



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

October 2002

Vol. XXI No. 10

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

FRIENDS of LYONS SCHOOL

Sponsored by BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 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.

Consider becoming a member of Friends of Lyons School. Your financial and physical help will be most welcome. Keeping this historical site for its intended use will be more certain if you can help provide this support.

As a reader of Trail Tales, the newsletter of the Brighton Area Historical Society, you surely are aware of the restoration of the Lyons School on Buno Road. The use of this site is designated for community organizations, school children and for the benefit of all area residents.

Your contribution can be used for file cabinets for supplies, one room school materials, play equipment, utility expenses, continued restoration, etc. You may note to what your donation is to be used.

As a Friend of Lyons School you will become a benefactor for continued restoration, maintenance and use of this historic site.

Your application can be sent to the Society noting the Friends of the Lyons School and where you wish the funds used.

Joanne Swonk, Chairman of Administration of Friends of Lyons School.



Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration. Wear your workin' duds.
- 3, 17, 24, 31: 1 p.m. Archive filing Welcome.
- 28: 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

Margaret Bowland, Esther Jarvis (03),
Dick & MaryJean Richter (03), Jim &
Joanne Swonk, *Arloa Washburn (03).

*Welcome back to former member Arloa.

Membership dues accomplish several things. The administration expenses (including the \$235. per mo. for printing and mailing Trail Tales) are paid from dues income; i.e. postage, work shop fees, envelopes, meeting programs, etc. Paper has not been much of an expense - much has been donated.

The historic preservation projects, archives, oral history, Lyons School, receive funds donated by individuals and corporations (unless specified to administration expenses) and fund raising activities, are designated to these projects.

You are encouraged to become a dues paying member and to support the Society in its mission.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...John & Janice Field and Jeanette Johnson for help with September Mailing.

...Bob Watson for correcting the Campbell Town Mill research last month. In 1864, Eduard B. Bode is owner of the mill property, not Emil (who was born that year). Our record is more complete.

...Joyce Powers for her research on the Blue Lantern.

...Patrick Flynn of Hamburg Township. His early and later photos of Marquis & Sarah Nash home (c. 1850) and of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, all on Swarthout Road.

...Marianne Comiskey for her original wood box of school room chalk and the copies of Blue Lantern pictures.

...Stephen Leith for his donation.

...Milltown Quester Chapter #831 for a donation following a visit to the Lyons School.

...Milton Charboneau for the transcription of the Campbell Town Cemetery and his compilation of roads of the county and their naming.

...Esther Jarvis and Dick & Mary Jean Richter for sending a donation with their dues.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Taking an inventory of research material is time consuming and very interesting. Reading area history, perusing photos, maps and items makes one aware of how we can learn from where we've come.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken continues determining how best to present this volume of material she's collected.

LYONS SCHOOL: Only one interior window needs to be painted. Desks are being reglued and cleaned. The metal parts have been sand blasted and painted prior to reattaching. Wednesdays, 7 p.m., is a good time to offer your help or to visit this gem of an historic site.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...People to serve a term on the board.
...People to clean, polish chairs, desks, table, file cabinets, etc. Material on site.
...Archival storage boxes: 10"X15"X5", to safely store documents and photos., (\$8.00)
...Postage stamps.
...location of Brite Spot Lunch and Silver Lunch. They had ads in the 1946 Brightonian the high school annual.

ANNUAL MEETING AT LYONS SCHOOL

November 25, 7 p.m.

You are invited to attend. Annual reports will be available and a 2003 budget.

Elections will also be held. All board positions are open to nominations. Consider how you can help. Chairmen for fund raising, membership, oral history, historic resource survey committees are also open. Much information is available for development of a Historic District Committee for the townships and/or the city.

The Friends of the Lyons School will welcome your help. They are developing a schedule for visits from elementary school children, scouts, other non profit organizations. The maintenance committee is looking for help with painting, restoration, furniture refinishing, landscaping, etc.

Call 810/229-6402 if you want to become a part of this group but can't attend this meeting.

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, Coverlets, 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.

Michigan Council for History Education, 9th Annual Conf. "History Themes and Assessments" Oct. 23/24, 8a/3p. Michigan History Center, 717 W. Allegan, Lansing. E-mail mailcameronj@saline.k12.mi.us.

The Brighton VFW Post #4357 and the American Legion Post #235 are constructing an American Spirit Center. To honor and memorialize those who've served their country, pavers, 4x8 (\$50) and 8x8 (\$100) will be placed in the memorial garden in the Reflection Walk. Call 810/229-9088 or Email: brightonvfw@provide.net for more information on how you can participate.

The most recent additions to the Signature Quilt are Clio S. and Charles E. Case, the father and brother of Doris Case Singer. The Cases made their own significant contributions to the community. Via copies of early legal documents, autograph books, etc., the Society has a large number of early signatures.

You too, can memorialize the Gouchers, McClements, and others. One can also honor one's own family members. For \$10. you can send in a signature or let us select one for you.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody, The Fence Spot. 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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #303
BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN SEARCH OF THE BLUE LANTERN CASINO

In 1920 this country moved from a culture where the majority of the people lived in rural/small town settings to over half the people living in urban areas. The player piano as home entertainment would soon be replaced by the gramophone. At about this time radio connected the entire country to the music of the big city hotel ballrooms, and movies would expose the masses to the popular music, dance, and drama of the day. The Detroit based automobile industry produced affordable cars which allowed families the freedom of day trips to explore various arts and entertainment venues, and to vacation where recreation activities were plentiful. The Brighton area, with all its lakes, became just the place for a city dweller to have a summer cottage.

The picturesque terrain of the southeastern sector of Livingston County from the early days was attractive as a recreation region. Quality bathing beaches, boating facilities, fishing sites, picnic areas, and camp grounds still serve people today. In addition we now have golf courses, a ski facility, the Millpond Boardwalk, the Gazebo and Imagination Station, Meijer Skate Park, Farmers Market, the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts, State and Metro Park facilities, school nature and recreation sites, along with a host of local business specialty shops and entertainment fare. There are many restaurants with outstanding cuisine which all enhance the recreation and entertainment scene in the area.

About 1921 the Blue Lantern Casino was erected on the shore of Island Lake, Green Oak Township, near Brighton. The large well constructed dance floor was built partly over the lake, and cottage residents who attended events moored their rowboats in the open area beneath it. The exterior was white stucco with blue trim. It was arguably the premier summer entertainment spot outside of Detroit. Tourists and locals danced to the music of the touring big name bands: Casa Loma, McKinney's Cotton Pickers, Red Nichols, Abe Lyman, Benny Goodman, Wayne King, Bob Crosby, and the Dorsey Brothers to name a few. Jean Goldkette, a pianist, bandleader, and manager of the Greystone Ballroom in Detroit, was instrumental as a booking agent who brought quality dance bands to the Blue Lantern.

It was a hot night spot particularly during prohibition. Celebrities like Babe Ruth, Governor Groesbeck, and others frequented the lake hotels and the Blue Lantern. Locals tell us that the Purple Gang, out of Detroit, had a place in the vicinity. The Blue Lantern continued as an entertainment site until heavily damaged by fire. It was torn down in 1964. The fieldstone pillars on Grand River Avenue near the VFW Hall are all that remain today, but the romance and the engaging stories of the early jazz era through the fifties continue to this day. It is always gratifying for a community to connect with its heritage. The Blue Lantern becomes a metaphor, and gives added meaning to the arts and culture of the Brighton area today.

It is the hope of the Livingston Arts & Culture Consortium that pictures, ads, and more information about the Blue Lantern Casino can be found. Please contact Marieanna Bair at 229-6402 if you have anything to share in the search for the history of the Blue Lantern.

Submitted by Joyce Powers, Livingston Arts & Culture Consortium
Brighton Your Life - Celebrate the Arts