



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

[HTTP://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS](http://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS)

Trail Tales

January 2004
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

LOTS TO DO IN 2004

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Cemeteries/
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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 ephemera 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 to encourage preservation of early structures.

This is a plateful 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 the exploration of America had been given to Captain Merriwether 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:

- Jan. *8,15,22,29: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
*14,21,28: 7-9 p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
*26: 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Lawrence Autobody.

PATRON: Tillie Bitten, Emil & Joan Engel, Whitney & June Kimble

COUPLES/INDIV: Don & Ricci Bandkau, Nancy Fredenburg, Shirley Jenks (Howell 04), David Lehman, Harold Leitz, Helen Leitz (Drbrn), Brenda McCarty, Helen Michaels, Tedd & Linda Potter, Richard & Mary Ray, Jennifer Scott (gift from Nancy Fredenburg), Rev. Don Thomas (Mio), Bill & GiGi Valliencourt, Randall & Kyle Wilson.

Renewing members are the life blood of any organization. This historical society could not exist without them. The year through which your dues are paid is noted on the address label. The mailing list is being reviewed. There's no point in mailing to someone uninterested. If you find an error, let us know.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, John & Janice Field, and June Kimble for help in mailing the December newsletter.

...those who notify us of address changes.

...Don & Ricci Bandkau, Tillie Bitten, Shirley Jenks, Lawrence Auto Body, Dave Lehman, Brenda McCarty, Helen Michaels, Tedd & Linda Potter, Rev. Don Thomas for the extra donation with their dues.

...Stephen Leith for Case Family group sheets and Pardee genealogy.

...Helen Leitz is a charter member of the Friends of the Lyons School and sent an extra donation.

...Bob Watson for group sheet for Emil Bode Family. (Campbelltown Mill item October, 2002.

...New and continuing members of the Society board. A caring and diligent group.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody (03), The Fence Spot, The support of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Need copier cartridge for Canon PC940. (or funds to purchase.)

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: The history of area business sites is an important part of documenting earlier times. Your help is welcomed. Pictures and information are needed.

LYONS SCHOOL: Historic pictures of the area are on display. The museum area has been rearranged and the pot belly stove moved into the school room. A gutter has been installed over the door at the top of the ramp. All this, thanks to Dick Weaire.

ORAL HISTORY: People with memories of life in 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 item 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 one.

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.



ALONG THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL?

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? () Yes () No

() New () Renewal. Your help is needed with: *Historic Preservation Projects, **Fund Raising Projects, ***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 Projects: Archives, History Book, Historic Resource Survey, Historic Site Marker/Restoration, Lyons School, Oral History/Video, Photography.

**Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverletes, Home Tour, Mugs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillows.

***Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg of 6/\$3.; NOTE PAPER @ \$2.50 pkg; MUGS A \$5.; TOTE BAGS @ \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ \$8.; all show the Old Town Hall.

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Brighton @ \$1.00. A TAPES-TRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ \$30.00. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ \$49.00. 810/229-6402 to order any of the above.

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.

TILES: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main and Main Street Cafe 440 W. Main have them in stock. \$8.00 or \$3/\$21.00.

WITH OTHER PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS

Jan. 17,18: Saline Area Historical Society hosts 16th Annual Antique Show at the Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor/Saline at Pleasant Lake Roads. \$3.00 adm. 734/429-3164 or 734/944-0713.

Feb. 13, 7:30. Plymouth Historical Society program "Hospitals and House Calls" at the museum, 155 S. Main.

Mar. 13, 7:30. Plymouth Historical Society program "Don't Spit on the Sidewalk" at the Museum, 155 S. Main.

Jan. 11, 10-2. \$20.00. Cobblestone Farm Assoc. - Window Restoration workshop. learn proper repair methods. Pre register. 734-994-2928.

Feb. 8, 10-2. \$10.00 Cobblestone Farm Assoc. Historic Preservation workshop. Pre register. 734/994-2928.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Consider a gift membership in the Brighton Area Historical Society for a friend in 2003.

May 10: Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Assoc. conference. "Back to Our Roots". Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh Rd., Livonia 48152. <<http://www.one-roomschools.org/>> .

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 Fredenburg can assist anyone that has a question regarding this procedure. Please call her at 248/925-2371.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHARLES EDWARD PLACEWAY AND THE BRIGHTON ARGUS

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 1½ 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 Axtell, owner of the "Brighton Citizen", established in 1870. 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 Jacobs. 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, 1887. 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 MacAvoy in Toledo and had a career as a reporter for a Detroit paper. Edna S. became Mrs. Edward Crout and Gertrude, Mrs. Cliff Roberts (who built the Rialto Theater on W. Main in 1918.) 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 Marieanna Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Charboneau and Case Genealogy by Stephen Leith. Additions/corrections welcome, 810/229-6402.)