

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

September 2002

Vol. XXI No. 9

FUND RAISER DRAWING, OCTOBER 1

Tickets for the October 1, drawing are available at Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Store on Whitmore Lake Road and at the Little Professor Book store on West Main in Brighton. Only 100 tickets will be available. The rocking motorcycle, hand made by Bruce Owen, has been donated as first prize. An oak desk is 2nd and 3rd is your choice of five tiles or an afghan. Tickets are \$5. They are also available at 810/229-6402. Picture on page 3.

HISTORIC SITE MARKER DEDICATED

Under the direction of V.P. Sheryl Vigmostad, the August 25, dedication of the historic site marker in the Old Village Cemetery was most successful. Michigan State Historic Commission President, Keith Molin, Brighton Mayor, Kate Lawrence and State Senator, Valdez Garcia all spoke briefly following a short history of the cemetery by Marieanna Bair. John and Janice Field did the honors in removing the veil covering the marker. Several in the audience have ancestors buried in this cemetery. Cake and punch were served in the St. Paul Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall.

NEW PROJECT?

The National Trust for Historic Preservation annually lists the "11 Most Endangered Places in the US". Not all are saved but recognition is brought before the public which in turn promotes support for historic preservation. Are there "11 Most Endangered Places in Livingston County"? Send your nominations to the Society for possible inclusion in our list.

Dates to Remember:



Sept. *4, 11, 18, 25: 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration. Wear your working duds.

*5, 12, 19, 26: 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing. Welcome.

23: 7 p.m. Society Board Meets. Welcome.

28: 8-4. Help in Society booth at the Harvest Fair, Main Street.

*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

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.

MEMBERSHIPS

Pat & Josie Arnold (03), *A.J. Terry Brown (CA), Doris Housner (03), *Bill & Nancy Schlagel.

*A hearty welcome to new members Terry Brown and Bill and Nancy Schlagel. New and renewing members give the Society board encouragement to continue; that the Society's mission is important to others also.

Time is fleeting; in a few months the annual review of the mailing list must be made. If interest in supporting the Society is not evident via membership or donation it must be assumed the newsletter is of no interest. Policy dictates removal of the address label. Members should not be expected to subsidize uninterested persons. If the mission is of importance to you follow up with a donation, an offer to help and/or membership.

Changes of address information is appreciated.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...John & Janice Field, June Kimble and Shirley Ritter for their help in mailing the August newsletter.

...New members Bill & Nancy Schlagel and Terry Brown for donations with their memberships.

...Doris Singer (Grand Rapids) for the dictionary she won in the 1942 Detroit News spelling Bee at Lyons School.

...St. Paul's Episcopal Church for use of their fellowship hall and Sheryl Vigmostad for the program for the historic marker dedication at the Old Village Cemetery.

...Art Fair booth helpers Bonnie Corrigan, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Tom Reinke.

...Bruce Owens for donating the hand made rocking motorcycle as a fund raiser.

...Dick Weaire for donating a podium and to Dick and Jim DeJohn for their continued work on the Lyons School restoration and maintenance.

...Tillie Bitten for sharing her family's genealogy with us.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Over the years a number of photos, artifacts and written material has been acquired. To gain the most benefit they are being inventoried and filed. You can help. Archival storage boxes are also needed. You can buy or make a donation.

HISTORY BOOK: Activity ongoing.

LYONS SCHOOL: The recitation bench will have legs soon as will other desks. The metal parts are being prepared (not inexpensive) for painting. Window painting can use help.

BOARD ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

All positions on the board are one year terms. All officers and director positions need nominees. What is an officer's responsibility? The president presides. The V.P. can take over if necessary, the secretary records meeting decisions and the treasurer records income and pays bills. Directors direct Society administration including funding, determining and supporting projects in fulfilling the Society's mission. Consider dedicating a year to board membership. Your input, your time, your energy are all needed to assure the Society's viability and effectiveness. Long time, even local, residence is not a requirement. If the regular board meeting date is impossible for you a change will be considered. (4th Monday, 7 p.m.)

HARVEST FAIR, SEPTEMBER 28

We need help in the Society booth at the Harvest Fair, September 28, 8-4. One, two hours or whatever. 810/229-6402 to reserve your time, please.

The Society extends sympathy to the family of HERBERT WARNER

A Brighton native, Lyons School alumnus
BHS class of 1932, Society member
Active in restoration of Lyons School
Often answered researchers' questions

...MORE THANKS

...Bill and Jackie Armstrong for their donation to Lyons School restoration in memory of Herb Warner, Alumnus.

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)

QUES: () \$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.

**Brighton Area Historical Society
Fund Raiser**

- 1st Prize - Motorcycle Rocker
- 2nd Prize - Restored School Desk
- 3rd Prize - Afgan or 5 Scenic Tiles



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.

September 28, 8/5 p.m. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Workshop. Michigan History Center, Lansing. Registration deadline September 13, \$12.00. 517/373-1630.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE CAMPBELLTOWN MILL

Bradford Campbell (b. 1804) and Henrietta (b. 1805) of New York, arrived in Hamburg Township, Livingston County in the mid 1830s. With them came seven children, three boys and four girls. The 1840 census tells us an elderly mother came also. The purchase of NE/NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Hamburg Township is recorded on December 9, 1836. At that point Ore Creek flows through a gravel moraine from which aggregate materials were quarried.

It was 1841, when Campbell and partner Abel Peck constructed a dam across Ore Creek; on the south side of Hamburg Road and its junction with Maltby Road, a half mile north of Ore Lake. Within the year Campbell, a miller, had his grain/grist mill erected on the creek. (One of the several millers taking advantage of the power of the stream to grind grain and saw lumber.)

By 1850, Bradford and Harriet, with daughters Mary 25, Rachael 18, Helen 14 and son, Archa 16 (recorded as a miller also) were firmly established in Hamburg Township. The grain mill had many customers from the farms for miles around. A distillery was also built but burned some years later.

1860 finds them running the mill. Daughter, Rachael and her husband, John Cavel a miller, with four month old William, are living with her parents. Also Mary Neeley 16 and Thomas Peck 17, a son of Able.

Through the years Bradford had purchased several other 40 acre parcels in the area. After Bradford's death in 1864, Henriette appears to have returned to New York. She sold some Hamburg Township property in 1876 while living in Painted Post, Stueben County, N.Y. (A Solomon A. Campbell and wife, Emaline, acquire the mill property March 26, 1864, selling the same year. They are also of Painted Post. Solomon may well have been an older son.)

December 17, 1864, Emil Bode is owner of record of the mill property, until he sold to Luther Moon January 19, 1869. A few months later Moon sells to Almon Maltby May 19, 1870. (Maltby had constructed the saw mill in Brighton in 1833 on Ore Creek.) By 1877 the mill is sold again. The Toncray brothers (by 1880 Hunsey Toncray is running the mill), then James Pearson, then George Killin are successive owners. A source indicates the mill was in operation in 1907. Over the years the dam had collapsed several times but was always rebuilt (until the last time). The May 1, 1912, issue of the Brighton Argus notes the sale of the Campbell mill property to Carl Conrad of Brighton. He planned to build an electric light and power plant expecting to supply the citizens of Brighton three miles away. The actual demise of the mill, whether by fire, neglect or demolition still needs to be determined. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Census records; 1880 History of Livingston County; "Hamburg Memories" by Joyce DeWolf Terry; Brighton Argus May, 1972; and "Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County" and "First Landowners of Livingston County" by Milton Charboneau. Photos, information, etc., welcomed.)