



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

May 2003
Vol. XXII No. 5

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

A DAY OF MEMORY

OFFICERS

President/Editor
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Vice President
Sheryl Vigmostad
810/227-7506

Secretary
Thomas Reinke
313/295-9326

Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey
248/684-0340

DIRECTORS

Jim DeJohn
810/229-9797

Nancy Fredenburg
248/926-2371

Carol McMacken
810/231-2957

Joanne Swonk
810/229-7887

Jim Vichich
810/227-4840

Dick Weaire
810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS

John S Janice
Field
Cemeteries/
Archives
734/449-4535

Ann Stratigos
Hospitality
810/229-5689

In 1968, it was determined that Memorial Day would be observed the fourth Monday in May. It was originally conceived as 'Decoration Day' with the first National observance held May 30, 1868, when General James Garfield spoke at Arlington Cemetery, commemorating the soldiers' sacrifices during the Civil War.

Earlier, Civil War veterans had noticed mothers and children decorating a soldier's grave by placing flowers. This appropriate loving attention was repeated by both Union and Confederate women with no distinction made as to whether it was the grave of a Union or Confederate soldier. The women knew the grief was present in both north and south.

It wasn't long before all veterans' graves were so memorialized. The Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Spanish/American War, the wars of the 20th century - today all veterans' graves are acknowledged with the placement of a small flag. (You can offer to help local veterans' organization with this service this year.)

To teach children the value of remembrance is a duty of each of us. One might consider visiting a local cemetery with the family as a means of demonstrating our belief in the ideals by which we live, one of which is to honor the sacrifice. (Our actions speak louder than our words.) Flags quickly identify the site of a veteran's grave. A heart-rending yet inspiring experience.

Local ceremonies each year are an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the ideals for which they gave the utmost sacrifice. Nor should we ever forget the disruption to his/her life each veteran experiences, including those who came home not in a casket. Those you see in the Memorial Day parade, or on the sidelines, have dearly earned our esteem and love.



Dates to Remember:

- May *7, 14, 21, 28, 7-9 p.m. Lyons School restoration/maintenance continues. You can help.
- *8, 15, 22, 29 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- *19, 7 p.m. Society board meets. Public welcome. Note change from 4th Monday.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

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 LifeDONATION: \$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

May 8, 10-4: Wildflower Sale, Brighton Garden Club, Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St.May 9-10, Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Association Annual Meeting. John W. Porter Hall, EMU. Archeology, preservation/restoration techniques. MORSA, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia 48152 for information.May 17, 11-4: Springtime at the Rentschler Farm, Saline. 15 exhibit areas + planting, plant sale, barn repairs, entertainment that won't quit. 735/944-9442.May 18: Wixom Ice Cream Social, Wixom-Wire House Museum, Wixom Rd. at Maple.May 18, 2-4: Green Oak Township Historical Society will tour South Lyon's McHattie Park. Visit Witch's Hat Depot, church, school, etc.May 19, 7:30: Wixom Hist. Soc., Wixom City Hall. A documentary on Michigan's Orphan Train.May 24-25: Mackinaw City, Colonial Michilimackinac. Reenactment 1763 American Indian attack on the fort.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Lawrence Autobody, The Fence Spot. 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 does 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.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Charles S Janice Beach, Jim DeJohn, Irene Ellis.

Membership renewals and new members are the life blood of this organization. Your demonstration of belief in its mission is an inspiration to others that they might follow your lead.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

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

...Dick Weaire and Jim DeJohn for their continued maintenance and rehab at the Lyon School.

...Fred Wort, of Olde England Chimney Sweep, for attaching a new rope to the bell at the school; with Dick and Jim's help.

...Maltby Middle School for inviting us to present a local history program to the 7th grade and then visiting the Lyon School.

...Jane Brennan for a copy of the fine paper she prepared on rural education which included the Lyon School. (She received an A+ from her instructor.)

...Charter Members of Friends of Lyon School for their support.

...Harold Salow and ML Woodcutters of Whitmore Lake for the 4 blue bird and 4 wren houses. They will be installed at the School grounds.

...Carolina DeLuca for a clipping of an article about an ice cream and candy shop similar to Brighton's Sweet Shop owned by her parents.

...for kind comments on the Society president's selection to the Brighton area's Roll of Honor. This recognition would not be possible without many, many volunteers' support.

* * * * *

If this issue of Trail Tales is a 'Complementary Copy' it is coming to you at no charge. The Society believes it is important for you to be aware of its mission. This can be fulfilled with your membership; or a donation.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION.

ARCHIVES: Compiling and indexing of the area's history and photos continues. 'Most every Thursday, 1-3, at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road is where this archival work is done; notebooks are filling and file drawers are being organized. All in the attempt to provide inquirers with information. A number of pictures of an earlier day have been collected. To better document the area's history any photos you might share would be welcome to the collection or to reprint. Pictures of people, events, activities, sites, are needed. Also any of businesses, occupations, transportation, recreation, education, etc., would be appropriate. (It is hoped you longer time residents have been recording, one way or another, your memories of life in the area. They are important.)

LYON SCHOOL: The drain tile is thawed, the bell can be rung, the museum continues to be improved, exterior water faucets are in as is a drain under the water heater, visitors are received, and all's well at the school.

Eagle Scout applicant, Noah Winchel, will be giving the school a new paint job this summer. Contact us if you'd like to help.

Any Wednesday, 7-9, will find Dick Weaire and Jim DeJohn attending to maintenance. They can use help any time. Call them.

Joanne Swonk has made arrangements for several third grade classes from Hornung Elementary to visit this month. If you or your group would like to visit call us. Much effort has gone into this project; it's there to be used and enjoyed.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...PEOPLE TO CONDUCT A Society booth at this summer's Farmers' Market.

...Items to be raffled or sold at the Society booth.

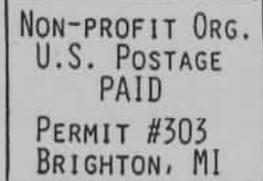
...Avery #5351 address labels.

...New steel door to the back entrance of the Lyon School.

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

...Docents to tell of the history of the Lyon School and the uses to which the several areas are put. This information will be provided. Call Marieanna Bair if you can help. 810/229-6402.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE LYON FAMILY BRAVES THE MICHIGAN WILDERNESS (Part two)

Richard Lyon's small party, arriving in Brighton Township June 19, 1837, located the cabin William Valentine had built while here the previous year. (NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22, Van Amburg Road south from Seitz, formerly Skeman Road.) This served as a shelter for all of them. Not long after, when Samuel W. Conely's family arrived, 22 nestled in the log structure. (Gentlemen up in the loft, the ladies on the first floor.) A few years later the families of William S. Conely and Issac L. Plat became neighbors in the cabins prepared for them. (Property was along Van Amburg, Buno and Newman Roads) Today one can see one's neighbor's house all too clearly. These pioneers had, at least, two miles of forest separating them in the 1830s.

With the organization of Brighton Township (which included the settlement called Ore Creek) in 1837, the settlers, who were anxious to be self governing, quickly tended to the business of seating a governing body. His obvious leadership skills convinced the other township voters that Lyon would best serve as supervisor. Martha helped him win the office again the next year by hosting 40 electors for dinner at the cabin.

By 1842 the several families within approximately one mile radius of Lyon's property built a log school on land set aside by Richard and Martha. The realization their childrens' education was vitally important was ever present even though the parents were struggling to exist. (A 'reality' most basic.) The log structure, Lyon School, District #8, served until 1885 when a frame structure was built. The log school also served as a house of worship and as a meeting place for community affairs.

Richard and Martha had six children. Caroline, Sarah and Martha (the latter two married brothers Benjamin and Cyrenius Morgan, respectively) remained in the township. As did Richard Jr., who remained single and taught school, living on the old farm. At the time of his father's death in 1876, Richard Jr. is a resident of the village. He helped draft the constitution and bylaws of the Brighton Hook and Ladder Co #1, was a charter member and served as secretary. Joining the newly formed Brighton Cornet Band he promoted acquisition of instruments and uniforms. For years their "services were much in demand" having many requests to perform. Sister Elizabeth married James Smith; moving to South Dakota, parenting six sons. William married Abigail Buck and was very instrumental in the "rapid growth and development" of Sioux City, Iowa. The familiar pattern of neighbors marrying is evident. Also some are as adventurous as their parents and head farther west. The rush for gold and land, new communities beginning with opportunity for getting in on the 'ground floor' drew many. Richard, Sr. died in 1876 and Martha in 1895. Both are buried at Calvary Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from "Early Landowners and Settlers" and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Also census records and Ellis' 1980 History of Livingston County. Corrections/additions welcome.)