



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

SEPTEMBER 2001

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

THE PASSIONATE DETERMINATION OF MANY HAS BROUGHT THIS STRUCTURE TO THE POINT WHERE IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AGAIN. THE EXTRA ORDINARY EFFORTS OF CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED THEIR DELIGHT IN THE RESTORATION OF THIS 1885 STRUCTURE CULMINATED IN A MEMORABLE EVENT LAST MONTH.

AT THE RISK OF OMITTING A CONTRIBUTOR MENTION MUST BE MADE IN A DEMONSTRATION OF GRATITUDE FROM THE SOCIETY BOARD.

PRIOR TO THE EVENT AN ALL OUT 'GET READY' PUSH INCLUDED BETSY HERBST WHO HELPED SET UP DISPLAYS AS DID NANCY FREDENBURG AND JUDY KLINE. NANCY ALSO SCRUBBED THE RESTROOM TO A GLEAMING FINISH. GI GI VALLIENCOURT PAINTED THE FRONT DOOR AND INTERIOR TRIM. BOB HERBST CLEANED A MOLDY REFRIGERATOR AND KEVIN ROACH CLEANED THE SHELVES, WHEN NOT CLEANING DESKS. JIM DEJOHN AND DICK WEAIRE ALSO WORKED ON DESKS AND MOVING 'STUFF'.

THE "ROTARY RAIDERS", REPRESENTED BY PIET LINDHOUT, BOB KING, BILL ANDERSON, ED BOTTUM, STAN SCHAFFER, TOM COATES, JR. AND BILL METZ MADE CERTAIN THAT ALL SYSTEMS WERE 'GO'.

DEDICATION DAY SAW JULIE KREE, ALEXIS NOVAK AND KIM TOMCZYK, MEMBERS OF THE BHS INTERACT CLUB SET UP TABLES AND CHAIRS. HIGH SCHOOL BAND MEMBER, 15 STRONG, PROVIDED MUSIC TO HELP SET THE MOOD. HONORABLE MIKE ROGERS BROUGHT A SIGNIFICANT ESSENCE OF DISTINCTION TO THE PROGRAM. CHRIS WARD, LYONS SCHOOL CHAIRMAN, CONFIRMED THE VALUE OF THE PRESERVATION OF THIS HISTORIC SCHOOL TO THE COMMUNITY'S HERITAGE. THANKS ALSO TO TERRI OLSON FOR HER ATTENTION TO DETAILS. THE DONATION, BY JOE AND IRENE MIKE, OF JOE'S ARTISTRY IN THE DONATION OF HIS PICTURE OF THE SCHOOL WAS A HIGHLIGHT.

THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE INCLUDED CHRIS WARD, JOANN SWONK, RONNIE AND JOYCE POWERS, JIM VICHICH, JIM DEJOHN, DICK WEAIRE, JUDY KLINE AND NANCY FREDENBURG. GOOD JOB, WELL DONE!

PLEASE SEE "DATES TO REMEMBER" ON PAGE 2

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: TED CARMACK, 02.

COUPLES/INDIV: *JIM DeJOHN, *RANDY EIGUREN, EMMOREY, MICHAEL & BARBARA 02, *YVONNE HEALY (HOWELL), HELEN LEITZ, (DEARBORN) 02, *TANYA McLEAN, *MILLER, TED & KAY (ROCHESTER), *MARY SULLIVAN, TREVA WILHELMSSEN.

*A WARM WELCOME TO THE SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH. RENEWING MEMBERS ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATED. THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PROVES AGAIN THAT MANY STILL VALUE, AND RECOGNIZED THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING FROM OUR PAST.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS, INC., BRIGHTON BAR AND GRILL, THE FENCE SPOT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE YUM YUM TREE. THE CONFIDENCE THEY'VE EXPRESSED WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP IS VERY ENCOURAGING. YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HELPFUL.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND SHIRLEY RITTER FOR HELPING MAIL THE AUGUST ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES.

...LORRY WAGNER FOR DONATING A COPY OF THE REPORT SHE PREPARED ON THE EVOLUTION OF FRONT PORCHES FOR THE EMU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

...GARY TOWNSEND FOR THE THREE REAMS OF COPY PAPER.

...KAY SPANGLER FOR APPLYING SIGNATURES ONTO THE SIGNATURE QUILT.

...DAVE LEHMAN FOR HIS MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION IN MEMORY OF RICHARD JUIPE.

...BILL & JANE TOMLINSON AND DAVID & MARY MILLER FOR THEIR MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MABEL PLESS.

...NANCY FREDENBURG AND JOANNE SWONK FOR HOSTING THE SOCIETY BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR.

...JERRY & LISA CAVE FOR PROVIDING TWO NEW COPIER CARTRIDGES.

...BOB KNIGHT FOR 2x4 48 STAR FLAG.

...ED BOTTUM FOR HIS PICTURE OF LYONS SCHOOL STUDENTS OF 1954. ALL I.D.D.

...DICK & BARBARA SMITH FOR THE LARGE 48 STAR FLAG WHICH HAS BEEN FLOWN OVER OUR NATION'S CAPITOL.

LARRY LAWRENCE FOR THE FLAG STAFF, STAND AND FLAG TO BE IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: SORTING, CLIPPING, FILING IS CONTINUING. WORK ON PREPARING THE ARCHIVES ROOM AT THE LYONS SCHOOL IS ONGOING. WON'T BE LONG NOW AND WE CAN MOVE IN.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: THE CONTINUED DEDICATION OF CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, WILL BRING THIS FINE BOOK TO FRUITION. YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED.

LYONS SCHOOL: EACH TUESDAY, 6 P.M. YOU'LL FIND PEOPLE WORKING TO COMPLETE THE RESTORATION. THE ARCHIVES ROOM IS SOON TO BE PAINTED; SCHOOL DESKS ARE AWAITING RESTORATION; THE FURNACE ROOM NEEDS PAINTING; SHELVES, ETC., NEED INSTALLATION; BASE CABINETS ARE NEEDED IN THE ARCHIVES ROOM AND THE REST ROOM; NEED ONE GO ON? IF TUESDAYS AREN'T GOOD FOR YOU CALL 810/229-6402 AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE.

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SINCERE SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF
MARY ANN BRADY LEITZ
AND
BETTY HALL FRANKLIN

THEY GREW UP IN THE AREA
AND WERE SOCIETY MEMBERS.

FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL

SEVERAL SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE MEETING TO DEVELOP POLICY FOR THE USE OF THIS NEWLY RESTORED BUILDING IN ORDER THAT GOOD AND PROPER USE WILL BE MADE. THEY WILL NEXT MEET, 7 P.M., SEPTEMBER 10, AT THE SCHOOL. YOUR IDEAS AND HELP ARE WELCOME. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT A "FRIENDS OF THE LYONS SCHOOL" SHOULD BE FORMED TO HELP RAISE FUNDS AND SEE TO THE PROPER UPKEEP AND USE OF THIS UNIQUE STRUCTURE. CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN SOME MANNER. 810/229-6402.

SEPT. 11,18,25, 6 P.M. CONTINUING WORK AT THE LYONS SCHOOL.
13,20,27, 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING.
CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM. WELCOME.
24, 7-9 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY. WELCOME.

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.; 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

NOW THRU' FEBRUARY 18, 2002, BLUEWATER SENTINEL CHAPTER NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HAS TRAIN TRIPS PLANNED. WEBPAGE: WWW.BLUEWATERNNRHS.COM OR 800/594-5162, OR P.O. BOX 296, ROYAL OAK 48068.

SEPT 12-14: MICHIGAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WSU, DETROIT. WWW.MICHIGANMUSEUMS.ORG.

OCT. 18-20, MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE OF THE OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY; "INKWELLS TO THE INTERNET". MGC SEMINAR 2001, 4219 WHITE BIRCH DR., WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI 48323 FOR BROCHURE INFO.

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.

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.

...FIRST CLASS STAMPS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ARCHIVAL POSTAGE NEEDS.

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, CONTINUES. LAKE SHORE FARM, OWNED BY W. J. SAWYER, IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

THE 170 ACRE FARM OF WALTER J. SAWYER, SECTIONS 16 AND 17, IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, HAS FIRST BEEN PURCHASED BY DAVID AND ABIGAIL LAND AND SON, PETER, RESIDENTS OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN IN 1834. IT SEEMS LIKELY THEY WERE LAND SPECULATORS; NO EVIDENCE IS FOUND THEY EVER WERE IN THE AREA. BY 1850, IRA WARNER'S NAME IS ON THE MAP. BY 1895 IT'S HENRY WARNER AND BY 1915 W. J. SAWYER IS OWNER.

THE SITE IS FIVE MILES NORTH OF GRAND RIVER, ON OLD US 23. THE ROAD, KNOWN AT THAT TIME AS FLINT ROAD, PASSED THROUGH A PORTION OF THE FARM. THE EAST SIDE OF THE FARM INCLUDED A LARGE PART OF THE SHORE OF SCHOOL LAKE (FORMERLY HICK'S LAKE AND BEFORE THAT WARNER'S LAKE).

AS WITH MOST OF THE FARMS AND FAMILIES RESEARCHED WE FIND THAT WALTER'S GRAND-FATHER CAME TO THE AREA IN THE EARLY 1830s. CALEB SAWYER, BORN IN 1808 IN MASSACHUSETTS, WAS A FARMER. AFTER PURCHASING LAND IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP IN 1834, HE BROUGHT HIS FAMILY, WIFE CAROLINE WHEELER AND SON, HENRY, THE NEXT YEAR. CALEB AND CAROLINE HAD NINE CHILDREN, SEVEN OF THEM BOYS. THEY WOULD ALL BE NEEDED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE THE WILDERNESS.

SECOND SON, JOHN, MARRIED FLORILLA SPRING. THEY HAD TWO DAUGHTERS AND A SON, PAUL. (HE WAS A LOCAL POSTAL CARRIER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.) ONE DAUGHTER MARRIED AND MOVED TO SOUTH DAKOTA C. 1900, PART OF THE VAST NUMBERS OF PIONEERS STILL MOVING WEST. FOLLOWING FLORILLA'S DEATH, JOHN MARRIED ELLA WHO CARED FOR FLORILLA'S CHILDREN AS IF THEY WERE HER OWN, WITH THE SEVEN SHE AND JOHN HAD.

HER OLDEST, WALTER J., WAS BORN IN 1879. HE MUST HAVE BEEN AN ASTUTE AND ENTERPRISING BUSINESS PERSON. BESIDES OWNING LAKE SHORE FARM, HE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE UP AND COMING AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. FROM HIS BROTHER FLOYD'S OBITUARY, SEPTEMBER, 1921, AROUND 1919 HE AND WALTER "...OPENED A FINE NEW OVERLAND GARAGE IN HOWELL." "...FLOYD WAS THE OLDEST AUTOMOBILE MAN IN BRIGHTON AND ONE OF THE OLDEST IN THE COUNTY." FROM THAT TIME ON WE FIND NO MORE REFERENCES TO WALTER IN THE MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO US. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE DIED OR WHERE BURIED.

LOCAL DESCENDANTS OF BROTHER FLOYD, WOULD INCLUDE WILLIAM F. WHO MARRIED MARY M. HOLDEN AND LIVED IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP. BOTH ARE BURIED IN FAIRVIEW HAVING PASSED AWAY IN 1999 AND 2000. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASSES; OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU AND CEMETERY RECORDS TRANSCRIBED BY JOHN AND JANICE FIELD. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.)