



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

November 2003
Vol. XXII No. 11

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 school-house. Displays by Mill Town Quester Chapter #831, 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 Buno Road in Brighton Township, between VanAmburg and Pleasant Valley Roads.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

October 26, 1803, Lewis and Clark left Clarkesville with the keel-boat 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 renowned woodsman, George Drouillard, 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 13, the expedition left Massac even tho' 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.

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Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 6, 13, 20: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm
10: 6:30 p.m. Tiger Cub Pack #344 visits.
12, 19: 7 p.m. Lyon School restoration/
maintenance. You can help.
24: 7 p.m. Annual meeting. Welcome.
30: noon to 4 p.m. Christmas Open House.

Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Evelyn Dothager, Brenda McCarty and *Jeri Preston.

*Welcome to 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 assure 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 expense is an administration expense, as are officer expenses, copy paper, office equipment, etc. Dues receipts pay 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 Bair For help in mailing the October Trail Tales.

...Doug Zimmerman For STandlick Family genealogy.

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

...Friends of Lyon School memberships.

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

NEEDS 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 Brighton 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

ARCHIVES: Filing 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 bats have been evicted from the attic and entrances closed. Josh Scharp, Brighton Pest Solutions, did the job. Hopefully the bats will take up residence in the bat houses put in place this summer. A sturdy screen is in place in the vent opening in the foundation. (Raccoons, etc., are not welcome.) A Milford area Quester group, four classes of spencer Elementary School children, Tiger 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? There is value to both the interviewer and interviewee. Oral history makes your genealogical research alive and complete.

Veterans' 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, 11455 Buno 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 served and you'll 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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
(Please include Zip + 4 digit)Sent membership card? Yes No New Renewal Your help is needed with *Preservation/Restoration Projects, ***Fund Raising 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/Restoration Projects: Archives, Publications, Historic Resource Survey, Historic Site Markers, Lyon School, Oral History/Video, Photography, etc.

**Fund Raising Projects: Signature Quilt, Bake Sale, Art Fair, Home Tour, Harvest Fest, etc.

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

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg. of 6/\$3.; NOTE PAPER, pkg \$2.50; MUGS \$5.; TOTE BAGS \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KIT \$8.; all show the OldTown Hall.

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola Townships, 1875 and Brighton and Howell cities, \$1.00. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in, \$49.; TAPESTRY PILLOW depicting the rail road depot and train, \$28.; 2004 CALENDAR with pictures of Brighton scenes. To order any of the above, 801/229-6402.

For \$10. donation your signature, or that of another of your choice will be embroidered 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. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

VETERANS' DAY, NOVEMBER 11

The date 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 sympathies of the Society are extended to the families of

RUTH HERBST

and

LEE PAWLAK

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

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. The support of others in the community is most welcome.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 12 he worked for eight months at \$5. per. 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; not 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 160 acres four miles west; immediately setting about to clear that piece.

By then O.K. had married Mary Ann Taft March 15, 1829. When she died December 29, 1850, 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 90 acres for 320 in Brighton Township in 1857, sections 10 and 21. By then O.K. had married Amanda M. Brown.

In 1861, 80 acres, across VanAmburg Road from his 160, 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 1860, Daniel married Elvira Morgan in 1868 and Albert married Alice Taylor c. 1883.

An early interviewer 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 Marieanna 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.