

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

June 2002

Vol. XXI No. 6

BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, JUNE 9, 2002

OFFICERS

President & Editor
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Vice President
Sheryl Vignstad
810/227-7506

Secretary
Thomas Reinke
313/295-9326

Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey
248/684-0340

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Nancy Fredenburg
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Carol McMacken
History Book
810/231-2957

Jim Vichich
Membership
810/227-4840

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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.

Another time of commencement is upon us. The number of students involved has grown from "...two young ladies..." in 1886, to over 500 in 2002 with no sign of declining.

The many settlers who arrived in the Brighton area in the 1830s were mainly concerned with providing shelter, clothing, safety and food for the family. This entailed clearing the land, building a log cabin and raising a crop. However, these sturdy pioneers realized their children, besides the basics for survival, also needed an education. Opportunities for education had been left behind in the east.

Not only in the village was a school organized, but in the townships surrounding rural one room school districts were formed. The teachers in all these very early schools taught eight grades.

By 1868 a high school had been built in the village on Rickett Road. Ten grades were offered. In 1883 the 11th and 12th grades were added. In 1886 the first commencement took place.

Rural school eighth grade graduates, their parents paying tuition, could attend high school in the village. They rode a horse or drove a buggy to town. Some stayed with relatives during the week. By 1928 the number of students from surrounding rural schools made necessary the construction of a larger school on Church Street. By then the rural districts were paying the tuition costs.

Following WW II, the construction of major highways resulted in a population explosion in the townships. This was also the case at the high school. Brighton City residents, understandably, complained about the overcrowding their students experienced. They objected to accepting students from the rural districts which were not taxed at the same rate. In 1950 consolidation of the rural districts with the Brighton City district began taking place.

(cont. P. 3)



Dates to Remember:

June 13, 27, 1-3 p.m. Archive filing.
810/229-6402 to confirm.

* 5, 12, 19, 26: 7 p.m. Lyons School
restoration. Wear your working duds.

* 24: 6:30 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome

*Lyons School. 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Ron Morey (Milan), Richard & Barbara Smith, Richard F. Lee, Secretary SUVCW, Gilluly/Kingsley Camp #120 (Fowlerville).

COUPLES/INDIV: Jeanette Johnson (03), Tedd & Linda Potter, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, *Chris & Joanne Williams (South Lyon).

*Welcome to new members, the Williams from Green Oak Township.

Sincere thanks to those who responded with dues upon receiving a 'Complementary Copy' of the newsletter. A number of members are even more actively involved with the Society's activities. You'll note mention of them in this issue. There is an awareness that not all are able to be more active. It is assumed those that believe in the mission of the Society will give what ever way they can. The "NEEDS" column gives some examples where you can help.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Jeanette Johnson and June Kimble for help with the mailing of the May issue of Trail Tales.

...John & Janice Field and Anne Stratigos for continued distribution of newsletters by hand.

...Jeanette Johnson, Nora Miller, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano and SUVCW Secretary, Richard Lee for including a donation with dues.

...Bill Franklin (Ypsi) for including an extra donation with the signature quilt request in memory of his wife, Betty.

...Bob Watson for his help with the Society booth at the Livingston County Genealogical Society 20th anniversary seminar.

...Bob & Diane Mannoch (Your Window and Door Store, Livonia) for donating a case of paper. Also to Richard Smith for the two reams.

...Lyons School neighbor Bruce Owens for donating the wood rocking motorcycle toy he hand made. Tickets will be available soon.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Society items, which have been in storage for several years, are being moved into the archive center at the Lyons School. File cabinets are placed on platforms with casters for easy moving. Sturdy, chrome plated shelving, on wheels, is being purchased.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: Still proof-reading and editing this local history book. Carol McMacken is continuing work on this.

LYONS SCHOOL: On display is a cupboard used by Dr. George R. Schafer, full of items a veterinary of 50+ years ago would use. These were donated by son, Robert Schafer.

As the two piece c.1900 desks are restored and placed in the school room, a few oak, one-arm desks will be for sale. Some are refinished. These will be \$25., unfinished are \$15.00.

A display case offering the items the Society has for sale is in place.

May 24, 50 Scranton School 5th grade students, their teacher, Ronnie Powers, and several caring mothers spent the day experiencing a day in the life of a pioneer. Everyone had the opportunity to ring the school bell.

Regular work sessions are held each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Come to help or come to tour.

NEEDS NEEDS NEEDS

...\$\$\$for the shelving for the Archives Center c. \$80. each.

...ticket purchasers on the hand made wood rocking toy; these will be \$1. each or 6 for \$5. Send your cash or check and the tickets will be sent you. They can be bought from any board member. Can you be a sales person where you work or an organization to which you belong?

...Someone to embroider 15-18 signatures on the signature quilt.

...A base cupboard, c. 24" deep x 3-4' long for the rest room at the school.

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

...donation for Resource Center paint at \$35.00.

... $\frac{1}{4}$ " slate pieces are available. Can you make small hand slates for use by student visitors?

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, green, or blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49.00 is 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

Milford Historical Society Museum, 124 E. Commerce St., Milford. Open Wed. & Sat 1-4 p.m. thru December.

Waterloo Area Farm Museum - Log Cabin Day/Education Day/Blacksmith Festival June 30, 1-5 p.m. 517/851-8247.

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

MY MOM TAUGHT ME TO:

Appreciate a job well done - "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Religion - "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

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.

(cont. from page 1.)
 A new high school and elementary schools were built and students were bussed. Each succeeding year has seen graduating classes grow in numbers. Parents still find it important their children receive an education. A few graduates must still decide how they will live their lives. The vast majority give one comfort the country's future will be in good hands.

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

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AREA FARMS C. 1900

The Warner farm on Buno Road is the topic of research this issue.

Timothy W. Warner, at 19 years of age, was among the very early settlers in Brighton Township, arriving in 1837 with his parents and brother H. H. His father, Dute, a native of Rhode Island, and the rest of the family returned to Livingston County, New York, not long after. Timothy stayed to confront the unbroken wilderness of Brighton Township.

The January, 1898, obituary of William T. Tunis states "...the oldest man in the township died on the 12th at the home of Eugene Hicks, aged 94. He came to this community when it was all wilderness in company with Timothy Warner, Abram Dean, Cyrenus Morgan and E. G. Durfee."

By farming land on shares Warner was able to purchase 80 acres in Section 27 E½ NE, in an 'entirely unimproved' state, building a log cabin on the site in 1841.

Participating in the organization and naming of the township he also served as township treasurer 1863-65.

In 1847 he married Lucretia Jones, also from New York. (They may have been acquainted in that state.) In 1855 a two story frame house in the popular Greek Revival style was built next to the cabin. This house soon sheltered six children, four having been born in the cabin. These children, and those that followed, attended the nearby one room Lyons Schoolhouse. The home still lodges descendants of the Timothy Warner family.

By the time the frame house was built barns had also been erected as was a blacksmith shop with attached corn crib. As more barns and out buildings were needed son George, and grandson Herbert, constructed them.

Through the years Timothy and Lucretia acquired 600 acres at one point. Cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, etc., must be fed and housed. Hay, grains, pastures and orchards require many acres. A January, 1890, clipping listing township taxpayers who paid over \$50.00, included Timothy paying \$60.61. A part ownership, with Thomas Woulds, 1867, of the Woodruff Mill on Pleasant Valley Road (built 1833), was one of his many real estate ventures. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from genealogy records by Florence Warner Chase; 1891 Biographic Portraits; 1880 History of Livingston County and Milton Charboneau's Land Owners and Settlers in Livingston County. Additions, corrections welcomed.)