



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

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Trail Tales

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

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
810/599-6195

OPEN HOUSE HELD AT LYON SCHOOL

September 20, was a fine day and a number of guests toured the renovated school; of which several were alumni.

It is planned to give the community an opportunity to tour this rural school on a regular basis. A schedule will be determined shortly. It is exciting to display the fine results of years of effort and community support. Any one interested in helping as hosts would be welcome and would increase 'Open' days.

Members of Quester Chapter #432 Maria Moore of the Milford area were recent admiring visitors.

Spencer Elementary School students are scheduled to visit October 13 and 14.

Local Tiger Cub Scouts #343 will visit October 22.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

Leaving Marietta, Ohio, October 4, 1803, Meriwether Lewis aims downstream toward the Falls of the Ohio. Eleven days later pilots are hired to guide the keelboat and the pirogues down the Falls. Then on to Clarksville, Indiana Territory, to meet his old friend Captain William Clark. Hearty hand shakes signal the beginning of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Enlisted men are sworn into the Army, among them Sgt. Charles Floyd, and civilians hired to power the boats. October 26, they floated from Clarksville heading for Ft. Massac, Illinois Territory, about 35 miles upstream from the junction of the Ohio and the Mississippi Rivers.



Dates to Remember:

Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29: 7-9 p.m. Lyon School restoration/maintenance. You can help.
9, 16, 23, 30: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
13, 14: 9 a.m. Spencer School students visit.
27: 7 p.m. Society Board meets. Tour @ 6 p.m.
Public is welcome to any or all of the above.

Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Margaret Bowland, *Brian & Susan Smith Edoff (04), Esther Jarvis (04), Dick & Mary Jean Richter (04), Bob & Pauline Schaffer (04), Dan Schmidt (04), Ann Stratigos (05) and Arloa Washburn (04).

*A sincere welcome to Brian & Susan. Sincere thanks to renewing members.

"How do I know if my dues for 2003 are paid?" If there is a 'Complementary Copy' stamp near your address label - they aren't. Infallibility is not one of our virtues. Please contact us if you think an error has been made. Your membership payment

supports the administration of the Society, including the printing and mailing of Trail Tales. Volunteer hours are donated - however, the Post Office and office supply stores want cash. 'Snuf said.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, Janice & John Field and June Kimble for help in mailing the September newsletter.

...Joanne Swonk and Dick Weaire for helping host the recent Open House at Lyon School.

...Dick Weaire for adjusting the boards on the ramp at the school so leaves can blow away, not pile up.

...Larry Lawrence for his donation. Also Margaret Bowland, Esther Jarvis and Ann Stratigos for their donation with their dues.

...Nancy and Jennie Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Joanne Swonk for tending the Society booth at the harvest Fest. Awareness of the value of historic preservation was raised as were funds.

...Judy Reidel of South Lyon for the two Plessland Dairy milk bottles.

...Noah Winchel, Scout Troop #347, for planning, recruiting helpers and painting the exterior of Lyon School. It's sparkling again. This is noted on Noah's application to Eagle Scout rating. Congratulations!

ORDER YOUR 2004 CALENDAR

Early pictures of the area. \$6.00.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Early pictures of the area are being copied on transparencies for use in public programs. Relating to early settlement, agriculture, transportation, education, recreation, etc. these can be requested by your organization. It is desirable that as many photos as possible be incorporated into these programs. Any you may wish to include are most welcome.

LYON SCHOOL: A bat removal technician is working on that problem. It is preferred they be humanely removed. They are an important part of our environment. Perhaps they'll find a new home in the recently donated and installed bat houses at the site. Sash painting still needs to be done. The paint job done by Noah Winchell and his crew really looks good. Well done.

FRIENDS OF LYON SCHOOL

Response to the Charter Membership opportunity has been very satisfying. Most recent charter members are: Margaret Bowland, Carl Miller, Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Ann Stratigos, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Tony, Nadine & Eric Cloutier.

What is 'Friends of Lyon School'? What do the Friends do? Why would one want to become a Friend?

They support the maintenance of this functional restoration, purchase of appropriate materials, furniture; play equipment, etc., used during elementary students' visits to the school. Memberships help with the cost of utilities (heat = \$60. mo. avg., electricity = \$40. mo avg.), insurance for damage and individual liability, painting, grass cutting, bat and varmint removal and exclusion, cleaning materials, steel door and weatherproof picnic tables.

Significant personal benefits to Friends include: knowledge your financial support is encouragement to those willing to do the work of maintenance/improvements to the site assuring the efforts of others will be remembered and further developed.

Friends will receive special invitations to specific events at the School.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...People willing to serve on the Society board or a committee for the elections at the Annual Meeting next month.

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 Old Town 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, 116 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Oct. 9: 7:30 Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, presents 200 years of the camera.October 12: 1 p.m. Madonna U. Library, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia: History of Mich. Military Academy "Them Was the Days!" 734/432-5680Oct. 18: Michigan Genealogical Council free seminar; Library of Mi., Lansing. 517/482-8938 or 517/851-0093 for registration form.Oct 19, 2-4, Green Oak Township Historical Society will present a program of local history at the Historic Town Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road. A tour of the old hall will display the work this group has been doing toward its restoration.Oct. 25: 9-5 p.m., A conference on Oral History for Michiganians. Michigan Oral History Assoc. 517/321-1746 or gwiskemann@arq.net

ANOTHER PROJECT?

Donations of early agricultural equipment cannot be accepted at this time.

Area residents, and others, are generous with contributions of items of historic value.

Consideration is being given to an appropriately styled structure on the Lyon School site. It seems logical to incorporate early agricultural equipment into the site. It would add to the educational opportunity for visitors.

Is this a project you'd be interested in supporting?

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
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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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MICHIGAN'S FIRST REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR IS FROM GREEN OAK

Kinsley S. Bingham selected Green Oak Township as his new home in Michigan. He came in 1833, following his marriage to Margaret Worden, newly arrived from Scotland. In SEction 11, about a half mile south of the Huron River, 200 acres were purchased. Margaret's brother, Robert, had married Bingham's sister, Caroline, and the two couples jointly purchased 120 acres. (Robert and Caroline also bought 320 acres.) They worked together on the task of developing a home site in the wilderness. This meant clearing, fencing, putting up buildings, planting, harvesting, etc.; all accomplished within a few years.

Four days after the birth of their son, Kinsley W., Margaret died. "After a suitable time..." her sister, Mary, became Kinsley's wife. A son, James W., was born to them in 1840. The brother of Kinsley S., Dr. Ira Bingham, arrived in 1841.

Having studied law in Syracuse, N.,Y., Kinsley's leadership abilities were put to good use even before Michigan statehood in 1837. Under the Territorial government his neighbors elected him to Justice of the Peace and post master positions. He was Livingston County's first Probate Judge. Election to the legislature followed upon statehood. Three of the four terms served were as Speaker of the House. In 1846, the only authentic farmer in the National Congress, his efforts were always in the interest of agriculture. While the merits of a forged plow as opposed to a cast iron plow escape us today, he knew the cast iron plow would hardly last one long row before breaking on the stones found in a Livingston County acre and prevented the introduction of the "Woods Patent Cast Iron Plow". Following his reelection in 1848, he strongly put forth his opposition to slavery.

Until 1854 he'd been a Free Soil Democrat. His Congressional record won him nomination to the governor's office in the newly formed Republican party, the first Republican governor in the country. A second term followed in 1856. Mindful of his agricultural roots he was responsible for the establishment of the first land grant college in the U.S., the Agricultural College in Lansing in 1857 (MSU). The construction of the 'Soo' locks, 1855, on the St. Mary's River, was another major accomplishment in his public career. We cannot begin to estimate the benefits to Michigan the locks represent, especially to the U.P. Educational, charitable and correctional institutions came into being during Bingham's administrations. His return to Congress in 1859, enabled him to be very active in Abraham Lincoln's campaign for president.

October 5, 2003, marks the 142nd anniversary of his death at his home in Green Oak Township. He was buried in the family burial site behind his home on Silver Lake Road, beside Margaret. In 1882, after Mary's death, Margaret's son, Kinsley W. moved the remains of his father, mother, half brother James (died in the Civil War), and his Uncle Ira, to the family plot in the Old Village Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1891 Portrait & Biographical Album; Bill Pless' Supplement to the Old Village Cemetery; and 'Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County' by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)