



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

NOVEMBER 2001
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2001, 7 P.M. AT THE LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD.

THE SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY WILL BE COMMEMORATED. IN THE PAST THE SOCIETY HAS PLACED LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES ON THE MICHIGAN REGISTER AND ERECTED MARKERS. THE RESTORATION OF THE OLD TOWN HALL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PRESERVATION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN. THE CITY OF BRIGHTON HAS FOLLOWED THROUGH IN KEEPING THIS AS A FUNCTIONAL BUILDING.

MOST RECENTLY THE SOCIETY IS NEARING COMPLETION OF THE RESTORATION OF THE LYONS SCHOOL TO BE A MUCH UTILIZED STRUCTURE. THIS WILL BE A PLACE TO LEARN OF EARLY MICHIGAN EDUCATION, A LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAY AREA AND AN ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY.

THE SOCIETY HAS MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT WITH REPRESENTATION IN VARIOUS VENTURES: THE 1998 COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR; LOCAL HOME TOURS, TRANSCRIPTION OF AREA CEMETERIES, THE ART FAIR, ORAL HISTORIES, SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND AS A RESOURCE FOR RESEARCHERS.

ITS MISSION, THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL HISTORY IS ALWAYS AT THE FOREFRONT.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE. ALL BOARD OFFICES AND DIRECTOR POSITIONS ARE OPEN TO NOMINATIONS. FOR THE SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY YOU ARE VITALLY NECESSARY. ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OR CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER WITH YOUR OFFER OF SERVICE. NEED A RIDE OR DIRECTIONS? CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT & EDITOR
MARIEANNA BAIR
810/229-6402

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SHERYL VIGMOSTAD
810/227-7506

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MEMBERSHIP
810/227-4840

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810/229-0560

HERB WARNER
LYONS SCHOOL
810/229-6504

JOHN & JANICE
FIELD
CEMETERIES
734/449-4535

LORRY WAGNER
ORAL HISTORY
810/231-3328



Dates to Remember:

- *6, 13, 20, 27, 6 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION.
- 8, 15, 29, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.
- 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
- *26, 7 P.M. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.
- *28, 7 P.M. FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL.

*LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD, BRIGHTON.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND LAWRENCE AUTO BODY, INC.

PATRON: CHARLES & NORMA JEAN PLESS (03)

COUPLES/INDIV: DON & RICCI BANDKAU, GENE & JUDY DAHLIN, PAT & MARLENE FONSECA (AZ), BILL FRANKLIN (YPSI), *HAMBURG TWP LIBRARY, BILL & HELEN HYNE (CHELEA), *TOM & MELINDA KINSEY, ROLAND & JANE OWENS, DANIEL SCHMIDT, RANDY & KYLE WILSON.

*A SINCERE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: HAMBURG TWP LIBRARY (PER M. PETTIGROVE), AND THE KINSEYS. GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIPS IS VITAL.

THE RENEWING OF MEMBERSHIPS KEEPS THIS GROUP ALIVE AND FUNCTIONING.

LETTING THE SOCIETY KNOW OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS APPRECIATED.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...JOHN & JANICE FIELD, JUNE KIMBLE, AND ROSEMARY ULMER FOR THEIR HELP IN PREPARING THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER FOR MAILING.

...SCRANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER KATHLEEN FLORKO FOR THE 1967 BRIGHTON CENTENNIAL FLAG.

...BOB WATSON FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF MAIN STREET BUSINESSES OF 2000.

...HAROLD SALOW FOR THE PURCHASE AND REBINDING OF THE 1882 "MICHIGAN IN THE WAR, 1861/1865". THIS IS A FINE ADDITION TO THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES.

...IRENE ELLIS FOR THE MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR FLORENCE CHASE; BILL FRANKLIN'S MEMORIAL TO WIFE, BETTY; CHARLES & NORMA JEAN PLESS DONATION. ALL TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION FUND.

...BROWNIE TROOP #190, FOR PLANTING DAFODIL BULBS IN FRONT OF LYONS SCHOOL. JANE LINDHOUT AND BARB EMMOREY IN CHARGE.

...JUDY GAMARY FOR DELIVERY OF THE SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR CLASSES ATTENDING LYONS SCHOOL. IT IS WELL DONE.

...JIM DEJOHN AND DICK WEAIRE FOR CONTINUED HELP AT LYONS SCHOOL.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, INC., BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL, THE FENCE SPOT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (02), LAWRENCE AUTO BODY (02), YUM YUM TREE. THESE ARE LOCAL BUSINESSES. THEIR SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED. GIVE THEM YOUR CONSIDERATION.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: EACH THURSDAY, 1-3 P.M., MATERIAL OF HISTORICAL INTEREST TO THE AREA IS REVIEWED AND PLACED IN FILES IN SUCH A MANNER IT CAN BE EASILY ACCESSED. SUBJECT HEADINGS ARE DETERMINED, NOTES ARE MADE WHERE RELEVANT ITEMS CAN BE FOUND AND COPIES MADE WHEN NECESSARY. INDEXING OF VARIOUS RECORDS, WRITINGS AND OTHER APPLICABLE MATERIAL NEEDS TO BE DONE. RESEARCHERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOCATE ALL INFORMATION THE SOCIETY HAS ON A SUBJECT. CALL 810/229-6402 WITH YOUR OFFER TO HELP.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: PROOF READING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY. MANY ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THIS REFERENCE AVAILABLE. CAROL McMACKEN HAS DEDICATED THE PAST SEVERAL YEAR OF HER LIFE TO THIS PROJECT.

LYONS SCHOOL: THE FRIENDS OF LYONS SCHOOL WILL NEXT MEET, 7 P.M., NOVEMBER 28, AT THE SCHOOL. SCHOOL RULES ARE BEING COMPILED TO MAKE THE VISITS GO SMOOTHLY AND TO BE ENJOYABLE. DETERMINATIONS ARE UNDERWAY RE MAKING RESERVATION AND ANY POSSIBLE FEES CHARGED TO GROUPS. (THE EXPENSE OF UTILITIES, INSURANCE [DOUBLING IN COST], UPKEEP, ETC., MUST BE CONSIDERED.) ALSO WHO IS TO BE CONTACTED AND WHO WILL BE SERVING AS DOCENTS.

INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THE FRIENDS. CALL 810/2229-6402.

BY THE WAY, THE ROOF IS LEAKING. ANY ROOFERS AVAILABLE?

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...SOMEONE TO EMBROIDER 15-18 SIGNATURES ON THE SIGNATURE QUILT.

...DOOR MATS AND SHORT RUNNERS TO PROTECT THE LYONS SCHOOL FLOOR. (OR THE CASH TO PURCHASE.)

...PAINT FOR THE CONCRETE FLOOR IN THE ARCHIVES ROOM AT THE SCHOOL. C. \$35.00.

...BASE CUPBOARDS, 36", FOR USE IN THE REST ROOM AND THE ARCHIVE ROOM AT THE SCHOOL.

...SOMEONE TO MAKE SMALL SLATES FOR USE BY STUDENTS VISITING THE SCHOOL. SEVERAL PIECES, 2x4 AND 3x4, OF 1/4" SLATE ARE AVAILABLE.

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 5/\$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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

NOV. 18, 1-4 P.M. CHRISTMAS WALK THROUGH MILL RACE VILLAGE, NORTHVILLE.

DEC. 1-2, 1-5 P.M. A PATRIOTIC CHRISTMAS. ALSO MONDAY/FRIDAYS, NOON-4 P.M. THROUGH DEC. 21, WYANDOTTE MUSEUMS. 734/324-7297.

DEC. 2, 4-7 P.M. OL' FASHIN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS. MILL RACE VILLAGE, NORTHVILLE.

DEC 2, 1-5 P.M. COUNTRY CHRISTMAS. COBBLESTONE FARM ASOC., 2781 PACKARD RD., ANN ARBOR. 734/994-2928

REMEMBER!

ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, LYONS SCHOOL

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES THE FOLLOWING MERGER POSSIBILITIES:

1. XEROX AND WURLITZER (WILL BE MAKING REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS?)
2. FAIRCHILD ELECTRONICS AND HONEYWELL COMPUTERS (TO BE CALLED FAIRWELL HONEYCHILD)
3. POLYGRAM RECORDS, WARNER BROTHERS AND KEEBLER (TO BE CALLED POLY-WARNER-CRACKER)
4. W.R. GRACE CO., FULLER BRUSH CO. MARY KAY COSMETICS AND HALE BUSINESS SYSTEMS (TO BE CALLED HALE, MARY, FULLER, GRACE)
5. 3M AND GOODYEAR (MMM Good)
6. JOHN DEERE AND ABITIBI-PRICE (DEERE ABI)
7. HONEYWELL, IMASCO AND HOME OIL (HONEY, I'M HOME)

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

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

COMPLEMENTARY
COPY

AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. B.S. MILLER'S MAPLE FRONT FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

EZRA MILLER WAS LIVING IN MICHIGAN BY 1856. HE HAD BEEN BORN IN CANADA AND MARRIED ELIZABETH WOOD IN THE EARLY 1850s. HE IS LISTED AS THE FIRST PURCHASER OF 40 ACRES IN SECTION 10, GENOA TOWNSHIP; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (ALL UNDER LAKE CHEMUNG).

BURT, BORN 1875, THE YOUNGEST OF THEIR FIVE CHILDREN, IS RECORDED AS THE OWNER OF MAPLE FRONT FARM. THE FARM WAS LOCATED IN SECTION 18, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 39 ACRES INTERSECTED BY HACKER ROAD. BURT MARRIED BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE NOT BEEN A MARRIAGE OF LONG STANDING. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE WESLYAN CHURCH AND LATER LIVED IN A TWO STORY HOUSE ON WASHINGTON STREET WITHIN A COUPLE BLOCKS.

HOWEVER BURT MILLER IS REMEMBERED MORE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BETTERMENT OF LIFE OF CITIZENS OF BRIGHTON CITY THAN FOR FARMING. MANY LONG TIME RESIDENTS HAVE VIVID MEMORIES OF BURT MILLER AS THE CONSTABLE IN TOWN. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS HE WAS THE ONLY LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF IN TOWN. ALTHO' OF SLIGHT BUILD, BURT HAD A STRONG VOICE. A LOUD BLAST ON HIS SHINY WHISTLE PROMPTED COOPERATION FROM ANY WHO WOULD DOUBT HIS "YOU STOP RIGHT THERE!" THAT, AND THE SWINGING OF HIS NIGHT STICK, AND THE DRIVER STOPPED. REGULARLY BURT GOT INTO THE OFFENDING VEHICLE, HAD THE MISCREANT DRIVE TO THE STATE POLICE POST, GET HIS TICKET AND RETURN BURT BACK TO HIS BEAT. YOUNG AND OLD, EVERYONE, KNEW BURT MEANT BUSINESS. HIS ABILITY TO CORRAL SPEEDSTERS EARNED HIM THE "STATE POLICE CIVILIAN AWARD" FEBRUARY 8, 1943.

PROBABLY THE ATTRIBUTE FOR WHICH HE IS BEST REMEMBERED IS THE MANNER IN WHICH HE COMPLETED WHAT HE CONSIDERED HIS MAJOR ASSIGNMENT. AFTER THE NEW SCHOOL AT THE TOP OF THE HILL ON CHURCH STREET (BECC BUILDING) OPENED IN 1928, IT WAS HIS JOB TO ASSIST SCHOOL CHILDREN ACROSS GRAND RIVER. HE TOOK SATISFACTION FROM KNOWING THAT WHILE HE WAS ON DUTY NO CHILD WAS INJURED WHILE MAKING THAT CROSSING. GUIDING A GROUP OF 5-6 GRADESCHOOLERS HE OFTEN CARRIED THE LITTLEST ACROSS. HE DID NOT HESITATE TO PLACE HIMSELF BETWEEN A CHILD AND A VEHICLE. OCCASIONALLY HE WAS NUGGED BY A VEHICLE BUT WAS NEVER ABSENT FROM HIS SPOT, NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER. THIS CONTINUED UNTIL THE MID 1940s.

C. 1948, WHEN PARKING METERS WERE INSTALLED IN TOWN, BURT GAVE UP HIS BADGE BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO ISSUE PARKING TICKETS. HE HAD TOO MANY FRIENDS AND HE FELT THE METERS WERE FAULTY. IN A MOVE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF A DEDICATED CITIZEN WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE TO ENJOY IT, SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1958, THE BURTON S. MILLER SCHOOL (SPENCER ROAD) WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR. BURT DIED IN 1960 AND IS RESTING IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASES; "FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY", "EARLY LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COPIED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; AND CONVERSATIONS WITH MEL SKEMAN AND TOM LEITH. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS REQUESTED. 810/229-6402.)