



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

April 2005
Vol. XXIV No. 4

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

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY

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Cemeteries/
Archives
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'Discover the Brighton area' programs can be arranged for interested groups.

Historic tours of downtown for scout groups, school classes or adults can be scheduled.

Programs on local history for adult organizations are available. The use of transparencies can help one visualize an earlier time.

Stories of the early settlers are waiting to be told. Who were they, from where did they come; their triumphs and defeats.

The Brighton Area Historical Society can provide programs on these and other subjects. Contact a board member to schedule a speaker for your organization.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

The first week of April, 1805, was spent packing onto the keelboat the numerous diverse articles to send to President Jefferson; the most important of which were the voluminous reports of the Corps' discoveries. The last word relatives would have of them for over a year, many personal letters from the Corps were included.

At 4 p.m., April 7, 1805, the keelboat and its crew were sent downstream with orders to waste no time on the way. Cd. Richard Warfington was in charge of all the precious natural specimens and documents on board.

Lewis writes that at that same hour the six canoes and two pirogues of the Corps of Discovery set out upstream, carrying Sacagawea, her baby and husband with them. A journey into a completely unknown world was ahead. He rightly made the comparison with the voyages of Capt. Cook and Columbus. (cont. p.3)



Dates to Remember:

Apr. *6, 13, 27: 7 p.m. Lyon School maintenance. You can help.

*7, 28: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

*25: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Board meeting. Public welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., and Lindhout Associates.

PATRON: John & Barbara Jacoby (MN)
*Henry & Mary Lou Winegar.

COUPLES/INDIV: Larry & Janet Baldinger, *Mary Ann Catrell, *Pat (Brady) Convery (FL), Irene Ellis, Fred Gruezke, Don & Shirley Jenks (Howell), Nora Miller (Howell), Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, Harold Salow, *Margaret Siford, Bill & GiGi Valliencourt, Noah Winchell.

*A hearty welcome to these new members.

Thanks to those who have noted the Complementary Copy stamp on a recent issue of their newsletter and paid dues. The year for which dues are paid is noted on the address label. 05 indicates dues are paid for 2005, 04 = 2004, etc. No day? duh... Membership dues help the Society continue with its mission. The Complementary Copy stamp eliminates the expense of envelope printing, etc. The board prefers dues to be used for other administrative expenses; those which cannot be reduced.

Errors happen. Contact a board member if you have a question, please.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John and Janice Field for help in preparing the March newsletter for mailing.

...George & Melanie Moses of the Marketeer for their generous support of the Society in its mission.

...Mindy Kinsey for indexing cemetery records for the South Lyon, New Hudson, Oak Grove, and several other cemeteries. Altho' not in the county, their proximity is useful in research. She is also preparing some of the history material from the late Bill Pless for easier reading.

...Tom Kinsey for sandblasting and painting the metal parts to 11 school desks. These can then be reassembled and added to seating in the school.

...Whitney & June Kimble for the gold .50¢ piece from the Brighton Centennial celebration of 1967.

(cont. next column.)

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: A proper inventory of items in the Society holdings is underway. Everything from atlases to tools and newspaper to zithers (if one was available) will be given a number and recorded with all the information available. Interested in helping? You'd be welcome.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Organizing and filing of the history of business places continues.

LYON SCHOOL: 11455 Buno Rd. How best to improve the drive is being considered. That gravel is needed is a given. Your help in this is needed. Can you donate gravel or a truck for hauling and spreading?

By now the first regular open house at the School has gone into the past with flying colors. The main attraction was the opportunity to purchase "From Settlement to City - Brighton, Michigan - 1832-1945" and have it autographed by the author, Carol McMacken. The book can also be purchased at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River.

The schedule for 2005 includes an open house each 1st Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Various collections will be featured besides tour of this historic building. Members of Plank Road Questers #236 will help host.

NEED NEED NEED NEED

...a local business to stock Society items as listed on page 3.

...people to take a position as a director or committee chair for a year., i.e. publicity, art fair booth, school site landscaping.

...people to prepare displays for 1st Sunday open house at the Lyon School.

THANKS cont.

...Ralph & Elizabeth Romano and Mary Ann Catrell for the donation with their dues.

...Lindhout Associates for the Friends of Lyon School donation with their dues.

...Lucille Weaire for managing the Society booth one Saturday a month at the Brighton Farmers' Market. Learn about the Society, its plans, and purchase an item or make a donation.

...Parent-Teacher Tech for stocking the Society's book by Carol McMacken.

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Dues: () \$500.00 LIFE () \$25.00 Couple () \$ 2.00 Student
 () \$ 50.00 Patron () \$15.00 Individual () \$50.00 Bus/Prof.

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

FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY - Brighton, MI - 1832-1945, by Carol McMacken. Brighton's own history book. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, \$60.00 non members \$65.00 + shpg.

TILES: 13 local scenes, black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.

1875 PLAT MAPS \$1. of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola Townships. 1915 maps of Brighton and Howell cities.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS \$12. S/XL.

SIGNATURE QUILT \$10. Add your signature or another of your choice to be embroidered on the quilt which will remain in the Society's archives.

MUGS \$5.00. NOTE PAPER PKG \$2.50
 TOTE BAG \$15. PEWTER PLATES \$35. All show the Old Town Hall by the millpond.
 AFGHANS \$49. red, green, blue, woven with nine local sites.
 2004 CALENDAR \$5. with local scenes.
 TAPESTRY PILLOW \$28. with railroad depot and train.

For more information - 810/229-6402

(cont. from p. 1)

The journals are full of details, not only of the land through which they were passing but also of their inner emotions and wonders of the future. The first experience with the grizzly bears filled them with awe "...which was verry large and a turrible looking animal, which we found verry hard to kill." (Clark)

Fueled by the abundance of food (each pvt. ate as much as 9-10# of meat a day), good weather and their own exuberance, the Corps is described as "...produced the fiddle, ...spent the evening with much hilarity, singing and dancing...(forgetting) their past toils ...regardless of those to come". (Lewis)

The difference between good and great is just a little extra effort. ...Biggie Munn

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 13, 7 p.m. "A Pitch in Time" (baseball history). Stonecrest, 207 Liberty, Walled Lake (historical society) 248/624-5727.

May 21, 2 p.m. Kinyon Cemetery Walk. Canton Historical Society. 734/397-0088.

Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor. Open May/August, 4th Saturday, 10-1 p.m. 734/434-4753. Guided tours. 1844 Classic Revival farmhouse, with goats, sheep, chickens.

LIFE MEMBERS: Lawrence Autobody and Promess.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS: Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc. and Lindhout Associates are welcomed.

The support and confidence these companies exhibit is much appreciated. Give them your consideration please. The support of others in the commercial community is welcome.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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THE COLLETT'S HELP BUILD BRIGHTON

James Collett, b. 1850, came to the area c. 1875 to practice the joiner and carpenter trade. How much his selection of site had to do with his being born near Brighton, England, can only be surmised. That he succeeded is clear. He was the contractor who built the Old Town Hall, 1879, 202 W. Main (with a flat roof) for \$2300.00; also St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1881, 200 W. St. Paul St. He married Jane, b. 1850, probably in England. They had six children. Edith b. 1873, in Canada, the last five - Mary b. 1874, Lillie b. 1877, Bertha, Lillian, and James H. b. 9-29-1884, all born in Michigan. After Jane's death (1885, shortly after her son's birth) he and his family moved to Detroit in April, 1886. That same year the Brighton GAR bought James' brick building on Grand River for \$700. He married Susan Parshall Abram August 18, 1895.

One presumes he moved back to Brighton several years later since he has an ad in the April 11, 1900, Brighton Argus to sell a 14' box hay rack, one wood frame drag and a plow. It is also recorded that James is making improvements to the Philo Phillips' residence near Island Lake. In August, 1904, James and a "...force of carpenters were building a house for Mr. Purdy." He was also given the contract to build an elementary school just north of the Union School on Rickett Road. It was to be "Modern with walls of cement and brick", summer of 1905.

Nephew Caleb Knight Collett, b. 1861 in England (son of John and Anna) arrived in the Brighton area c. 1885. He had been working in the Calumet and Hecla copper mines in the U.P. under an uncle, a Mr. Vivian, Superintendent. He decided to work with Uncle James as a carpenter. He never saw his parents again nor siblings born after he left with his grandmother, Mrs. Knight. Shortly after coming to Brighton he married Alma Hartman b. 1863. Their son, Claude was born 1885 in Genoa Township and two years later, Gliff knight was born. (Gliff m. Beulah Jolly May 3, 1908. After her death in 1920 he married Mollie Blanke Pike Nov. 24, 1920.) A third son, Ralph b. October, 1898, lived only until the following spring. Caleb and Alma lost two other children as infants. Following his wife's death July 22, 1903, Caleb married Mary Butterfield Blank in 1904.

By 1898, Caleb had a large ad in the Argus - selling roofing material of all kinds. By April, 1900, his inventory included many farming implements. Besides selling building material he also was a builder. B.T.O. Clark had interior improvements done to his home and a large veranda added in April that same year. In July, Caleb was constructing a large silo on the Judge Grant Farm on Culver Road. Ads in the September 9, 1931 Argus read "Caleb K. Collett - Real Estate Broker. Lots and homes for sale in the city of Brighton." and "I will buy or adjust your accounts or collect them. Caleb K. Collett, bonded collector, Brighton." Caleb, Alma, sons Gliff and Ralph and Grand children Vaughn and Josephine are buried in Fairview Cemetery. Great grandson, Jack V. is in Brighton Hills Memorial. Gliff's 1st wife, Beulah Jolly is in the Old Village Cemetery as is James' 1st wife Jane. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the Brighton Argus; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; "From Settlement to City..." by Carol McMacken. Additions/corrections invited. 810/229-6402.)