**Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter**

**Vol. XXII No. 11**

**November 2003**

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

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT LYON SCHOOL**

The public is invited Sunday, November 30, 2003, noon - 4 p.m. Experience an earlier Christmas in the original one room schoolhouse. Displays by Hill Town Quilter Chapter #351, of Brighton, will help everyone to get in the mood. An exhibit of 1940-50 Christmas decorations will be prepared. Also antique and collectible winter sports equipment will be arranged. The first 50 children attending will make a keepsake ornament for their own collection. There will be no charge.

Period and holiday music with acoustic guitar will be heard. Refreshments will be served and the Society's gift shop will be open. The school is at 11455 Buna Road in Brighton Township, between Vanamburg and Pleasant Valley Roads.

**VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL**

October 25, 1803, Lewis and Clark left Clarksville with the keelboat and two pirogues. They arrived at 10 year old Ft. Massac on the Illinois side of the Ohio 16 days later. Only two of the volunteers at the fort were deemed of the quality of men needed. A locally re-armed woodsmen, George Orcheliers, was hired by Lewis to bring the eight soldiers from the army camp at South West Post, Tennessee, who had earlier volunteered to join the voyage. His skill as a frontiersman, Indian language ability, including sign language, favorably impressed Lewis. November 15, the expedition left Massac even though Lewis suffered an incapacitating bout of malaria. Upon arriving at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi the party camped for a week. The leaders practiced the principles of celestial observations, necessary for them to determine their location during the voyage. November 20, the long journey upstream began. The difficulty of moving against the strong current was a problem that stayed with them until the Continental Divide was reached.

**Dates to Remember:**
- Nov. 5, 13, 20: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
- Nov. 10: 1-4 p.m. Archives filing.
- Nov. 10: 6:30 p.m. Tiger Cub Pack #348 visits.
- Dec. 19: 7 p.m. Lyon School restoration/continuation. You can help.
- Dec. 24: 7 p.m. Annual meeting. Welcome.
- Dec. 30: noon to 4 p.m. Christmas Open House.

Lyon School, 11455 Buna Rd., Brighton.
MEMBERSHIP

COUPLES/INDIVIDUAL: Evelyn Dethage, Brenda McCarty and Jeri Preston.

Welcome new member, Jeri Preston. Even prior to membership, Jeri has been making good use of the Lyon School facilities in promoting the Society.

The time is here to review the mailing label list for Trail Tales for 2004. To ensure the printing and mailing expenses are kept within budget restraints, the newsletter must be directed to members or others who have expressed an interest or have shown significant support of the goals and purposes of the Society.

Proceeds from various fund raising projects (sales of items listed on page 3; booth revenues; donations, etc.) are dedicated to the P & R projects noted in the next column.

The newsletter expenses, as are office expenses, paper, office equipment, etc. are receipts paid for these. Without your membership the Society could not exist. You are asked to renew your membership or to become one.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Dain for help in mailing the October Trail Tales.

...Doug Zimmerman for Standick Family genealogy.

...Brenda McCarty for her donation with dues payment.

...Friends of Lyon School memberships.

...Tiger Pack 343 for the pots of mums.

RENEW NEEDS NEEDS

...You as a member of the Society as a board member or to help on a project.

...Pictures of both early and later Lyon School area sites. Transparencies can be made for use in public programs. Your organization may contact us re: a program on local history.

...First class postage stamps.

...Members of Friends of Lyon School.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

Anniversary: Filling and indexing of archival material for easy retrieval is ongoing. Information on business enterprises, agricultural operations, transportation modes, etc., etc. is welcome. Pictures, stories, memorabilia help make the archives more complete. These can be copied if you want to keep the originals.

LYON SCHOOL: Desk restoration is continuing. You can help. The help has been evident from the attic and entrances closed. Josh Schappler's Brighton High School solution did the job. Hopefully the help will be taken in the attic of the house that is in place this summer. A sturdy screen is in place in the vent opening in the foundation. (Aeons, etc., are not welcome.) A Milford area Quaker group, four classes of spencer Elementary School children, Tigers Cub Scouts #343 visited in October.

ORAL HISTORY: The recent Michigan Oral History Association Conference in Lansing promoted the benefits of conducting an oral history with family members. Are we neglecting the stories of family members who are still with us? The value of the oral interview and interviewee. Oral history makes your genealogical research alive and complete.

Veteran's stories are being lost by the 1000s daily. An appropriate way to honor your individual veteran would be to care enough to conduct an oral history recording. A very helpful manual has been prepared. A local workshop is being planned to give "how to" help. Watch for dates/time notices in Trail Tales and local press.

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 7 P.M.

To properly continue its legal existence and to continue working to its purposes and goals the Society's Annual Meeting will be held November 24, 7 P.M. We'll meet at Lyon School, 11495 Bono Road. The public is invited and members are strongly urged to attend. Members to the Board of Directors for 2004 will be elected, annual reports of the year's activities will be offered, refreshments will be served, you will have an opportunity to tour the restored Lyon School. You'll see for yourself why the Society is proud of its efforts and you'll see the value of your support. Join us as we thank board members and celebrate the past year. Consider how you can support the organization with service on the board.

BRICKTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/Donation Form

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

NAME ____________________________ PHONE ____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________

(If included, Zip + 4 digits)

Rent membership card? [ ] Yes [ ] No


DUES: [ ] $50.00 Patron [ ] $25.00 Couple [ ] $10.00 Student (K-12, College) [ ] $50.00 Slu/Prof. [ ] $15.00 Individual [ ] $100.00 LIFE

DONATION: [ ] $0.00 [ ] $20.00 [ ] $50.00 [ ] $100.00 [ ] $150.00 [ ] $200.00 [ ] Other [ ]

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Post Cards with early local scenes, pkg. of 6/$3; NOTE PAPER, pkg $2.50; MUGS $5; TOTE BAG $15; NEEDLEPOINT KIT $8; all show the Old Town Hall.

Mix MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Osceola Townships, 1876 and 1991, Howell cities. $1.00. AFGHAN red, green, blue, and nine local sites woven in, $80. TAPASRIY FOLLIOO depicting the railroad depot and train, $20. 2004 CALENDAR with pictures of brighton scenes. To order any of the above, 801-289-5402.

VETERAN'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11

The data commemorates the signing of the Armistice ending WW I in 1918. Tragically many more American citizens have been pressed into service for noble causes. Many did not return from their service. Veterans Day is an opportunity for us, who reap the benefits, to remember all veterans. Sunday, November 9, the local veteran organizations will be holding a service on Main Street in Brighton. We are grateful we have the chance to honor all vets.

It is time now also to remove the worn flags from veterans' grave sites to reverently honor the flag they loved. Veteran organizations will properly dispose of those you gather. The flag should not be allowed to fly in a ragged state or be displayed in a careless manner.

The sympathy of the Society are extended to the families of

RUTH HERBST
LEE PAWLAK

Both are long time members of the Society and residents of the area.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Draft 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 are most welcome.
MEMBERSHIP

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...Pictures of both early and later Brighton area sites. Transparency...can be made for use in public programs. Your organization may contact us re: a program on local history.

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(please include zip + 4 digit)

Are you a member of the Society? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Are you volunteering your help with Preservation/Restoration Projects, or Fund-Raising Administration of the Society (please circle your preference)? [ ] Yes [ ] No

DUES: [ ] $25.00 Patron [ ] $50.00 Individual [ ] $100.00 LIFE OR ORGANIZATION [ ] $10.00 [ ] $20.00 [ ] $50.00 [ ] $100.00 [ ] Other

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For $10, donation your signature, or that of another of your choice will be embossed on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A collection of signatures of early residents is available. This is an appropriate, simple way to support the Society. The quilt will remain in the Society's Archives.

TILES: 13 different local sites depicted on black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main and Nostalgia Antiques, 115 W. Main, $.80 or 3/$21.00.

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O. K. VAN AMBURG

Orange Kellogg VanAmburg saw the light of day December 16, 1803, in the town of Milton, Saratoga County, New York. His place in the order of birth of his 16 siblings has not been ascertained. The family farmed and his services, as well as his brothers, were needed. A few months of school during the winter, was the extent of any formal education. The fireplace provided light when, as a boy, he studied Adams’ Arithmetic long hours into the night. As was the custom, the children of poor families hired out at an early age to support themselves. As he worked for eight months at $5.00 a year or two later his pay rose to $6. Self-taught he worked as a teacher when very young.

In 1819, the family of the 16-year-old O.K. moved to Jefferson County, New York. He found employment with a syndicate of French men who owned a large tract of land. His duties included the delivery of messages to Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, who had a large plantation in western New York. Through rain, dark, cold, he completed the required task; an easy job with wolves and bears still plentiful in the area.

With a brother Orange, 21, started for Michigan on foot in February, 1825. The long journey ended in Farmington, Michigan. There they contracted to clear five acres and build a log house. His brother got sick but O.K. completed the job. He worked four days to pay for an ax; five for room and board while working for the ax. Earnings, after clearing another 12 acres, provided him with sufficient funds to buy 80 acres in Novi Township. After clearing and improving, the sale of the 80 enabled him to buy 190 acres four miles west; immediately settling about to clear that piece.

By then O.K. had married Mary Ann Taft March 15, 1839. When she died December 29, 1852, there were two girls (Louise and Harriet) and five boys (Orson, William, Henry, Joseph and Daniel) for whom he wanted a better education than had been available to him. To do this he sold some land and moved to a farm on the Grand River Plank Road. Seven years after Mary died he traded the remaining 50 acres for 350 in Brighton Township in 1857, sections 10 and 21. By then O.K. had married Amanda M. Brown.

In 1851, 80 acres, across VanAmburg Road from his 190, were acquired. Here he built a comfortable home for his family which now included Albert and Charles, born to Amanda. As often happened, several of the children married neighboring children. Joseph married Mary Jane Paddock in 1855, Daniel married Elvira Morgan in 1856 and Albert married Alice Taylor c. 1883.

An early interviewee relates that even at the advanced age of 77, O.K. retained many vivid memories of his youth. He recalled the troops marching during the War of 1812, while his family lived in Saratoga County. (Compiled by Marleena Bair from: 1891 Portrait & Biographical Album; census records; early atlases; 1880 History of Livingston County; and Early Settlers/Landowners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau.)

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http://community.mlive.com/cc/bahs

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