



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

Aug. 2004
Vol. XXIII No. 8

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

ART FAIR TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

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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 496 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 sepa-

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Dates to Remember:

Aug. *19,26: 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.

*11,18,25: 7 p.m. Lyon School.
Restoration/maintenance. Welcome.

14,15: Art Fair booth on Main Street.
Stop by.

*27: 6:30 p.m. Board meeting. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: *Gladys Bäckwith (Lansing), Ted & Doris Carmack (Sterling Hgts, 05), Jeanette Johnson (05), *Sue Newman (Saline), Noah Winchell.

*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 issue it is hoped you will support with a donation or membership.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John & Janice 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. 1920s styles of certificates; the several Woodruff Cemetery markers saved from destruction and photos of the original miller's house at Woodruff Mill.

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

...Gladys Beckwith, 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 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.

ETERNAL TRUTHS From Highland Twp 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 going than coming.

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 make it possible to retrieve information for research. You can help; Thursdays, 1-3. Each week questions re: local history, including people, sites, 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 McMacken. Order can be taken. Cost is \$60. for members, \$65. 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 clanking of the cable, a pole with an internal cable and winch has been ordered. This will be a proper and needed addition to the Lyon School site. Donations are gladly accepted. Some clearing of brush along the north lot line will be done to provide a neater appearance. You can help. Call Dick Weaire 810/229-3066, The several office machines recently donated will make an interesting display. A handy person is needed to oil, clean, whatever. All are in working condition.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...Art Fair booth helpers: 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 810/229-6402.

...An embroiderer 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 expense, c. \$50.00 of the newsletter.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48115-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

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

DUES: () \$50.00 Patron () \$25.00 Couple () \$2.00 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

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

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. 1970, in Lower Town. This is where St. Paul's c. 1880, and the Cook S Shannon blacksmith shop c. 1871 by the mill pond are located. Henry Herbst 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 1885. The 1920s saw the construction of the Lincoln Hotel and First National Bank followed shortly with the Dixiegas station. H.P. Mellus 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. Or call 810/229-6402 to order.

NOTE PAPER: pkg \$2.50; MUG \$5.; TOTESAG \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KIT \$8., all show the Old Town Hall. POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg. 6/\$3. TAPESTRY PILLOW depicting the railroad depot and train, \$29. 1875 PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola townships and Brighton and Howell cities, \$1. AFGHANS: red, green or blue, woven with nine local sites, \$49. PEWTER PLATES \$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"x6" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.

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rate lots. Tobacco, pork, flour, meal, beads, buttons, scissors, combs, shirts and fabric were included. Also flags, medals, awls, kettles, axes, Tomahawks. Would all of this properly 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 butst appendix). Floyd was the first U.S. soldier to die and Em. Peter Gass'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 18th. Gunfire, extra rations, an extra gill of whiskey, then the fiddle appeared and the men danced by the fire until late.

GREEN OAK DAY
Sat., Aug. 21

Noon/5p.m.

1856 Green Oak
Historic Hall
10789 Silver Lk. Rd.

Hot Dogs
Beverage
Dessert

Tour the Hall

248/437-8461

Everyone

WELCOME!

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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WHY IS FONDA LAKE NAMED FONDA LAKE?

From Plattsburgh, N.Y., Lewis B. Fonda, 25, and his wife Sophia (Cochran), 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 32, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, in Brighton Township. The 1840 census has the Fondas living in the township. Before long land, including Fonda, Island and Briggs Lake, totaling 680 acres is purchased before 1865.

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 move 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 1830.

DAughter Juliette was born in 1831, in New York. In 1867 and '68 she was a teacher in the local school. Sons 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. 10-18-1880, 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 Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; Wm Pless' supplement 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.)