



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

September 2003
Vol. XXII No. 9

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

THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

That mission is to collect and preserve the knowledge of, and items related to, the area's beginnings and growth (with all the attendant changes) and to disseminate the value of this collection.

The development of local archives, the preservation of early structures, the proclamation of local history, etc., help us understand how we, as individuals, fit into the area. Preservation relates not only to buildings but also to knowledge of events, occupations, people, education, transportation; of what importance was a cemetery, a mill, a blacksmith shop.

Early structures and landscapes supply a visual record of what was here before us. If we value these, we can hope our values will survive. Discarded dreams can teach us distressing lessons about others and ourselves. If we ignore the manner and scale of past construction, the materials and level of detail, we become insensitive to our surroundings.

If we don't understand what has gone before we can hardly build our future, and it will be our fate to repeat mistakes of the past. A new structure has no stories to tell. The old building does if we take time to learn its secrets. A new community has no secrets. Its rawness is obvious. An old community can tell us much. Then we become comfortable in the assurance of our endurance and our place in the community. Copious amounts of time, energy and funds are spent to make new construction look as tho' it's been here a long time. It can be difficult to become comfortable when there's nothing to hang on to. The sense of security is lacking.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

On August 31, 1803, Capt. Meriwether Lewis embarked from Pittsburg in the keelboat, Discovery, and two pirogues, on the Ohio River. Among the first difficulties to be overcome was the very low level of water in the river.

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Dates to Remember:

- Sept. *11, 18: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- *10, 17, 24: 7 p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
- *20: noon-3 p.m. Lyon School open house. Welcome.
- *22: 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.
- 27: 10-5 p.m. Harvest Fest, Brighton.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: American Legion Jesse B. Cooley Post #235 and Steven & Kate Lowry.

COUPLES/INDIV: Reuben & Evelyn Gallegos, Norma J. Pless (04) and Ralph & Elizabeth Romano (04).

A 'Complementary Copy' stamp on this issue of Trail Tales indicates membership dues have not been received. Your support of the Society's mission by dues or a donation is important to that mission (as noted on the masthead).

CORRECTION

The Grant Burgess store on W. Main, (August Trail Tales) was on the N.E. corner of W. Main and Hyne.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

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

...Nancy Fredenburg, Tom Reinke, Harold Salow and Sheryl Vigmostad for helping at the Society booth at the Art Fair. And to the many who made purchases or donations, and to the Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their continued support.

...Joanne Swonk for hosting the Brighton Christian Church youth group at the Lyon School last month.

...MSU Cooperative Extension Council representative, Bill TenEyck, for dedication ceremony of a recently planted tulip tree in the Lyon School yard.

...Norma J. Pless for her contribution with her dues.

...John & Lisa Palermo for storage of several large pictures of early Brighton scenes.

...Stephen Leith for 110 page record of the genealogy of "Some Descendants of Samuel Case" and for his ongoing typing help.

...Jim DeJohn for researching picnic tables and bat removal procedures.

...Betty Close for donation of wood folding chairs.

...Dick Weaire for installation of two bat houses on site at the Lyon School.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The Society and Lyon School scrap books are up to date and indexing continues on archival material. You can help.

LYON SCHOOL: DEsk restoration and building maintenance is each Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. If another day /time is better for you, call us. Your help is also needed to paint the sash. A list of jobs to be done at the school is available.

To insure the community is aware of the restoration/utilization of this building is vital. To schedule a regular 'Open' day, docents are needed. Information is prepared; you can help greet visitors and make certain the public has knowledge of this early structure and the value of historic preservation. The first of these 'Open' days will be September 20, noon - 3 p.m. Come and visit. Children welcome.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...funds to pay for proper removal of the bats in the attic of Lyon School; for a steel door, 41.5"; payment of utility bills; purchase of picnic tables.

...people to help at the booth at Harvest Fest in Brighton, September 27, 10-5p.m.

...Members to Friends of Lyon School.

...people to serve on the society board or committees, i.e. fund raising, Lyon School, archives, publicity, etc.

...Merchants to stock coverlets, with nine sites woven in and/or pillows displaying the railroad depot. These are worthwhile sales items.

...People to serve on the society board or committees, i.e. fund raising, Lyon School, archives, publicity, etc.

Re: Any of the above, 810/229-6402.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

First Presbyterian Church for celebrating their Sesquicentennial. An invitation is extended to all readers of Trail Tales to join this momentous event during September. 227-7411 and 229-6696 for more info.

COMING IN OCTOBER...

A 2004 calendar with pictures of early Brighton area. Order now. \$6.00.

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 @ \$5.; TOTEBAGS @ \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ \$8.; all show the Old Town Hall.

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township, 1875, and a 1915 map of Brighton @ \$1. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49. TAPESTRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ \$30. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

For \$10. 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. 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"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

Sept. 13-14: Brighton First Presbyterian Church extends a special invitation to Brighton Area Historical Society members and readers of Trail Tales, to help observe the 150th anniversary. Included are a concert of 1850s music and historical displays. Tickets for the commemorative dinner are available. Info: 810/229-6696 or 810/227-7411.

Sept. 20, 6 p.m. Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association is holding its annual all alumni dinner at the high school cafeteria, 7878 Brighton Rd. Reservation deadline Sept. 5. Send \$20.00 each to BASAA, P.O. Box 1163, Brighton, 48116. Info: 810/229-6147 or 810/229-6402.

Sept. 20/21: Milford Home Tour, Milford
Sept. 25/28 and October 10, 2-5 p.m.: quilt show, Ypsilanti Historical Society, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti.

Sept. 30/Oct. 3: Michigan Museum Association Annual Conference, Marquette, MI. NMA, P.O. Box 10067, Lansing 48101-0067. www.michiganmuseums.org

Oct. 12 noon/5 p.m. Pioneer Day, Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Hay rides, food, demos, crafts, etc. 517/596-2254.

October 25, 10-4 p.m. Oral History For Michiganians, a conference. Michigan Historical Center, Lansing. 517/321-1746 or gwiskemann@arq.net

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

FIRST 150 YEARS FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION

Less than 20 years after the earliest pioneer settled in Brighton Township, Rev. and Mrs. Chauncey Osborne arrived in 1852. Newcomers to the village area were hard pressed to find organized Christian leadership. The German congregation of St. George Evangelical Lutherans had been chartered in Genoa Township and St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church was making a beginning in Green Oak Township. The Osbornes began the task of forming a congregation as part of the liberal 'New School' brand of the Presbyterian Church. On March 10, 1853, Jason and Mary Clark, Isaac and Catherine Smith, John T. and Harriet Watson, Samantha B. Lee (wife of James B.), Rev. Osborne's wife Susannah, Lydia Benjamin and Mariah Osborn formed the nucleus of the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, meeting in the Osbornes' home. At the time the issue of slavery was a hot subject in America. A person sympathetic to slavery was not granted membership in the new congregation. Holy Communion, with wine furnished by the pastor, was served by common cup at the very first worship service. The Masonic Hall was leased for one year, February, 1855. Rev. Osborne served as pastor until 1958. To supplement their income (Osborne received no specific salary) Mrs. Osborne opened a 'Select School'.

In 1857, a parcel of land, then occupied by a foundry (previously a blacksmith shop), on the Plank Road was acquired. March 3, 1858, a white, Greek Revival style, frame building was dedicated providing the congregation with a home. It cost \$1500. to build. The ladies' organization, as ladies' organizations have always done, contributed carpeting and other furnishings, and in the 1880s commissioned a bronze bell, cast in Troy, N.Y. By 1882, adult membership totaled 65.

Each retaining their identities, the First Baptist Society of Brighton (organized c. 1875) and First Presbyterian Church, federated for economic reasons in 1915. They met together for worship employing one pastor.

The 70 year old frame structure was moved to W. North Street and a new brick sanctuary, in the Early English Country Gothic style, was built in 1927. The only historical item preserved from the original building was the bell. During the Great Depression in the 1930s the construction debt of \$35,000.00 almost forced the sale of the building. A jubilant celebration of thanks marked the burning of the mortgage in 1941. A disastrous fire, March 2, 1943, found the congregation in debt again. Wartime material shortages forced revised reconstruction but before the year was out worship services were taking place in the church. The federation of the Presbyterians and Baptists was dissolved in 1961, to become one congregation. The vacant Mellus Hospital next door became an office facility and classrooms. A four acre site south of the church was purchased in 1974, providing room to more efficiently house church offices. Groundbreaking for a new 12,000 sq/ft addition took place six years later. The facility has continued to grow to accommodate an increasing membership; as has the staff necessary to conduct the many outreach opportunities. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1880 History of Livingston County and "A History of Our Church, 1853-2003" by First Presbyterian congregation.)