



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

December 2005
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

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WANT TO KEEP DOWN TOWN BRIGHTON VIABLE?

The uniqueness of down town Brighton was again in evidence November 26, during the lighting of the trees and the various festivities presented by the down town merchants.

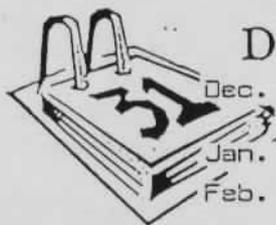
To retain this outstanding variety of retailers, who make down town Brighton a special place to shop, we need to patronize them when buying.

Brighton's 'walkability' safe streets, park areas, outdoor art and decorations, parking, store fronts with architectural variety and heritage can only be retained if supported by Brighton people. Shopping down town will save gas and down town.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

The camp on the north shore of the Columbia River was very unsatisfactory. Much too exposed to the continual high wind and steady rain and mist, it was decided to find a more sheltered site and one with the possibility of more food and hides. The humid conditions were rotting moccasins, robes and clothing. Any game shot quickly became rancid. Meriwether Lewis explored the stream (Lewis and Clark River) for several miles finding a site "...in a thick growth of pine...on a rise about 30 feet higher than the high tides level."

December 7, 1805, the Corps moved to the site dubbed Fort Clatsop. The availability of wood for building and burning, a plentiful supply of game and beyond the noise of the Pacific caused William Clark to proclaim it a "...most eligable Situation." Even with daily showers or rain the fort was almost finished by December 25, 1805. The Corps celebrated with firearms and singing. Within the next few days construction was completed and a group went to the ocean's shore to begin making salt.



Dates to Remember:

Dec. 25: A safe, healthy and happy holiday.

Jan. 1: NO Open House at Lyon School.

Feb. 5: NO Open House at Lyon School.

Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Twp.

BUS/PROF: *Ameri-Construction.

COUPLES/INDIV: *Joe Collins, *Gerald & Kathryn Fuller, Bill & Helen Hyne (Chelsea), *Grace Kaye (TX), Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Arlene Warner (MIFd), and Don & Alice Wyland.

*A heartfelt welcome to the four new members listed above. New members give assurance to renewing members that the Society is still vital and growing.

The annual review of the mailing list is on. A 'Complementary Copy' stamp on this issue tells the committee you are probably not interested in continuing receiving Trail Tales. However much they would like to continue mailing it the financial impact must be considered. Members expect the Society to use dues wisely. Mailing to uninterested ones is not good policy.

The non profit rate used for mailing doesn't forward. Changes of address must be sent in. A returned piece costs the Society .37¢.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...John & Janice Field and June Kimble for their help in mailing the November issue of Trail Tales.

...Joe Collins and Bill & Jane Tomlinson as they join Friends of Lyon School.

...Grace Kaye (TX) for her donation with her dues.

...American Legion #235 for its donation.

...Stephen Leith for a copy of his 96 page 'Some Descendants of John Leith, Sr.', another of his fine research efforts of early area families.

...Judy Marcinkiewicz and Virginia Miller who donated needlepoint kits for sale.

...Heidi Clausnitzer and Marilyn Pettigrove for displaying their hooked rugs and samplers, respectively; and members of Plank Road #236 Questers for helping at the November 6, Open House at Lyon School.

...Nancy Fredenburg for her steadfast efforts in developing a web site for the Society.

Publishing 'From Settlement to City - 1832-1945 - Brighton, Michigan, early this year has markedly increased the visibility of the Society in the community. It has been well received with a second edition planned. The Society thanks Carol McMacken, George Moses and Parent-Teacher Tech for their support for this major accomplishment. Copies are found in all local libraries.

Many thanks to those who helped at the Farmers' Market, Art Fair and Autumn Fest booths sponsored by the Society. All the above activities have resulted in a membership increase. Membership renewals are affirmation of 'We'll help you, keep up the good work'. Thanks also to those who have otherwise donated to the Society financially and physically.

A number of organizations and individuals have benefited from assistance the Society provided. Several local third grade classes, and also private schools, have been hosted at the Lyon School. A number of programs, related to local history, have been presented to local organizations. Donations of memoirs, early pictures, etc., are more fully developing the Archives and the Historic Resource Survey. Each Lyon School First Sunday Open House, instituted in 2005, has seen increased attendance.

Lyon School, Society headquarters, is the site of continuing care and needed maintenance. Contributions and Friends of Lyon School members keep this evidence of local support in a 'return to the community' mode.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE BRIGHTON
AREA WOMEN'S ROLL OF HONOR

You can nominate an area woman who's made a contribution to the well-being of the area/ the world, for recognition.

Forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce, the Brighton Library or 810/229-2149 or cell 810/599-5552.

Return by January 31, '06 for recognition during Women's History Month, March, 2006.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...local business(es) to stock Society sale items: coverlets, tiles, pillows.
...people to serve on the board to promote needed projects for a year.

810/229-5402 for information

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

New Renew Send Membership Card yes no (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 \$\$\$

Book: FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY - Brighton, MI 1832-1945, by Carol McMacken. Brighton's own history. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, \$60.00. Non-members \$65.00, + shpg. Available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River. Or 810/229-6402.

TILES: 6" square, ceramic tiles. 13 local scenes in black/white. \$8.00, 3/\$21.00.

1875 TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS: Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Howell and Oceola \$1.00. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS, S/XL \$12.00.

NOTE PAPER \$2.50 pkg.
 TOTE BAG \$15.00. PEWTER PLATE \$35.00
 All with the Old Town hall and millpond.

WOVEN AFGHAN \$45.00, red, green, blue with nine local sites.

TAPESTRY PILLOW \$28.00 shows depot and train.

SIGNATURE QUILT \$10.00. Your signature or another's to be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives.

2004 CALENDAR \$5.00 with local scenes.
 MORE INFO? 810/229-6402.

SHOPPING WITH THE SOCIETY

In the variety of items noted above, one can probably find just the thing as a gift, at Christmas, birthdays, house warming, going away, etc.

Almost anyone who's perused the history book has probably bought it.

The plat maps are printed on an ecru/gold paper. Many purchasers have framed them.

The tote bag is well designed, sturdy and popular.

The red, blue or green woven afghans have always been a favorite item. That it wears and washes well is a real plus to its beauty.

The pewter plate is one of a kind - distinctly Brighton.

Yes, the 2004 calendar is still for sale. The c. 1940s sketches are worth the price.

!!!SOCIETY NOW ON THE WEB!!!

Through the steadfast efforts of Nancy Freudenburg and GotWeb owner Kate Roberts a web site has been created for the Society. Early photos, Trail Tales, Society news and upcoming events, membership, etc. can all be viewed at www.brightonareahistorical.com Updating continues.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc.; Ameri-Construction; William P. Horal, DDS; **Lawrence Autobody; Matthew Matuszak, DDS, PC; Carol McCorrie S Associates; Lindhout Associates; **Promess, Inc.; The Fence Spot. Be sure to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

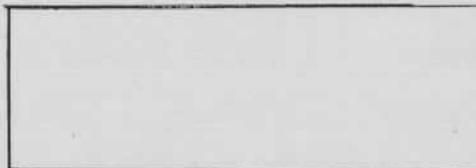
**Life Members



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ENTREPRENEURS: JOHN WEIMEISTER AND FAMILY

Why make the perilous 6-9 week journey over the Atlantic to an unfamiliar country, to a remote farm in Livingston County in the early 1800s? Military conscription, political unrest and the hope of owning one's own land prompted many from Germany to begin anew in America; even to the extent of leaving family ties behind.

How did one, living in Europe, become aware of this possibility? The 1860 Livingston County census indicates Henry W. Weimeister, Sr. and sons John and Henry, Jr., are neighbors in Genoa Township. With mother Elizabeth and John's wife, Catherine, all have come from Hanover, Germany by the mid 1850s. Henry, Jr's, wife is Matilda Elizabeth Buek, who was born in America after the Bueks arrived in 1838. (Dr. Ernest Adolph Buek returned to Hamburg, Germany, in 1845, to solicit funds for the construction of a church for the newly formed St. George Lutheran congregation in Genoa. Is it possible Dr. Buek encouraged the Weimeisters' decision even as he had been by Ferdinand Grissom who settled in Hamburg Township?) The Weimeisters are listed with those first members of the church. Henry Sr's wife, Elizabeth, is interred in that church cemetery. We've not determined where Sr. is buried.

In that census both Henrys are listed as farmers; son John as a merchant. Shortly after settling John had bought a mill and store, including the post office, in Oak Grove c. 1858 and built many additions. He also is the 2nd owner of the old Dutch Grocery on the Grand River Trail at Euler road. Built by Lawrence Euler c. 1835, it was one of several between Brighton and Howell which offered groceries, household and other items needed by travelers and the settlers. Assistance and advice could be gleaned from John's wife, Catherine, and his mother, Elizabeth, both of whom could empathize with the young women. One could also count on help from the regulars who patronized the grocery. One of the many stories which enlivened a world of hard work is related: About to close one cold, stormy night John admitted a young man who came in for a spool of thread. "Your mother does a lot of sewing?" "No, it's for my wife. Mother wouldn't send me out on a night like this." Before long John also assumed the job of post master from Chester Hazzard.

Well educated, as were many German immigrants, John prepared legal documents such as deeds, notes and contracts. An astute business man he started a bank in Howell October 19, 1868. Within a year he had built the Weimeister block to which he moved the bank. By 1879 the bank was in the south side of the National Hotel (Opposite the courthouse), which he'd built. John and Catherine had two children: Arlia and Albert. Henry, Jr. and Matilda, four: John, Alma, Nellie and Henry C. A number of the Weimeister family are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Howell, and others are found in the St. George Church Cemetery in Genoa Township. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Bill Pless writings; 1880 History of Livingston County; Bob Watson's work re: Buek; local obituaries collected by Milton Charboneau; and various cemetery records. Additions/corrections welcomed. 810/229-6402.)