTT (A GIFT FROM HER AUNT), DELORES YACKLEY, BILL & CHARMAINE ZINK.

DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP NEED TO BE RENEWED? HAVE YOU EVER SUPPORTED THE SOCIETY WITH DUES? IF THIS ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES HAS "COMPLEMENTARY COPY" STAMPED ON IT YOUR COOPERATION IS NEEDED. THE SOCIETY IS NOT A COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION. ITS ONLY REVENUE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND/OR PRESERVATION PROJECTS COMES FROM YOU. CARING VOLUNTEERS WHO BELIEVE IN THE SOCIETY'S MISSION PROVIDE THE IMPETUS. YOU ARE DEPENDED UPON TO HELP PROVIDE FUNDS. (YOUR SERVICES ARE ALSO NECESSARY. THE PROJECTS IN THE NEXT COLUMN WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE. CONSIDER DOING YOUR PART.)

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...JANICE & JOHN FIELD, JUNE KIMBLE, AND SHIRLEY RITTER FOR HELP WITH THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER MAILING.

...DR. HARRY DAVIS FOR THE C. 1934 PHOTO OF BURROUGH'S FARMS.

...BILL & JACKIE ARMSTRONG, ERV & DOT BANDKAU, DUANE & THELMA DUNCAN AND MARK & CAROL McMACKEN FOR THE DONATIONS SENT WITH THEIR DUES.

...MERLYN JOLLITZ FOR THE 1954 ARTICLE ON WILLIAM FORD AND HIS RESIDENCE ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD.

...JACQUELYN MORGAN STUMPF (FL) WHO SENT TWO PHOTOS C. 1920 - THE WIRT BEURMANN FARM ON BRIGHTON ROAD AND WIRT AND HIS TEAM AND WAGON DELIVERING EGGS, CHICKENS, ETC., TO PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA. SHE HAS PLEASANT MEMORIES OF RIDING WITH HER GRANDFATHER MAKING THESE DELIVERIES.

...VICTORIA OF CALLIGRAPHY BY VICTORIA FOR HER WORK ON THE BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: THE CARD FILE IS GROWING. THIS FILE RECORDS PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, EDUCATION, EVENTS, GENEALOGY, COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORTATION, ETC., REFERENCES. IT CONTAINS VITAL INFORMATION OF EARLIER HAPPENINGS IN THE AREA. YOU'VE LIVED HER A WHILE? YOUR ASSISTANCE IS MOST WELCOME. THIS SHOULD BE COMPUTERIZED? YOUR SERVICE WOULD BE A DISTINCT BENEFIT. 810/229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: CALL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ON THE LIST WHEN THE BOOK IS READY. CALL CAROL McMACKEN, 810/231-2957, WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP.

ORAL HISTORY: AMONG THE MOST VALID ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY RECORDS ARE THE RECORDED HISTORIES OF LONG TIME RESIDENTS. SOUND INTERESTING? 810/229-6402.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: A SUBSTANTIAL LISTING OF EARLY AREA STRUCTURES NEEDS PHOTOS TO RECORD THEM BEFORE THEY'RE GONE. ALL TOO OFTEN A STRUCTURE IS NO MORE WITH NO PHOTO AS A RECORD. THE SOCIETY WILL SUPPLY CAMERA AND FILM. 810/229-6402.

SOCIETY MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

PEOPLE WILLING TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY ARE ESSENTIAL. THE AREA HAS MANY CAPABLE PEOPLE. CONSIDER DEDICATING A FEW HOURS EACH MONTH TO A PROJECT NEAR AND DEAR TO YOUR HEART - THE COMPILING AND DISSEMINATING THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THIS AREA. A SECRETARY TO RECORD BOARD ACTIVITIES, THIS EDITOR NEEDS ASSISTANCE, AND THE EVER-PRESENT NEED FOR FUND RAISING COULD USE HELP. CONTACT ANY OF THOSE LISTED ON THE FRONT PAGE. YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS TO 'GET YOUR FEET WET.'

...WHITNEY KIMBLE FOR: 1910 AND 1922 "MICHIGAN LAWS" PRESENTED BY THE BRIGHTON STATE BANK AND A 190 CHECK FROM THE BANK; "1925 INCORPORATION AND GENERAL POWERS OF VILLAGES" BOOKLET; JULY, 1927 CHARTER OF CITY OF BRIGHTON; 1927 COUPONS FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT #5 FRL. SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS; C. 1935 PLAT MAPS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; 1963 STATE/MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION; 1971 1st DATE OF ISSUE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ENVELOPE; JUNE 29, 1954, "ROTARY REVIEW" ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT PROGRAM. LISTS ALL MEMBERS INCLUDING CHARTER MEMBERS, PHOTOS OF 43 OF 1954 MEMBERS, AND A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 1936-1954.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? () Yes () No (PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP + 4 DIGIT)

() 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.

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.

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.

...PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THE SOCIETY BOARD OR ON A PROJECT COMMITTEE.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

MARCH 18, 2-4 P.M. GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS A PROGRAM ON FANS AND THEIR HISTORY AT THE FIRE HALL, 9384 WHITMORE LAKE RD. RETIRING TREASURER, MARGE BERZ, MOVING FROM THE AREA WILL BE FETED.

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. WILLIAM WILSON'S CHERRY HILL IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

WILLIAM'S FATHER, JOHN, WAS BORN IN 1826 IN NORTHERN IRELAND. ALTHO' THE DATE AND REASON FOR HIS IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES IS NOT CERTAIN IT CAN BE ASSUMED THE POTATO BLIGHT IN IRELAND DURING THE 1850s, WHICH DESTROYED ONE OF THE STAPLES OF THE DIET IN THAT COUNTRY, WAS RESPONSIBLE.

WILLIAMS' MOTHER, MARGARET WHORTON, WAS BORN IN 1838 IN LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND AND LIVED IN BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES. SHE WAS WORKING AS A MAID FOR A FAMILY IN FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN WHEN SHE AND JOHN MET. HOW JOHN MADE HIS WAY TO MICHIGAN IS STILL A MATTER OF CONJECTURE. HOWEVER C. 1860 HE AND MARGARET WERE MARRIED.

THEIR FIRST AREA FARM WAS ON THE SITE OF PRESENT DAY GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND. THE VERY HILLY AND GRAVELLY ACREAGE WAS DIFFICULT TO FARM PRODUCTIVELY. BY 1880, 200 ACRES IN SECTIONS 3 AND 4 IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP (WEST EDGE OF GMPG, ALONG PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD) WHICH WERE WELL BELOW THE "BLUFFS" OR "BINDERNAGEL HEIGHTS", AS THEY WERE OFTEN DESCRIBED, BECAME THE WILSON HOME.

WILLIAM, BORN 1862, LIVED 11 YEARS ON THIS FARM ACQUIRING SOME EDUCATION AT THE NEARBY ONE ROOM SCHOOL, BIRD SCHOOL. HE AND HIS EIGHT SIBLINGS FELT FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND AT LEAST 3-4 MONTHS TOTAL IN A YEAR. HE AND HIS BROTHERS, BEN AND FRANK, OFTEN WORKED FOR THE NEIGHBORS, HARVESTING, ETC. HIS SISTERS, NINA, ADA, MINNIE, VINA, LOTTIE AND FANNIE WORKED AS DOMESTICS. ALL THE CHILDREN BROUGHT THEIR EARNINGS TO THE PARENTS. THIS CUSTOM WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR THE TIMES. ALSO NOT UNUSUAL WAS THE PATTERN OF MARRIAGE AMONG NEIGHBOR CHILDREN; NINA, DAUGHTER OF GILBERT AND HARRIOTT KELLOGG BRADLEY, BECAME WILLIAM'S WIFE C. 1890. MARGARET, HOWARD AND RUTH, WERE BORN TO THEM.

THE 1895 ATLAS BUSINESS DIRECTORY IDENTIFIED WILLIAM AS "FARMER AND STOCK". TO APPLY THE NAME CHERRY HILL TO HIS FARM THERE MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN FRUIT ORCHARDS PLANTED. AT THAT TIME WILLIAM IS FARMING 120 ACRES IN SECTION 33 IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP (N½ SE AND SW SE) ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF BLAINE RD BETWEEN MAXFIELD LAKE ROAD AND FLINT ROAD (THE MAIN ROAD TO FLINT AT THE TIME). A RESIDENCE ACROSS FROM THE SOUTH END OF LONG LAKE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THEIR HOME. BY 1915 LAND IN SECTIONS 3 AND 4, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP N½ NW SW AND NE NE RESPECTIVELY, (ALMOST 60 ACRES) IS ALSO IN HIS NAME. AND TODAY? EXPRESSWAY U.S. 23 TRAVERSES WILLIAM AND NINA'S FARM. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM ATLASSES, CENSUS RECORDS, WILLIAM PLESS' WRITINGS OF JOHN AND MARGARET WILSON. COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS, ETC., WELCOME. 810/229-6402)