



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 28, 6:30 p.m.

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At the June 28, 6:30 p.m. meeting of the Society board and membership the following clause will be discussed and voted upon for inclusion in the bylaws of the Brighton Area Historical Society. This meeting will be held at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road. For more information and/or comments call 810/229-6402.

"Each person who at any time is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of this corporation will be indemnified by this corporation in accordance with and to the full extent permitted by the Michigan NonProfit Corporation Act as in effect at the time of adoption of this Bylaw or as amended from time to time. This right of indemnification will not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which a person seeking indemnification may be entitled under any Bylaw, agreement, vote of membership or disinterested directors, or otherwise. If authorized by the Board of Directors, the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person to the full extent permitted by the Michigan NonProfit Corporation Act as in effect at the time of the adoption of this Bylaw or as amended from time to time. If the corporation pays indemnity or makes an advance of expenses to a director, officer, employee, or agent, the corporation must report the indemnification or advance in writing to the members with or before the notice of the next membership meeting."

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

June 1, 1804, Captain Meriwether Lewis, scientist, walked on the land along the Missouri collecting specimens, noting the lay of the land, its fertility, and location of water, homestead, trading post and fortification sites. Captain William Clark, the better waterman, piloted the keelboat and two pirogues reaching the Osage River. Observations from the moon and sun were taken.

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Dates to Remember:

June #17,24: 1-3 p.m., Archives Filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
#9,16,23,30: 7 p.m. School restoration/
maintenance. Welcome.
#28: 6:30 p.m. Board & Membership
meeting. Welcome.

#Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Richard & Barbara Smith '05.

COUPLES/INDIV: Don & Ricci Bandkau, Jim DeJohn, Phyllis Schaefer (Fenton), Bill & Rosemary Ulmer.

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

It is the support of dues paying members which provides the Foundation on which the Society can operate and fulfill the purpose.

The many who have renewed their membership, or are new members, demonstrate real interest in and caring about the efforts made and the effect on the local community.

Does 'Complementary Copy' appear on this issue? It is hoped you will consider membership helping promote the purpose of the Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...John & Janice Field, Joanne Swank, and Rosemary Ulmer for their help in mailing the May newsletter.

...George Seger (FL) for the photo of BHS class of 1924.

...Don & Ricci Bandkau and Richard & Barbara Smith for including a donation with their dues payment.

...John & Janice Field for the 1902 Sears catalog and the electric pencil sharpener; additions to the archives.

...Larry Wagner for research providing a more accurate picture of Mary Beumann (April Trail Tales). She was a self-sufficient woman who kept her growing family together for the years after her husband's death and the move to America. She kept the business running profitably and ensured her children's education and future.

 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. Nancy Frederburg can assist if you have a question regarding this procedure. Reach her at 248/925-2371.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Archival boxes to properly store fabrics, photos, papers, etc., have been ordered. Contributions to the Archive Fund help with this expense. Inquirers re local historic resources have been assisted. Your donations of pictures, books, stories, etc., etc. are vital to the development of worthwhile archives. Copies of these items are most welcome.

LYON SCHOOL: Joanne Swank arranged for four third grade classes from Hornung Elementary School to each spend a day at the school. Most came dressed for the 1900 period and experienced early Michigan rural education. Dick Weaire and Bruce King are working on the maintenance of the school and yard. Call Dick, 229-3056 with your offer to help.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Early newspaper clippings noting business, etc., addresses make for a more complete survey. Send us yours.

 NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...documents to 'sit' the restored Lyon School in order to have it open to the public. Information re: the Society and its programs, and the school's restoration is available. Call 810/229-6402.

...1980s/1990s directories of the area. The archivers need correct addresses. Also pictures of rural, town, commercial sites, etc.

...an embroiderer for the Signature Quilt.

...a box of Avery #5351 address labels to send the newsletter.

...business/professional members,

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

 BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders 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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Sent membership card? () Yes () No

() New () Renewal Your help is needed with Preservation/Restoration Projects, Fund Raising 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/Restoration Projects: Archives, Publications, Historic Resource Survey, Historic Site Markers, Lyon School, Oral History/Video, Photography, etc.

Fund Raising Projects: Signature Quilt, Bake Sale, Art Fair, Home Tour, Harvest Fest, etc.

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

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

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

PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola Townships, 1875 and Brighton and Howell cities, \$1.00. AFGHANS red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in, \$49.; TAPESTRY PILLOW depicting the rail road depot and train, \$28.; 2004 CALENDAR with pictures of Brighton scenes, \$5. To order any of the above, 810/229-8402.

For \$10. donation your signature, or that of another of your choice will be embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT. A collection of signatures of early residents is available. This is an appropriate, simple way to support the Society. The quilt will remain in the Society's Archives.

TILES: 13 different local sites depicted on black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. All limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main and Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

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Three 'messes' were formed which received a day's provisions each evening; part of which was saved for the next day. Hoinny and lard one day, salt pork and flour the next, then cornmeal and pork the next.

By mid-June Clark recorded "The party is much afflicted with Boils and Several have the Decisensary,...and two thirds of them with ulcers or Boils,..." (sic) That the water was to blame was sure but the no-vegetable-or-fruit diet contributed. The men were told to fill their cups below the surface of the river to avoid scum, mud and debris.

The 'voyager's' grease (buffalo grease and tallow) smeared on their skin did little to repel the hoards of mosquitoes in their eyes, ears, noses and mouths. Clark's "The ticks & Musquitos are verry troublesome" (sic) are often found in the journals.

Both captains understood their intrusion could cause any Indian tribes they met to be belligerent. Guards were posted and all weapons inspected daily. They were in a war zone.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society will be hosted by the Watrousville-Caro Historical Society, touring the township hall, cemetery, a Greek Revival home and a general store that served mid-Michigan lumbermen. Call Cleo Moran 249/486-9113 for info.

Saturday, June 12, Holly Historical Society. Home tour, seven buildings. Greta 249/634-9233 for info.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE RIDERS - FROM HOLLAND, TO NEW YORK, TO PENNSYLVANIA, TO MICHIGAN

The long relationship of the Rider family and the Fishbeck family in Holland was maintained as they sailed the Atlantic to New York in the late 17th century. Joseph Rider, Sr. was a child when Washington was inaugurated as president. His parents died when he was very young; his only education was as a shoemaker. After serving in the War of 1812, he became a farmer. The two families and a relative, David Pierce, moved to Pennsylvania and then on to Michigan in 1833, settling for two years in Milford Township. (His wife, Sarah Peck, had died earlier.) Joseph, Jr. 15, was with the party.

In 1835, 18 year old Joe 'took up' 120 acres of government land in Genoa Township, Section 17 NE/SE and W¹/₂SE⁴. (The early arrival in America of these two families enabled them to become fluent in the English language, a distinct advantage over more recent immigrant families coming to Genoa from Germany.) Joe traded one horse for a yoke of oxen. To purchase the second yoke he worked for his neighbors. At the time he arrived there were three houses (log) in the township. He built his cabin on an Indian trail which approximated Chilson Road. He was able to communicate with the Indians who traded venison for items he could furnish. At the time it took five days, with the ox team, to make the round trip to Detroit for supplies.

In 1838, Joseph was elected assessor, and later clerk, of newly formed (March 11, 1837) Genoa Township. For a number of years he served as Justice of the Peace. He held offices in the Genoa Grange of which was a charter member. He raised a large number of stock, especially short-horn cattle (for which acres had to be cultivated to raise feed). In October, 1858, at the Livingston County Agriculture Fair he received recognition as owner of the best cultivated farm in the county. An intense interest in the cultivation of trees was evident in the grove of oaks and, along Crooked Lake Road, the many maples. (Are any still there?) Before 1850 his holdings amounted to 560 acres, much of it purchased at tax sales, all in close proximity.

March 19, 1840, Isabella Maria Fishbeck, not yet 16, and Joseph were married. She came from a family of 14 children. (Joseph's sister, Jenina, was the wife of Isabella's brother, Freeman.) The 1850 census records Joseph, Sr. and Elsie (Isabella's mother) living with them. The log house, in which seven children were born, was replaced with a frame house in 1853. (North side Crooked Lake Road, east of Nixon.) In the next nine years three more were born. Two of the children died when about two years old. The oldest, George, died before he was 17 following an accident at school. By the time she was 38 Isabella had born ten children. She died in 1894, at age 70. Joseph sold his farm in 1903 and went to live with his daughter in Greenville. February 14, 1908 he died. Both are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Howell.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1890 History of Livingston County, a drawing of the farm is on page 302; 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Settlement of Germans in Genoa by William Pless; atlases; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Charbonneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-8402)