

## 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

January 2002

Vol. XXI No. 1

### OFFICERS

President & Editor  
Marieanna Bair  
810/229-6402

Vice President  
Sheryl Vigmostad  
810/227-7506

Secretary  
Thomas Reinke  
313/295-9326

Treasurer  
Mindy Kinsey  
248/684-0340

### DIRECTORS

Nancy Fredenburg  
810/229-9100

Carol McMacken  
History Book  
810/231-2957

Jim Vichich  
Membership  
810/227-4840

### CHAIRPERSONS

Jim DeJohn  
810/229-9797  
Joanne Swonk  
810/229-7887  
Dick Weaire  
810/229-3066  
Friends of the  
Lyons School

Lorry Wagner  
Oral History  
810/231-3328

John & Janice  
Field  
Cemeteries/  
Archives  
734/449-4535

Ann Stratigos  
Hospitality  
Newsletter Dist.

2002

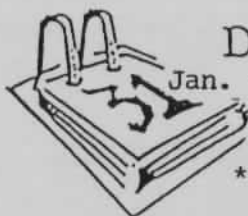
The new year brings with it new opportunities to promote a value vital to each of us; that which comes with knowledge of a sense of place.

Society plans for 2002 include increasing visibility and public awareness of the Society and its mission.

That mission is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area. The Society deems it vital that by promoting a growing sense of community today's residents will benefit from this knowledge.

To know there was someone alive here before us; to know they experienced joys, sorrows, hard work, success, failures; to learn they persevered, through lives really not too dissimilar to today's lives. They made it - we can also.

Your support as a member, a donor, serving on the board or on a project is the basis of the Society's strength. The Society consists of those who believe in its mission and that it is important to promote it. Its' mission will be promoted and confirmed by you.



### Dates to Remember:

Jan. \*16, 23, 30, 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration.  
17, 24, 31, 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.

810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.

\*\*28, 7 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome.

\*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton.

\*\*Brighton District Library, 100 Library Dr.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: Tillie Bitten, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Whitney & June Kimble, Steven & Kathleen Lowry, Jere & Kay Michaels.

COUPLES/INDIV: Charles & Janice Beach, Marian Carney, Evelyn Dothager (IL), Emil & Joan Engel, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Tom & Audrey Leith, Helen M. Michaels, Cleo Moran, Brenda McCarty, Doris Singer (Grnd Rpds), Paul & Carol Spangler.

The newsletter mailing list is being reviewed. It is financially irresponsible for the Society to continue distribution of the newsletter to those unwilling to support it financially. (Many members include an extra donation.) It seems rather unjust to not pay one's way yet take advantage of others' sense of responsibility and commitment.

If the number on the mailing label is not '02 (or '03, '04, etc) or if it is marked 'Complementary Copy' no financial support has been received from you.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...Jeanette Johnson, Marilyn Pettigrove and Rosemary Ulmer for their help in preparing the December issue of Trail Tales for mailing.

...Tillie Bitten for her donation in memory of husband Bob.

...Marian Carney, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Helen Michaels, Cleo Moran and Doris Singer for the donations made with dues payment.

...Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) for their donation in memory of Florence Warner Chase and to Helen Leitz for her donation in memory of husband Richard, to the Lyons School Project. Both Florence and Dick were alumni of the one room school.

...Jim & Joanne Swonk for their donation of books, readers, etc., for use at the Lyons School.

...Jim DeJohn and Dick Weaire for their continued interest and work at the Lyons School. The future archives center has walls and ceilings painted, sills added to the windows and the floor cleaned and ready for painting.

...Ore Creek Quester Chapter #262 for their donation toward purchase of framed slates for use at the Lyons School.

## PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Final compiling and editing is underway. Carol McMacken has put in uncounted hours on this project. She is heartily commended for her work. She has one concern - someone must come forward to consider compiling the area's history from c. 1945 onward. It would not be good to wait another 100 years before embarking on this project. History is being made today.

LYONS SCHOOL: Weekly work hours are being scheduled. Call us at 810/229-6402 to let us know when would be good for you to help.

Friends of the Lyons School is being formed. Co chair Joanne Swonk will head up the operation (administration, curriculum, policies, etc.) of the project. Co chair Jim DeJohn and Dick Weaire will see to the continued restoration and maintenance of the facility. Rest assured, your help will be welcomed by the co chairs.

Sincere sympathies of the Society are extended to the family of  
NORMAN CATRELL

A long time resident of the area and devoted member.

Also to the family of  
VIRGINIA DE LUCA

A long time respected merchant of Brighton and member.

Also to the family of  
JONATHON FIELD

His parents, John and Janice, are dedicated members.

Also to the family of  
MARGARET SQUIRE

A long time resident and member of the Society.

...Marsha Strong, Brighton Township Manager, for her belief in the value of the preservation of local history and the sense of place it provides residents. The Society has been invited to prepare displays in the township hall lobby. Offer your help in the preparation of these exhibits.

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. 810/229-9100 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

Saline Area Historical Society is sponsoring its 15th Annual Antique Show. Jan. 18, 11-7 pm, and Jan. 19, 9-5 pm. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, Saline.

Livingston County Genealogical Society is presenting its 20th anniversary seminar April 27, 7:30 am. to 3:30 pm. Lake Pointe Manor, 5768 E. Grand River, Howell. Curt B. Witcher, manager, Historical Genealogical Society Allen County Library, Ft. Wayne, IN. Topics will include Doing Effective Research in Libraries; Passenger and Immigration Research; Using Church Records in Genealogy Research; Effective Use

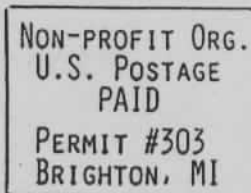
of the Allen County Library with an Emphasis on PERSI.

Registration pre 4-14-02 = \$30. post 4-15-02 = \$40 (box lunch included). Checks to LCGS, send to Cindy Grostick, 507 Jones St., Lansing 48912-1717.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

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

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

#### AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Adam Weber's MAPLE AVENUE FARM is this issue's subject.

In 1872, Henry and Margaret (Euler) Weber came to the United States from Germany. By the 1880 census they were in Genoa Township with their three sons, John, Adam (b. 1865), and Conrad. Their three daughters, Catherine, Elizabeth, and one who married R. E. Baetcke, were born in Michigan, according to Margaret's obituary.

(Early obituaries did not list wives' given names only the husband's.)

Genoa and Brighton Townships were being populated at a relatively fast clip in the 1830/1840s. (Nothing's changed.) Among the earliest were the Conrads, Dorrs, Eulers, Behrens, etc. When the Webers came to the area neighbors were still a mile or more apart. Travel was not a simple matter so, as is often found, children of neighbors married. These children might meet at church functions, school events or while working on a neighbor's farm. Just over 100 years ago, Adam Weber and Maria Catherine Conrad (b. 1863, Genoa) married, April 30, 1891. They had two children, both of which, sadly, died as infants. Prior to this time, the 1880 census finds Adam, 15, working as a farm laborer at the Henry Herbst farm in Genoa. His older brother, John Henry, 20, is employed on the Lewis Pless farm. (John also married a neighbor, Margaret Euler.)

Not long after their marriage, on the 1895 atlas, Adam Weber's name is found on 68 acres on the south side of Grand River, bordered on the east by Whitmore Lake Road. (Brighton Township, E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 32.) At the time, brother Conrad owns 240 acres on the north side of Grand River, directly across from Adam's. This had originally been purchased by a speculator, Jacob Leroy of Genesee, New York, August 11, 1835. It is doubtful he ever saw the land since he sold while still in New York, in 1836. Jacob H. Coe recorded the purchase of this piece December 6, 1845, of Livingston County. He sold it in 1848, but his name is still on the map as owner in 1875. Many brief periods of ownership are recorded. People often over-extended themselves and were unable to pay real estate taxes. Even as today much property was bought and lost. Before the end of the 20th century V.G.'s and Kroger shopping centers and a myriad of other businesses are now located on Adam's MAPLE AVENUE FARM. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records and early atlases. Also 'Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County' by Milton Charboneau and obituaries copied by Charboneau. Additions/corrections gratefully accepted. 810/229-6402)