A GENDA PIONEER

Lewis Dorr and wife, Elizabeth (Meuller), were born in Germany in the Province of Hesse. About 1834, they, and at least one daughter, Catharine (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 1835, Lewis purchased only two acres in Section 24, on the northwest corner of Crooked Lake (Hubers) and Grand River Roads, from Thomas Pincinkey. It seems obvious he did not intend to farm. The next year he built a frame house where Louise 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 Eillis 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 the 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 Conroy Road; Charles, north of Brightroad - Oak Pointe.) In 1874, in the Smith/McPherson Addition, Dorr built a house on the southeast corner of W. Main and Second, as did many of his farming neighbors.

The Conrre 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 (Hubers). 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 Marleena Bair from census records; at least; the writings of Bill Pleiss; First Landowners of Livingston County and First Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Charbonneau. Corrections and additions invited.)
MEMBERSHIPS
Ted 8 Doris Carmack (Allen Park, D3), Ilai Fuller, Tim 8 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 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.

THANKS

...Jeanette Johnson and Shirley Jenks for their help in the mailing of the June issue of Trail TALENT.
...Bob Watson for Civil War letters and a biographical sketch of Ernest Maxamilian Adolph Busk, a Brighton area boy, for Society archives.
...Lilly Evans as a newsletter writer, for a copy of a short history of the Brighton State Recreation Area.
...Gil 8 Vallencourt for signature embroidery on the Signature Quilt.
...Ted 8 Doris Carmack for a donation with their dues.
...Dick Meisel for making platforms with casters for files in the Archives Center.
...Dick and Jie DeJohn for transferring of archival material from storage to the Archives Center.
...Brighton City for their support.
...Brighton Township for waiving code inspection fees.

ARCHIVES: The process of preparing an inventory and 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, 8"x4"x16" sets of shelving about 90" high are needed. This can hold 6900# 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 Meisel and Jim DeJohn are still restoring desks and doing the many other improvements needed. Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., you’ll find them at 11445 Buno Road. If a different day/time is better for you contact Marlene Bair, 410-239-6404. Some school desks, oak, with one arm, are for sale. Price is $25.00, unrefinished $15.00. One of our members will be listing them on eBay soon. Don’t miss out on these. Joanne Swick is working with local teachers to prepare for visits by elementary students.

NEEDS NEEDS
...postage stamps for administration officers and for preservation/RESTORATION (answer inquiries and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area).
...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 $5 for St. 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 1" slate pieces are available. Can you make small hand slates?
...a base cupboard, c. 24" deep x 3'4" long for the rest room of the Lyons School.
...a Society brochures is being developed. Contact a board member to help.
...corporate funds to help pay cost of printing Trail Talents.
...$35.00 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 451, Brighton MI 48115-0451

NAME ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________

(Please include Zip + 4 digits)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

( ) New ( ) Renew. Your help is needed with: Historic Preservation Projects, Administration of the Society. (Please circle your preference)

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Petron ( ) $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 ( ) $1000.00 ( ) Other

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Deductible Organization.


Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverletes, Home Tour, Raffle, Needlepoint Kit, Love 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 MAP of Brightown, Genesee, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 map of Brightown for $1 ea.; TOTE BAGS @ $5.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ $8.; and MONS @ $5.; all show the Old Town Hall. A new TAPESTRY PILLOW, $30., depicting the Brighton Railroad depot and train, is available. A Fire 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 SIGATURE 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, green, 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


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).

GREAT PUPON and DOCKERS PANTS (Pupon Pants).

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


BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc. Brighton Commerce Center, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody. The support of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.
MEMBERSHIPS
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Waterloo Hist. Soc. 517/651-8247.

Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association. All alumni dinner, September 21, 5 p.m., high school cafeteria, 7878 Bright Rd. P.O. Box 1163 for reservation.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S.A.!!

Celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence reminds us of the sacrifices made by the signers of that document.

Without their example 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 4th, 17, 24, 31, 7 p.m. Lyons School. Restoration. Wear your working duds.
July 5th, 6th, 7th, 1-2 p.m. Archives Filling.
810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.
July 22, 7 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome.
810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.

720 S. Huron, Suite 204, Brighton, MI 48116
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