



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

August 2003
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF AN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION?

The essence of stability is a common perception experienced in the Brighton area. Much of this can be attributed to the existence of historic resources. To safeguard these historic resources local historic district commissions can be established.

Citizens of a governmental entity, i.e. Brighton, Genoa and Hamburg Townships and Brighton City must make their desires for historic preservation known to their governments requesting the appointment of a historic district study committee. (Green Oak Township has an historic district commission in place.) Following extensive research these historic resources are identified. These can include architecture, archeology, culture, etc.

The perception of the traditional aspect of living in this area can only be insured by the enactment of historic district designations. One does not have to own an older structure to care about the preservation of early buildings and other historic features. Their destruction, inappropriate changes, etc., affect the entire community in which we live.

The protection of existing historic properties requires regulations controlling changes as to construction, addition, alterations, moving, etc., of these resources. Also included are the removal of distinctive architectural features, inappropriate additions, or inappropriate color schemes, etc.; all of which can affect the value of your property. Establishment of historic districts is definitely to the advantage of those owning properties in the area.

The seemingly wanton, ongoing destruction of historic resources in the area is alarming. Demolition by neglect is just as damaging, and can as adversely affect a resource, as outright demolition. Establishment of an historic district can prevent demolition of an historic resource.

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Dates to Remember:

Aug. *13: 7 p.m. Dedication of heritage tree.
PUBLIC WELCOME!

*20,27: 7 p.m. School restoration/
maintenance continues. Welcome.

*14,21,28: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.

*25: 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Jerry & Lisa Cave and Gilluly-Kingsley Camp #120, SUVCW.

COUPLES/INDIV: Pat & Josie Arnold, Carolina DeLuca, Dorothy Foster (CA), Jeanette Johnson (04), Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Stephen Leith, *Mary P. Noeker (CA), Harold Salow, *Mr. & Mrs. David Schoewe, Bill & Nancy Schlagel.

*A sincere welcome to Mary Noeker and the Schoewes as new members. Those to whom the mission of the society is important are encouraged by new memberships and renewals. This is one means that those who agree with the value of this mission demonstrate in a positive manner.

If this issue of Trail Tales has a 'Complementary Copy' stamped on it, membership has not been brought up to date. Use of the form on page 3 can rectify this. Support of the society, in this manner or another, is vital to the life of the society. Remember, attendance at board meetings is welcomed.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, John & Janice Field for their help getting the July issue of Trail Tales in the mail.

...The Fields and Mindy Kinsey for serving as docents at the Lyon School when the Livingston County Genealogical Society met in July. CALL 810/229-6402 to help as a docent.

...Members of the Livingston County Woodcraft Guild Bob Penfil, Harold Salow and Mel Sanch for the two bat houses.

...Carolina DeLuca, Jeanette Johnson, Mary Pat Noeker (CA), Harold Salow, Bill & Nancy Schlagel, Mr. & Mrs. David Schoewe for the donations accompanying their dues checks.

...Stephen Leith for funds for a box of mailing labels.

...Jerry & Lisa Cave for funds for a copier cartridge.

...Brighton Area Schools for a donation following a presentation to Maltby Middle School 7th grade.

...Dick Smith for five reams of paper.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The I.D. and filing of photos and information is ongoing. The society scrapbook is growing, as is the Lyon School scrap book. Want to see them? Information on various organizations, events, local sites, occupations, developments, transportation, etc., is compiled and filed. Any pictures, references, etc., you can contribute will be gladly received. (copies too)

HISTORY BOOK: Review of the final form in which it will be offered is underway. This review is very important and time consuming.

LYON SCHOOL: Shopping for a steel door, 41.5" wide is continuing. The present door is inadequate and needs replacement.

Eagle Scout applicant Noah Winchel, and his crew, have nearly completed the painting of the exterior. A job well done. People are needed to paint the sash to finish this important maintenance procedure.

Wednesday work schedule, 7-9 p.m., is continuing. Desks need refinishing, bottom board of the ramp needs to be raised to allow for leaves to blow through; porch lights need better connections; the corners of the property need better definition, gables need repair; removal of vines from the fence. Lots to do. Come and help.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...A merchant to stock coverlets, with nine sites woven in, and/or pillows, displaying railroad depot, for the Society. These are fund raising items (and they really look good).

...People to help greet passersby at the society booth at the Art Fair, Aug. 9, 10-6 p.m. and the 10th, 10-5 p.m. Call 810/229-6402 to schedule. (Membership not a requirement, nor is long time residency. Your smiling face is vital.)

...People to serve on the society board or committees, i.e. fund raising, Lyon School, archives, publicity, etc.

...Jim DeJohn for a viewing screen.

...Dick Weaire - removed tree branches which obstructed the view of oncoming traffic at the school on Buno Road.

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 @ \$5.; TOTEBAGS @ \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ \$8.; all show the Old Town Hall.

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township, 1875, and a 1915 map of Brighton @ \$1. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49. TAPESTRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ \$30. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

For \$10. your signature, or that of another of your choice will be embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A collection 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"x6" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main and Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Aug 13, 7 p.m. Dedication of a native tree, a tulip tree, planted in the Lyon School yard by the Michigan State University Coop Extension Service. This is an appropriate addition to this historic site. Info: 734/498-3322.

Aug. 16, Noon-4 p.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society hosts the annual Green Oak Day at the Historic Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road. A picnic lunch, compliments of the Society, will be followed with a program on hats and a tour of the 1856 Hall. Info: 810/231-3471 or e-mail JoWilliams@aol.com.

Sept. 13-14: Brighton First Presbyterian Church extends a special invitation to Brighton Area Historical Society members and readers of Trail Tales, to help observe the 150th anniversary. Included are a

concert of 1850s music and historical displays. Tickets for the commemorative dinner are available. Info: 810/229-6696 or 810/227-7411.

Sept. 20, 6 p.m. Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association is holding its annual all alumni dinner at the high school cafeteria, 7878 Brighton Rd. Reservation deadline Sept. 5. Send \$20.00 each to BASAA, P.O. Box 1163, Brighton, 48116. Info: 810/229-6147 or 810/229-6402.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, The Fence Spot, Lawrence Autobody. The continued support and confidence of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please. The support of others in the community is most welcome.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE GRANT S. BURGESS STORE ON MAIN STREET

Anyone not interested in hard work did not last long in the Michigan Territory. With his mother and stepfather Samuel Burgess's family came to stay. In 1826, with settlements few and far between, they came to Ann Arbor from New York. In 1833 Samuel moved to Putnam Township, Section 8, and purchased 80 acres December 12, 1835, none of which had been cleared of trees. (Only after clearing can farming commence.) When he sold it in 1854 "...every tree had been removed." A sign of great industry. In Handy Township, Sec. 24, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, he then purchased 160 acres and went to work to clear that land. (Dec. 6, 1854) Samuel owned several yoke of oxen and hired out to 'break' land. His death at age 53, 1861, was cited to have been caused by overwork.

Wife, Lucy Perry, also from New York, had the first of their five children in 1829. Grant S. was the third, born in 1844. For six years, after Samuel died, Grant worked for nearby farmers to help out with family finances. In 1866, at 22, he began clerking for William McPherson in his general store in Howell for 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

McPherson, brother Edward, and Hiram Smith (president of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad) purchased land in Brighton Village west of Ore Creek out to the Genoa Township border from F.T. Hyne in 1870. (Insider information is not new.) Platting of the Smith-McPherson Addition was instantly underway. By the time the railroad arrived business sites were being sold. A general store, two stores wide (SW corner W. Main and Hyne St.) was commenced. Grant Burgess accepted the opportunity to purchase a share of the store and became its manager. In 1888 G.S. Burgess and Co. was on the store's marquee. Ads of the time tell of the "...dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, caps and clothing..." available.

Grant and Sarah Jenks were married January 16, 1873, and moved to their new home in Brighton in 1874. Grant served on the school board for 20 years. In 1890 his tax bill was \$75.77. Sarah was one of 13 who organized the Brighton Baptist Church in 1874. One source reads "He (Grant) is liberal in his religious views, but his wife is a member of the Baptist Church." Following an accident while returning from an errand of mercy to a family in Hamburg, Sarah died February 15, 1900. Brighton businesses closed and the church was overflowing with mourners. Of their five children, their only daughter died at the age of two in 1881. The four sons matured and moved to: Ohio, Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Three years after Sarah died Grant sold the store to an S.B. Rice. Mr & Mrs John Strick became owners in 1910. (For over 40 years the legacy of the general store continued.) The building, over 130 years old is still a viable reminder of Brighton's past. Grant was with Lantie in S. D. at the time of his death April 18, 1919. Grant, Sarah and Amelia are interred at the Brighton Village Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1880 Hist. of Liv. Co.: census records; 1891 Bio/Photo Album; 1946 Homecoming booklet; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)