



## 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

April 2003  
Vol. XXII No. 4

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### ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RESTORATION vs DEMOLITION

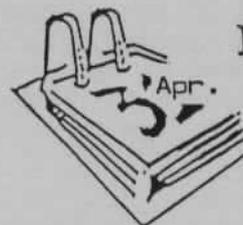
People are attracted to well preserved historic cities, towns and rural areas. To allow the deterioration of established neighborhoods or the disintegration of downtown residential and business sites, is poor planning. Rehabilitation costs less than new; creates more jobs than new; and conserves materials. It's the ultimate form of recycling while maintaining a cherished part of our past.

Why is it that preservationists are forced to shoulder the burden of proof that the destruction of an older building can result in environmental damage and loss of sense of place? Shouldn't planners be required to shoulder the burden of proof demolition is to be desired instead of preservation? Isn't there something transposed here?

Yes, it takes more creativity to preserve but the accompanying community-wide benefits of less environmental damage, the use of existing infrastructure, the returning of life to neighborhoods, must also be evaluated and considered.

Presently various early structures in the area are being razed or so changed all historical, architectural and cultural connections are lost. It is recognized not all are of such architectural significance which makes one exclaim, "Wow! What a classic." ( Not all of today's construction will rate a "Wow!", 80-100 years from now.)

The economics of preservation make sound financial sense. Preservation is investment in areas where infrastructure and services are in place. Recycled existing buildings improve property values nearby. These are tangible economic rewards. Any other consideration suggests prodigious waste. Tomorrow how will we answer, "But where is your history?"



### Dates to Remember:

- \*9,16,23,30: 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration/ Maintenance continues. You can help.
  - \*10,17,24: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
  - \*21: 7 p.m. Society board meets.
- NOTE DATE CHANGE! Public welcome.

\*Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Ron Morey (Milan), Doug & Carol Rearick, Pat & March White ('04).

COUPLES/INDIV: John Allen (FL), Alene Anderson, Janet Baldinger, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Ron & Cathy Doughty, Libby Eisenhardt, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Ruth Munzel (S.Lyon), Marty & Lee Pawlak, John & Lisa Palermo (Howell), Shirley Ritter, Lorry Wagner, Bill & Charmaine Zink.

These have expressed their support of the Society and its mission. If this issue of Trail Tales is stamped "Complementary Copy" please know your membership is vital to the continued existence of the society. If you are able also to be actively involved an opportunity will be provided.

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THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...John & Janice Field, Norma Jean Pless and Jane Tomlinson for helping put the March issue in the mail.

Janet Baldinger and Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan for their added contribution with their dues.

...Harold Crane of Crane Printing and Jeanette Johnson for responding overwhelmingly to the need of business envelopes.

...Richard Mullany of North Carolina, for slides of earlier Brighton. They make a fine addition to the Archives.

...Jane Brennan for her donation for assistance with a class paper she is preparing on early schools. We are promised a copy upon completion.

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NEEDED      NEEDED      NEEDED

...photos of local sites, events, people, etc., to help make the archives more complete.

...Farmstead Survey Project Volunteers. 'How to' help is available.

...Raffle items as fund raisers.

...Someone to serve as fund raising chairman or someone to be responsible for conducting bake sales, garage sales, home tours, dinners, booth tender at Farmers' Market/Art Fair, etc.

A store manager willing to stock/sell society coverlets, pillows or other items listed on page 3.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The Society Archives Policy reminds one of the need to compile material relating to the area's history, early and late. Progress at the weekly meetings at Lyon School is indicated by the many notebooks and files being assembled. Queries about local history, regularly received, can be more readily answered.

HISTORY BOOK: Editing is continuing and publication being pursued.

LYON SCHOOL: Spring has sprung and the drain is working.

A means of retying the bell rope is under investigation. A secure door for the north entrance and a smooth surface for school buses near the gate are being researched as is a means of outlining the corners of the property. The expense of restoration of the old stove puts that project on the back burner. However, even in its present state, it adds authenticity to the school room thanks to Dick Weaire adding stove pipe. CALL 810/229-6402 to schedule a visit or a meeting of your group(s).

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## BYLAWS REVIEW UNDERWAY

To regularly review its bylaws indicates a society which realizes change is the only thing constant. The committee of Secretary Reinke, Treasurer Kinsey and President Bair has distributed proposed bylaw changes to the board. Before the Annual Meeting in November copies will be issued to all members for review and comments prior to the vote.

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## NOTE! BOARD MEETING DATES CHANGED NOTE!

Due to spring holidays and five Mondays in April, board meeting dates have been changed. The April meeting will be Monday, April 21, 7 p.m.; the May meeting will be May 19, 7 p.m. All at the Lyon School. You are welcome.

## 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

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg of 6/\$3.; NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50 pkg; MUGS A \$5.; TOTE BAGS @ \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ \$8.; all show the Old Town Hall.PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Brighton @ \$1.00. A TAPES-TRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ \$30.00. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49.00. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.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. This quilt will remain 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 and Main Street Cafe 440 W. Main have them in stock. \$8.00 or \$3/\$21.00.

## WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 11,12, Local History Conference. Wayne State University, with a special Local Historical Societies Round Table. Marieanna Bair will be in attendance. Call 801/229-6402 to join her.

April 19, 9:30-2:30. Historical Society of Michigan workshop: "How to Dientify, Mend, Collect and Care For VALuable Volumes, at the Tuomy House on Washtenw Ave., Ann Arbor. Fax 517/324-4370 For more info.

May 1, 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society. "German Research" John Doherty. LDS church, 1041 W. Grand River., Howell.

May 8, 10-4 p.,m. Brighton Garden Club wildflower sale. Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St. No fee. 810/227-2140.

May 10. Michigan One-Room School-house Conference. Porter Hall, EMU. MORSA, 20501 Newburgh Rd., Livonia 48152-1098 for info.

## BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody (3), The Fence Spot (3). The support and confidence of these noted is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.

MORE MERGING BUSINESSES (From another society's newsletter)

ZIPPO MANUFACTURING, AUDI, DOFASCO and DAKOTA MINING (Zip Audi Do-Da.)

NETSCAPE and YAHOO (Net n'Yahoo - the Israeli branch.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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### THE LYON FAMILY BRAVES THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS

Long before the Industrial Revolution of the mid to late 19th century tailors, silversmiths, gold beaters, carvers, upholsterers, furniture makers, cabinet makers, carpenters, etc., worked with their hands to produce a product. For economic, cultural and social support guilds were formed in large cities in the east, consisting of these artisans. That of New York City included Richard J. Lyon, a goldbeater, even though he came from a farming background in New Jersey.

With the opening of the Erie Canal, from Albany, New York, over the Appalachian Mountains to Buffalo in 1825, the rush for western lands was on. Even before statehood in 1837, Michigan was the goal of many. Large cities were not healthful places to live and were crowded. A cholera epidemic in 1833, added to the desire to head west, even overcoming the white populations' fears of Indians, especially Chief Black Hawk, whose reputation was fearful.

Richard Lyon was highly respected and trusted by his fellow guild members for his sense of responsibility, trustworthiness and honesty. In 1835, while yet in New York he bought 440 acres in Brighton Township. (Still a part of Green Oak Township until 1837.) Of his fellow guild members 25 entrusted him with \$8000.00 to select 100s of acres for them. He came to the area personally in 1836, again with \$8000.00, and purchased 20,000 acres in the county in their stead. A few joined him that year to begin clearing land in order to farm. William Paul, a carver and gilder, found his property consisted mainly of a lake (Hope Lake). This he sold in 1837 and he returned to New York City. Another, William Valentine, did build a log cabin, realized he wasn't cut out to be a farmer and sold his property to Lyon. Valentine's fellow guild members raised sufficient funds to pay his way back. However a few years later, he returns to Brighton Township.

1837, finds Richard Lyon, with a pregnant Martha and two small children, in Detroit, getting ready to walk to Brighton Township over a barely discernible trail. We learn he bought two farm wagons, each pulled by a yoke of oxen, three milk cows with calves and he hired a man to help him clear his land. Joining him were Samuel M. and William S. Conely, Evander D. Fisher, William T. Tunis and Orlando Rogers. They also must have purchased supplies and equipment as did Lyon. June 16, 1837, the group left Detroit and arrived in the township June 19, a distance of 40 miles. October 1, 1837, Martha delivered a son, Richard J., to join his sisters, Sarah and Martha. To be continued. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from "Early Landowners and Settlers", "First Landowners in Livingston County" and Obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Also census records and Ellis' 1880 History of Livingston County.)