



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

December 2004
Vol. XXIII No. 12

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

OFFICERS

President/Editor
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Vice President
Jim Vichich
810/227-4840

Secretary
Thomas Reinke
313/295-9326

Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey
248/684-0340

DIRECTORS

Nancy Fredenburg
248/926-2371

Carol McMacken
810/231-2957

Dick Weaire
810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS

John & Janice
Field:
Cemeteries/
Archives
810/599-6195

SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Society is to bring together those interested in history, especially the history of the Brighton area. In 2004 the Society has made progress in reaching that goal.

Through its monthly newsletter, articles in the local press and referrals from the Chamber of Commerce and governmental entities the Society is becoming better known.

The restoration of the Lyon one room school in Brighton Township has resulted in visits of local school children, scouts and other organizations. This historic structure is the Society headquarters. Maintenance is continual.

Development of local archives is ongoing. Files containing history re: local residents, occupations, businesses, schools, organizations, etc., etc., are available for research. Requests for information re: local sites are compiled as well as possible.

Efforts are made to become aware of proper restoration, preservation, promotion of awareness of local history, etc. A local history book has been published.

Those who agree the Society's mission is worthwhile are needed as members, project chairs, and or board members. The Society is a treasure holder. As a member you can assure its mission will go forward.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

Comparisons of recent average winter temperatures in North Dakota, with the weather data kept by the Captains of the Corps, reveal the winter of 1804-05 was among the coldest ever. Capt. William Clark December 12 - "The Thermometer at Sun rise stood at 38° below 0, moderated until 6 o Clock at which time it began to get colder."

In anticipation of the observance of Christmas, Sgt. Patrick Gass noted: "This evening we finished our fortification. Flour, dried apples, pepper and other articles were distributed in the different messes to enable them to celebrate Christmas in a proper and social manner." (cont. page 3)

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: *Brian Jones.

PATRON: Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Emil & Joan Engle, Tom & Mindy Kinsey (Milfd).

COUPLES/INDIV: *Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, *Bill & Jackie Damm, Phyllis Kerslake (Grs Pte Farms), Pete Leitz, Tedd & Linda Potter, Bill & Nancy Schlagel, *Joyce Terry (Whtmr Lk), Arlene Warner (Milfd).

*A warm welcome to Brian Jones, Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Bill & Jackie Damm and Joyce Terry, new members.

Sincerely appreciated are those members who renew year after year. Your support is most heartening.

The membership/ mailing list is under review for 2005. If this issue is stamped 'Complementary Copy' it is being sent to you at no charge. It is hoped there is sufficient interest for you to become a member.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair, John & Janice Field for help in mailing November Trail Tales.

...Ida Bair for the July, 1986 issue of the Brighton Argus re: the 100th Anniversary of Brighton High School.

...Lois and James Clark for donating an extensive genealogy of Richard Lyon.

...Larry Lawrence for a CD-R of the 1956 Western Auto catalog.

...Judy Orlando, WA, for her donation in honor of Mel Skeman's 90th birthday.

...Judy Brady Wirth for her help with archival information of the Brady Family, long time area residents.

...Brian Jones, Tom & Mindy Kinsey, Pete Leitz, and Tedd & Linda Potter for the donation to Lyon School with their dues payments.

...Bill & Nancy Schlagel and Arlene Warner for their donation with dues.

...Nancy Fredenburg and Mindy Kinsey for their help with the Society booth at the recent Art Expo, and to John Sauve for the invitation.

...Joanne Swonk for her years of dedication as liaison to the public school arranging for class visits to the Lyon School.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The filing and indexing of local historical ephemera continues. Always welcome are photos, written material, genealogical information, etc. Copies can be made from your originals. Donations of these sorts make the archives even more valuable.

LYON SCHOOL: Thanks to Tom Kinsey the lights in the rest room are operating again. A group of Cub Scouts was recently hosted. This facility is open for meetings of your group. Elementary school children especially enjoy it.

HISTORY BOOK: Many thanks to those who have already ordered. A pre-Christmas delivery is still hoped for. To order yours see page 3.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...People to serve as a Director or a Chairman of a project on the Society board. There are lots more activities in which the Society could/should be involved. Many contribute financially; not everyone can contribute physically. This is an opportunity for Society members to volunteer their services. Reimbursement will be in the form of knowing the Society's mission will continue. Call a board member to say what you'd like to do or ask how you can participate.

...A liaison to the schools to make arrangements for classes to visit the Lyon School.

...someone to direct the construction of a building in the style of an early barn. A display of agricultural tools could be arranged, enhancing any visitor's experience to the Lyon School.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, The Fence Spot, Brian Jones, Lawrence Autobody and Promess, Inc. (Life). The continued support and confidence of these folks is much appreciated. Give them your consideration please. The support of others in the commercial community is welcome.

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

POST CARDS: early local scenes, pkg. 6/\$3. NOTE PAPER: pkg \$2.50; MUGS \$5; TOTE BAGS \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KIT \$8.; PEWTER PLATES \$35.; all show the Old Town Hall.

1875 PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola Townships and 1915 of Brighton and Howell Cities @ \$1. AFGHANS: red, green or blue, woven with nine local sites \$49.; TAPESTRY PILLOW with railroad depot and train, \$28.; 2004 CALENDAR with local scenes \$5. SOCIETY POLO SHIRTS: Navy, forest green and black with BAHS emblem. S/XL \$25., XXL \$26.50. To order any of the above, 810/229-6402.

Your signature, or that of another of your choice, embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT, \$10. An appropriate, simple way to support the Society. the quilt will remain in the Society's archives.

TILES: 13 local scenes on black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. Limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

Brighton's own "FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY... 1832-1945" history book. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. \$60. to members, \$65. to non members plus shipping. Reserve yours.

(cont. fr. p. 1)

Sgt. John Ordway records December 25, as a holiday worthy of celebration. "We fired the Swivels at day break & each man fired one round. our officers Gave the party a drink of Taffee (rum). we had the Best to eat that could be had, & continuing firing dancing & frolicking dureing the whole day. the Savages did not Trouble us as we had requested them not to come as it was a Great medician day with us. we enjoyed a merry cristmas dureing the day & evening untill nine oClock - all in peace and quietness."

CIVIL WAR FLAGS TOUR

Those able to take the tour of the Michigan Civil War flags room were unanimous in their "That was great" description.

Kerry Chartkoff, State Capitol historian and tour director held us spellbound as we

were impressed with the deep patriotic and personal histories of these remnants of flags. Michigan's soldiers and cavalry proudly rode to battle behind their flag.

The flags are preserved on special roll out trays, covered with archival paper for protection. It was the restoration of the capitol which brought to light the incalculable value of these fragments.

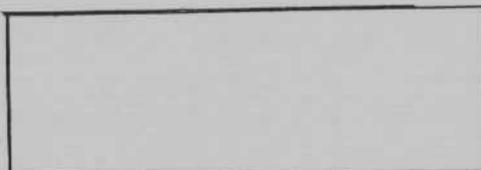
In addition the tour included a visit to the special exhibit of "Tommaso Juglaris: A Capitol Artist" the artist who painted the Muses in the dome of the Capitol.

The reseach by Chartkoff revealed the unknown artist, culminating in the first international exhibit which included 50 of Juglaris' works, many never before exhibited this side of the Atlantic.

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PREACHER IRA WARNER FARMS IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP

The son of a veteran of the Revolutionary War, Ira Warner came to Michigan in 1839 from his home state, New York. Ira was only nine when his father, Col. Seth Warner, died in 1812. There were three siblings. Until he was 18 he worked on his mother, Rebecca Tyler's farm. December 27, 1829, he married Laura Foster, only 16 at the time. Laura was the oldest of 13 children in her family. At the same common school in which he received his education, Ira preached the Gospel that winter. However, for the next 10 years he concentrated on his farm.

In 1839, he purchased 60 heavily timbered acres in Milan Township, Monroe County, Michigan, bringing his family with him: Henry I, b. 1833; Judson, b. 1835 and Eliza, b. 1837. However calls for his preaching services were so numerous he found it difficult to sufficiently clear the land for agriculture.

He traded 120 acres in Brighton Township, Livingston County, for the land in Milan in 1849; Section 17, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; approximately 20 acres of which were under water. He soon after purchased the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, the south half of which is known as School Lake. At the time it was known as Warner Lake, later Hicks Lake.

Children born in Michigan were Rebecca, 1840; George, 1841; Obediah, 1844; Laura, 1844; and Ada, 1858. Several of the children married neighbors: Henry married Martha Beach. Research indicates they had five children, three of which, including Martha, died of T.B. Eliza married George Conely. They had five children, two of which died at early ages. George married Mary Hayner. The 1880 Census finds them in Handy Township with six children.

Ira served as a preacher of the gospel in almost every school in the county and at all the funerals. Regular services at which he preached were often 25 miles distant. He had a horse but no saddle, using blankets and strings of basswood bark for stirrups. Farming must have been the major source of income. For his almost 40 years of preaching and serving he received a total of \$300.

Ira and Laura are buried in the Old Village Cemetery as is his mother, Rebecca. Two of Henry's children and his wife, Martha, are also buried there. (Compiled by Marie-anna Bair from 1880 History of Livingston County; Pleasant Valley Cemetery Records compiled by John and Janice Field; Census records; obituaries collected by Milton Charboneau and his 'Early Landowners and Settlers in Livingston County! Additions/corrections to 810/229-6402, please.)