

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

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

MEMORIAL DAY AND PRESERVATION

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May means Memorial Day, a time to reflect on our citizenship, made secure by veterans of our country's armed forces for over 225 years.

May also means Michigan Week, a time to review how best to promote smart growth in our state. Revitalization, stabilization and investment in under-utilized historic resources returns buildings to the tax base, creates jobs and stimulates state and local economies; besides retaining a neighborhood's character.

Maintenance of existing infrastructure makes better sense than constructing new and keeps construction debris out of the landfill, besides preserving open space. Preservationists have long recognized the connection between the protection and rehab of historic resources and livable communities. For every \$1. spent in preservation/restoration \$1.75 comes back into the local economy.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

May 14, 1804, Capt. William Clark set out from Wood River for St. Charles on the north bank of the Missouri. Meanwhile Capt. Meriwether Lewis is in St. Louis making last minute arrangements: Capt. Stoddard was authorized to act as his agent in St. Louis; he would see the first delegation of trans-Missouri Indians (Osage, selected by Lewis) was sent to Washington, D.C. to meet their new father and be impressed with the power of the Americans. And the eight French voyageurs were to be paid on their return to St. Louis. He had also prepared a pack of specimens for Chocteau to take to Jefferson.

May 20, he set off for St. Charles by horse. That evening his party met "...Clark, found the party in good health and sperits (sic)".

May 21, 20 of the men attended a final mass in the a.m. Lewis hired two half-breeds, both of whom were skilled in sign language and seve-

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Dates to Remember:

- May *6,13,27: 1-3 p.m. Archive filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- *5,12,19,26: 7p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
- *24: 6:30 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Carolina DeLuca (Howell), Tim & Helen Hurst, *John & Barbara Jacoby (MN), Bill & Barb McCririe, John Park (Flint), Jim & Joanne Swonk, Delores Yackley.

*Welcome to new members John & Barbara Jacoby whose connections to the area are rooted in the mid 19th century.

The Society reaches 100s via the newsletter, programs and projects. To continue building the Society and its opportunity to assist historic research of the area, your participation is vital. Memberships and donations enable the Society's growth and impact on our sense of place. The recognition of the connection between the knowledge of the past and its dissemination makes for a more livable community.

If this issue of Trail Tales is a 'Complementary Copy' it is coming to you at no charge. The Society believes it is important for you to be aware of its mission. Membership indicates your support of this mission.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...John & Janice Field and Norma Jean Pless for helping in mailing the April issue of Trail Tales.

...Jim & Joanne Swonk for renewing membership in Friends of Lyon School.

...Jerry Anderson (Ypsi) for three post cards relating to Bert Miller, long time constable of Brighton.

...Brighton City for a CD of the 75th anniversary edition of the Brighton Argus. A copy of that issue is at city hall; you can ask to see it.

...Carolina DeLuca and John Park for donations sent with their dues.

...Joyce Powers for research material on Gene Goldkette, a jazz artist with strong connections to the Island Lake Casino in the early 20th century; his band playing there and at the Greystone Ballroom in Detroit.

...Kay Spangler for copying signatures on the Signature Quilt.

...Cheryl Chidester for a copy of her report on kit houses for her class at Eastern Michigan University.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Storage boxes have been purchased for several older flags and quilt. Also for an original 1915 Livingston County Atlas and 1880 History of Livingston County. The cost is \$14./20. depending on size. Donations to the expense are appreciated.

LYON SCHOOL: Maintenance and restoration is conducted each Wednesday at the school. A list of jobs is available. Contact Dick Weaire, 229-3066 to learn how you can help. If another day/time is better accommodations can be made.

ORAL HISTORY: Each day WW II, and later, vets are passing away - their stories not recorded. A workshop on successful oral history sessions can be scheduled. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 to get your name on the list. (Oral History of others, who are not vets, is important to your family. These people aren't getting any younger.)

EDITORIAL

Take time on Memorial Day to remember those who've made the sacrifice for you to continue enjoying this country. This country may not always be right but it is always worth fighting for.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

1980s/1990 directories of the area. To properly prepare an historic resource survey correct addresses are needed. ALSO pictures of rural, town, commercial sites, restaurants, etc., to improve the archival records. These can be copied and returned.

...an embroiderer for the Signature Quilt.

The sympathies of the Society are extended to the family of
-LOIS GREGORY KRAUSMANN
She was a long time member and contributor to the Society

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 LIFEDONATION: \$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, 810/229-6402.

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, 115 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

(cont. from p. 1) ral native tongues, swearing them into the party as privates. By 3:30 p.m., the crowd on the river bank cheered as the keel boat and the two pirogues set out.

For an expected two years this group would be cut off from civilization: no letters, orders, fresh supplies, nothing reaching them. The U.S. Army had never seen a command such as this. Lewis and Clark were free, as few early explorers were, to make their own decisions, which could mean life or death.

An island, 3¼ miles up river was their first overnight camp. Spring on the Missouri means unbelievably hard work going upstream. Early storms filled the river to overflowing, sand bars continually formed, river speed, normally 5 mph, sped up, huge trees, oak, maples, cottonwoods, piles of driftwood all raced downstream, threatening to wreck the three boats. High sand banks kept falling into the river forcing the crews to quickly change course, struggling to keep the boats upright.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

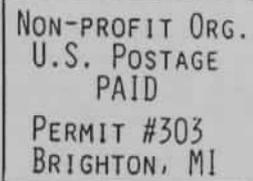
"Da sein", a sculpture by John Sauve, will be dedicated June 5, 3 p.m. By noon the Society booth will be set up. Your help is appreciated, at the ABC Warehouse parking lot, 8540 W. Grand River, Brighton.

May 13, 10-4, Brighton Garden Club Wildflower Sale. Community Center, 555 Brighton St. No adm. fee; wild flowers, herbs, perennials, garden accessories.

May 15, 11-4, "Spring time at the Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. 10 barns, farmhouse, children's activities + 15 exhibit areas. Music, @ 2. Barn Doctor, Ted Mika. Saline Area H. S.

The Society extends congratulations to Noah Winchell on induction to the Boy Scout Court of Honor as an Eagle Scout. Noah painted the exterior of Lyon School in 2003.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

'IRA CASE & SONS' GENERAL STORE

Ira W. Case, b. March 21, 1819, New York, was the 12th child of Samuel (b. 1782, Rhode Island). In all, Samuel had 20 children. Ira was the 5th of Samuel's 2nd wife, Clarissa Crandall b. 1795, Rhode Island.

An elementary education was gained by Ira in a log house with only openings for "...doors or windows. It boasted, however, a great fireplace, and slab seats..." Lack of much formal education did not deter him from doing well. At 15 his practical experience came to the fore and for 4-5 years he drove horses on the tow path of the newly opened Erie Canal, pulling the flat bottom boats over the Allegheny Mountains, going to school in the winter. His commitment to his work did not go unnoticed and he was given the job of steersman. At about 21, with money saved, he bought himself a canal boat. However, due to an accident, the boat sank.

His father had come to Michigan in 1838; in 1840 Ira joined him. After a couple years he again ran a boat for two years. By then his half brother, Spaulding, had a general store in Hamburg and Ira went to work for him for four years. Electors of the community realized his abilities and he was made under sheriff and constable in that township. Ira continued clerking for his brother even after the move of the business to Brighton. (Here he was Justice of the Peace for 18 years, village president, and was a delegate to state and county conventions.)

Two years after the move he purchased a half interest in the business from Spaulding. They continued working together until Spaulding died, June, 1867. Ira had also purchased interest in a dry good stock owned by Patrick Donley. In 1884, Ira bought out Donley becoming the oldest merchant in Livingston County.

The store, built by Ira, was housed in a two story brick building (west side of Grand River, third building north of North Street) in which one found a "...line of goods that is suited entirely to the demands of his customer." Ira died July 2, 1898, however 'Ira Case and Sons' (Clio and Bartaw) was in business until April, 1931.

Fidelia S. Eddy, born July 26, 1831, New York, married Ira February 16, 1853. Besides Clio and Bartaw, Jasper W., Alta E., Nellie E., Myrtie W. and Mable E. were born to Ira and Fidelia. they also raised a neice, Amelia Campbell. The 1860 census has John McKinney "...a black farm laborer (26) who had escaped to the north via the underground railroad" also in the household. Along with Ira and Fidelia, records show 15 members of the Case family buried at the Old Village Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Photographic and Biographical Album, Census records and genealogical records gathered by Stephen S. Leith, descendant. Corrections/additions gratefully received. 810/229-6402.)