



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

~~November~~ ^{October} 2005
Vol. XXIV No. 10

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

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THE 'WHY' OF LYON SCHOOL RESTORATION

One of the major purposes of the restoration of the Lyon School is to give school children of all ages the opportunity to learn about education in early, rural Michigan.

To improve on the present system of communication between the historical society, teachers and parents, a liaison, from the society, the school, or the public, is essential. It would be detrimental to not fill this position. There are many very capable people in the society membership (or not) who can see the value of this program and the need to continue/enlarge it. Contact a board member with your desire to help, soon.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

October 7, 1805, the canoes are completed for the run down to the Pacific. Leaving LoLo Pass rapids were run on the Lochasa River. The Corps had left their 38 horses with the Nez Perce for safe keeping for the return trip. Poor diet, dried fish and roots, caused no end of intestinal upsets. Dogs are purchased to add to the menu, of which all but Clark eat heartily. The presence of Sacagawea smooths meetings with Indians, of which there were many. By October 17, the Columbia River is joined after traveling on the Snake for a week.

They have left American territory. Great Britain, Russia and Spain all have designs on the Pacific Northwest. Attempts are made to convince the Indians they should establish trade with the U.S.

Miles long rapids, passing through a series of chutes and falls, require some portages and letting the canoes down by elk skin ropes. "...the water passing with great velocity foaming and boiling in a most horrible manner," Clark.



Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 2: 1-4 p.m. Lyon School Open House.
- 6, 13, 20: 1-3 p.m. Archive Filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm
- 15: 8-1. Society booth at Farmers' Market.
- 9, 26: Lyon School maintenance.
You can help.
- 24: 6:30 P.m. Society board meets. Welcome.
- Nov. 6: 1-4 p.m. Lyon School Open House.

Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: * Ann Baker (TX) and Joe & Irene Mike (06).

COUPLES/INDIV: Dick & Mary Jean Richter (Fraser 06), Doris Singer (Grand Rapids 06).

*A sincere welcome to Ann, a Brighton native.

'Review the Mailing List' time is approaching. However much the Society wishes everyone could receive Trail Tales, it would be irresponsible to members who've paid dues. If 'Complementary Copy' is stamped on this issue ---dues payment would assure your membership continues.

Thanks for your continued confidence.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, June Kimble and John & Janice Field for their help in preparing the September issue for the mail.

...Dick & Mary Jean Richter and Doris Singer for their donations with dues.

...Doris Singer for donating to Friends of Lyon School.

...Madelyn Rosen for a wood 24 drawer file card cabinet.

...Dick Weaire for attaching platforms and casters to heavy display cases, etc.

...Whitney Kimble for 18 slides from Brighton parades of the 60s/70s.

...Kristin Luckowski and Gillis Benedict, for Press/Argus Lifestyle picture and article.

...Plank Road Quester members Elaine Saxton and Joyce Terry who served as docents for the September 3, Lyon School Open House. Also to Mindy Kinsey.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...a tree needs to be cut and windows washed at the Lyon School.

...local business(es) to stock Society sale items: coverlets, tiles, pillows.

...people to serve on the board to promote needed projects for a year.

...a coordinator for scheduling students' visits to Lyon School.

810/229-6402 for information

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

Archives: Filing continues. Call 810/229-6402 to conduct research.

FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY by Carol McMacker is available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River or call 810/229-6402.

LYON SCHOOL: November 6, 1-4 p.m. Open House. SAMPLERS - the means by which children were taught the variety of needlework they would probably use in adulthood during the 17th/19th centuries. A completed sampler was an expression of sewing skills. An appreciation for color, design, construction was learned. A fine collection will be displayed and questions will be answered at the next Open House at the Lyon School.

In addition a quilt with a special story will be displayed. Several hookers, rug hookers that is, plan to attend with samples of their work.

The sincere sympathies of the Society are extended to the families of

MARIAN MILLAR CARNEY
PAULINE ALLEN CHENOWETH
RICHARD SMITH

Marian and Pauline were native to the area.

All have made meaningful contributions to the Society in many ways.

They will be missed.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc.
William P. Horal, DDS; **Lawrence Auto-body; Carol McCrie & Associates;
Lindhout Associates; **Promess, Inc.

**LIFE MEMBERS

SIGNATURE QUILT

This quilt has dozens of names embroidered on it. Sending your signature is an easy way to make a donation. From early tax rolls, school and government contracts, etc., copies of early residents' signatures are in Society files i.e. Moon, Galloway, Loch, Van Amburg, etc. The completed quilt will remain in Society archives for occasional display.

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.

MUGS: \$5.00. 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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Oct. 15: Oral History for Michiganians; A Conference. Beyond the Family Album: Using Oral History to Enrich the Family Record. Family Oral history on the Web: New Directions and Technologies. Equipment and the part it Plays in Oral History. Moccasin Grapevine: Recording Native American Experiences. \$15.00 to MOHA, 5580 West State Road, Lansing 48906-9325. 517/321-1746; e-mail: gwiskemann@arg.net at the Michigan Historical Center, 702 West kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Oct. 23: 1:30 Genealogical Society of Washtenaw. All welcome. 734/996-8079.

Nov. 3: 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society. Cultural hall, LDS Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

Common sense is not so common.

--Voltaire

FROM AN EARLIER HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Why are there handicap parking places in front of skating rinks?
 Why do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheese burgers, large fries, and a DIET coke?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the drive and put useless junk in the garage?

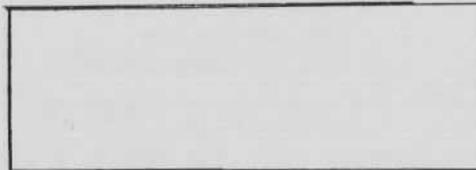
Why do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place?

Why do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight?

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

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THE ERIE CANAL IS OPEN - SAMUEL M. CONELY AND FAMILY COME TO MICHIGAN

Samuel m. Conely's ancestors sailed with Lord Baltimore to find new homes in the new world. His father, Jerimiah, was born c. 1766, in Snow Hill, Maryland, and became a seaman. Sam's mother was a Norris, born at the east end of Long Island, New York. Born 9-26-1806, Sam had six siblings: Achseh b. 1797, William S. b. 1790, and four sisters of which only Eleanor has been identified.

Samuel was apprenticed, at 16, (at his father's death) to learn the carver/gilder trade on Fulton St., NYC. Until 1837, he worked at this trade. On March 12, 1828, Rebecca Southard became Sam's bride in NYC. Children, George W. b. 12-25-28, William B. b. 1830, Benjamin F. b. 11-09-32 and John A b. 1835, were all born in New York.

In those days guilds were formed of gold beaters, carvers, tin smiths, silver smiths, etc. Samuel and two dozen other guild members, upon learning of opportunities in the west, now that the Erie Canal was open, entrusted \$8000.00 worth into the care of Richard Lyon, a fellow gilder. Lyon set out to select and register land for them in Livingston County (most specifically Brighton Township.) During 1834-36, Lyon recorded land purchases in the Township for guild members, including Sam and his brother William. About 20,000 acres were purchased by Lyon for fellow guild members. Some bought for speculation, others to live. Some soon realized they were not cut out for husbandry, sold and returned to New York.

The year of Michigan's statehood found Sam, his family, wife, mother-in-law and sister on a life-altering journey. With many of his fellow guild members their trip began on the Erie Canal. A steamer over Lake Erie then deposited them in Detroit with their belongings. By the very nature of their work few guild members were farmers. When Sam and Family got ready to travel the Grand River Trail from Detroit, they bought a yoke of cattle, wagon, a cow and a barrel each of flour and pork. Unfamiliar with driving yoked cattle very slow progress was made, especially through the many swamps and wet land they encountered. Of course there was no shelter, other than the cabin of William H. Valentine. At one time this cabin held 22 settlers until their cabins were built. (Valentine and wife, Addie, both died in 1843, their two young sons taken in by neighbors.)

After settling in their own cabin Sam found it necessary for three winters to return to New York to earn money to support the family. Thomas J. b. 1842, Henry, b. 1847 d. 1873, and Mary E. b. 5-7-1850, married Milo Beach, were born in Michigan. William B. became a portrait painter in Detroit, George W. married Eliza Warner, and Benjamin F. married Maggie E. Platt, local residents. John A. moved to farm in Illinois. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Ellis' 1880 History of Livingston County; William Pless' supplement to the Old Village Cemetery records; and First Landowners and Settlers of Liv. County by Milt Charboneau. Add./corr. welcome. 810/229-6402.)