



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

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

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PRESERVATION IS AN ECONOMIC ATTRACTION

The quality of life in a community is what promotes economic growth in that community. The volume of newcomers to this area is a convincing factor that a certain quality of life is expected to be found here.

'Quality of life' includes the sense of community found when stability and order are evident. The presence of remaining historic structures promotes this sense of stability and order.

The loss of structures carrying the memories of what we were causes us to lose the sense of what we were and what we want to be. When these visible sources of memories are removed where is the connection to what we were?

'Memory' structures are not only homes. Depots, mills, meeting halls, banks, churches, schools, farmsteads, bridges, etc., all qualify as visible sources of memories. In attempts to be 'progressive' we often lose the very elements which determine the quality of life in the area. And there goes the economic attraction.



Dates to Remember:

- June *4,11,18,25, 7-9 p.m. Lyon School restoration/maintenance continues. You can help.
- *5,12,19,26, 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 8;10/229-6402 to confirm.
- *23, 7 p.m. Society board meets. Public welcome. Come at 6 for a tour.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIP

BUS/PROF: Advance Craft Home Builders.

PATRON: *Cub Scout Den 8, Pack 343, and Richard & Barbara Smith (04).

COUPLES/INDIV: Tim & Helen Hurst, *Judy Hicks Orlando (Washington), Ed and Connis Sherman and Sheryl Vigmostad.

*These new members are sincerely welcomed. Membership renewals are what keeps this organization vital. It's not required that one live in the area only that one cares and supports the mission of the Society.

Occasionally the correct year of membership is not noted on the address label. Thanks for bringing this to our attention (also address corrections). Your patience is appreciated.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John & Janice Field for their help in mailing the May issue of Trail Tales.

...Ed & Connie Sherman and Richard and Barbara Smith for extra donations with their dues.

...Dick Weaire for installing the new bird houses at the Lyon School. Come on bluebirds, come on wrens.

...Jim DeJohn for readying cast iron parts of school desks for sandblasting.

...Joanne Swonk for her work with the school children's visits to Lyon School. Much detail, communication, and personal push is involved.

...All the board members for their dedication to the mission of the Society.

SOCIETY IS HONORED AGAIN

As a part of the recent Michigan Week observance State Representative, Chris Ward, nominated the Society for the Community Achievement Award. Now there is another plaque on the wall at the Lyon School. It was presented in Marshall last month. The many who have contributed so much can take great pride in this award. 'Way to go!!!

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Each Thursday at Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, 1-3 p.m. the archives are being developed. Progress is being made toward filing so an item can be located when needed. Copies of your pictures, genealogical records, old abstracts, will be welcome additions.

LYON SCHOOL: Components for 11 school desks have been purchased. Donations may be made to the cost. Each Wednesday restoration is underway. Your help is needed. If another day/time is better, let us know. The sandblasting needed for the cast iron parts will be an expense also. Again, your donations will be helpful. A c. 41.5" wide steel door for the rear entrance is needed. Let us know if you have one. The MSU Cooperative Extension Service will be planting a heritage tree, a tulip tree, in the school yard. The dedication will be open to the public. These kinds of events make the Society better known in the area. Several more pieces of Dr. George Schaffer's medical equipment have been restored. A couple wood benches c. 6' long can be used in the school. The grass is cut regularly.

The students of four third grade Hornung School teachers spent a day learning of one room school education last month. Almost 100 children. That's what this is all about; disseminating the area's history.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...People who want to learn how to re-finish furniture. We'll practice on the desks each Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.

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

...Avery #5351 address labels or funds to purchase.

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

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

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

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

June 8, 1-4. Mill Race Village season begins, Northville.

June 12, 7:30 "Milliners, Seamstresses and Tailors", Plymouth Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth. 734/455-8940.

June 29, 1-5. Log Cabin Day/Education Day/Blacksmith Festival. Also "Orphan Train to Michigan" Film. Waterloo Area Historical Society Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road. 517/851-2584.

The Sympathy of the Society is extended to the family of

'MARTY' PAWLAK

He was a long time resident and businessman and a long time member of the Society

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.

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. Nancy Frenenburg can assist if you have a question regarding this procedure. Reach her at 248/925-2371.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JASON CLARK, FROM MASSACHUSETTS, TO NEW YORK, TO MICHIGAN

In 1823, 14 years before statehood and before the opening of the Erie Canal, Jason Clark, born in Massachusetts, arrived in Detroit with wife Polly and several children. Having come over Lake Erie from New York, he headed soon to Washtenaw County at a time when Ann Arbor consisted of a half dozen houses. The Chicago Road, near which he built his home, was the route over which native Americans traveled to Detroit for rations and presents, therefore being frequent passersby.

Altho' he had cleared a fine farm on which corn and wheat were grown in the "...virgin soil that needed only to be turned over with the plow after being cleared the seed therein dropped...", in July, 1835, he took up government land in Green Oak Township, Sec. 9, E½ NW, NWNE, SE NE. In November, the SW NE¼ was added, making a total of 200 acres. Jason was an elder in the Green Oak Presbyterian Church, organized June 15, 1834. Meeting in homes and schools during its 20 year existence in Green Oak, most members transferred when the church was built in Brighton in 1858. Jason, a veteran of the War of 1812, died in 1865. He is buried in the Plains Cemetery on Maltby Road. We will assume Polly, who died in 1856, is also buried there.

Of their eight children, the fourth, L(eonard) N(elson), was born in Washtenaw County in 1827. Because of the lack of schools in the early years, L.N. attended about one term. As soon as he was grown enough to lift the ax he was in the woods, cutting trees to clear land for crops. By 1845 he was farming on shares with his father, later purchasing the 200 acres. At 17, 1844, he began a threshing business. (The removal of wheat from the sheaf.) This he did for 25 years. Patents were obtained for two inventions: a straw carrier (a three section stacker) and a stacker used with the vibrator thresher. (This equipment allowed for the better arranging of the mass of straw.)

Maria Goucher, of New York, became his bride in 1853, at the age of 18. Her parents had come to the area in the 1840s. They had no children of their own but raised nieces and a nephew, Emma and Frank Goucher and Minnie Hatt. Well aware of the need for education, L.N. saw to it the children attended school regularly.

In 1872, L.N. sold his farm and moved to Brighton Village becoming a lender of money. (There were few banks in the area. Many of those in need of cash borrowed from private lenders.) The Clarks made their home on the south side of Grand River, the 4th house east of Church Street. L.N. and Maria donated a rose window to the new Greek Revival, white frame Presbyterian Church. (When the church was moved to North Street, the window was moved also. Where is it now?) L.N. died in 1894 and Maria in 1913. Both are buried in the Village Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Biographic and Photo Album; Yesteryears of Green Oak; William Pless' Supplement to the Old Village Cemetery records; Early Landowners and Settlers by Milton Charboneau; and census records. Additions/corrections welcomed. 810/229-5402.)