

COMPLEMENTARY  
COPY

# 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

July 2002  
Vol. XXI No. 7

### 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 Svonk  
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.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S.A.!!!

Celebration of the 226th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence reminds us of the sacrifices made by the signers of that document.

Without their examples of courage volunteer organizations, such as the Historical Society may well not exist. (Where would the U.S.A. be without volunteers)

The Society's mission, to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the Brighton area, enables us all to evaluate the past and hopefully be better prepared for the challenges of the future. As we learn about the ordinary people who, with their leaders, have brought the Brighton area to be a desirable community in which to live, we are encouraged to continue the process.

The Society is the local organization dedicated to providing this learning opportunity. The many volunteers make this possible. They believe it is worthwhile.

You are invited to volunteer in this significant endeavor. The Art Fair next month, the Kiwanis-sponsored Sunday evening concerts, the Saturday Farmers' Markets are all opportunities for ordinary people to participate. These are opportunities not only for fund raising but also to help others become aware of the Society and its mission.

Inside this issue one finds many other projects. Contact a board member or call 810/229-6402 to become a part of this mission.



### Dates to Remember:

- July \*10, 17, 24, 31, 7 p.m. Lyons School. Restoration. Wear your working duds.
- \*11, 18, 25, 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. 810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.
- \*\*22, 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

\*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.  
\*\*Brighton Dist. Library, 100 Library Dr.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Ted & Doris Carmack (Allen Park, 03), Ial Fuller, Tim & Helen Hurst, and Mary Sullivan.

The present membership of the Society consists of people who care. People who believe value can be gained from learning about the area's past; those to whom preservation is important to the sense of place they want to experience.

Many make financial contributions. Others provide physical labor because they believe what is being done is important. Some provide items of local historical significance. Realizing the preservation/restoration projects of the Society takes \$\$\$ a contribution is added to their dues.

Your service on the board, as an officer, as a project chairman, as a volunteer for a day or a few hours is an important job you can do.

Without these kinds of support the Society would be a non entity. You are urged to join the Society and to support its mission.

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THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...Jeanette Johnson and Shirley Jenks for their help in the mailing of the June issue of Trail Tales.

...Bob Watson for Civil War letters and a biographical sketch of Ernest Maxamilian Adolph Buek, a Brighton area boy, for Society archives.

...Lilly Evans, Detroit News writer, for a copy of a short history of the Brighton State Recreation Area.

...Gi Gi Valliencourt for signature embroidery on the signature quilt.

...Ted & Doris Carmack for a donation with their dues.

...Dick Weaire for making platforms with casters for files in the Archives Center. Dick and Jim DeJohn for transferring of archival material from storage to the Archives Center.

...Brighton City for their support.

...Brighton Township for waiving code inspection fees.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The process of preparing an inventory of the items brought from storage is a first step. An inventory will help determine what kind and how many archive boxes, files, shelves and indexing materials will be needed in the Archive Center. Two more chrome, 6'x4'x18" sets of shelving, on wheels, are needed. These can hold 600# and cost \$80.00 each. Not a glamorous item to which to contribute but a needed piece of equipment.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken is continuing her fine work on this project.

LYONS SCHOOL: Dick Weaire and Jim DeJohn are still restoring desks and doing the many other improvements needed. Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., you'll find them at 11455 Buno Road. If a different day/time is better for you contact Marieanna Bair, 810/229-6402. Some school desks, oak, with one arm, are for sale. Price is \$25.00, unfinished \$15.00. One of our members will be listing them on ebay soon. Don't miss out on these. Joanne Swonk is working with local teachers to prepare for visits by elementary students.

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NEEDS      NEEDS      NEEDS

...postage stamps for administration (officers) and preservation/restoration (answer inquiries and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

...booth help for the Art Fair, August 10-11, 10-5 p.m.

...camcorder or a video camera to properly record various projects which are important to the Society's mission.

...ticket purchasers on the hand made wood rocking toy. \$1. or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be sent you on receipt of your cash or check. Board members have them also. Can you sell them where you are employed or an organization to which you belong?

...large ¼" slate pieces are available. Can you make small hand slates?

...a base cupboard, c. 24" deep x 3-4' long for the rest room at the Lyons School.

...a Society brochure is being developed. Contact a board member to help.

...corporate funds to help pay cost of printing Trail Tales.

...\$\$\$ for the shelving for the Archives Center and/or paint.

...blue bird houses for the fence posts posts at Lyons School.

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, Coverletes, 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.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg of 6/\$3.; NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50 pkg; copies of 1875 PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 map of Brighton for \$1. ea; TOTE BAGS @ \$15., NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ \$8. and MUGS @ \$5. all show the Old Town Hall. A new TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$30., depicting the Brighton Railroad depot and train, is available. A fine companion to the afghan below. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

AFGHANS, red, blue or green, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49.00 are at The Nature Preserve, 420 W. Main.

For \$10.00 your signature or that of another of your choice will be embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A file of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society's activities. This quilt will stay in the Society's archives.

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 PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

Mulling Over Michigan, statewide conference for educators. Oct. 16, 2002. Macomb Comm. College. Mel Miller 586/228-3465.

Teaching Mic. History in the Classroom. July 26, 2002. Hist. Soc. Mich. Ann Arbor 517/324-4370.

Highland Twp Historical Society brings these possible mergers to our attention.

DENISON MINES, ALLIANCE and METAL MINING (Mine All Mine.)

3M, J.C. PENNY and THE METROPOLITAN OPERA COMPANY (3 Penny Opera.)

GREY POUAPON and DOCKERS PANTS (Poupon Pants.)

KNOTT'S BERRY FARM and THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (to be called (Not Now.)

Harvest Home Celebration Sept. 22, 2002. Cobblestone Farm, Ann Arbor. 734/994-2928.

Liv. County Genealogical Soc. July 8, 2002, 7 p.m., 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

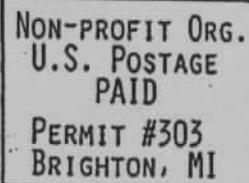
Quilt and Fiber Show. July 27, 2002. Waterloo Hist. Soc. 517/851-8247.

Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association. All alumni dinner, September 21, 6 p.m., high school cafeteria, 7878 Brighton Road. P.O. Box 1163 for reservation.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

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

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### A GENOA PIONEER

Lewis Dorr and wife, Elizabeth (Meuller), were born in Germany in the Province of Hesse. About 1834, they, and at least one daughter, Catherine (born in 1833), arrived in Montgomery County, New York, near Albany. While in New York, daughter Elizabeth was born. Lewis had learned the carpenter and pattern maker trades in Germany and was adept at business and banking. The 1850 Census records also list a George Dorr, born in Germany in 1822, who may have been a close relative.

Upon reaching Genoa Township in 1836, Lewis purchased only two acres in Section 24, on the northwest corner of Crooked Lake (Hubert) and Grand River Roads, from Thomas Pinckney. It seems obvious he did not intend to farm. The next year he built a frame house where Louisa and Caroline were born. A frame barn and blacksmith shop were also constructed (instead of log construction).

However by 1840, Dorr sold the two acre site to Ellis Luther, purchasing 80 acres about two miles west on Grand River. He built a large frame house (just across from Kellogg Road) where Lewis, Jr. and Charles were born. Here he operated a tavern to accommodate travelers on the then busy highway. Stagecoach and freight wagon teams were housed in the barn to exchange for tired horses which had been going at full speed for some miles. He also employed a blacksmith to shoe horses and make repairs to equipment. Some crops were undoubtedly raised on the 208 surrounding acres Dorr had acquired by 1859.

The coming of the railroad in 1871 eliminated the need for this kind of accommodations on the Grand River Trail. Dorr sold his property to Henry Ratz from Canada, and retired to live on the east shore of Crooked Lake where sons Lewis, Jr. and Charles each had large farms. (Jr. west of Conrad Road; Charles. north of Brighton Road - Oak Pointe.) In 1874, in the Smith/McPherson Addition, Dorr built a house on the southwest corner of W. Main and Second, as did many of his farming neighbors.

The Dorrs were among the numerous immigrants from Germany who settled in Genoa Township. One can only imagine the extra burden of an unfamiliar language carried by settlers attempting to make a new home in the wilderness for their families. It is not difficult to understand why they felt much more secure with German speaking neighbors. After providing shelter, food and a school, their attention turned to the establishment of religious meetings. By 1845 the St. George Evangelical Lutheran Church, Genoa, Michigan, was formed and a church built on Crooked Lake Road (Hubert). The names of charter members are distinctly German and many are found in the cemetery established where the first church was built.

Lewis and Elizabeth's descendants are numerous and scattered, each pursuing their dreams. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; atlases; the writings of Bill Pless; First Landowners of Livingston County and First Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau. Corrections and additions invited.)