



## 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

December 2002

Vol. XXI No. 12

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

### A SUCCESSFUL 2002

A major move - transference of Society materials in storage to the newly completed archives room at the Lyons School has been completed. The board now holds its meetings in the restored rural school on Buno Road. Members and the public are welcome to these meetings. Scout groups, teachers and students and other organizations are encouraged to meet there. The weekly maintenance schedule goes far toward its continued presence and availability, and gives validity to the work of those who conducted its restoration.

The Friends of the Lyons School is conducting a charter membership drive. Their participation will help with the expenses of maintenance, materials, equipment, etc. Membership is open to the public.

Publicity is a most important ingredient of the successes of 2002. The presence of a Society booth at the public venues has proven valuable. The monthly distribution of the newsletter is a major promotion tool.

The City, Township and District Library of Brighton and St. Paul's Episcopal Church have been continually supportive.

On a personal note: without the dedication of those listed in the sidebar there would be no Brighton Area Historical Society. Your involvement can lead to the same satisfaction they receive. Marieanna Bair, President.

#### OFFICERS

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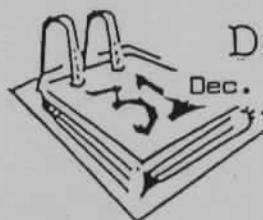
#### CHAIRPERSONS

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John & Janice  
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Cemeteries/  
Archives  
734/449-4535

Ann Stratigos  
Hospitality  
Newsletter Dist.



### Dates to Remember:

- Dec. \* 12, 19, 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- \* 11, 18, 7 p.m. Restoration continues. You can help.
- \* 16, 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout group meets. A BLESSED HOLIDAY TO YOU AND YOURS!

\*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Jere & Kay Michaels and Roland & Jane Owens.

COUPLES/INDIV: Joan Brown (05) and Bob & Pauline Schaffer.

Many thanks for your continued support in the ;mission of the Society.

Membership to Friends of the Lyons School on a charter member basis is still available. \$15.00 per person, \$25.00 per family. Contact Joanne Swonk, 810/229-7887 or mail to the Society.

Regular membership dues for 2003 are payable. The year through which your dues are paid is noted on the address label. Another clue is if "Complementary Copy" is stamped on this issue.

It is our belief membership in the Society would be a welcome Christmas gift.

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THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...John & Janice Field, Phyllis Kerslake and June Kimble for help in mailing last month's newsletter.

...Roland & Jane Owens for including a donation with their dues.

...Keller Well Drilling for chlorinating the well and Dick Waire for the follow up flushing.

...Dick Waire for the paper cutter.

...Sheryl Vigmostad for the booth at 1st Presbyterian Outreach Fair and to Mindy Kinsey's help at the Art Expo booth.

...Shirley Knight for clippings, scrap book and BAHS class, 1931, annual.

...Whitney Kimble and Bob King for their help in ascertaining the Society's assets.

...those who sent clippings of the County Press/Argus story on the Old Village Cemetery.

...Society board members and others who have been so faithful and generous during 2002.

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## BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody, The Fence Spot. The support of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Clippings, pictures, etc., concerning area residents and events are being filed. The Society and the Lyons School scrapbooks are up to date. Ask to see them.

There's always room for old (and new) pictures of area people, places, etc., will always find a place in the archives.

LYONS SCHOOL: Plans are made to repair the peaks in the gables which are in poor shape.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: The several notebooks of historical information of local business addresses need to be properly compiled and organized.

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NEEDED      NEEDED      NEEDED

...Postage stamps and long envelopes.

...Copier cartridge for a Canon PC940. (or a donation)

...A raffle item as a fund raiser.

...People to help with the farmstead survey.

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## NEED HELP WITH 2002 TAXES?

Review your tax strategy for 2002. The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible organization. Cash donations, etc., are fully deductible.

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## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

The tapestry pillow, depicting the railroad depot and train and the afghan, red, blu or green, with nine local sites woven make welcome and appropriate gifts. Call 810/229-6402 for information.



HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!

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 your preference)

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 Marker/Restoration, 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, Pillows.

\*\*\*Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

These 13 different local historical sites shown are on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. Limited editions, they are available at Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main. \$8.00 each, 3/\$21.00. Or call 810/229-6402. A descriptive folder included.



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

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#### THE ROSSES SETTLE IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Following the War of 1812, many easterners migrated west over the Allegheny Mountains, via the Erie Canal. We find a Marvin Ross, b. 1809, Thomas b. 1810, and Charles b. 1811, all farmers born in New York and all in the county before 1850. Henry T. b. 1816, in Ohio, was in northern Brighton Township, married to Alma Andrews (1839), when daughter Eliza A. was born in 1841. (She died before her 11th year, and son, Elmer, b. 1843, who died before his 9th year). Son, Esbon, b. 1844, married Martha Carter, daughter of John Carter, another early settler. The two families lived on Pleasant Valley Road about a mile apart, both with substantial acreage. As a farmer, Henry T. found wolves were a special enemy of early settlers, regularly carrying off precious livestock. However by 1872 his 50 thoroughbred sheep and a number of fine high grade sheep were of special significance in the agricultural community. Ross was also a skillful hunter and bee keeper.

Henry T.'s grandson and namesake was born November 5, 1883, and grew up on the family farm. He attended the rural school (Ross School) to the 8th grade. After passing the entrance exam, he graduated from Michigan Agricultural College (MSU) in 1904. He helped his father operate the large farm, continuing the sheep raising tradition.

In 1953, the local press reported the retirement of Henry T. Ross from the position of Brighton Township supervisor, a job he'd held the previous four years. In all, he'd held that position for 28 years. Since 1911, his honor had been a government official including serving as Justice of the Peace, Supervisor and State Representative (6 years) and Senator (4 years). At that time Ross noted that for over 60 years only six men had been supervisors of the township. Their names are involved with any history of early rural Brighton Township settlers: Hicks (who "...covered the township each year walking and carrying the assessment roll in a tin box."), Beach, Hilton, Bidwell, Judson and Buck. Several have descendants still living in the area.

In 1915, Mary Ann Brown, of Ludington, became his wife for 44 years. After her death he married Madge Merchant of St. Clair. After selling the farm in 1969, they moved to E. Lansing. October 19, 1973, Mr. Ross died. He's buried at Oak Grove Cemetery. The Ross family farm, cleared by grandfather and father, is now part of the General Motors Proving Ground. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; 1880 History of Livingston County; a scrapbook of clippings by Mrs. Myron West; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau and obituaries collected by Charboneau. Additions, corrections welcome. 810/229-6402)