WHY IS FONDA LAKE NAMED FONDA LAKE?

From Plattsburgh, N.Y., Lewis B. Fonda, 85, and his wife Sophia (Cochren), 19, came to Michigan on the steamboat "Superior" in 1832, landing in Detroit. They walked to Ann Arbor, living there for four years, until they could move to the land purchased in 1832; Section 38, T6 R45, in Brighton Township. The 1850 census has the Fondas living in the township. Before long land, including Fonda, Ielond and Briggs Lake, totaling 880 acres is purchased before 1855.

Credit for the first frame house in Livingston County is given Lewis B. The lumber used in its construction was brought by ox teams from Ann Arbor. (One speculates on why lumber from the nearby Maltby and Woodruff mills wasn't used. Both were in operation at the time, two miles away in either direction.) The site of that "...dwelling of considerable pretension" is now under the I-96 and U.S. 23 interchange. When they moved into their home their nearest neighbors are living in wigwams on the shores of the lakes just south of the Grand River Trail. Other neighbors included Stephen Lee, about four miles south, who was living in a log house in Green Oak Township since 1850.

Daughter Juliette was born in 1831, in New York. In 1867 and '68 she was a teacher in the local school. Son John b. 1833, Lewis B. Jr., 1835, and daughters Sophia, 1837, Elizabeth and Fannie, 1841, were all born in Michigan. John married Catherine Bird (daughter of early settler Melzer). Lewis B., Jr., caught "gold fever" and headed west to Colorado and Utah. One source notes Jr. is buried in Silver City, Nevada, or in Colorado. Another indicates he is married in 1865, but we have no confirmation. Sophia married George English who died not long after in New York, where she also later died. Elizabeth appears in the 1850 census as a nine year old, but then no more record of her. Fannie married Charles A. Holdridge, Jr. Three daughters were born to them. A son, b. 8-26-1880, d. 10-15-1880, preceded in death by his mother, September 3, 1880. The three daughters all lived into the 20th century.

After the organization of Brighton Township in 1837, which included the village of Brighton at the time, Lewis B. is fulfilling his civic duty as school district moderator in 1843 and 1871/74. In 1850 he was Collector of taxes and township supervisor in 1854/55 and 1858. He was a charter member of the Livingston Agricultural society and received a premium at the county fair in Brighton for his swine exhibit and farm implement exhibit, October 15, 1853. (Compiled by Marianne Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; Me Plies' supplements to Old Village Cemetery records; census records; Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County and early obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)

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**Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter**

**Trail Tales**

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

**ART FAIR TIME IS HERE AGAIN!**

August 14, 15, the Society booth will be in its usual place - W. Main at Hyne Street. Plan to stop by. Tiles, note paper, post cards, maps, afghans (a popular gift), Lyon School T-shirts, mugs, pewter plates, needlepoint kits and memberships will be on hand. A few copies of the 2004 calendar with drawings of early local k scenes, are still available.

Society members will be there to help answer questions.

Reservations for the history book will be taken. The 495 pages with 300 photos have gone to the printer. The price is $60.00 to members, $65.00 to others.

Can you devote an hour or two to the booth? Call 810/229-6402 or just come and help.

**VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL**

It must be remembered, the most important purpose of the Voyage was to find a way to the Pacific. To succeed, the Indian tribes the Corps met would have to be convinced a new 'father' would supply and trade with them now. No more would they deal with the Spanish or French. The continued influence of the British, with whom they had traded for many years, had to end. The tribes would be given the opportunity to join in a trading system with well established posts and dependable delivery. More gifts would be coming, peace would result; if these terms were not accepted all trade would be ended.

At each meeting, to properly impress the tribes they represented a mighty nation, Lewis and Clark appeared in full dress, the men were on dress parade, the American Flag flew from a post and often the swivel gun was fired. The gifts had been prepared in 30 esposa.

**Dates to Remember:**

_**Aug. 19, 26:** 1-3 p.m. Archives filling. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
_**Aug 19, 26:** 7 p.m. Lyon School. Restoration/maintenance. Welcome. 14, 15: Art Fair booth on Main Street. Stop by.
_**Aug 27:** 6:30 p.m. Board meeting. Welcome. Lyon School, 11455 Bunt Rd., Brighton._
MEMBERSHIPS


Gladys and Sue are new members. Welcome. The Society will be able to continue its mission as long as members renew and new members join.

If 'Complementary Copy' is stamped on the front of your letter, it is hoped you will support with a donation or membership.

THANKS

Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John E. Janis Field for help readying the July newsletter for mailing.

Stephen Leith for a donation toward purchase of address labels.

Walter Jollitz for family photos and various c. 1920's styles of certificates; the several Woodcock Cemetery markers saved from destruction and photos of the original miller's house at Woodfll Mill.

Rudy Herrmann for long time storage of wood signs used for house tours and a tent.

Gladys Blackwell, Sue Newman, and the Binger Winchell family for donations with memberships. Also Ted & Doris Carmack for donation to Lyon School. (Ted is an alumnus.)

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, The Fence, Spot, and Lawrence Autobuy have renewed for 2023. 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.

ETERNAL TRUTHS

From Highland Tap Hist. Soc. A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places. Opportunities always look bigger than winning. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends. Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The proper organizing of archives makes it possible to retrieve information for research. You can help; Thursday, 1-3. Each week question are asked of local history, including people, places, occupations, activities, etc., are received. Donations of photos, books, stories of local events, organizations, etc., are welcome. You keep the originals, copies can be made.

HISTORY BOOK: has gone to press following years of dedicated effort by Carol McKenney. Order can be taken. Cost is $60. For members, $60. For non-members.

LYON SCHOOL: A stake is in place in the yard designating the site where the new flag pole will be placed. To avoid the annoyance of clinging of the cable, a pole with an internal cable and which has been ordered. This will be a proper and needed addition to the Lyon School site. Donations are gladly accepted. Some from those of Lyon School's are coming long the north lot line will be done to provide a nearer appearance. You can help. Call Dick Westmoreland 610/258-3990.

The several officers machines recently donated will make an interesting display. A handy person is needed to oil, clean, whatever. All are in working condition.

MEDICAL

Arts Fair booth help is needed: August 14, 15. This is an ideal means by which the Society becomes better known. A lot of interesting folks visit the booth and the weather will be ideal.

Docents to 'sit' the restored Lyon School. In order to have it open to the public. Information re: the Society and its programs and the restoration is available. Call 810/220-6403.

An embroidery for the Signature Quilt.

Members to consider serving on the Society board. Election will be in November.

Business/professional members.

Donation to the average monthly postage expenses, c. $50.00 of the newsletter.

2004 CALENDAR. Each month shows a date of local and national interest and a site of historical significance from Brighton Area's early days. From the Lee House c. 1840, in Upper Town to the early volunteer Fire Department c. 1870, in Lower Town. This is where St. Paul's c. 1850, and the Cook & Shannon blacksmith shop c. 1871 by the mill pond were located. Henry Herrmann and his dairy cart c. 1910, on the north side of W. Main are all part of the village scene of the time. Lyon School depicts an effective means of education in 1883. The 1920s saw the construction of the Lincoln Hotel and First National Bank followed shortly with the Dixiegas station. H.P. Mennis built Brighton's first modern hospital in 1931. The really fun place for teens was the roller rink at Island Lake. This calendar and other Society items will be available at the Society's Art Fair booth August 14, 15. Call 810/229-9402 to order.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

NEWSPAPER: $25.00, MUG $5.00, DINNER $15.00, NEEDLEPOINT KIT $5.00, all those in Old Town Hall. POST CALENDAR with early local scenes, pgs. 6/3. TAPESTRY PILLOW depicting the railroad depot and train, $35. 1975 FLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genesee, Green Oak, Hartland, Howell, Issac and Oceola townships and Brighton and Howell cities, $1. SHIRTS; red, green or blue, woven with nine local sites, $49. PENDANT BRACELET $35.00. SIGNATURE QUILT. A $10 donation will assure your signature is included on this quilt which will remain in the Society's archives.

TILES: 13 local sites on black/white 3"x3" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 445 W. Main. $8.00 or 3/$21.

(continued from p. 1)

GREEN OAK DAY

Sat., Aug. 21

10:30 a.m. Noon/5 p.m.

1896 Green Oak Historic Hall

10788 Silver Lake Rd.

248/437-8451

Hot Dogs

Everyone

Beverage

Welcome!
MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/TNDY: Gladys Blackwell (Lawling), Ted & Doris Carmack (Sterling Hyte, 05), Jeanette Johnson (05), Sue Newman (Saline), Noah Winchell.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
P.O. BOX 88, BRIGHTON MI 48114-0881

NAME __________________________ PHONE __________________________

ADDRESS __________________________ (Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) New ( ) Renewal

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $25.00 Student
( ) $50.00 Bus/Prof. ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $500.00 Life

Be a Friend of Lyon School: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) other $____

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) other $____

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization

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(cont. from p. 1)

rate lots. Tobacco, pork, flour, meal, beets, buttons, scissors, comb, shirts and fabric were included. Also flags, medall, swis, kettle, axes, Tomahawks. Would all of this impress the Sioux, the tribe which caused the most apprehension?

Since late July Sgt. Charles Floyd had not been well. He improved but by August 18 the pain returned. Clark tried every possible remedy he could but two days later Sgt. Floyd died (probably of a burst appendix). Floyd was the first U.S. soldier to die and 86s. Peter Jess's election to replace him, was the first election west of the Mississippi.

August 1, was Clark's 34th birthday and Lewis' 30th on the 10th. Gunfire, extra rotations, an extra glass of whiskey, than the fiddle appeared and the sun danced by the fire until late.

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Everyone

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Brighton, MI 48116

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