

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

March 2002

Vol. XXI No. 3

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

LOCAL HISTORY CENTER

With the development of a history center at the Lyons School the Society will be able to more fully assume its role of serving as area history source. The study of those who preceded us, their tools, livelihood, homes, businesses, occupations, etc., gives value to their dreams. And by giving value to their dreams value is given to ours.

Their dreams were no different than ours - to provide for shelter, food, education, safety, etc. We needn't fear wolves, bears, hunger, sickness, loneliness as they did. By evaluating the past we're better able to face the future and its challenges. But if there is no past preserved from which to learn.....

The knowledge of historic structures, sites, events and the people connected to them, and how they contribute to the fabric that makes up the community, makes us realize these are all part of our heritage.

By the documentation of our local history, the preservation of our local history, the dissemination of our local history, we are reassured that life goes on.

Join with the Society in achieving its goals. With your support the Society will be successful in its mission.

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 Swank
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.



Dates to Remember:

Mar. *6, 13, 20, 27, 7 p.m. Lyons School.
restoration. Wear your working duds.
7, 14, 21, 28, 1-3 p.m. Archive Filing.
810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.

**25, 7 p.m. Society board meets.
Welcome.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Advance Craft Home Builders.

PATRON: Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan and Mike and Jan Woodford. (03)

COUPLES/INDIV: Bob & Diane Assenmacher, Larry & Janet Baldinger, Sally Baldwin (Grand Rapids), Elaine Blight, Lois Clark (Midland), Robert Davis (Ann Arbor), Duane & Thelma Duncan, Betty Herbst (03, Howell), Bob & Betsy Herbst, *John Hyne (OR), Wally & Marilyn Jollitz (03), Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Susan Lanning (Livonia), Harold Leitz, Bill McConnell, (03 N.C.), Mark & Carol Mc Macken, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Ruth Munzel (South Lyon), Marty & Lee Pawlak (South Lyon), Harold Sallow, Phyllis Schaefer (Fenton), Gary Townsend (Fowlerville), Bill & Gi Gi Valliencourt, Herb & Arlene Warner (Milford), Delores Yackley, Bernon Young (04 FL), Bill & Charmaine Zink.

*Welcome to John Hyne from Oregon. His membership is a gift from his parents.

If you believe the year for which membership has been paid, as noted on the address label, is not correct please let us know.

The continued renewal of memberships is evidence of approval of Society projects. (Or you may be looking for improvement.)

The Society is able to function because of your help. The many projects, as noted in the next column, also need whatever physical help you can provide. It is inspiring to realize the many who back us in our mission.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, John & Janice Field and Shirley Ritter for their help with the February mailing of Trail Tales.

...Lois Clark (Midland) and Mark and Carol McMacken for their donations to the Lyons School project.

...Bob & Diane Assenmacher, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Harold Sallow, Bernon Young (FL) and Frances Young (Lapeer) for their donations with dues payment.

...Milton Charboneau for his shared research on the Benedict family.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Compiling the historical record of various sites in the area is continuing. Irene Ellis contributed several boxes of local press clippings recently. These have been filed appropriately. Without those kinds of contributions the record will be less complete.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Proofreading is underway as is the captioning of pictures. Contact Carol McMacken, 231-2957, if you'd like to help. The list of reserved copies is growing. Is your name included? Sponsors for printing are also needed. Can you help sign them up?

LYONS SCHOOL: The regular work session now is set for Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the school, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township. There is sufficient space arranged for continued restoration of desks and seats. If Wednesday evenings are not good for you call 810/229-6402. Marieanna Bair will fit you in any time convenient. Window moulding material is at the school. Can you measure, saw, hammer? Or serve as a gofer? Welcome.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...A new Society brochure is being developed. If you'd like to give this a try contact a board member.

...an electrician to move an electrical box in the Archives Center at the Lyons School.

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

...restoration of a small cast iron stove at the Lyons School.

...an embroiderer to complete the 15 names marked on the Signature Quilt.

...36" wide base cabinets; for the rest room and the archives room at the Lyons School.

...people to help set up the Society display at the April 27, Livingston County Genealogical Society Seminar.

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 5/\$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

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.

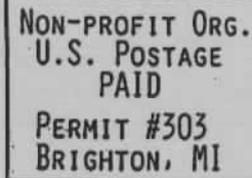
Registration pre 4-14-02 = \$30. post 4-15-02 = \$40 (box lunch included). Checks to LCGS, send to Cindy Grosttick, 507 Jones St., Lansing 48912-1717.

May 11, 10 a.m./2 p.m., Brighton Community Center, the Brighton Rotary Club will host an Antiques Appraisal Fair. Rotary is raising funds to reduce the mortgage moneys due on the Center, built in 2000. 810/227-0656 for more information.

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

AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. The conclusion of research re: Mary Christa's HURON RIVER STOCK FARM is this issue's subject. The examination of area farms has come to the end of the listing. Contact the Editor if you know of more named area farms which weren't on the list, or wish to recommend another topic for consideration.

Mary selected this most appropriate name for her farm. The Huron flowed through the southern portion of the acreage. The Christa house, built c. 1875, probably replaced the Russell home. The entire two story house was built at the same time. (As opposed to many early structures which had additions built on to the original.) A very modern house for the time it had the first furnace (a huge monster) with steam radiators in the area. A marble lined bathroom had an outside entrance for use by farm workers, an inlaid marble-floored entry, a marble stairway and a shallow marble-fronted fireplace. The white marble baseboards provide convincing evidence the Christa's constructed the house. A chimney in the kitchen area indicates Mary probably used a wood stove for cooking. Built-in closets were another unusual feature.

In 1923, Mary signed a right of way for a highway realignment for M 16 (Grand River). This eliminated a dangerous curve, just east of the house, when the highway was paved in 1924. (Early drivers were not immune to the challenge "Just how fast can this Lizzie go?")

Upon Mary's death, 1934, her nephew, Milton, was responsible for the property. By 1960, when your editor acquired the house, most of the land (which hadn't been purchased by the state for the recreation area) was owned by the Brighton Development Corporation. It didn't take long for the barns to be replaced by industries. A few of the long row of black walnut trees do remain. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from censuses, atlases, a portion of the abstract for the property and Milton Charboneau's First Landowners of Livingston County and First Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County. Corrections and additions most welcome. 810/229-6402)