Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

January 2003
Vol. XXII No. 1

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

2003 WILL END????

Last month's issue referred to a successful 2002. For 2003 the emphasis on preserving, advancing and disseminating knowledge of the history of the area will continue to be foremost. Collecting, archiving and displaying items of historic value will continue.

Public awareness of the decidedly positive impact this mission has on where we live, work and play will be increased. Meaningful publicity will enable us to better understand who we were and how we've become the people we are today.

The recent, and continuing, restoration/preservation of the rural one-room Lyons School in Brighton Township contributes a positive impression on this community, not only economically but emotionally and psychologically. The community becomes more livable.

Also, much physical evidence of the early settlers has disappeared in the name of modernization/progress, many of us understand the importance and relevance of historic preservation to our quality of life.

Projects such as Oral History, Historic Resource Survey, Farmstead Survey, Lyons School (and its dedication to the community and elementary school children, especially) continued development of archives and the transcription of local cemeteries will all continue as vital projects. Preparation of a slide or video of historic sites and offering public programs of historic value will be promoted.

The public, not only society members, will be given opportunity to aid in the fulfillment of the mission of the society, be it actual or financial. We're ready for 2003!

Dates to Remember:
Jan. 6, 8, 23, 31: 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration/ maintenance continues. You can help.
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30: 1-3 p.m. Archives Filling welcoming. Welcome, 810/229-6402 to confirm.
Jan. 15, 27: 7 p.m. Society board meets.
Public welcome.
6: 11, 30. Society represented at Livingston County Newcomers' Claro Amici's.

CHARLES EDWARD PLACEWAY AND THE BRIGHTON ARMS

Early settlers from New York, Joseph Placeway and wife Ann Maria, with daughters Mary (2) and Mathilda (1), purchased 200 acres in Genoa in 1836. The following year, Joseph Edward was born followed by George and John. Joseph Edward married Emily Jane Smith, born in Plymouth, daughter of another early settler.

Joseph E. and Emily had three children, Charles Edward, Jennie and William. At the time of Charles E.'s birth, October 13, 1860, the family was in Hamburg Township on a farm. By 1867 the family lived in Brighton Village. Charles E. graduated from Brighton High School in 1874. His education was furthered at the "University in Ann Arbor." His father served for 15 years in the Civil War with the 3rd Michigan Cavalry.

Both uncles also heard duty's call. Several ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

Charles E., at 15 years, began learning the newspaper publishing business by working for George Axtell, owner of the "Brighton Citizen", established in 1873. In 1877, he's with the "Ann Arbor Courier". A year later Charles established the first paper in South Lyon, the "South Lyon News". By 1879 the "Plainview Gazette" up and running. He was now 19. Having purchased the contents of the office of the "Brighton Citizen", he sold both of these papers and established the "Brighton Arms". He published the Argus until 1897 when he sold to Town and Jacobs. In five years Seth Jacobs bought Town's Interest.

Charles E. did find time to woo and wed neighbor Alta E. Case, daughter of merchant Ira Case, October 10, 1881. They lived in the house built by Daniel Manz "in an early day", on the corner of Rickett and Grand River. He also found opportunity to serve four years as township clerk, three as village clerk and four as school inspector. Charles and Alta had three children, William E., Edna S. and Gertrude. William E. married Iva Mackvay in Toledo and had a career as a reporter for a Detroit paper. Edna S. became Mrs. Edward Grout and Gertrude, Mrs. Clifford Roberts (who built the Rising Theater on W. Main in 1916). After retiring from the Argus, Charles E. became a real estate agent. For about 15 years he'd been an auctioneer. After Alta's death April 28, 1910, of heart trouble, Charles married Abigail Buck Lyons, widow of William C. Lyons, son of Richard J. and Martha Lyons, pioneers in Brighton Township. February 8, 1919 Charles died from a stomach ailment. He and Alta are buried at Calvary Cemetery. Abigail died eight months later and is buried with William Lyons just two lots away. (Compiled by Marisol Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Carlshon and Case Genealogy by Stephen Lath. Additions/corrections welcome, 810/229-6402.)
Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Bright Area Historical Society. Please fill out the membership form below and mail it to the Society's address.

**BRIGHT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM**

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:** (Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

( ) New ( ) Renewal. Your help is needed with: Historic Preservation Projects, fund raising projects. (Please write your preference in the blank below)

**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 ( ) No Other.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Income Tax Deductible Organization.


**Fundraising Projects:** Bake Sale, Coverlettes, Home Tour, Museum, 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 2/$3.00, NOTE PAPER @ $2.50 pkg; MUGS A $5.00, TOTE BAG @ $15.00; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ $8.00; all show the Old Town Hall. PLAT MAPS of Brightown, Genoa, Green Oak and Hastings Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Bright Town $1.00. A TAPESTRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ $30.00. AMETHYST-RED, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ $49.00. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

---

**OTHER PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS**

Jan. 17, 18: Saline Area Historical Society hosts 2nd Annual Antiques Show at the Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor. Saline at Pleasant Lake Rd. 3:00 am. 734/429-3164 or 734/994-0713.

Feb. 13, 7:30: Plymouth Historical Society program "How to Split the Sticks" at the museum, 155 S. Main.


---

**SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Consider a gift membership in the Bright Area Historical Society for a friend in 2005.
MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Lawrence Autobody.

PATRON: Tillie Bitten, Emil S. Joan Engel, Whitney S. June Kibble

COUPLES/INDIV: Don S. Roci Jo Bandi, Nancy Fredenburg, Shirley Jenks [House 04], David Lehman [Harold Leitz, Helen Leitz (Orbrrn), Brenda McCarver, Helen Michaels, Todd S. Linda Potter, Richard S. Mary Ray, Jennifer Scott (gift from Nancy Fredenburg), Rev. Don Thomas (Mio), Bill S. Bill Valiex, Randall S. Kyle Wilson.

Renewing members are the life blood of any organization. This historical society could not exist without them. The year through which your dues are paid is noted on the address label. The mailing list is being reviewed. There’s no point in mailing to someone uninterested. If you find an error, let us know.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, John S. Janice Field, and June Kibble for help in mailing the December newsletter.

...those who notify us of address changes.

...Don S. Roci Jo Bandi, Tillie Bitten, Shirley Jenks, Lawrence Autobody, David Lehman, Brenda McCarver, Helen Michaels, Todd S. Linda Potter, Rev. Don Thomas for the extra donation with their dues.

...Stephen Leith for Case family group sheets and Pardee genealogy.

...Helen Leitz is a charter member of the Friends of the Lyons School and sent an extra donation.

...Bob Watson for group sheet for Emil Bodie Family. (Campbelltown Mill item October, 2003)

...New and continuing members of the Society board. A caring and diligent group.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody (O3), The Fence Spot, The support of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Need color cartridge for Canon CD90D. (or Funds to purchase.)

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: The history of area area business sites is an important part of documenting earlier times. Your help is welcomed. Pictures and information are needed.

LYONS SCHOOL: Historic pictures of the area are on display. The museum area has been rearranged and the pot belly stove moved into the school room. A gutter has been installed over the door at the top of the ramp. All this, thanks to Dick Walle.

ORAL HISTORY: People with memories of life in this area are still around. Recording of these memories will provide documentation to the mission of the society. Equipment and ‘how to’ help is available.

NEEDED

...bluebird houses for the school yard.

...early style desks for the Lyons School.

...farmstead survey volunteer.

...‘how to’ help is available.

...raffle items as a fund raiser.

...postage stamps and business envelopes for administrative needs.

To participate with any of the projects or needs above contact 810/229-6402, or any of those listed on page one.

NEED A PROGRAM? WANT A TOUR?

Various organizations, scouting groups and students have visited the Lyons School. Would your organization care for a program on local history? Contact Bair, 810/229-6402 to make arrangements.

ALONG THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL?

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Michigan 48116-0481

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No


( ) Fund Raising Projects: Board/Office/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $20.00 Student (K-9, College)

( ) $50.00 Bus./Prof. ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $50.00 Life

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

The Society is a 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization.


Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverettes, Home Tour, Mega, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bag, Pillows.

Administration of the Society: Board/Office/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pic of 67-83; NOTE PAPER $2.50 pkg; NICE A $5.; TOLE BASE $15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS $8.; all show the Old Town Hall.

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak & Hartung Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Brighton $1.00. A TAPESTKY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train $30.00. ANTIQUE 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.

TEILES: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 8” square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main and Main Street Cafe 440 N. Main have them in stock. $8.00 or $35.00.

WITH OTHER PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

Jan. 17, 18: Saline Area Historical Society hosts 1st Annual Antique Show at the Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor/ Saline at Pleasant Lake Roads. $3.00 adm. 734/429-3164 or 734/944-0713.


Jan. 11, 10-2, $20.00 Cobblestone Farm Assault - Window Restoration workshop, learn proper repair methods. Pre-register, 734-594-2989.

Feb. 8, 10-2, $10.00 Cobblestone Farm Assault Historic Preservation workshop. Pre-register, 734/594-2989.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Consider a gift membership in the Brighton Area Historical Society for a friend in 2003.

DONATIONS TO SOCIETY INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Brighton Area Historical Society can accept stock as a donation. Donors will receive the income tax deduction when the shares are transferred to the society. Nancy Fredenburg can assist anyone that has a question regarding this procedure. Please call her at 248/985-3271.

CHARLES EDWARD PLACEWAY AND THE BRIGHTON ARMS

Early settlers from New York, Joseph Placeway and wife Ann Maria, with daughters Mary (2) and Mathilda (1), purchased 200 acres in Genoa in 1836. The following year, Joseph Edward was born followed by George and John. Joseph Edward married Emily Jane Smith, born in Plymouth, daughter of another early settler. Joseph E. and Emily had three children, Charles Edward, Jennie and William. At the time of Charles E.'s birth, October 13, 1860, the family was in Hamburg Township on a farm. By 1867 the family lived in Brighton Village. Charles E. graduated from Brighton High School in 1874. His education was furthered at the "University in Ann Arbor." His father served for 1½ years in the Civil War with the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. Both uncles also heard duty's call. Several ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

Charles E., at 15 years, began learning the newspaper publishing business by working for George Axtell, owner of the "Brighton Citizen", established in 1870. In 1877 he was with the "Ann Arbor Courier". A year later Charles established the first paper in South Lyon, the "South Lyon Herald". By 1879 the "Pinckney Gazette" up and running. He was now 19. Having purchased the contents of the office of the "Brighton Citizen", he sold both of these papers and established the "Brighton Argus". He published the Argus until 1897 when he sold to Town and Jacobs. In five years Seth Jacobs bought Town's Interest.

Charles E. did find time to woo and wed neighbor Alta E. Case, daughter of merchant Ira Case, October 10, 1901. They lived in the house built by Daniel Marsh "In an early day", on the corner of Rickett and Grand River. He also found opportunity to serve four years as Township Clerk, three as Village Clerk and four as School Inspector. Charles and Alta had three children, William E., Edna S. and Gertrude. William E. married Iva Macky in Toledo and had a career as a reporter for a Detroit paper. Edna S. became Mrs. Edward Grout and Gertrude, Mrs. Clifford Roberts (who built the Rialto Theater on W. Main in 1916) After retiring from the Argus, Charles E. became a real estate agent. For about 15 years he'd been an auctioneer. After Alta's death April 28, 1910, of heart trouble, Charles married Abigail Buck Lyons, widow of William C. Lyons, son of Richard J. and Martha Lyons, pioneers in Brighton Township. February 8, 1919 Charles died from a stomach ailment. He and Alta are buried at Calvary Cemetery. Abigail died eight months later and is buried with William Lyons just two lots away. (Compiled by Marleena Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Charbonneau and Case Genealogy by Stephen Laith. Additions/corrections welcome, 810/229-6402.)