

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

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

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THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION

OF THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Adopted in Congress 4 July, 1776

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect in the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.....

".....And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

The signers to this Declaration were well aware of the danger in which they and their families were placed. Over 25% of the signers were imprisoned or lost their entire fortunes dying destitute, nor were their families spared. Each of us, reaping the benefits of their bravery, has a responsibility to never let their efforts to have been in vain. Editor



Dates to Remember:

July *2,9,16,23,30: 7-9 p.m. Lyon School restoration/maintenance continues. You can help.

*3,10,17,24,31, 1-3. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.

*10, 6 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society meets. Public is welcome.

*24: 7 p.m. Society board meets. Tour at 6 p.m. Public is welcome at any or all of the above.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Bill & Barbara McCririe and Bill & Rosemary Ulmer.

Over 90% member renewals have been received for 2003. This kind of support is most important for this organization to exist and function. Member dues pay for printing/ mailing of Trail Tales, supplies, postage, operating fees (insurance, bonding, governmental & financial accounting, annual Post Office fees & box rent, etc.)

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. A 03, 04 or more indicates dues have been received for 2003, 2004, etc. A 'Complementary Copy' stamp means your financial support is needed as a member of Brighton Area Historical Society. (The next column gives opportunities for physical support also.)

If you believe an error has been made re: membership let us know. Address corrections are much appreciated, as is your patience.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Janice Field and June Kimble for their help with mailing the June issue of Trail Tales.

...Carol McCririe of McCririe & Associates, P.C. for her contribution to the Society in the compiling of financial records and keeping governmental reports up to date.

...Jim Katakowski for two small school desks and to Tom Longworth for a desk.

...Charter members to Friends of Lyon School.

...Noah Winchell and helpers for the fine job of painting Lyon School.

RURAL PROPERTY INVENTORY SURVEY

This survey, for which we've been searching, was undertaken to establish uniform assessment rates. The dearth of basic data was clear to tax administrators and government officials. Beginning late in 1935, it was sponsored by the State Tax Commission in cooperation with the WPA (Works Progress Administration). Besides compiling needed data surveyors, engineers, land appraisers and other trained citizens were given employment. This massive national undertaking con- (Cont. on page 3.)

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

LYON SCHOOL: Membership in the Friends of Lyon School is increasing. This is an opportunity to give extra financial support to the maintenance of the school, which goes on year after year. Charter Member rate is \$15. per individual or \$25. per family, payable to the Society. Thanks to those adding an extra donation.

A large, 41.5" wide steel door for the rear entrance is needed. 'Friends' donations will help purchase this before winter.

Bats have made a home in the attic. Front and rear gables need to be replaced - after the bats leave for the night. Again 'Friends' contributions will be used.

The MSU Extension Service Council will be dedicating a heritage tree, a tulip tree, this month. It was planted on Lyon School grounds. This adds another learning tool.

Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., restoration of school desks is continuing. Wear your grubbies.

Displays in the museum area could benefit from attention. Is this your 'thing' perhaps?

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...bat house for Lyon School.

...materials and workers to install corners delineating property lines at the school.

...docents to help tell of the history of the school. Information will be provided. Call Marieanna Bair, 810/229-6402 to help.

...six to eight folding chairs to provide extra seating at the School. 810/229-6402.

...people to conduct a Society booth at this summer's Farmers' Market and/or Art Fair. Also items to be raffled or sold.

...Avery #5351 address labels or funds (c. \$30.00) to purchase.

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.

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.

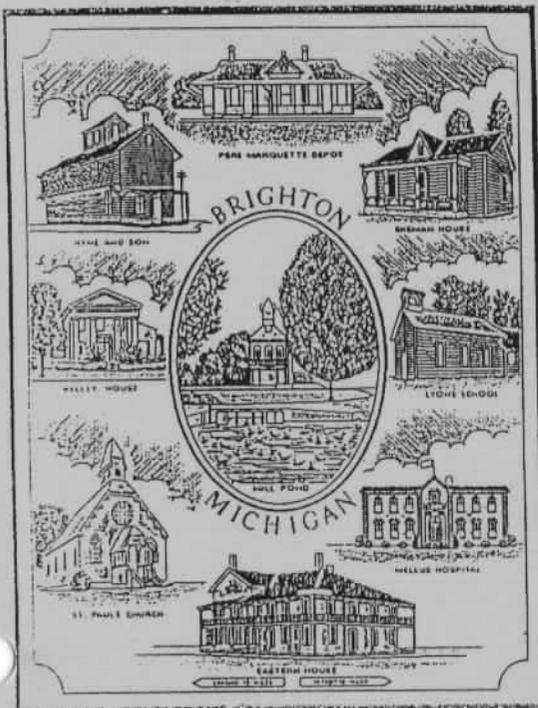
WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

July 25/27: Civil War Encampment. Waterloo Area Farm Museum. P.O. Box 37, Stockbridge, MI 48285.

Congratulations to Northville Historical Society. The city purchased an early prominent residence and donated it to the society for use as a museum.

(Cont. from page 2.)

tinued until 1942. Tho' now obsolete the data provide a sharp picture of Michigan rural life of over a half century ago. Records of 60 of Michigan's 83 counties are available for research in the State Archives. Livingston County is not one of the 60. What happened to our survey results? County Clerk, Assessor and Register of Deeds offices have no knowledge of this survey. Is it possible some of the township have theirs in a forgotten storage facility? The opportunity to peruse these would be beneficial to researchers. It would be good to have Livingston County in the State Archives.



Custom designed, jacquard woven. 50"x65", 100% cotton, washes beautifully and fringed. Made in USA. Great gift. \$49.00

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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FROM GERMANY TO GENOA, THE CONRAD FAMILY

Just before Christmas, 1832, a boat from Germany docked in New York harbor. Immigrants aboard included the Charles Conrad family. (His father, Jacob, a shoemaker, stayed in Germany as did a sister.) With wife Maria Catherine, sons Jacob (10), Charles (4), Phillip (1) and daughter Mary Magdelene (8), Charles lived in Albany and Montgomery, New York for three years. During this time daughter Elizabeth was born. His sister had lent him \$400.00 which he almost lost due to forgery in a bank in Albany. Other than that they had no funds. Assuming they traveled the Erie Canal a boat was boarded to cross Lake Erie to Detroit in 1835. Traveling by foot, he took up 80 acres in Section 23, Genoa Township: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, recorded June 6, 1836. In their new home his growing sons were called upon to provide labor in clearing land for farming. Son John was born in Michigan in 1842.

For several years son Jacob worked in Green Oak Township for \$4.00 per month. When Jacob reached 30 years he "...went to California by water." (Around the tip of South America.) For three years he received \$3.00 a day sowing wheat in the San Jose Valley. For a time he also worked in the Red Woods. His German ancestry and its characteristic attributes of frugality and economy, stood him in good stead. He headed back to Michigan in 1855, with enough cash to get himself started. Neighbor Elizabeth Dorr, born in New York, became his bride in 1856. Two sons, Louis and Henry, and three daughters, Caroline, Maria and Augusta were born to them. Louis and Henry married sisters, Lydia and Ida Gangnuss, respectively. (Daughters of Rev. Henry Gangnuss.) Caroline married William Musch, Maria and Augusta married brothers, Adam and Conrad Weber, respectively. One tended to marry those one met in school, church or who were neighbors. Among the charter members of St. George Lutheran Church of Genoa were Jacob and Elizabeth's fathers. They contributed funds to the construction of the second church on the corner of Crooked Lake and Bauer (Herbst and Hubert) Roads. Many of these folks and descendents are buried at the Lutheran cemetery on Herbst Road. Many still live in the area.

Purchasing land by paying overdue tax assessments Jacob soon acquired 400 acres. Included were about 60 acres on the east side of Crooked Lake. His farming consisted of wheat and stock. The arrival of the railroad ensured a convenient and sure means of getting both to market. Brothers Charles and Phillip also purchased land nearby. Charles and Otto Lahser of Redford bought the Conrad farm on Crooked Lake and Round Lake in 1917, selling lots. They sold to the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, who also bought around the south end, as a place of recreation for their employees and families. In 1981 Oak Pointe Development purchased the property. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; census records; Society archives; St. George Cemetery records; obituaries from the Brighton Argus and Early landowners and Settlers of Livingston County compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections? 810/229-6402.)