

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

June 2005
Vol. XXIV No. 6

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Each first Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m., the Lyon School Open House takes place. The 120 year old one room schoolhouse can be visited. One can try out a period desk, peruse a McGuffey reader, even ring the school bell. Photos of early area scenes can be viewed. The new history book and other Society fund raisers can be purchased.

The Archives Room is open for research.

Only because members of the Society and members of Plank Road Questers serve as docents can this program of visits to the school be undertaken. Old and young enjoy these visits.

Another opportunity to learn about the Society comes each second Saturday at the Brighton Farmers' Market. Visit the Society booth and become aware of local history and its preservation.

OFFICERS

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John & Janice
Field:
Cemeteries/
Archives
810/599-6195

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

June 2, 1805. Upon reaching a fork in the Missouri River into which another river empties, Lewis writes "...what astonishes us a little is that the Indians who appear to be so well acquainted with the geography of this country should not have mentioned this river on the wright...if it not be the Missouri."

The men of the Corps were certain the river on the right was the Missouri. Which river to follow? The captains, with 5-6 men, explored in both directions. The characteristics of the waters, the Missouri, fast and clear (as one filled with mountain snow melt) and the other, also fast but turbid - an indication it flowed not from the mountains, convinced them the Missouri was to the left.

(cont. p.3)



Dates to Remember:

June**9,16,23,30: 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing. Welcome.
810/229-6402 to confirm.

11: 8-1 p.m. Brighton Farmers' Market.

*15,23,29: 7 p.m. Lyon School maintenance. Help

*27: 6:30 p.m. Society Board Meeting: Welcome.

July *3: 1-4 Open House at Lyon School.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: *Wm. P. Horal, DDS

COUPLES/INDIV: Bradley Beal (Howell), Carolina DeLuca (Howell), Jeanette Johnson (06), *Susan L. Walters-Steinacker.

*A sincere welcome to the new members Dr. Horal and Susan Walters-Steinacker. It is good for the Society board members' morale when members renew. They are assured people do care and want to promote the Society's mission.

Purchasers of the Society's history book will be receiving the newsletter for several issues at no charge. Because dues pay administration costs of the Society 'Complementary Copies' can

be distributed for a short time only. To develop an awareness of the Society's mission and contribute to Society projects it is vital that your membership is received. If this issue has the 'Complementary Copy' stamp it indicates 2005 dues have not been paid. your support is what enables the volunteers to 'keep the show on the road'. No members, no Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Heidi Clausnitzer, Jeanette Johnson and June Kimble for helping mail the May issue of Trail Tales.

...Lucille Weaire for presiding at the Society booth at the Farmers' Market in Brighton. Call 229-3066 to offer your help.

...Jeanette Johnson for her donation with her dues.

...Waldenwood Quester Chapter 569 for their donation when they visited Lyon School.

...Élaine Saxton and her sister who served as docents at Lyon School at the May Open House.

...Dick and Barbara Smith for a 1947 map of Livingston County. This was long before US 23 and I-96 were even under consideration.

...Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, for stocking 'From Settlement to City - Brighton 1832-1945.'

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: To accommodate the compiling of local printed history a Cannon PC940 copier has been installed in the archive room. Those who are interested may make a contribution to its purchase cost.

LYON SCHOOL: When school groups visit, the new flag and pole are put to good use. It is inspiring to see Old Glory waving over one of the original manifestations of parents' attempts to educate their children in the wilderness of long ago.

HISTORY BOOK: From Settlement to City - Brighton - 1832-1945, by Carol McMacken is available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, Brighton; or call 810/229-6402.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...someone to serve as co-editorial or assistant for the newsletter.

...people to prepare displays for 1st Sunday of the month open house at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road.

...people to take a position as a director or committee chair for a year, i.e. publicity, art fair booth, organizing a yard sale of items donated as fund raisers, exterior window cleaning, etc.

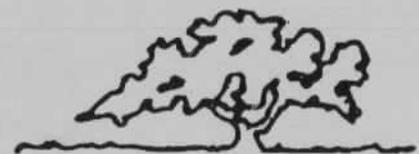
For any of the above contact 810/229-6402.

Sympathies of the Society

to the family of

JIM ANDERSON

Jim was a Brighton native
and a Society member.



*The deepest
feeling
always shows itself
in silence.*

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

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. Available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River.
 TILES: 13 local scenes, black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. \$8.00, 3/\$21.00

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)

They were alone in this conviction. However Lewis records the men "...said very cheerfully that they were ready to follow us any wher we thought proper to direct..." Several days later Lewis' search for the best portage route discovered the Falls of the Missouri confirming their decision.

The 17 3/4 mile portage began June 22, 1805. A wagon was made to transport the remaining canoes (two were cached). The men often had to grab at clumps of grass, sticks, etc., to keep their footing. Camps were made at each end of the portage - Lewis at the upper and Clark at the lower. The wagon had often to be repaired, the grizzlies, almost as thick as the mosquitoes, and sudden vicious storms made their progress very slow. Would they get over the snowcovered Rockies in time?

Not by years
 but by dispositions is wisdom
 acquired.

--Platus

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

June 25,26: 9-5. Blacksmith Festival. Waterloo Area Farm Museum. 517/851-4084

June 26: noon-3. Michigan Log Cabin Day. Cobblestone Farm, Ann Arbor. 734/994-2928

July 7: 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society. Cultural Hall, 1041 w. Grand River, Howell. Speaker re: research re: St. Augustine Catholic Church and cemetery in Deerfield Twp. Also Info. re: National REGISTER listing. P.O. Box 1073, Howell 48844-1073.

LIFE MEMBERS: Lawrence Autobody and Promess, Inc.

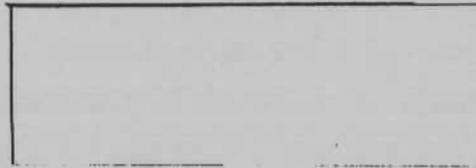
BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS: Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc, William P. Horal, DDS (new), and Lindhout Associates.

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

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

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DAVID THOMPSON INITIATES BRIGHTON'S FIRST HEAVY INDUSTRY

Born July 22, 1819, in Scotland, David Thompson came to America at age 16. He had previously been employed as a foundry man. Upon settling in Brighton in 1840, he established one of the first industries in the village. He built a foundry at 300 E. Grand River. Census records state his occupation as a moulder - one who pours molten iron into a sand form. With Olympus Spencer he replaced it with a brick building on the SE corner of Grand River and North Streets in 1843.

After three years he was the sole owner for the next 35 years. The foundry produced plow shares, plow points and other farm implements for more than 50 years. A vital, indispensable business of the time; named Globe Iron Works it boasted a ten horsepower engine. In the 1859 Business Directory one finds: "D. Thompson, Furnace and Machine Shop." After his death in 1900 the building was removed.

Other newcomers to the area were Lewis Curry and his young wife, Sarah, b. 1818, in New York. Their son, Lewis, b. 1837, is reputed to be the first white child born in what was to become the village; sister Sarah Ann was born in 1842. Not long after her birth her father died.

Neighbor David Thompson and the widow Curry married in 1845. Their home was on a nearby farm on Spencer Road, ¼ mile east. He assumed the responsibilities of fatherhood of Sarah's children, raising them as his own. The family grew with the birth of George, 1846 and Ira, 1848. (Both became foundry men also. Sarah's son, Lewis became a merchant and Sarah Ann married George W. Runion, living in Brighton until her death.)

In the genre' of the obituaries of the time David is "...a unique and central figure in town. He was a man of strong individuality having ideas belonging strickly to himself...He had a mirthful nature which made him a pleasing acquaintance to all who knew him. Sarah's obituary included"...A pioneer in the true sense of the word."

Lewis Curry, Sarah and David Thompson are all buried in the same lot in the Old Village Cemetery as is son Ira. Sarah Runion is buried in Calvary Cemetery; her brother, Lewis, died in Fenton. Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Old Village Cemetery Supplement by Bill Pless and the transcription by John and Janice Field; the transcription of Calvary Cemetery and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; census records; From Settlement to City - Brighton, Michigan - 1832-1945 by Carol McMacken. Corrections/ additions most welcome. 810/229-6402.)