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 overcoating 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 his clear his land. Joining him were Samuel M. and William S. Corey, Enderon O. Fisher, William T. Turin and Orlando Rogers. They also must have purchased supplies and equipment as did Lyon. June 15, 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 Marleanna Blair from "Early Landowners and Settlers", "First Landowners in Livingston County" and Obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Also census records and Ellis' 1880 History of Livingston County.)
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: Bernie S Bonnie Corrigan, Ron Morey (Milan), Doug & Carol Nesbick, Pat & March White (Huron),
COUPLES/INDIVIDUALS: John Allen (FL),
Alane Anderson, Janet Baldinger,
Joe S Pauline Chrenowath, Ron S Cathy Doughty, Libby Eisenhower, Bob S
Betsy Herbst, Ruth Munzel (S. Lyon),
Marty & Lee Pawlik, John & Lisa
Pajerske (Howell), Shirley Bitter,
Larry Wagner, Bill S Chemaine 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 to be actively involved an opportunity will be provided.

THANKS

•...John J Janis Field, Norma Jean Pleiss and Jane Tomlinson for helping put the March issue in the mail.
•Janet Baldinger and Bernie S Bonnie Corrigan for their added contribution with their dues.
•...Harold Crane of Crane Printing and Jeannette Johnson for responding overwhelmingly to the need of business envelopes.
•...Richard Mullary 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.

AND HISTORY BOOK: Editing is continuing and publication being pursued.

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

A means of retrying 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 Weare.

LETTER FROM ROSE: Bylaws Review Underway

To regularly review its bylaws indicates a society which realizes change is the only thing constant. The Committee of Secretary Raines, 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.

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 24, 7 p.m.; the May meeting will be May 19, 7 p.m. All at the Lyon School. You are welcome.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 11, 12, Local History Conference. Wayne State University, with a special Local Historical Societies Round Table. Marisanna Bair will be in attendance. Call 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

For $10.00 your signature, or that of another of your choices will be embroidered on the Signature Quilt. A file of signatures of 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 484 W. Main have them in stock. $6.00 or $3/$2/1.00.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME__________________________
ADDRESS__________________________

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $20.00 Student (K-12, College)
( ) $50.00 Bus/Prof. ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $50.00 Life

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $500.00 Other

号楼 SOCIETY: $25.00. The Society is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization.


FUND RAISING PROJECTS: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Maple Syrup, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Card, Signature Quilt, Special Events, One Bag, Pillows.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY: Board/Officers/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg.
OF 10/$3.00; NOTE PAPER @ $2.50/pkg; MUGS
A $5.; TOTE BAGS @ $5.; NEEDLEPOINT
KITS @ $5. all show the Old Town Hall.
PHOTO MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green
Oak and Hamburg Townships, 1877 and a
1915 map of Brighton @ $10.00. A TAPESTRY
PILLOW depicting the railroad depot and train @ $30.00. APPLIQUES red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ $49.00. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

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

MORE HERITAGE BUSINESSES (From another society's newsletter)

ZIPPO MANUFACTURING, AUDI, DODGE
and DAKOTA MINING (Zip Audi Co-Direct)
NATAPACE AND YAHOO (Net n'Yahoo - the Israeli branch.)
MEmBERSHIPs

PATRONS: Bernie S Bonnie Corrigan, Ron Morey (Milan), Doug & Carol Negrilck, Pat & March White (Mio).


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

THANKS

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

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

...Harold Crane of Crane Printing and Jeannette 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.

NEEDED

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

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

...Raffle items as fund raisers.

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

...store manager willing to stock/sell society coversets, 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 Weare's adding stove pipe. CALL 810/229-6402 to schedule a visit or a meeting of your group(s).

BYLAWS REVIEW UNDERWAY

To regularly review its bylaws indicates a society which realizes change is the only thing constant. The committee of Secretary Reiks, 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.

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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 11, 12, Local History Conference. Wayne State University, with a special Local Historical Societies Round Table. Marisanna Bair will be in attendance. Call 810/229-6403 to join her.

April 19, 9:30-2:30, Historical Society of Michigan workshop: "How to Identify, Mend, Collect and Care For Valuable Items," at the Tuane House on Hashtaw Ave., Ann Arbor. Fax 517/334-6370 for more info.

May 1, 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society. "German Re-Union" John Denecker, LDS church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

May 8, 10-4 p.m. Brighton Garden Club "flower" sale. Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St. No fee. 810/379-3440.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

Send membership card? (Y) Yes (N) No


( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $20.00 Student (K-12, College) ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $50.00 Life

( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) Other

( ) Fund Raising Projects: Books, Socks, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillows, Administration of the Society: Board/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg of 8/$3; NICE PAPER @ $2.50 pkg; MUGS A $5.; TOTE BAGS $15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ $8.; all show the Old Town Hall. PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genesee, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Brighton @ $1.00. A TAPESTRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ $30.00. APHANS, 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 480 W. Main have them in stock. $6.00 or $8/$21.00.


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, DODGECAR AND JADAUTIA MINING (Zip Audi Do-It.) NETSCAPE and YAHOO (Net n'Yahoo- the Israeli branch.)
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 overwhelming 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 glider, 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. Corey, Evarnder O. Fisher, William T. Turis and Orlando Rogers. They also must have purchased supplies and equipment as did Lyon. June 15, 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 Marleanna Blair from "Early Landowners and Settlers", "First Landowners in Livingston County" and Obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Also census records and Ellis' 1860 History of Livingston County.)