



## Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

# Trail Tales

May 2005  
Vol. XXIV No. 5

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

### MEMORIAL DAY - 2005

When was the first Memorial Day observed in Brighton? Pictures of Grand Army of the Republic members, dating to 1903, would indicate this event began over 100 years ago. The James Appleton GAR post #179 was chartered August 27, 1888. At least since then veterans' groups, the GAR, the American Legion and VFW, have given all of us an opportunity to remember and commemorate the sacrifices of so many.

A memorial service gives an opportunity to rededicate oneself to assure "...these dead shall not have died in vain (of any conflict)" That we not merely rededicate ourselves but assure the next generation also is aware of the privileges often taken so lightly. This year's program will again be held on Main Street by the mill pond at 10 a.m. Wreath placing services will follow at Brighton Hills (Flint Road) and Calvary (Brighton Lake Road) Cemeteries. Services will also be held at noon at the St. George Lutheran Cemetery (Herbst Road). Many opportunities to remember.

### OFFICERS

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### CHAIRPERSONS

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

### VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

May 3, 1805, the Corps was 2000 miles above the mouth of the Missouri. (Air temperature of 26 F, the same as May 3, 2005, in the Brighton area.) The beauty and bounty of the land awed the Captains. There was no lack of meat but the lack of fruits and vegetables, except for what Sacajawea gathered, caused the men of the Corps to suffer the usual scourges of the times: scurvy, malaria, dysentery, diarrhea, etc. Venereal disease, so prevalent, was treated with laudanum, zinc sulfate, lead acetate, etc., the medications of the times.

Encounters with grizzly bears often almost caused loss of life. Lewis "...It is astonishing to see the wounds they will bear before  
(cont. p.3)



### Dates to Remember:

- May 11: 7:30 Waldenwoods Questers visit Lyon School.  
12 & 26: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing. Welcome.  
13: 2:30 One Room Schoolhouse Assoc. tours  
Lyon School  
25: 7 p.m. Lyon School maintenance. Help.  
Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton.

## MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Don & Ricci Bandkau, \*Don Botka, Lois Clark (Midland), Bill Franklin (Ann Arbor), Tim & Helen Hurst, \*Judy Marcinkiewicz, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Sue Newman (Saline) John Park (08 Flint), Rich & Judy Parsons, and \*Phyllis Wenzel.

PATRON: John & Barbara Jacoby (Minn.)

\*New members, Don, Judy and Phyllis are sincerely welcomed. Their support and that of renewing members is vital to the mission of the Society.

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...Ida Bair, John & Janice Field and June Kimble for help in mailing the April issue of Trail Tales.

...Al & Karen Wirth for their donation.

...Donation with dues: Don & Ricci Bandkau, Sue Newman.

...Donation to Friends of Lyon School: Lois Clark (Midland), Bill Franklin (Ann Arbor), John & Barbara Jacoby (MN), Sue Newman (Saline), and Rich & Judy Parsons.

...George & Melanie Moses of the Marketear, for their donation of publicity for the Society's history book.

...Dick Weaire for the display of the long handled pump, and marking of the corners of the Lyon School property.

...Bob & Pauline Schaffer for possible sale items.

...Jim DeJohn for helping with transport of these items.

...Maureen Lacey (A<sup>2</sup>) for picture of her grandfather, James Loughlin.

...Brighton Press/Agrus, Ann Arbor News, Detroit News, and WHMI for publicity support for the Society's history book.

...Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River for stocking the history book.

...Society members for their patience with the newsletter editor.

## GOTHS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

The restoration of the 1856 Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road, is under way. Following the lead of the Green oak Township Historical Society board many residents and businesses have come forward with financial, physical and building-supply contributions.

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The collection is growing, the inventory is under way and lots of help is needed. Thursdays, 1-3 at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

LYON SCHOOL: Each first Sunday, 1-4, of the month the school will be open for tours, research, etc. Members of Plank Road Questers #236 help host.

FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY - Brighton - 1832-1945. This local history book by Carol McMacken has had a fine response. Three Fifth of the first issue have been purchased. This book sells itself judging by the number of repeat purchases. Available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River or call 810/229-6402.

NEEDED      NEEDED      NEEDED

...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 of the month open house at the Lyon School. 11455 Buno Road.

...Lucille Weaire will be in charge of a Society booth at the Farmers' Market one Saturday a month. She could use your help. Call her 810/ 229-3066. It's fun.

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

...information as to the origin of the area known as Chilson.

...contributions to the printing and/or mailing of the newsletter; utility expenses at the Lyon School; insurance bill for the school and Society board.

An annual fund raiser is the garage sale held at 9185 Silverside Dr., off Silver Lake Road, May 19-21, 9-4 p.m. You will find something you've always wanted at this sale. Contributions of sale items will be accepted thru May 18.

Call Pres. Jo Ann Williams, 248/437-8164 or email JoWilliams@aol.com for information. Your help at the sale is appreciated also. [www.GreenOakTownshipHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenOakTownshipHistoricalSociety.com).

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)

they can be put to death...extreemly hard to kill...five balls through his lungs and five others in various parts he swam more than half the distance across the river to a sand bar & it was...twenty minutes before he died, made the most tremendous roaring from the moment he was shot."

The Missouri was running swiftly and deeply with snow melt from the Rocky Mountains ahead. High, fast waves, strong gusts of wind, and with Charboneau "...perhaps the most timid waterman in the world..." at the helm, the white pirogue, now crosswise of the rushing water, filled within an inch of the top sending precious papers, specimens, food, and supplies downstream. However Sacajawea caught and saved most of the items floating away. Lewis "...we thought it a proper occasion to...cheer the sperits of our men...gave each man a gill of sperits."

Intellect is  
 invisable to  
 the man who  
 has none.  
 Byron

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

May 12, 10-4 p.m. Wildflower Sale. Brighton Community Center, 535 Brighton St., Brighton Garden Club.

May 30, 10 a.m. Memorial Day services.

June 4, 10-5 p.m. Indian Village Home/Garden Tour. 313/922-1736 or www.HistoricIndianVillage.org Group tours available.

LIFE MEMBERS: Lawrence Autobody and Promess.

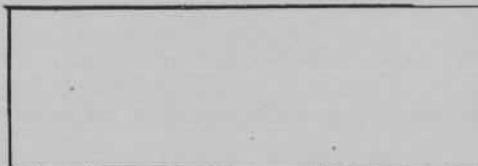
BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS: Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc. and Lindhout Associates are welcomed.

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  
P O BOX 481  
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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#### EGBERT ALBRIGHT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN EARLY BRIGHTON

Egbert F. Albright, b. 1823 in New York (Allbright) was 13 when he came to Michigan with his father Amos and Amos's wife, Harriet. (Egbert's mother was Olive Wheeler. Amos eventually had four wives.) Amos had been a millwright and miller in New York state, milling flour during the War of 1812. A millwright builds mills and 'dresses' mill stones. He built several mills in the Milford area. Many farmers with the Albright name arrived in the county during the 1840s. Settlers often, for their journey to Michigan, came as a group; brothers, uncles, nephews, etc.

In 1848 Egbert is working at Everet Woodruff's mill on Pleasant Valley Road in Brighton Township, as a millwright as is his cousin, Chester Thompson. There is the story that Chester and Egbert both fell in love with the miller's daughter, Sarah Cornelia Woodruff. Egbert was the one she chose; they married in 1852. There was no sign of animosity between the men even tho' they lived in close quarters. The first of five daughters is born to Sarah c. 1854. By then they were living in the village of Brighton within a block of the Brighton Grist and Flouring Mill. In 1856 Egbert and cousin Chester purchased the mill which stood on the NW corner of S. West and W. North Streets on Ore Creek from Lyman Judson. (Judson had bought it from Woodruff earlier, who had bought it from Orson Quackenbush, the builder/miller.)

They ran the mill until May of 1883, making various improvements including a steam engine for when the stream was low, and new stones, when they sold the mill to the Hyne Brothers for \$175.00. Chester lived in rooms in the mill. In addition to his work at the mill he was noted for his garden and the bees he kept. Fishing and hunting kept the family supplied with meat. Grain, eggs, butter, pork, etc., which farmers traded for grinding their wheat, in addition to Chester's vegetables and honey, kept the pantry full. The food was well preserved with ice from the mill pond.

The steady supply of food allowed Egbert and Sarah to care not only for their own family but for the many half-siblings his father sent to live with them. Any elderly person who had no one to care for them came to their open door as did young girls who had no place to have their baby. The Albrights were well known for their generosity.

Egbert enjoyed playing the 'cornopean' in Milford's first band and later in the Brighton Cornet Band. He loved music and taught his daughters to enjoy it and to dance. Their home is remembered as abounding in hospitality and music.

Egbert took an active roll in the life of the village. When a grade/high school was considered in 1863, he chaired the site/construction committee. The building was completed at a cost of \$10,877.50. He also served on the school board.

Sarah died in 1888 and is buried in the Village Cemetery. Upon his death Egbert ordered he was to be cremated and his ashes strewn over her grave. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from census records; Bill Pless' supplement to the DAR Records of the Old Village Cemetery; 'From Settlement to City - 1832-1945' by Carol McMacken; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; and reminiscings by Leila Dorothea York. Corrections/additions? 810/229-6402 please.)