



# Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

# Trail Tales

February 2006

Vol. XXV No. 2

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

## ORAL HISTORY - WHAT? WHY?

Oral history is the recording of an interview with one who has a connection to you, your family or your community. It can include memories about organizations, events, people, education, transportation, occupation, sports, religion, military service; the list is endless.

Government leaders can tell how local government is/was conducted. Educators, bus drivers, farmers, football players, barbers, preachers will be honored to answer your questions. Be prepared to ask and record them. Parents and grandparents all have a story to tell. An oral history will increase the value of your family album.

To learn how best to conduct an interview an oral history workshop will be scheduled. A minimum of 10 persons is required. There is a charge of \$25.00. Contact 810/229-6402 by March 15, so a workshop date can be set.

## VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

During the dreary, rainy days of winter at Ft. Clatsop, Capt. Mariwether Lewis records regularly in his journal. While Lewis described plants, birds, animals and Indian ways, Capt. William Clark worked on his maps. February 11, 1806, a map of their journey from Ft. Mandan to Ft. Clatsop was completed. This, and his map of the lower Missouri, was the first which fully brought the eastern and western United States into one nation. After review

the Captains are sure they have "...found the most practicable and navigable passage across the Continent of North America." Unfortunately it confirmed the fears there was no easy water route across the country - no passage to India - no short portage from the Missouri to the Columbia. There is no comparison of eastern mountains to the heights and distances involved with the Rockies and coastal ranges. The next issue would be getting back

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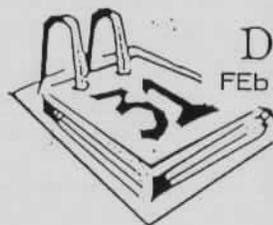
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### CHAIRPERSONS

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Cemeteries/  
Archives  
810/599-6195

Plank Road  
Questers #236

Lyon School  
Open House  
810/231-9327



## Dates to Remember:

- FEb. 2,16,23: 1-3 p.m. Archive filing.  
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- 15,22: 7 p.m. Lyon School Maintenance.  
You can help.
- 27: 6:30 p.m. Society board meets.  
Welcome.

\* Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Margaret Bowland, Emil & Joan Engel, Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Phyllis Kerslake (Grosse Pte Farms), Tim & Mindy Kinsey (MlfD), Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Horace & Yvonne Taylor.

COUPLES/INDIV: \*Pat Anderson, Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Dan & Karen Bierer, Elaine Blight, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Evelyn Dothager, Irene Ellis, Pat & Mary Fonseca (AZ), \*Don & Gerry Leith, John & Ruth LePatourel, Brenda McCarty, Charles McConnell (SC), Joe & Irene Mike (07), Cleo Moran, Roland & Jane Owens, David & Nancy Schoewe, Peg Siford, Rev. Don Thomas (Mio), Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt, Jim & Vicki Vichich (07), Dick & Lucille Weaire, Bill & Charmaine Zink.

\*A big welcome to Pat Anderson and to Don and Gerry Leith. Thanks to all who join in the belief the preservation of local history is a worthwhile endeavor. Continued financial support convinces those able to participate more fully they are not alone. To those who've sent address changes - good work. When the P.O. makes the correction it costs the Society .39¢. Funds can be put to a better use than that.

## FRIENDS OF LYON SCHOOL 2006

Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Pat & Mary Fonseca (AZ), Irene Ellis, Charles McConnell (SC), Tom & Mindy Kinsey (MlfD), Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Brenda McCarty, Cleo Moran, Tom Reinke, Rev. Don Thomas (Mio). Friends funds are dedicated to maintenance of the Lyon School. The annual contribution to Friends helps cover utility expenses, painting, yard mowing, etc., just as at home.

## THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair, and John S. Janice Field for their help in mailing January's Trail Tales.

...Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) employer for matching their LIFE contribution.

...Norma Jean Pless for her help in Archives. There's room for others.

...Harold Salow and his woodworking crew for the fine donation box. It will be used at Open House and wherever the Society has a booth.

...Joe & Irene Mike for photos they sent.

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

## PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Thursdays, 1-3, at the Lyon School. Two hours a week is not much time to compile archives fit for research. Files relating to local history include notebooks of local business addresses, cemeteries, homes, churches, etc. Files are full of materials on various events, organizations, governments, families, etc. Early directories can be found here. You can add your pictures, letters, maps, etc. You can also help file.

LYON SCHOOL: Open House will begin April 2. Help needed to get ready. Help needed to host. have you a collection to display? Wednesday evenings various maintenance is undertaken. You can help here too. When weather is poor please call 810/229-6402.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Several Scout groups have been hosted at the School. Programs on local history can be brought to your organization. An overhead projector is also available for programs.

Questions? 810/229-6402.

HELP HELP HELP

Needed are:

...local business(es) to stock Society sale items: coverlets or tiles or pillows or Lyon School T-shirts or pewter plates, etc.

...someone to repair a wood grain cradle.

...project chairpersons.

From a Home Builders Assoc. of Livingston County Newsletter: CRAZY SIGNS

In the front yard of a funeral home:  
DRIVE CAREFULLY, WE'LL WAIT

On an electrician's truck:  
LET US REMOVE YOUR SHORTS

In a nonsmoking area:  
IF WE SEE YOU SMOKING, WE WILL ASSUME YOU ARE ON FIRE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At an optometrist's office:  
IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR,  
YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Outside a muffler shop:  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.  
WE'LL HEAR YOU COMING

In a dry cleaner's emporium:  
DROP YOUR PANTS HERE

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. 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.

NOTE PAPER \$2.50 pky.

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 \$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.

(cont. from p. 1)

to President Jefferson for their efforts to be of any use. Neither the food nor the weather was conducive to the health of the Corps. At one point almost 20% were ill. Injuries, colds, Flu, fever and the Louis Veneri were treated with sage tea, hot foot baths, saltpeter, laudanum and mercury by 'Dr.' Lewis.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc.; Ameri-Construction; William P. Horal, DDS; \*\*Lawrence Autobody; Matthew Matuszak, DDS, PC; Carol McGirrie S Associates; Lindhout Associates; \*\*Promess, Inc.; The Fence Spot. Be sure to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

\*\*Life Members

PRESERVATION IN THE REAL WORLD

Realities of Urban and Rural Preservation

Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference

April 20-22, 2006, Saginaw

Website: www.mhpn.org  
 Email: Finegood@mhpn.org  
 Ph: 517/371-8080  
 Fax: 517/371-9090

April 21-22 at Wayne State University. Local History Conference.

Underground Railroad Quilt exhibit. Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main. Open Thurs/Sun, 1-4 p.m.

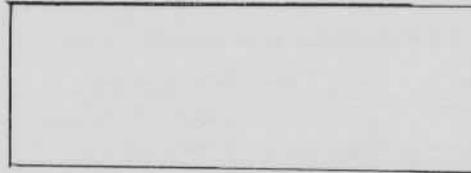
Feb. 19, 2 p.m. Ypsilanti Historical Society archives. Program by Archivist Mr. Gerry Pety. 220 N. Huron St.

First Thursday each month; Livingston County Genealogical Society, LDS Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell, 7 p.m.

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BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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### THE INDUSTRIOUS JOHN L. CARTER COMES TO MICHIGAN

A mother gave birth to her only child October 10, 1820, in Ireland. Not long after she died. Her husband, Julian Carter, emigrated to the United States, settling in Oswego, New York, the following year. The child, John L., was raised in Ireland by his grandparents. He attended school until he was 18 and then joined the 'constabulary', working in this police force until 1845. At that time, age 25, he also sailed to America to work with his father for three years. Julian was a farmer, merchant and lumber manufacturer; not a poor or lazy man. While in New York, John met Jeanette Lambie who was born January 30, 1827, in Scotland (It is also possible they were acquainted as children; both fathers were businessmen. John Lambie was a dairyman and stock dealer.) The Lambies, John and Jane, came to America in 1831. Lambie died in 1834.

In 1848, at 28 years, John L. went to Michigan, probably via the Erie Canal, to look for a place to begin his own business. For two years, in Milford, he worked at a flouring mill. He and Jeanette were married April 19, 1849, when he bought 80 acres in Oakland County and farmed until 1856. By 1859, John owned 160 acres in Section 11, Brighton Township. Pleasant Valley Road runs through the far eastern portion of the property and the acreage is bounded on the south by Hyne Road. (A two page spread in the 1880 History of Livingston County displays an elegant two-story Italianate, hip-roofed house on the east side of Pleasant Valley Road, as the home of John L. Carter. Wood fences enclose many barns and fine looking stock.) In the ensuing years the Carters own 400+ acres.

Besides farming, John accepted civic responsibilities. Prior to being elected to the 27th State legislature January 1, 1873, he had served as Supervisor of Brighton Township (1865-66, 1871-72). He had earlier served as Justice of the Peace in 1863. One must realize that serving in a township office it is both a requirement and an advantage to be aware of trends in commerce, business, education, agriculture, transportation, etc.

John and Jeanette had seven children. Martha, b. March 13, 1850, married the son of neighbors, Ezbon A. Ross. The Rosses were also large land owners. Margaret, b. April 5, 1852, did not marry. Helen, b. December 6, 1855, married Oliver Tenny, another nearby neighbor. Son John L., b. 1858, married Luise Hyne from the west side of the township. Frances, b. 1866, married Frank Lindsley, in 1890 and lived about five miles from home in Hartland Township. The other two children were twins, who died in 1854. As was all too often the case, it appears they died not long after birth. John L. died October 3, 1902 and Jeanette April 17, 1903. Both are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Oakland County, as are the unnamed twins. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; census records; atlases; cemetery transcriptions; obituaries copied by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)