LEWIS M. CURRY - A STORY ON THE LEVEL

Eight children were born to John and Polly Curry while living in New York and Pennsylvania. Among the very earliest names recorded in the area's history is that of Lewis M. Curry, one of ten children, born in Brighton in 1841. He married Mary E. Dillen, daughter of Benjamin and Abigail Dillen, in 1976. The couple had five children: Abigail, Sarah, John Jr., Mary, and Enoch. 

Enoch's son, Lewis M. was born January 21, 1850, in the settlement along the Grand River Trail. The family then spent several years in Canada and Lewis M. began working as a miner. After becoming proficient in the trade he began to study architecture, moving to Chicago in 1852. While there he drew plans for several Illinois state office buildings; the Marshall Field Block and others, providing ample evidence of his abilities in this field.

Lewis M. spent a year in Alaska as a mining engineer for Marshall Field's Syndicate in 1858. About the turn of the century he returned to Brighton. During this period he invented and patented the Spirit Level and the Curry excentric plane. This he sold to the Stanley Plane and Level Company "...as a good figure." The factory for building this plane was still in operation in Brighton at the time of his death, January 14, 1909. Lewis M. had married Rebecca Sparks in 1849; they had two children, Roy W. and Enoch, Jr., who died as a child. The Lewis M. Obituary notes he was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Brighton. However records are inconclusive in this regard.

Don Rosebrook of Louisiana, from whom much information was gained regarding the level patented by Lewis M. Curry, noted additionally that local retailer of the time, Grant Broodmore, also developed, and manufactured a level at the King Level Works in Brighton. The patent dates indicate the strong possibility Curry and Broodmore collaborated. Mr. Rosebrook donated a copy of both Curry's and Broodmore's patent applications and photos of the levels. (Compiled by Marisella Bair from Curry Family genealogical information from John Curry of Lansing, formerly an archivist with the State of Michigan, census records, obituaries, and "Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County" and obituaries copied by Milton Cherbonneu. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 5, 2006, REVIEW

Besides the 25th Society anniversary cake, Finger Food and beverages, attendees toured the Lyon one room school, learned of past projects, future plans, and elected a 2007 board to govern the Society. As usual, all meetings are open to the public.

Larry Alexander, Carol McMacken and Nancy Pedenburg are sincerely thanked for their many years of devoted service to the Society; since 1992 and 1995 respectively. They are taking a hiatus from board membership to pursue some other interests. A hearty welcome awaits them when they can serve again. Nancy is still giving much attention to the Society's web site and, with returning John Filiogaro, looking to digitize the Society archives. Carol will be following up on the 2nd printing of the local history book she authored.

The Society is extremely fortunate to have a hardworking governing body. Jim Vlachich, V.P., a long time member of the board, sees the grounds at the school are maintained and confirms the Society's beneficial, worthwhile legacy to the community.

Tom Reinke conscientiously records proceedings of all meetings. His dedication is especially appreciated - he travels from outside the area in order to assist in this position.

Dates to Remember:

Dec. 4th, 14: 1-3 p.m. Archival filing. Welcome.
Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.
125: dawn to dark - all members having a Merry Christmas.
31: Midnight. Welcome 2007!
LIFE BUS/PROF: @Patrick Financial Group LLC

LIFE COUPLE: Bob Pauline Schaffer.


Welcome to new Life Bus/Prof, member Patrick Financial Group LLC, and appreciation to those who have so regularly renewed. New members indicate a group is alive. Renewing members indicate a group’s mission is worth supporting.

A ‘Complimentary Copy’ stamp on this issue indicates dues have not been received..... "S'Nuff said.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Blair, Ida Blair and Harold Sellie for help in mailing the November issue of Trail Tales.

...Golden Opportunities Club, 1st Presbyterian Church for a generous donation following a program on Brighton and the Advertiser.

...George Moses of the Newport for promoting the 2nd printing of ‘From Settlement to City, Brighton, MI, 1832-1945’ by Carol McKeand. Also to Steve and Mercy Allen of Parent-Teacher Tech for stocking the book again.

...Jim Roseboom, LA, for the material he sent about early local boy makes good! L.M. Curry and the tools he invented in Brighton.

...Lorraine Lovenko for the copy of her home’s abstract dating to 1939 when purchased by Elijah S. Fisher.

...Plank Road Quarters For the Fall cleaning of the School. Also Plank Road and Mill Town Quarters for contributions to the Flag Pole Fund.

...Howell Archives for area photos.

PRESEvation/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Work on copying the 1967 Brighton Centennial scrapbook is continuing to make it available for viewing. Included are many newspaper clippings and photos of those involved with the planning and execution of the week-long event. Local newspapers from the 1850s, 60s and 70s have been donated. These need to be carefully microfilmed. They are too fragile for research in their present state. Several boxes of photos from the Howell Archives and Livingston County Press need sorting. Call 229-6402 when you can help.

HISTORY BOOK: The 2nd printing is underway and will be here after the first of the year. The price ($60.00 for members, $65.00 to non members, plus $4.00 shipping if necessary) will remain the same as the first printing. Reservations are being received. Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River will be stocking the book locally.

LYON SCHOOL: Motion detector lights have been installed on the east and west sides of the school. The bell tower and sliding have been painted. The leaking roof has been repaired.

The board has determined to hold Open House on the 2nd Sunday of the month, 1-4 p.m., in 2020/November.

New members Judy Coeyl and Sue Skowroński have taken on the duties of liaison for the Society and the Brighton School District. They are promoting the visits of elementary students to a day at the Lyon School. Their dedication is a fitting tribute to the many in the community who have made this facility possible.

Recent members of Friends of Lyon School: Lois Clark, Dr. Harry S & Carol Davis, Jim DeJohn, Charles McDonnell, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, Cleo Moran, Carole Scott, Bill S & Jane Tomlinson.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS on local history are available for your group - young or old. There is no charge. A donation to the Society is requested.

LIFE Member

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481
www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME

ADDRESS

( ) Renew( ) Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( ) (Please include Zip and 4 digits)

Due: ( ) $50.00 Life ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $50.00 Bus/Professional ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $2.00 Student

Friend of Lyon School: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) Other $...

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization

$ $ $ FUND RAISING PROJECTS $ $ $


TILES: $1 each, ceramic tiles, 13 local scenes in black/white. $8.00, $32.00.


LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS, XL $12.00.

HORE? 810/229-6402.

(Cont. From P. 1) Susan Walters-Steuacker has organized a special program for each of the Open Houses held at the Lyon School this year. All have been of interest and drew a different audience. She is working on a special program or exhibit for each in 2007.

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BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc. 
Ameri-Construction; William P. Horm, DGS; Lawrence Autobody; Livingston County Woodcrafts Guild; Matthew Maczuski, DGS, PC; Carol McIlvaine & Associates, PC; Lindhout Associates; @Patrick Financial Group, LLC; @Process, Inc.; The Fence Spot. We are encouraged to patronize these local, independent supporters of the society.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS


Dec. 7: 7 p.m. Christmas Get-together. Cultural Hall, LOD Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

Dec. 8: 12-5, Dec. 10: 1-4 p.m. Saline Area Historical Society ‘Christmas During the Depression Years’ Decorations, etc., 1265 S. Michigan Ave., Saline. www.salinehistory.org or 734/444-9482.
MEMBERSHIPS

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LIFE COUPLE: Bob Pauline Schaffer.

COUPLE/INDIV: Lois Clark (Midland), Joe Collins, Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Jim DeJohn, Irene Ellis, Tim & Helen Hurst, Harold P. Leitz, Charles McConnell (G.O.), Bill & Barbara McIrish, Cleo Moran (Novi), Rich & Mary Ray, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, Carole Scott, Wally Smale and Bill & Jane Tomlinson.

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$$ FUNdraising Projects $$

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MORE INFO: 810/289-8907.

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Lewis M. Curry - A Story on the Level

Eight children were born to John and Polly Curry while living in New York and Pennsylvania. Among the very earliest names recorded in the area's history is that of Curry. John and Polly's sixth child, Enoch Hallock, b. May 17, 1851, arrived in Brighton in 1844. He bought land in Brighton Township in the Pleasant Valley area; property now known as General Motors Proving Ground. Four of Enoch's siblings came to Michigan before 1844: Lewis Madison, Mary Eliza, Henry Winfield and Volney Manning. (Two children died by ten years of age. A daughter, Sarah Ann Folsom, died at 26 years.) In that year John and Polly followed their children settling near Enoch and wife, Laura Eleanor Groff, of Hamburg township, whom he married in 1849.

Enoch's son, Lewis M., was born January 21, 1850, in the settlement along the Grand River Trail. The family then spent several years in Canada and Lewis M. began working as a mason. After becoming proficient in the trade he began to study architecture, moving to Chicago in 1852. While there he drew plans for several Illinois state office buildings; the Marshall Field Block and others, providing ample evidence of his abilities in this field.

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