FITCH STREET/MAIN STREET/ORDNANCE OF 1785

As early as 1795 the Brighton area was under the influence of the Federal Ordinance of that year. This ordinance called for a survey, prior to settlement, of lands north and west of the Ohio River to the Mississippi. These lands were ceded to the U.S. at the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783. It was August, 1789, before the English were finally ousted. The Ordinance provided for townships six miles square which would then be further divided. Surveyors began their work. However it was 1818 before the first public land office opened in Michigan. By 1830 over four million acres had been purchased by settlers (and speculators).

It was into this heady dash for land ($1.25 acre), and a future for their Families, that Elijah Fitz brought his Family. Lack of roads to the land north of Washtenaw County forced many to travel there first. Elijah and his Family appear to have landed in Salem Township of Washtenaw County. When they arrived surveys had been done but few government divisions set aside and named. At the time the southeast two townships of townships of what became Livingston County were part of Washtenaw. The Ordinance of 1787 detailed the requirements necessary for a county to be formed. In 1835, Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw Counties were among the several titled counties. Washtenaw's northern border extended to Commerce, Golf Club and Mason Roads, as we know in 1976. These two townships became part of Livingston County when it was formed March 24, 1836.

The 1815 map of Brighton Village notes Fitch Street east of the tracks to the Grand River Trail and Main Street west of the tracks to Seventh. Who was Fitz to be honored in this manner? Elijah Fitz was among the very first to buy land in what became Brighton City. He is recorded as purchasing section 31 of Brighton Township, the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 40 acres, and section 36 of Genoa Township the NW 1/4 NE 1, July 29, 1835, while living in Salem Township, Washtenaw County. Other parcels in the area are also purchased within the next several years.

He is recorded in the census of 1840 with wife Hannah, and six children, four boys, two girls; however no names other than heads of households were included; nor where any were born. However, while in Brighton, he is noted as an early merchant. The 1900 History of Livingston County lists him as a tax payer in 1864; also his name on school master in 1908. As a Justice of the Peace in 1908, it appears all his land has been sold and the Fitches "...removed from this place" by 1905. (Compiled by Marlene Bair from census records. "A Short History of Michigan" by John Kern; Early Landowners and Settlers and First Land owners by Milton Charbonneau. Additions, corrections eagerly received. 810/229-6402.)
MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: James & Rebecca Calhoun (gift from Rebecca Winkle), Michael G. Curtis (CA), Esther Jarvis, Michael & Laura Mitchell, Dick & Mary Jean Richter (Fraser), James S. Eiford, Sheryl Vignaestad.

Welcome to new members the Calhoun's, Michael, the Mitchells and James. Thanks also to renewing members. A dedicated Board of Directors can only be effective if support (financial and otherwise) continues. Because it's important that area residents, and others, are aware of the Society many copies of each issue of Trail Tales are distributed to area businesses, professional offices, realtors, etc. It is assumed regular readers of these complimentary copies would want to support the organization by a donation to administrative costs or to its mission (as noted at the top of page 1). If reading this newsletter brings you pleasure be responsible in your support.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Isa Bair, and John & Janice Field for helping with mailing August issue of Trail Tales.

...Lucille Walea for arrangements for the Society booth at the Art Fair.

...Chuck & Janice Beach, Cathy Giovannini, Cindy Kinney, Carol McMane, Kay Michael, Bud Prine, Peg Siford, Susan Walters-Stehlacker and Hank Wepman for conducting the booth at the Art Fair.

...Jim Dejohn and Jim Vichich who transported, set up and took down the Society booth.

...Brighton Chamber of Commerce for their support and help.

...Esther Jarvis for her donation with her dues.

...Florence Sullivan (FL) and Sheryl Vignaestad for Friends of Lyon School membership.

...Parent-Teacher Tech for stocking the local history book. Their support and cooperation has been great!

Donations are Income Tax deductible.

ARCHIVES: Documents, photos, books, diaries, maps, journals, etc., etc. are among the many items filed in the Archives Room at the Lyon School. The originals, or copies, of these kind of materials are most welcome. One hears horror stories of the dumpster as the final resting place for many pieces of local history. If you believe that a piece of history - give the Society a chance to make the determination. Please note the filing database changes.

HISTORY BOOK: The first edition of Carol McMane's 'T'own Settlement to City - Brighton - 1832-1945' is sold out. A 2nd edition is planned to be ready for Christmas giving. Reservations are being accepted. Member price, $80.00, non members $85.00. Shipping is $3.00. A check may be sent the Society. Proceeds are designated to the Preservation-Restoration Fund.

LYON SCHOOL: Electrical repairs are being researched. This will include motion detector lights for security and to provide visibility.

OPEN HOUSE AT LYON SCHOOL: Held the first Sunday, 1-4 p.m., give the community an opportunity to visit a one-room school. The Archives and museum area are also open. Special events are planned for each day. Many have enjoyed the chance to learn of their community's past.

ROCKING BEAR SILENT AUCTION

The generosity of Lyon School neighbor Bruce Owens has provided the Society with a hand made rocking black bear. (A bear on rockers.) The right size for a youngster to ride. The Society is holding a 'silent' auction. Send in your bid amount. If someone outsides you'll be notified giving you opportunity to increase your bid. At the November 5, 25th anniversary party, the highest bidder owns the bear.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...Donations to the Friends of Lyon School for roof repairs needed in the near future.

...A local business to stock tiles, or coverlets, or pewter plates or pillows or post cards or note paper or Lyon School T-shirts.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sept. 16: 10-5 p.m., Hartland Area Historical Society Heritage Day at the Fairground. Activities: Antiques, engine show, music, etc. activities. hartlandareahistory.org

Sept. 16-17: Mill Race Village, Northville. 18th annual Victorian Festival.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( ) (Please include zip and 4 digits)

Due: ( ) $500.00 Life ( ) $25.00 Couple

( ) $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: 8x8 square, ceramic tiles, 15 local scenes in black/white. $6.00, 3/$18.00.


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

(cont. p. 1) whiskey. Clark records the man "...sung songs until 11 o'clock at night in the greatest harmony."

Sept. 23, 1869, the band into the Miesse- skilp took them past the Wood River Camp which they left 28 months and 8000 miles ago. By noon, in St. Louis "...we were met by all the village and received a hearty welcome from its inhabitants." (With thanks to our patient readers, the editor has compiled excerpts in the previous 27 issues from: Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose and The Journals of Lewis and Clark, edited by Bernard DeGrose.)

NOTE PAPER $2.50 pkg., TOTEBAG $15.00. PANTHER PLATE $35.00. All with the Old Town hall and millprint. WOVEN AFGHAN $49.00, red, green, blue with nine local sites.

TAPESTRY PILLOW $25.00 shows depot and train. SIGNATURE QUILT $10.00. Your signature or photo may be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives. 2004 CALENDAR $5.00 with local scenes. MORE INFO 810/225-6499.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc.; Ameri-Construction; William F. Haral, DDS; Lawrence Autobody; Livingston County Woodcraft Guild; Matthew Matuzak, DDS, FC; Carol McMane & Associates; Lisa- chuk Associates; N&N Proms, Inc.; The Fance Spot. Be sure to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

"Lifetime Member"

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 Oak- lane Cemetery. stockbridgearea@notesxs 11.com
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P O Box 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481
http://www.brightonareahistoricalsociety.com

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
DONATE
Next Renew Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( ) (Please include Zip and 4 digit)
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