



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

October 2006
Vol. XXV No. 10

COMMEMORATING AN ANNIVERSARY

OFFICERS

President/Editor
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Vice President
Jim Vichich
810/227-4840

Secretary
Thomas Reinke
313/295-9326

Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey
248/684-0340

DIRECTORS

John Fillicaro
810/231-6521

Nancy Fredenburg
248/926-2371

Carol McMacken
810/231-2957

Susan Walters-
Stainacker
810/229-4483

Dick Weaire
810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS

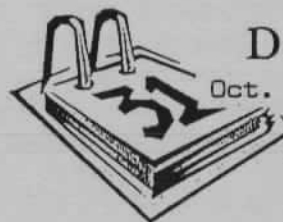
John S Janice
Field - Cemeteries/
Archives
810/599-6195

Plank Road
Questers 326
Lyon School
Open House
810/231-9327

Because of people who not only care about learning and preserving of area history but also participate to the best of their ability, is why the Society has experienced 25 years. Only because of supportive members can the mission of collecting, preservation and dissemination of the history of the area, be fulfilled. Among the Society's earliest projects were the preservation/restoration of the Old Town Hall and its inclusion on the Michigan Historic Site Register. St. Paul Episcopal Church is also listed as is the Old Village Cemetery. Each has its marker. It has been proven that if a worthwhile project is offered local citizens contribute to the expense.

In 1984 the Society accepted the Lyon One room school site on Buno Road from the Brighton Township board for use as a museum and headquarters. It also is on the Register. In 1999 local developers, contractors, members of the Rotary Club and caring people pulled together. The Lyon School now houses local archives, museum and a one room school. It also serves as an early Michigan educational experience for elementary school children. Friends of Lyon School make annual donations to pay for utilities and maintenance. Construction of an early style barn is planned, the archives are expanding, the school program growing, oral histories promoted, the Open House program at the School continues, membership is increasing, newsletter publication continues, careful administration assures proper papers are filed with the State and IRS, and financial reports are successfully completed regularly. The Public programs project has been expanded to serve local organizations. The 2005 Society publication of local history is sold out.

NOW, where do YOU fit in? November 5, 1-4 p.m., the Annual Meeting will be convened and elections held. To continue the Society mission, members, believing this mission is valid and vital, will take their turn on the board. Can't come? Contact a board member with your desire to be a part of the mission. "UNCLE SAM (the Society) WANTS YOU!" And there'll be refreshments and beverage.



Dates to Remember:

- Oct. *1: 1-4 p.m. Open House at Lyon School.
*14: 8-noon. Society booth at Farmers' Market.
*12, 19: 9-noon. Archives filing. Welcome.
Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.
*23: 6:30 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome.
Nov. *5: 1-4 p.m. Open House at Lyon School.
Annual Meeting, elections, refreshments.

* Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township.

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: *Judith Coebly & Gary Rutter, Jack & Beverly LaBelle, John Park (Ann Arbor), *Phyllis Shelters, *Ralph & Suzanne Skworski.

*Welcome to new members Judith & Gary, Phyllis and Ralph & Suzanne. Renewing members are gladly noted.

Many issues of Trail Tales are distributed to the general public and businesses. The Society assumes its mission is important to them. It is also assumed financial, or other, support would be an appropriate response. If a 'Complementary Copy' stamp is on the address portion of this newsletter dues have not been sent for 2006. Consider becoming a supporting member of the Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, John & Janice Field and June Kimble for help with mailing the September newsletter.

...John Park for his donation with dues through 2010.

...Anne Schutz Zemke for '50s, '60s, etc., issues of the Brighton Argus, County Press.

...Ruth Munzel for her husband's, Herb, 1977 Brightonian.

...Gary Dziekan for his fine display and information of early radios at the October Open House at Lyon School.

...Whitney & June Kimble for bonds re; construction of the 1928 Church Street School; 1955 Argus anniversary edition; 1955 Chamber of Commerce minstrel show program; December, 1960 proposed mill pond park development plan; 1961 Brighton Homecoming publication; photo c. 1970 Rotary Club Gay Nineties party at Waldenwoods with Bernice Hyne, Ed Ewing and June Kimble; Chamber of Commerce brochure pre 1975; 1980 Barbershop Quartet program; 1986 childrens' activity booklet.

...Lucille Weaire for arranging for Farmers' Market and Harvest Fest booth. She, Dick Weaire, Mindy Kinsey and Marieanna Bair hosted. Yes, it rained but they stuck it out.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Work continuing on preservation of the Brighton Centennial Scrap Book. The Society has determined to microfilm the local newspapers recently donated. It is necessary to place them in chronological order. Note Archive dates, page 1, or call to work another day.

HISTORY BOOK: Reservations are being accepted for the second edition. Member price, \$60.00, non members \$65.00. Shipping is \$3.00. A check may be sent the Society. Proceeds are designated to the Preservation/Restoration Fund, for the barn.

FRIENDS OF LYON SCHOOL: Members make annual donations to help cover cost of utilities and maintenance.

LYON SCHOOL: October 26, 27, students from Spencer Elementary will be visiting. Research re: the barn and for electrical repairs is ongoing.

FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: Lucille Weaire will be at the market October 14: 8-1 p.m. She can use assistance. Call: 810/229-3066.

ROCKING BEAR SILENT AUCTION

Constructed by Bruce Owens, this rocking bear is just right, and safe, for a child to use. (It makes a great decoration in the house also.) Bids are being received. Send in your bid. If you are outbid you'll be notified so you can raise yours. At the November 5, 25th anniversary party, the highest bidder buys the bear.

ARE YOU COUNTING CALORIES?

Activity	# per hour
Beating around the bush	75
Jumping to conclusions	100
Climbing the walls	150
Swallowing your pride	50
Passing the buck	25
Throwing your weight around	50-300
Dragging your heels	100
Pushing your luck	250
Making mountains from molehills	500
Wading through the paperwork	300
Hitting the nail on the head	50
Bending over BACKwards	75
Balancing the books	23
Running around in circles	350
Eating Crow	225
Climbing the ladder of success	750
Tooting your own horn	25
Adding fuel to the fire	150

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)

Ques: () \$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, Howell and Ocoola \$1.00. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

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

NOTE PAPER \$2.50 pkg.
 TOTE BAG \$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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

October 14, 2006: The Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame will be holding its Hall of Fame Induction Gala in Denver. Included in the list of inductees will be Henry Christian Hall. He was the builder of the ski jumps on Flint road in the 1920s. We are grateful to his daughter, Fay Hall, for sending us the invitation, announcement and brochures. These are filed in Society Archives.

Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society will meet. The program, 'Newspapers - a valuable research tool' will be presented by Shirley Hodges. The LCGS meets each 1st Thursday at the Latter Day Saints Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

October 8: noon -5 p.m. Waterloo Historical Society Pioneer Day at Waterloo Farm Museum.

Oct. 14: 7 p.m. Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society. Tour of Oaklawn Cemetery. stockbridgeareahghs@hotmail.com

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; Lindhout Associates; **Promess, Inc.; The Fence Spot. Be sure to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

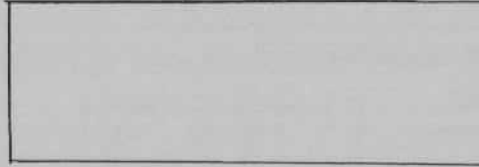
**Life Member

John Ruskin, the influential English critic who held a healthy disregard for the kind of unauthentic architectural restoration practiced in the mid-nineteenth century, wrote with poetic logic in 1853...."you waste the best of the time of the dead when you destroy the works they have left you; for to those works they gave the best of their time, intending them for immortality." Historic Preservation magazine.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #303
BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ROLISONS - EARLY RESIDENTS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY

David M. Rolison, son of John and Rebecca of New Jersey, is recorded in the 1850 census of Livingston County. He was born August 22, 1813. David and wife, Mary, with son Jacob, b. 1835, made the trip to Michigan. In 1848, Henry was born in Michigan, as are third son David and daughter Prudence, b. 1850 and 1852 respectively. They settled in the northern part of Hamburg Township to farm. Prudence married Charles Switzer. In the 1880 census David and Mary are with Prudence.

It is 1880 before other Rolisons are recorded in the census. At that time we find Charles L. Rolison b. January 28, 1852 in Michigan, a son of Lewis b. 1830. (Charles may be a nephew of David M.) November 20, 1878, Charles L. and Laura Swarthout are married. Laura's parents are Gorsham and Fanny, members of the Swarthout settlers in Hamburg and Putnam Townships. Charles and Laura had two children; Claude L. b. January 18, 1880 and Fannabelle b. December 21, 1880. In 1909 Charles is noted as the owner of one of eight Buicks in Brighton Village. Liberty Bond sales for Livingston County, during WW I were under his direction. It was a very successful campaign.

Claude L. married Lucy May Pitkin in 1908. Lucy was an accomplished pianist. She provided music, including the wedding march, at the wedding ceremony of Geneva Hilton and Guy E. Pitkin at the home of the bride's parents in the Village, October 21, 1914. Guy was a cousin of Lucy. When Claude and Lucy married he hired her father, David Pitkin a local builder, to construct a Queen Anne style house on lot 319 of the Smith-McPherson Addition to Brighton. An elevator was installed to avoid having to use stairs to the basement. At some time Claude added a music room to the house. (This land, south of Main, west of Ore Creek was part of a tract purchased by Elijah Fitch in 1835. With the coming of the railroad Hiram Smith bought it and platted it as part of the Addition. After the railroad construction this part of the Village rather quickly developed.) Claude was a businessman in Brighton. In 1911 he and his helpers set up the telephone switch board on the 2nd floor of the new Brighton State Bank building on Main Street by the mill pond. In 1914 he resigned from the Brighton Exchange Mutual Telephone Company and purchased Gambel and Lown Hardware on the west side and in 1924 Rolison's Hardware was moved to the east side. In 1914, his father, Charles L., was the local representative of the International Harvester Company with offices at the store. Son, Merle, was born to them in 1910. He graduated from the Brighton High School with the class of 1928, the last to graduate from the Union School. There were 16 in the class. In the early 1940s he was a member of the Brighton Fire Department. Merle's sister Garnet was born October 9, 1920.

Claude's sister, Fannabelle, married Royal Schoenhals June 17, 1908, and had two daughters, Violet L. and Helen Mae. A brother, LeGrande, b. 1894 died at the age of two. Violet L. married Harold A. Jacobs, and Helen Mae married Francis L. Michaels. Several members of generations of descendants of Charles L. Rolison still live in the area. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Census Records; Early Land Owners and Settlers and obituaries prepared by Milton Charboneau; From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945 by Carol McMacken and conversations with Kay Michaels. Additions/corrections welcomed. 810/229-6402)