TO THE COLONIES IN THE 17TH CENTURY—TO MICHIGAN IN THE 19TH

LeGrand Beach a Farmer, (b. Nov. 4, 1810, N.Y.) came to Green Oak Township c. 1845. He purchased government land, 100 acres, in Section 1, East of Kensington Road, south of the Grand River Trail, north of the Huron River, it is now part of the Island Lake Recreation Area. A house was built and LeGrand and Zuba raised their family of four. Betsy, who married neighbor William H. Hooker, was born in New York in 1845. Sons Alvanon and Henry were born 1846 and 1847, respectively, in Green Oak as was Hattie, the youngest, born in 1855.

Henry N. gained most of his education at home and at the local district school about ¾ mile from home, the Gage School, corner Kensington and Sutherland Roads. He later attended school in New Hudson. By age 25, he began farming on his own. In 1870, he and Alvanon purchased land in Sec. 36, Brighton Township, directly across Grand River Trail from his father's homestead. Presently I-96 runs through the southern portion and the HCA has a park on the remaining. After their father's death in 1874, the brothers bought the interest of their sisters.

By then Henry had married neighbor Ella Burnett (one of seven children) December 12, 1874. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Burnett, who settled in Green Oak 1834. Henry and Ella had six children: Louis, Belle, Grace, Nell, Herrie and Newton in their home in Brighton Township. To provide a higher education for their children, the Beaches moved to Ann Arbor by the turn of the century. As most early Farmers, Henry raised stock on his 217 acres making a specialty of breeding sheep for city markets. At that time he'd have driven the stock to the railroad yards in Brighton. However he also felt a responsibility to the community and served the township in a number of offices, serving four terms as supervisor beginning in 1897.

Henry died July 8, 1925, on a boating outing, from a heart attack. Henry, his parents, siblings, wife and most of his children are buried at Kensington Cemetery. Henry's mother, Zuba, was a life long Baptist and was instrumental in establishing the Kensington Baptist Church. It is tempting to lump into one family the many Beaches found in early census records who came from the east c. 1840. Archelaus, b. 1768, M.s. and wife, Phoebe, had 10 children. Were they the parents of Lyon born 1790? Aaron 1797? Edward 1800? John 1808 N.Y.? LeGrand 1810 (Henry's Father)? Luther 1820 N.Y.? or are some of these sons of Nathaniel 1774, father of Smith 1800 N.Y.? And there are others who settled in other townships. In the Kensington Cemetery one finds 24 Beaches buried.

In the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, originally set aside by Willard Beach, Brighton Sec. 16, there are 11. (Compiled by Marileane Blair, 810/229-6402, from Bev 1984 Portrait and Biographical Album; census records, atlases; and area obituaries gathered by Milton Cherbonneau. Comments/corrections invited.)

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OFFICERS
President/Editor
Marileane Blair
810/229-6402
Vice President
Sheryl Vigneault
810/227-7952
Secretary
Thomas Reineke
313/295-9326
Treasurer
Mindy Kinsley
248/694-0340

DIRECTORS
Nancy Fredenburg
248/985-2371
Carol McMahon
810/321-3957
Joanne Seonk
810/229-7887
Jim Vichich
810/227-4840
Dick Weisler
810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS
John S. Janice
Field: Cemeteries/Archives
810/329-6195

DATES TO DO IN 2004
With a new year there will be many opportunities to accomplish the mission of the Society: to preserve, advance and disseminate the history of the area.

We look to host more open houses at the Lyon School, present more public programs, receive more visits from school children, scouts and adult groups.

Involvement by those who care about the mission will be encouraged. Persons to serve as a support to the children's program and to help with maintenance at the school. Docents to serve as tour guides to visitors at the school. The several display cases need organizing of items of historical interest. The exhibit of local personal collections as an educational opportunity. We encourage the donation of local historical ephemeras for inclusion in the archives.

To raise funds for the upkeep of the school, utility expenses and insurance costs will need people to hold fund raising events and to assist with managing the society booth at various opportunities.

Consideration should be given to the promotion of historic districts—encourage preservation of early structures.

This is a pleasurable for 2004. None of this can happen without you. Your membership is most important.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL
This most important and coveted command in the history of exploration of America had been given to Captain Meriwether Lewis. Already in May, 1803, he realized the need for another officer. Lewis had been authorized by Jefferson to make his own selection of his companion on this endeavor and that he would be given a Captain's commission. Lewis' thoughts soon turned to William Clark. They had served in the army and determined they would be

Dates to Remember:

- 9-15, 22, 29: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- 14, 21, 28: 7-9 p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
- 15: 7 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome.
- Lyon School, 11459 Buna Rd., Brighton.
**KNOWLEDGE**

People with memories of life in this area are still around. Recording of these memories will provide documentation to the mission of the society. Equipment and 'how to' help is available.

**NEEDED**

- blue bird houses for the school yard.
- early style desks for the Lyons School.
- Farmstead survey project volunteers.
- "How to" help is available.
- raffle items as a fund raiser.
- postage stamps and business envelopes for administration needs.

To participate with any of the projects or needs above contact 810/229-6402, or any of those listed on page four.

**ALONG THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL?**

- Need a program? Want a tour?

Various organizations, scouting groups and students have visited the Lyons School. Would your organization care for a program on local history? Contact Bair, 810/229-6402 to make arrangements.

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**FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

**POST CARDS with early local scenes, pck of 6/$3.00, WRITE PAPER @ $2.150 pkg; MUGS A $5.00, TOTE BAGS @ $15.00, NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ $8.; all show the Old Town Hall.

**TILES:** 13 different local scenes are shown on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Cost is $25.00.

For $10.00 your signature, or that of another of your choice will be embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A file 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.

**DONATIONS TO SOCIETY INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

The Brighton Area Historical Society can accept stock as a donation. Donors will receive the income tax deduction when the shares are transferred to the society. Nancy Fenedenburg can assist anyone that has a question regarding this procedure. Please call her at 248/395-2371.

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**OTHER PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS**

Jan. 17-18: Saline Area Historical Society hosts "Wine and Winetasting" at the Farm Stand.
Mar. 13, 7:30: Plymouth Historical Society presents "Visit with Calhoun" at the museum, 155 S. Main.
MEMBERSHIPS

BUSINESS: Lawrence Autobodies.

PAID: Bilton-Samuel, 827 S June Ailb.
Early settlers from New York, Joseph Placeway and wife Ann Maria, with daughters Mary (2) and Mathilda (1), purchased 200 acres in Genoa in 1836. The following year, Joseph Edward was born followed by George and John. Joseph Edward married Emily Jane Smith, born in Plymouth, daughter of another early settler. Joseph E. and Emily had three children, Charles Edward, Jennie and William. At the time of Charles E.'s birth, October 13, 1860, the family was in Hamburg Township on a farm. By 1867 the family lived in Brighton Village. Charles E. graduated from Brighton High School in 1874. His education was furthered at the "University in Ann Arbor." His father served for 13 years in the Civil War with the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. Both uncles also heard duty's call. Several ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

Charles E., at 15 years, began learning the newspaper publishing business by working for George Axell, owner of the "Brighton Citizen", established in 1873. In 1877, he's with the "Ann Arbor Courier". A year later Charles established the first paper in South Lyon, the "South Lyon Herald". By 1879 the "Pinckney Gazette" up and running. He was now 19. Having purchased the contents of the office of the "Brighton Citizen", he sold both of these papers and established the "Brighton Argus". He published the Argus until 1897 when he sold to Town and Jacob. In five years Seth Jacobs bought Town's Interest.

Charles E. did find time to woo and wed neighbor Alta E. Case, daughter of merchant Ira Case, October 10, 1901. They lived in the house built by Daniel Marsh "in an early day", on the corner of Rickett and Grand River. He also found opportunity to serve four years as Township Clerk, three as Village Clerk and four as School Inspector. Charles and Alta had three children, William E., Edna S. and Gertrude. William E. married Iva Mackay in Toledo and had a career as a reporter for a Detroit paper. Edna S. became Mrs. Edward Grout and Gertrude, Mrs. Clifford Roberts (who built the Rialto Theater on W. Main in 1916). After retiring from the Argus, Charles E. became a real estate agent. For about 15 years he'd been an auctioneer. After Alta's death April 28, 1910, of heart trouble, Charles married Abigail Buck Lyons, widow of William C. Lyons, son of Richard J. and Martha Lyons, pioneers in brighton Township. February 8, 1919 Charles died from a stomach ailment. He and Alta are buried at Calvary Cemetery. Abigail died eight months later and is buried with William Lyons just two lots away. (Compiled by Marisema Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Charbonneau and Case Genealogy by Stephen Laith. Additions/corrections welcome, 810/229-6402.)