

# 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

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 26, 2001, 7 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD

ALL BOARD OFFICERS' AND DIRECTORS' POSITIONS WILL BE OPEN TO NOMINATION. ELECTIONS FOR 2002 WILL TAKE PLACE. THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN FORTUNATE THROUGH THE YEARS TO HAVE DEDICATED MEMBERS; MEMBERS WHO BELIEVE IN ITS MISSION AND ARE WILLING TO DEVOTE TIME AND ENERGY. SEVERAL HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. IT WOULD BE A GOOD SIGN OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORGANIZATION TO HAVE MORE VOLUNTEERS STEP UP AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY ON THE BOARD.

THIS WILL BE THE SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY. MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED; OF COURSE MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. NEW/ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS WILL GIVE A FRESH DIRECTION AS TO WHERE THE SOCIETY WILL BE IN 2021.

AN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE IS FUNCTIONING, THE HISTORY BOOK IS MOVING ALONG, RESEARCH IS CONTINUING, THE FINANCIAL RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY ARE IN GOOD SHAPE, THE LYONS SCHOOL IS ALMOST READY FOR REGULAR VISITORS, THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY, THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF LOCAL SITES IS ONGOING, LOCAL CEMETERIES ARE BEING TRANSCRIBED, ETC.

THE ABOVE MAY READ VERY ENCOURAGINGLY. THESE AND OTHER PROJECTS ARE ALWAYS SHORT ON PERSONNEL. AMONG THEM ARE FUND RAISING (HOME TOURS, RAFFLES, ENDOWMENTS, DONATIONS), PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL EVENTS (PARADES, FARMER' MARKET, ART FAIR), DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS, A MORE CENTRALLY LOCATED SITE FOR ARTIFACT DISPLAYS, IMPROVING PUBLICITY, INTERVIEWING MORE LONG TIME RESIDENTS (THEIR STORY IS LOST WHEN THEY ARE GONE), IMPROVING THE HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY, PROVIDING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS, ETC., ETC.

THERE SURELY IS SOMEWHERE, IN ALL THESE POSSIBILITIES, A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE EFFECTIVE. CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OFFER A YEAR OF YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE. THE SOCIETY WILL CONTINUE AND GROW ONLY AS MUCH AS ITS MEMBERS PARTICIPATE AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.



### Dates to Remember:

OCT. \*9, 16, 23, 30, 6 P.M. LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION.  
18, 25, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.  
810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.  
\*\*22, 7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING, WELCOME.  
\*24, 7 P.M. FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL.

\*LYONS SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD.

\*\*BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 100 LIBRARY DRIVE.



OCTOBER 2001  
VOL. XX No. 10

#### OFFICERS

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JOHN & JANICE  
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CEMETERIES  
734/449-4535

LORRY WAGNER  
ORAL HISTORY  
810/231-3328

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: DR. & MRS. HARRY DAVIS (02).

COUPLES/INDIV: \*DEBORAH EAGLE, DICK & MARY JEAN RICHTER (02), \*WILLIS H. WOLFE (CA) (02).

\*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS DEBORAH EAGLE OF BRIGHTON AND WILLIS WOLFE OF CALIFORNIA. NEW MEMBERSHIPS HELP THE SOCIETY GROW IN IT MISION. RENEWING MEMBERS PROVIDE THE DEPENDABILITY NECESSARY FOR THE SOCIETY TO CONTINUE THE PROJECTS UNDERWAY. IF 'COMPLEMENTARY COPY' IS STAMPED ON THIS ISSUE IT SAYS SOMEONE ELSE IS FOOTING THE BILL FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION. YOU ARE URGED TO MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OR BECOME A MEMBER.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...BERT BAIR AND JOHN & JANICE FIELD FOR HELP MAILING THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES.

...WILLIS WOLFE (CA) FOR HIS DONATION WITH DUES PAYMENT.

...TOM LEITH FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

...HERB WARNER FOR MEMORIAL TO HIS SISTER, FLORENCE CHASE, FOR THE LYONS SCHOOL.

...JOE MIKE FOR 11x14 FRAMED PICTURES OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN FOR LYONS SCHOOL AND BILL McCRIE FOR HIS SUPPORT IN SECURING THEE PICTURES.

...JENNY FREDENBURG FOR HELPING WITH REGISTRATION AT LYONS SCHOOL DEDICATION.

...JIM DeJOHN, JUDY KLINE AND DICK WEAIRE FOR THEIR WORK CAULKING SEAMS AND PAINTING THE ARCHIVES CENTER.

...SUE DANIEL (MICH. ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOC.) FOR PHOTOS OF LYONS SCHOOL DEDICATION.

...ALENE TUNELL FOR 1891 AND 1897 ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA.

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SINCERE  
SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF  
FLORENCE WARNER CHASE  
SHE WAS A NATIVE TO THE AREA  
AND LONG TIME SOCIETY MEMBER.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

LYONS SCHOOL: THE CEILING IN THE ARCHIVE CENTER HAS BEEN SCRAPED AND PAINTED THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF JIM DeJOHN AND DICK WEAIRE. THE WALLS ARE NEXT. EACH TUESDAY, 6 P.M., IS WORK TIME. WEAR GRUBBIES AND YOU'LL BE GIVEN A JOB. WALLS IN THE UTILITY ROOM NEED PAINT, ALSO PUTTING TRIM AND SILL ON THE WINDOW. DICK HAS INSTALLED SEVERAL SHELVES. THE RESTROOM WINDOW NEEDS TRIM AND A SILL ALSO.

BRIGHTON WALLPAPER AND PAINT IS DISCOUNTING EACH GALLON OF PAINT. HOWEVER EACH GALLON IS \$30.00+. IF YOU CAN'T PARTICIPATE PHYSICALLY PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE A GALLON. VARIOUS CLEANING SUPPLIES AND HARDWARE HAVE TO BE PURCHASED. WHEN THE ARCHIVE CENTER IS READY SHELVING WILL BE PURCHASED AS WILL FILING CABINETS AND ARCHIVAL STORAGE MATERIAL.

YOU'LL PROBABLY NOT RECEIVE A SPECIAL MEDAL FOR YOUR WORK OR DONATION BUT YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF SATISFACTION YOU HELPED.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL WILL MEET OCTOBER 24, 7 P.M., AT THE SCHOOL. SCHEDULING OF VISITORS, REGULATIONS FOR USE OF THE BUILDING, CHARGES/DEPOSITS TO BE REQUIRED ARE SOME OF THE SUBJECTS BEING CONSIDERED. YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT.

THE SEVERAL SMALL GROUPS WHO'VE TOURED THE BUILDING HAVE BEEN VERY COMPLIMENTARY WITH THEIR COMMENTS. BEFORE LONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO SPEND A DAY LEARNING ABOUT EDUCATION OF AN EARLIER DAY IN MICHIGAN.

## FLAG ETIQUETTE

IT IS INSPIRING THAT SO MANY DISPLAY OLD GLORY. SOME NOTES ON PROPER DISPLAY: WHEN DISPLAYED FROM A STAFF PROJECTING FROM THE WINDOW SILL, BALCONY OR FRONT OF A BUILDING, THE UNION SHOULD GO TO THE PEAK OF THE STAFF; IT SHOULD FLY FREELY, NOT BRUSH AGAINST OR CATCH ON ANYTHING; IT IS NOT TO BE DRAPED OVER A RAILING, VEHICLE, ETC; IT IS NOT TO BE USED AS PART OF A COSTUME OR ATHLETIC UNIFORM; IT IS NOT TO BE USED AS THE COVERING OF AN OBJECT OTHER THAN A CASKET; WHEN DISPLAYED HORIZONTALLY OR VERTICALLY AGAINST A WALL THE UNION IS TO BE TO THE VIEWER'S LEFT. WHEN IT IS NO LONGER A FITTING EMBLEM FOR DISPLAY IT IS TO BE RETIRED IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER. THE LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION WILL HELP PROVIDE PROPER DISPOSAL.

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 67/\$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. 810/220-7934 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

OCT. 18: 3:30/8:30 MULLING OVER MICHIGAN. GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS. WWW.HSOFMICH.ORG OR 734/769-1828.

NOW THROUGH 1-22-02. BETTY BEEBY'S BREADTH OF ART EXHIBIT. HER PROFESSIONAL CAREER INCLUDES TIME/LIFE MAGAZINE, CBS TV, MURAL AT THE MICHILIMACKINAC CENTER, MACKINAW CITY.

OCT. 23: 8:30-2:30. MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR HISTORY EDUCATION, 2946 QUAIL RUN, TROY 48098 FOR BROCHURE. 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE. "HISTORY THEMES AND THE MEAPS". MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER, 717 W. ALLEGAN, LANSING.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

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

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...SOMEONE TO SERVE AS SOCIETY SECRETARY AND SOMEONE TO SERVE AS TREASURER. MARGE WHITE HAS BEEN TREASURER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. SHE DESERVES A BREAK. 810/229-6402.  
SOMEONE TO PROMOTE AND HELP PREPARE APPLICATIONS FOR MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE MARKERS. 810/229-6402 FOR APPLICATIONS.

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 FARM AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. W. S. SMITH'S OAK GROVE FRUIT FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

AS CAN BE ASSUMED, THE NAME OF SMITH IS NOT UNCOMMON. IT IS FOUND IN THE AREA AS EARLY AS 1831. FIRST LAND OWNERS LISTS 42 WITH SEVEN IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP. HOWEVER W. (WINFIELD) S. IS NOT AMONG THEM.

HIS OBITUARY IN THE MARCH 7, 1923, ISSUE OF THE ARGUS RECORDS HIS DEATH AT AGE 77, MARCH 4, 1923. HE HAD BEEN BORN IN KENSINGTON IN 1845. THIS LIKELY WAS OAKLAND CO.

W.S. OAK GROVE FRUIT FARM WAS IN THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  (40 ACRE) OF SECTION 15 IN GREEN OAK ON McCABE ROAD. THIS WAS PART OF 80 ACRES BOUGHT BY PETER McNAMEE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAY 12, 1834. IT REMAINED IN THE McNAMEE FAMILY UNTIL SMITH BOUGHT IT C. 1891. AFTER HIS DEATH CHILDREN FLORA AND HOWARD LIVED THERE UNTIL MOVING TO CALIFORNIA IN 1932. AMERICAN AGGREGATES OWNS IT IN 1935. BY 1961 THE ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA IS NOTED AS THE OWNER.

SMITH' OBITUARY RECORDS: "IN YOUNG MANHOOD HE WENT TO EATON COUNTY TO MAKE HIS HOME ON A FARM AND HERE HE MARRIED AMANDA CHAMPLIN WHO PRECEDED HIM TO THE GREAT BEYOND BY NEARLY 20 YEARS. AFTER 15 YEARS SPENT IN EATON, HE RETURNED TO LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND SETTLED ON A PART OF THE OLD GOV. BINGHAM FARM AT GREEN OAK STATION. AFTER 11 YEARS HE MOVED TO THE PETER McNAMEE FARM, TWO MILES SOUTHWEST....AND HERE HE SPENT THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE. HE FOLLOWED THE THRESHING BUSINESS FOR 40 YEARS AND MADE LIFE LONG FRIENDS WHEREVER HE WENT....HE WAS THE FATHER OF THREE CHILDREN. ONE DAUGHTER DIED IN INFANCY, ANOTHER DAUGHTER FLORA AND SON HOWARD, BOTH AT HOME.."

TO HAVE BEEN IN THE THRESHING BUSINESS MEANT SEVERAL MONTHS EACH SUMMER OF INTENSE LABOR. NEAR THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY FARMERS GREW MORE WHEAT, OATS, ETC. THIS BECAME A CASH CROP SINCE TRANSPORTATION OF A PRODUCT TO MARKET HAD IMPROVED WITH THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD IN 1870. IF HE WERE THE OWNER/OPERATOR HE'D HAVE HAD SEVERAL LARGE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING THE ENORMOUS STEAM ENGINE AND THE THRESHER ITSELF. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN THE FARMER'S YARD AND THE BUNDLES OF GRAIN TOSSED ONTO THE CONVEYER BELT. THE CHAFF WAS BLOWN INTO AN EVER GROWING PILE AND THE GRAIN FELL INTO WAITING BAGS OR WAGONS. IT WAS NOT RARE FOR A SPARK FROM THE STEAM ENGINE TO CAUSE A FIRE IN THE DRY STRAW WHICH COULD CONSUME THE THRESHING MACHINE AND EVEN THE FARMER'S BARN. AS GRAIN RIPENED IN THE SOUTH THE THRESHER FOLLOWED NORTH AT SCHEDULED STOPS AT FARMS. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASES, AND "FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY" AND "EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY" AND OBITUARIES COPIED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU.)