

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

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

MAY 2002

Vol. XXI No. 5

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MEMORIAL DAY 1868-2002

In 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans' organization, set May 30, as a special day for remembering.

After the Civil War widows and children were observed placing flowers on both Union and Confederate soldiers' graves. Veterans were moved to do this in other cemeteries and at other graves. This healing concept has continued.

The modest, reverent manner in which the Brighton area veterans' organizations conduct these memorial services is to be commended. They are conducive to a fitting recognition of the sacrifices of veterans.

The inclusion of the Brighton High School marching band, the various scout organizations, the honor guard, convince one of the the universal gratitude expressed.

In the Brighton area Memorial Day services will be held Monday, May 27, 10 a.m., on Main Street by the mill pond.

(When we conduct tours of downtown Brighton the memorial rock by the mill pond is included. All of us can stand a reminder of those who make it possible to congregate in such a manner. M. Bair)



Dates to Remember:

May *1,8,15,22,29, 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration. Wear your working duds.
9,16,23,30, 1-3 p.m. Archive filing.
810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.

**20, 7-9 p.m. Society Board meets. Welcome.

*19: 2-4 p.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society meeting. Public welcome.

*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

**Brighton Dist. Library, 100 Library Dr.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV.: *Richard E. Hyne (Wlmstn), Nora E. Miller, and Bill & Rosemary Ulmer.

*A welcome to Richard Hyne, new member. This was a gift from his parents, Bill and Helen.

75% of last year's members have already renewed. It is assumed the others will want to continue their support.

If your label doesn't have "02", "03" or higher remember the Society is entirely dependent on its memberships for administrative expenses. Board members are volunteers but cannot be expected also to pay for paper, copying, postage, fees, etc., relative to their position. Administration charges also are paid by memberships. These entail printing/ mailing of the newsletter, P.O. box rent, non profit mailing fee, membership in the Historical Society of Michigan, Fidelity bonding, financial records' review, etc.

Unless designated otherwise donations (not dues) are designated to historic preservation projects: the Lyons School (insurance, utilities, restoration/ maintenance), Archives, Historic Resource Survey, Oral History, etc., etc. Donations are IRS Income Tax deductible - the Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

Your membership and donations are absolutely vital to the success of the Society in fulfilling its mission.

A "Complementary Copy" stamp on your issue of Trail Tales indicates just that. Consider membership or a donation to the Society's expenses.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, June Kimble, Shirley Ritter and Rosemary Ulmer for helping get the April Newsletter in the mail.

...Bill and Helen Hyne for their donation with the new membership for their son, Richard.

...Jim DeJohn and Dick Weaire for their continued help at the Lyons School.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: A type of portable filing cabinets is being researched. These will be rather expensive but will conserve space. It seems likely that 50 years from now archivists will commend us for installing this kind of system. Shortly archival materials in storage will be moved in.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Proof reading is ongoing. Your patience with these volunteers is appreciated. Your offer to contact potential sponsors will be appreciated. Call Carol McMacken, 810/231-2957 or any board member.

LYONS SCHOOL: The refinishing of desks is nearing completion. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at the school, 11455 Buno Road, you can help. A number of later style, oak, one arm desks will not be needed. The Society has them for sale, \$15.-25. These are in very good condition but are not needed. Call 810/229-6402, 810/229-3066 or 801/229-9797. Electrical connections are almost ready for inspection. Thanks to Eric Vigmostad his help. Window moulding material is at the school. Your help is necessary.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...postage stamps. The mailing of minutes each month, paying bills and regular correspondence make for a regular administrative expense. A book or roll of stamps is a fairly easy contribution.

...The case of typing paper donated last year is almost depleted. A contribution of a ream, case or funds will also help with administration expenses.

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

...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.

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 LifeDONATION: \$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. AFGHANS, red, green or blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49. at The Nature Preserve, 420 W. Main.

A new TAPESTRY PILLOW, \$30., depicting the Brighton Railroad depot and train is available. A fine companion to the afghans above. 810/229-9100 to order.

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

Can We Save Them? Preserving Historic Properties. Historical Society of Michigan work shop; 1305 Abbott Rd., East Lansing. May 11 - how to approach preservation of historic properties. Buildings at risk; how to obtain historic designation, how to deal with your own. 517/324-1828. Fax: 517/324-4370.

"Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck." Now thru Aug 18, 2002, Michigan History Museum, Lansing.

Indian Village Home/Garden Tour, June 8, 10-5. 313/922-0911 for \$12. advance tickets.

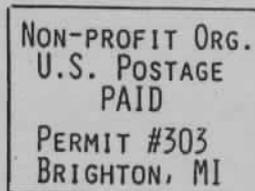
Wildflowers, perennials, bird feeders, etc., Brighton Garden Club, May 9, 10-4. Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St.

Green Oak Township Historical Society tour of newly restored Lyons School, May 19, 2-4 p.m. 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township. Learn of the community involvement that brought the old school to its current state of beauty and usefulness. Learn of the plans for sharing this 19th century experience with 21st century school children. Learn of the history of this structure. Public invited. Children welcome. There will be an opportunity to ring the bell.

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

The Zeeb farm on Chilson Road is the topic of research this issue.

Investigation takes one back to the date of Samuel Case's arrival in Livingston County. By 1836 land in Unadilla Township has been recorded in his name. January 26, 1838, 40 acres in Hamburg Township are his. 160 acres in Genoa Township, Section 34, SW, and 80 in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE, are recorded November 1, 1844, and May 10, 1847, respectively. Of ten sons, at least four also purchased land in the county about that time. A number of Cases are on record but we are unable to determine relationships without further research. (Anyone interested?)

A son, Norman, by second wife, Clarissa, was born in New York State March 1, 1825. All of Samuel's children were born before he came to Michigan. At the age of 23 the ownership of Sam's farm in Genoa was transferred to Norman in 1848. Sam became a shoemaker after the crippling effects of feet frozen while hunting in Oswego County, New York. It can be assumed Norman's older brothers had acquired farms, leaving him to help at home. (Sam died 11 days after amputation surgery by Drs. Bingham and Smith, April 16, 1854.)

In 1861, Norman married Maryette Watrous of Genoa Township. They had four daughters. The youngest, Donna Edna, was only five when father Norman died. Widow Maryette remarried but it was unsuccessful. George Sweeney was hired to manage the farm. He was a man of meticulous record keeping: a spade and shovel .30¢; ice cream freezer .40¢; corn planter \$1.; two horse blankets \$2.50. During this period the Ann arbor railroad needed gravel for the road bed. Mr. Bradley of Toledo, Ohio, opened a gravel pit on the farm, the Ohio Michigan Sand and Gravel Company.

About 1909, Donna went to Arizona to wed William Frederick Zeeb, a first generation German-American. At the time he was employed by the U.S. government

building bridges. Upon returning to Genoa Township, Wm. Frederick Zeeb began working at the gravel pit. In fact, he remained employed there until the pit closed. He also assisted his mother-in-law with the farm. Son, Harley Zeeb was born on the Case farm June 3, 1913. After buying out the interests in the farm of her three sisters, Donna and Fred owned the farm: July 31, 1917.

During the nationwide depression of the 1930s, a neighboring family lost their farm and had to move. A few days before leaving, their hired man, Pat Downs, offered to work for the Zeebs for room and board. Donna and daughter-in-law, Cecelia, cleaned painted and furnished a nearby box car from the gravel pit for him. They also paid him \$30.00 a month. Pat remained with the Zeebs for the rest of his life. Donna died March 19, 1956 and Fred, September 9, 1952. They are buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Howell. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from information gathered by Stephen S. Leith and Milton Charboneau's "Early Settlers and Land-owners of Livingston County".)