



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

April 2004
Vol. XXIII No. 4

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

A NEED TO PRESERVE STRUCTURES AND MEMORIES

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Preservation of early local structures is a vital goal of the Society. The Society finds it equally important to preserve the written/printed accounts of the area's history.

Photos, journals, memoirs, press clippings, a register of the merchants, laborers, farmers, etc., are all documents which help bring those who preceded us into a keener focus in our lives.

We can learn from them and how they solved life's challenges. We can learn of the people who settled here and made their homes; the events in which they participated; how they supported each other, even as we do. To learn they laughed and cried even as we are joyful and feel sorrow helps make the connection.

The ephemera already in the collection is filed in a secure, archival facility at the Lyon School. Donations of items, or a copy, are most welcome. If you'd like to participate in the sorting and filing contact the Society. You are needed (as is a large steel exterior door).

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

In April, 1804, St. Louis had really great weather. Early spring flowers, swelling fruit tree buds and flowering trees all sang, "Spring is here, let's go!" to the men of the Corps of Discovery.

However, Lewis decided more provisions were necessary. The take-off day was postponed for a month. In St. Louis, he began buying the additional supplies: flags, mosquito netting, clothing, liquor (a total of 120 gallons), and Indian trade goods. He also included 4,175 complete rations, 5,555 rations of flour, 4000 rations of salt pork, plus ground corn and more. Clark's list included nails for hinges, red and blue ribbon, etc. Lewis had all shipped to Clark at Wood River. (cont. p. 3)



Dates to Remember:

- Apr. *1,15,22, 29: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
*7,14,21,28: 7 p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
*26: 6:30 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Margaret Bowland, Whitney & June Kimble and Lyle & Joyce Powers.

COUPLES/INDIV: Charles & Muriel Allen (Howell), John Allen (FL), Charles & Janice Beach, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Dorothy Foster (CA), Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Tom & Mindy Kinsey (MIfd), Cleo Moran (S. Lyon), Ruth Munzel (S. Lyon), *John M. Pollock (Leland), Paul & Kay Spangler, Sheryl Vigmostad.

*Welcome to new member John Pollock. New memberships and renewals are how the administration bills are paid: office and officer expenses, newsletter printing, supplies, post office charges, etc.

FRIENDS OF LYON SCHOOL 2004

Tom & Mindy Kinsey. 2004 contributions to the FRIENDS help pay the insurance, utilities and maintenance expenses.

Are your 2004 dues paid? Check the date on the address label. If you find an error call 810/229-6402. If yours is a 'Complementary Copy' give consideration to supporting the Society's existence.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, John & Janice Field and June Kimble for help in mailing March newsletter.

...Norma Jean Pless for three clear plastic containers for use as non-archival storage and to Jane Tomlinson for memorabilia from the Lovisa Seger estate.

...Whitney Kimble for the program of the minstrel show to benefit the Mill Pond Improvement Fund and a Brighton City Charter; both items from 1955.

...Fay Hall, California, for information, including honors and titles her father Henry C. Hall, earned as a world renowned ski jumper.

...Betsy Herbst for use of the organ stool and doilies in the display cabinets at the Lyon School. Dick Weaire and Bruce King for their dedicated caring for the school.

...Donations sent with dues: Tom &

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Local history programs are available to schools, organizations, etc. These can include transparencies of earlier sites, events, etc.

LYON SCHOOL: Tulips are up, bluebirds are back and a lot of brush needs to be removed. A number of other jobs are awaiting your attention. CALL Dick Weaire, 229-3066 to help. He has a list.

HISTORY BOOK: An ongoing project, nearing completion. We must be patient. Much work has gone into this. It'll be worth it.

NEEDS NEEDS NEEDS

...Flat files for maps. AND a 41.5 " steel exterior door for the archives room.

...Longer time residents of the area will have vivid memories of Bert Miller. Please jot them down and, include photos if available, and send to the Society. It would be a fitting memorial to a person who contributed much to the community's well being to compile such a record.

...Your signature on the Signature Quilt. Approximately 170 are already on the quilt. Many are memorials. Signatures of many early settlers are available. There is room for 130 more. The quilt will remain with the Society. What a great exhibit item! Your donation of \$10. for each signature goes to the HPR Fund. 229-6402 for the signature of an early settler.

Sympathies of the Society are
extended to the family of
ALENE STUHRBERG ANDERSON
Brighton native
Society charter member

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders and Lawrence Autobody have renewed for 2004. 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.

Mindy Kinsey to Lyon School and to Friends. Cleo Moran, John Pollock, and Sheryl Vigmostad,

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 LIFE

DONATION: () \$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, 810/229-6402.

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.

(cont. from p. 1) As these provisions arrived, Clark kept the Corps busy packing, unpacking, repacking, to find the best way to fit them on the keelboat and the pirogues. Once loaded the vessels were tested on the Mississippi. Changes were made to improve balance. Adding more weight in the bow, less in the stern allowed the boat to ride up over submerged logs, etc, instead of hitting them directly.

Once underway the keelboat would be rowed by 22 privates with three sergeants. Six soldiers were assigned to one pirogue and eight French voyageurs to the other.

A few days before setting out some of the settlers at Wood River challenged the soldiers to a shooting match. Clark later wrote of the settlers "...all git beet and Lose their money." (sic)

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Congratulations to the White Lake Historical Society on the grand opening of the Thompson One Room School, May 16, 3-5:30. Tours, refreshments. 248/698-2737 for info.

Washtenaw County Historical Society, April 3, 10-3 p.m. Antiques appraisal by Du Mouchelle. Dixboro United Methodist Church, Plymouth Road at Cherry Hill. 734/662-9092

Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Assoc.

Annual conference, Frankenmuth, May 7-8. Workshops, local tours, research. <<http://wwwone-roomschools.org/>>

Congratulations to Northville Historical Society on their 40th anniversary.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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HENRIETTA E. GLUER BEURMANN BRINGS HER FAMILY TO GENOA, 1840

When husband William Henry died at 48 in 1835, it may be assumed his mercantile business in Hamburg, Germany, was sold. Perhaps the proceeds enabled Henrietta to bring her family to America. She and the children, William H. (21), Emma (16), Edward G. (1) and Charles E. (8) spent 10 weeks crossing the briney deep.

Economic conditions in Hamburg, as in all of Europe, were experiencing major changes in rural and urban markets at the time. Commercial rather than subsistence farming resulted in the rise of large estates, increasing the price of land. The growth of the nascent industrial revolution resulted in cities over-crowded with factory workers, largely unskilled, from rural areas. Improved transportation promoted distribution of factory-made products; the skilled artisan found a dwindling market. European population as a whole was increasing. One cannot imagine the heart-rending decision brave Henrietta had to make; whether to stay in the ancestral country or to avail her family of the opportunities on the other side of the ocean. They found themselves aligned with many of this area's settlers searching for a place to breath life into a brighter future in which they had more control.

Christmas Day, 1840, finds the family in the log home, most likely built from timber on the newly purchased 80 acres of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 34 in Genoa Township. Some comfort must have been found in the several other settlers from Hamburg and other German cities within a few miles' radius. Henriette was friendly to Indian visitors "...who frequented their door and (she) fed them with a kindly hand." Sons William and Charles seem to have been the suppliers of meat for the family; shooting bears, deer, wolves and turkeys. Upon her death in 1860 she is among the first Beurmanns buried in Chilson Cemetery. Twenty family members are interred nearby.

Son Charles E., by providing much labor in 1873, kept the cost of a fine brick house, built on the site of the log cabin, at \$4000. The site is on the south side of Brighton Road, about one mile west of Bauer Road. Charles and Phidelia Hoagland had 11 children. His siblings were not so prolific. Even today one finds Henrietta's descendants in the area. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1891 Biographic and Portrait Album; atlases; Early Settlers and Land Owners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau and the Chilson Cemetery transcription by Gladys M. Reeve. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)