

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

THE DESKS ARE BEING MOVED FROM THE BACK ROOM. THEY ARE NOW READY FOR CLEANING AND RESTORATION. JOYCE TERRY AND SHERYL VIGMOSTAD ARE EACH WORKING ON A DESK. THIS FURNITURE IS CLEANED WITH DENATURED ALCOHOL. DOING THIS OUTDOORS OR WITH SCHOOL WINDOWS OPEN PROVIDES PROPER VENTILATION. IT'S SATISFYING TO SEE THE 'GUNK' COME OFF AND THE ORIGINAL FINISH RESTORED.

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO PREPARE EXHIBITS IN THE DISPLAY CASES WHEN THEY ARE DONE.

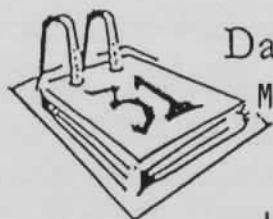
NEIGHBOR DICK WEAIRE HAS REPLACED A WINDOW, 'UNSTUCK' THE NEW WINDOWS SO THEY SLIDE EASILY, PREPARED A BOOT SCRAPER FOR OUTSIDE THE DOOR, FIXED THE GATE LATCH, STACKED LEFT OVER BOARDS AND HAS CONDUCTED A GENERAL CLEANUP OF THE YARD. THE SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE CARES.

THE BATHROOM IS ALMOST IN OPERATING CONDITION. THE TEACHER'S DESK AND A SMALL TABLE ARE IN STORAGE. THESE COULD NOW BE MOVED INTO THE SCHOOL.

HOW EXCITING TO SEE THIS PROJECT MOVING ALONG. SUFFICIENT APPRECIATION IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPRESS TO THE MANY LOCAL CONTRACTORS FOR THEIR CONSTANT DEDICATION.

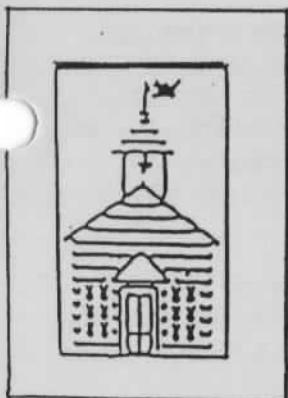
SOMETHING CAN BE FOUND FOR YOU TO DO IN COMPLETING WITH THIS FINAL PUSH. CALL 810/229-6402 TO SCHEDULE YOUR EFFORT.

THE SOCIETY IS AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION. YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION IS ALWAYS WELCOME.



Dates to Remember:

- MAY 3, 10, 24, 31: 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- * 9: 5-8 P.M. & 22: 1-5 P.M. FOR GENEALOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760 TO CONFIRM.
- JUNE 4: 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.
- * NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. WELCOME.



MAY 2001
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*AND THE SOCIETY GAINS A NEW MEMBER! WELCOME NORA MILLER. THE MANY RENEWALS ARE A REAL CONFIRMATION THE SOCIETY IS AVIABLE ORGANIZATION. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE A MAJOR MEANS OF SUPPORT. YOUR ENERGY, EXPERTISE, AND WILLINGNESS ARE EQUALLY VALUABLE. WHEN YOU SEE SOME WAY YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AT SOME LEVEL CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER. THAT WILLINGNESS IS THE ONLY QUALIFICATION NEEDED.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR & JOHN & JANICE FIELD FOR HELPING MAIL THE APRIL NEWSLETTER.

...NORA MILLER, TEDD & LINDA POTTER, DORIS PETERSEN AND MARGARET SQUIRE FOR INCLUDING A DONATION WITH THEIR DUES.

...AMERICAN LEGION JESSE B. COOLEY POST #235 FOR THEIR DONATION.

...CRAIG FERRIS OF THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A COPY OF A PHOTO OF 21 LOCAL VOLUNTEER MEMBERS STANDING BY A FIRE TRUCK C. 1940 IN FRONT OF THE TOWN HALL. ALSO A PHOTO OF AN EARLY GROUP WITH THEIR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT. ALL OF THESE VOLUNTEERS ARE IDENTIFIED. CRAIG FERRIS IS PREPARING A HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT. TERRY McCLOSKEY IS HELPING.

...DAVE LEHMAN WHO HAS HELPED WITH I.D. OF THE C. 1940 PHOTO AND FOR THE PROGRAM OF THE ROTARY'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE.

...EVERYONE WHO THINKS OF THE SOCIETY BEFORE DISCARDING ITEMS OF AN HISTORICAL NATURE.

...DENNIS AND MARIA LITTLEWORTH AND CHARLES AND NORMA JEAN PLESS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT.

...JOYCE TERRY, SHERYL VIGMOSTAD AND DICK WEAIRE FOR THEIR HELP IN RESTORATION JOBS AT THE LYONS SCHOOL.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: COPIES OF INFORMATION ALREADY COMPILED WILL BE HELPFUL IN RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT. CRAIG FERRIS, OF THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, IS WORKING ON SUCH A HISTORY. HE WOULD WELCOME PICTURES, ETC.

HISTORY BOOK: CAN YOU BE OF HELP TO CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957? HER THOROUGH RESEARCH WILL RESULT IN A FINE RECORD OF THE AREA'S HISTORY.

ORAL HISTORY: LEARN HOW TO MOST EFFICIENTLY CONDUCT AN ORAL HISTORY. YOUR PARENTS OR OTHER OLDER RELATIVES WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN. AN ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY, NOVI, SATURDAY, MAY 19. 248/349-6774.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF LOCAL STRUCTURES IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOCIETY'S MISSION. CAMERA AND FILM WILL BE PROVIDED, PLUS A LIST OF STRUCTURES TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED. WHEN THESE STRUCTURES ARE GONE - THEY ARE GONE.

TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS CALL A BOARD MEMBER.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD JUNE 4, 7 P.M. AT THE LIBRARY.

THE USUAL MEETING DAY IS A HOLIDAY.

YEAR 2001
BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, INC., 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.

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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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.

MAY 19: 1-5 P.M. SALINE AREA HIST. SOC. OPENS THE RENTSCHLER FARM MUSEUM, 1265 E. MICHIGAN AVE., SALINE. "SPRING BABIES" FARM EXHIBITS, ETC. OPEN EACH SATURDAY, 11-3. 734/769-2219.

MAY 6 & 13, 2-5 P.M. FIRE STATION MUSEUM, 110 W. CROSS ST., YPSILANTI. 734/547-0663.

JUNE 3: 1-4 P.M. NORTHVILLE HIST. SOCIETY OPENS MILL RACE VILLAGE FOR THE SUMMER. SUNDAYS, 1-4 P.M. DOCENTS, COUNTRY STORE, ETC.

JUNE 24: 15TH ANNUAL LOG CABIN DAY IN MICHIGAN. 616/925-3836.

WEDNESDAYS AND WEEKENDS 12-4 P.M. WASHTENAW COUNTY HIST. SOCIETY OPENS THE MUSEUM ON MAIN, 500 N. MAIN, ANN ARBOR. 734/662-9092.

JULY 22. FESTIVAL AT HISTORIC FORT WAYNE, DETROIT. DETROIT HIST. SOCIETY CELEBRATES DETROIT'S 300TH BIRTHDAY. PARADE OF HISTORIC SHIPS, CIVIL WAR REENACTORS, TOURS, ETC. WWW.DETROITHISTORICAL.ORG

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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AREA FARMS c.1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN AN EARLIER EDITION OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE FARMS OF P.J. SPICER, PLEASANT VIEW FARM, CHILSON, AND THAT OF HIS SON EDGAR S. SPICER, WILLOW BROOK FARM, CHILSON, ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THIS ISSUE.

P.J. (PHILETUS JOSIAH) SPICER AND EDGAR S. SPICER ARE LOCATED IN THE 1915 ATLAS OF GENOA TOWNSHIP. (OUR RESEARCH DOESN'T CONNECT THE LARGE GEORGE SPICER FAMILY, WHICH SETTLED IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP C. 1856, WITH P.J. AND EDGAR S.)

MARCH 30, 1852, P.J. WAS BORN IN MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. AFTER MARRYING LIZZIE JOHNSON IN 1878, THEY LIVED FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS IN MONROE. THE LOSS OF SEVEN OF THEIR 13 CHILDREN AS INFANTS WAS EXTREME EVEN FOR THAT TIME.

1891-93 FINDS THE FAMILY IN DENVER, COLORADO, WHERE P.J. WAS A BLACKSMITH AND MINER. SON, EDGAR S., WAS ONLY 8 WHEN THAT MOVE FROM MONROE WAS MADE. IN 1893 THEY CAME BACK TO MICHIGAN SETTLING IN BRIGHTON. P.J. CONTINUED HIS WORK AS A BLACKSMITH UNTIL 1905 WHEN THEY MOVED TO CHILSON. WHERE RICHARDSON MEETS SCHAFER ROAD, JUST NORTH OF HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, P.J. HAS AN 80 ACRE PIECE IN THE E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 32 IN GENOA TOWNSHIP. ANOTHER 40 ACRES ARE IN THE SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ALMOST ENTIRELY DESCRIBED AS A HUCKLEBERRY OR BLUEBERRY MARSH.

IN 1910 EDGAR S. MARRIED HARRIET JORDAN. BY THEN HE HAD MOVED TO DETROIT. HE HAD STUDIED FOR TWO YEARS AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE, N.Y., TO BECOME A MINISTER. MARCH 12, 1918, AT THE AGE OF 35, HE DIED, PERHAPS A VICTIM OF THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF THE TIME. A SON PRECEDED HIM AND A DAUGHTER AND WIFE SURVIVED HIM. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL EDGAR S. HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN FARMING. THE FARM MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN IN HIS NAME.

BROTHER RALPH DIED, NOVEMBER 7, 1923, AT AN EVEN YOUNGER AGE, 30. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE MICHIGAN AND OHIO SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY AT THE PIT IN CHILSON. A CAVE-IN LEFT HIS WIFE OF TWO YEARS A WIDOW AND HIS ONE YEAR OLD SON, FATHERLESS. (COMPILED BY MARIE-ANNA BAIR FROM OBITUARIES AND CEMETERY RECORDS COLLECTED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU AND GENOA TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS ARE WELCOMED. 810/229-6402)

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION NOT ALL OF OUR READERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH A LAND SALE IS RECORDED. THE 16 TOWNSHIPS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY ARE DIVIDED IN 36 SQUARE MILE SECTIONS. THESE ARE NUMBERED, BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER ENDING WITH SECTION 36 IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER. FOR RECORDING PURPOSES EACH SECTION CAN BE DIVIDED INTO QUARTERS AND SUBDIVIDED AS NECESSARY. EACH SECTION EQUALS 640 ACRES; EACH TOWNSHIP EQUALS 23,040 ACRES. LIVINGSTON COUNTY EQUALS 368,640 ACRES. (THE EARTH'S CURVATURE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT; SO NORTH AND WEST BOUNDARIES OF TOWNSHIPS WILL OFTEN RESULT IN FRACTIONAL SECTIONS.)