

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

December 2006
Vol. XXV No. 12

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Open House
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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.

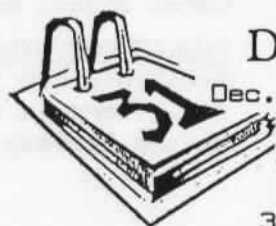
Nancy Fredenburg and Carol McMacken are sincerely thanked for their many years of devoted service to the Society; since 1992 and 1995 respectively. They are taking a hiatus from board membership to pursue some other interests. A hearty welcome awaits them when they can serve again. Nancy is still giving much attention to the Society's web site and, with returning John Fillicaro, 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 Vichich, 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.

Mindy Kinsey serving as treasurer is a major advantage to the Society. Not only are monthly reports prepared but she also, with Carol McCorrie, CPA (bus/prof member), sees to it the Society responds properly to governmentally required reports, etc. These activities assure donations to the Society are Income Tax Deductible - that the Society retains its 501(c)3 status.

(cont. P. 3)



Dates to Remember:

Dec. *7, 14: 1-3 p.m. Archive Filing. Welcome.

Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

25: dawn to dark - all members having a Merry Christmas.

31: Midnight. Welcome 2007!

* Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township.

MEMBERSHIPS

LIFE BUS/PROF: *Patrick Financial Group LLC

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 (S.C.), Bill & Barbara McCririe, Cleo Moran (Novi), Rich & Mary Ray, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, Carole Scott, Wallyne Smail and Bill & Jane Tomlinson.

*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 'Complementary Copy' stamp on this issue indicates dues have not been received..... 'S'nuf said.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair and Harold Salow 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, Ore Creek and the mill.

...George Moses of the Marketeer for promoting the 2nd printing of 'From Settlement to City, Brighton, MI, 1832/1945' by Carol McMacken. Also to Steve and Marcy Allen of Parent-Teacher Tech for stocking the book again.

...Don Rosebrook, LA, for the material he sent about early 'local boy makes good' L.M. Curry and the tools he invented in Brighton.

...Lorraine Loveland for the copy of her home's abstract dating to 1835 when purchased by Elijah Fitch.

...Plank Road Questers for the fall cleaning of the Lyon School. Also Plank Road and Mill Town Questers for contributions to the Flag Pole Fund.

...Howell Archives for area photos.

PRESERVATION/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 50s, 60s and 70s have been donated. These need to be chronologically catalogued in order for microfiling. 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. for members, \$65. to non members, plus \$4. 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 siding 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 2007, May/November.

New members Judy Coebly and Sue Skworski 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 & Carol Davis, Jim DeJohn, Charles McConnell, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, Cleo Moran, Carol Scott, Bill & 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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

Dues: () \$500.00 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 \$\$\$

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. Reservations for 2nd edition being accepted.

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, Nowell and Ocaola \$1.00. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

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

NOTE PAPER \$2.50 pkg.

TOTEBAG \$15.00. PEWTER PLATE \$35.00 All with the Old Town hall and millpond.

WOVEN AFGHAN \$49.00, red, green, blue with nine local sites.

TAPESTRY PILLOW \$14.00 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 \$4.00 with local scenes.

MORE INFO? 810/229-6402.

(cont. from P. 1) Susan Walters-Steinacker 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 1007.

Proper maintenance of the Lyon School would be immeasurably difficult if not for the time, labor and devotion exhibited by Dick Weaire. he sees to it leaks are fixed, upkeep maintained, electrical/heating/cooling and plumbing infrastructure is cared for; the myriad details of the preservation of any structure.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc.
 Ameri-Construction; William P. Horal, DDS; **Lawrence Autobody; Livingston County Woodcraft Guild; Matthew Matuszak, DDS, PC; Carol McCririe & Associates, PC.; Lindhout Associates; **Patrick Financial Group, LLS.; **Promess, Inc.; The Fence Spot. We You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the society.

**Life Member

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

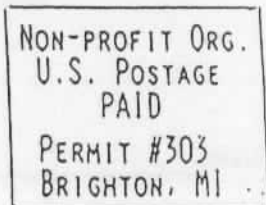
Dec. 3: 10-5 Craft Bazaar \$3. fee. Plymouth Historical Society, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth.

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

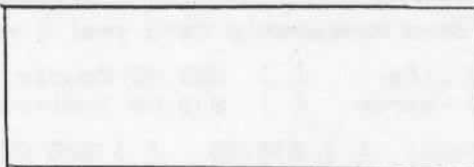
Dec. 9: 12-5, Dec. 10: 1-4 p.m. Saline Area Historical Society 'Christmas During the Depression Years'. Decorations, etc., 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. www.salinehistory.org or 734/944-9442.



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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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 Waldron, b. May 17, 1821, arrived in Brighton in 1841. 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 Elmira, Henry Winston and Volney Manning. (Two children died by ten years of age. A daughter, Sarah Ann Fulcifer, 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 work he began to study architecture, moving to Chicago in 1892. 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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Lewis M. spent a year in Alaska as a mining engineer for Marshall Field's syndicate in 1898. About the turn of the century he returned to Brighton. During this period he invented and patented the Spirit BMIU level and the Curry excentric plane. This he sold to the Stanley Plane and Level Company "...at 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 II, 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 Broadmore, also developed, and manufactured a level at the King Level Works in Brighton. The patent dates indicate the strong possibility Curry and Broadmore collaborated. Mr. Rosebrook donated a copy of both Curry's and Broadmore's patent applications and photos of the levels. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Curry family genealogical information from John Curry of Lansing, formerly an archivist with the State of Michigan; census records; atlases; and 'Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County' and obituaries copied by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)