



Trail Tales

December 2007
Vol. XXVI No. 12

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

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EDITORIAL

What a distinct pleasure it has been to have served as President of this organization!

We've experienced the complete cooperation of board members and the sincere support of many other members.

We have always felt appreciated for efforts expended. How could one not succeed when caring people dedicate themselves to promoting the Society's mission?

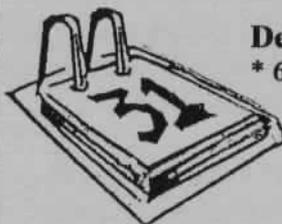
We're anticipating continuing to research, write, archive and serve in whatever capacity needed.

Society members need to step up to serve on committees, i.e. fund raising, public relations, research, Lyon School, preservation, archiving, restoration, etc., etc., etc. A dedicated board is most important (we have that). A dedicated membership promotes the entire organization and improves its effectiveness in the community.

The Society is to be congratulated on the election of the 2008 board members. They each have the desire to promote the mission of the Society. GO!!!

Immediate Past President: Marieanna Bair

Dates to Remember



December

* 6, 13: 9-noon.

* 9: 1-4 p.m.

Archiving. Your help is needed. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

Open House at Lyon School. Santa will be there with goodies and crafts. Brighton History book, coverlets, pillows, tiles will be available for purchase as welcome gifts..

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Emil & Joan Engel, Tom & Melinda Kinsey, Jere & Kay Michaels, and Rich & Mary Ray.

COUPLES/INDIV: Tillie Bitten, Judy Coebly & Gary Reutter, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Phil & Peggy Gage (SSt.M), Lee & Sue Garcia, Jeanette Johnson, Stephen Leith (Kincheloe), Tom Leith, *Tammy Meldrum, Tom Reinke (Westland), Doris Singer (Gr. Rap.)

*Welcome to new member Tammy. It is good, also to list renewing members.

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the address label. If no '07 or '08 etc. is noted or if "Complementary Copy" is applied, dues have not been received. Your support of the mission of the Society will be evidenced with dues payments and/or contributions. As a 501(c)3 organization, the Society is entirely dependent on financial backing from individuals and businesses to maintain its endeavors. To be fiscally responsible, a review of the mailing list must be ongoing.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Judy Coebly and Sue Skwarski for help in mailing the November Trail Tales.

..... Sue Garcia for indexing the Oak Grove Cemetery transcription.

.....Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Tom & Melinda Kinsey, Harold Leitz, Cleo Moran, Norma Jean Pless and Doris Singer for donations to Friends of Lyon School '08.

..... Tillie Bitten, Cleo Moran, Rich & Mary Ray and Doris Singer for donations to the Society projects.

..... 5/3 Bank for their donation of Brighton State Bank archives.

..... South Lyon Historical Society for hosting the cluster meeting in November.

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax deductible organization. Help out the Society and yourself with a contribution

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Determining how and where to file, for future retrieval, ephemeral of local history continues. The Society scrapbook is being brought up-to-date. Thursday mornings is the usual time. Would another time be better for you to help?

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Continuing filing business addresses. 50-70s Argus are being reviewed. Photos of today's sites are needed.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: We hosted a Cub Scout meeting at Lyon School.

LYON SCHOOL: Winterizing is going on.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 9, 1-4 p.m.

Santa and one of his elves will be here to greet you and wish you a happy holiday.

Cookies, cocoa, etc. will be served.

C. 1920-30s holiday decorations will be displayed. Got your old sled to bring?

Children can make a small craft or decoration to take home.

Tour the one-room school. What better place to make memories? Info: 810/229-6402.

The Brighton History book, coverlets, pillows, tiles, etc. will be available for purchase as welcome gifts.

NEED AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2007?

The Historical Society has the long-term goal of upgrading available historical research documentation in order to provide information over the internet. A computer-based system for these records is planned.

The Society is looking for a PC with Microsoft XP. A 27" TV with an integral DVD player would also be appreciated.

If a Christmas gift at your house will replace existing electronic equipment, consider donating to the Society. You will receive an Income Tax deduction. Contact Jim Vichich - 810/227-4840.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

(Include Zip and 4 digit)

New () Renew () Send Membership Card yes () no ()

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 \$ _____

Donation to Society Project Needs : () \$ _____

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, plus shipping. Second edition at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, Brighton.

TILES: 6" sq. ceramic tiles, black/white. 13 local scenes. \$8, 3 for \$21.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS: S / XL - \$12.

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS: \$1.00 - 1875 maps of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Howell and Oceola. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

For more information, call 810/229-6402

NOTE PAPER: \$2.50/pkg. TOTE BAG: \$15.00
PEWTER PLATE: \$35. All designed with the Old Town Hall and millpond.

WOVEN AFGHAN: \$49 - red, green, blue with nine local sites. Washable.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: \$14 - shows Pere Marquette depot and engine, ca. 1910.

SIGNATURE QUILT: \$10 - Your signature, or another's, to be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives.

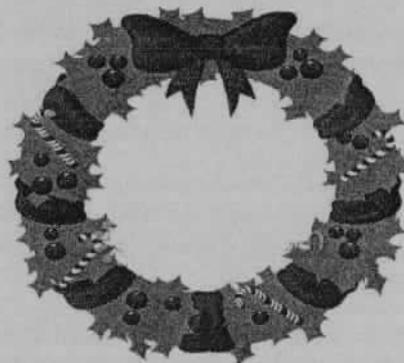
2004 CALENDAR: \$4 with local scenes.

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

A photo always creates a response. In 2050, a photo from 2007 will be welcome. The area is continually evolving. Needed is someone willing to donate time, film and processing to photograph sites, events and people, to the Society archives. A walk down Main Street, Grand River or any area roads will provide lots of material.

2007 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders; **Lawrence Autobody; **Patrick Financial Group, LLS; **Promess, Inc. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.



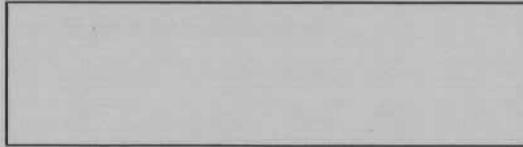
Happy Holidays

Life Member

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP WELCOMES THE FIELD FAMILY

Eldad Spencer Field, with brother-in-law Norton Wait, came to Michigan within ten years of the completion of the Erie Canal. (The convenient and economical route over the Appalachian Mountains in New York opened the way for settlers to pioneer in Michigan Territory. Early Livingston County census records indicate a family of Fields in each township.)

Even before coming to Michigan, Eldad (born in 1798) and wife Betsy (born in 1797) registered land in Section 29 of Green Oak Township; later buying land in Sections 31 and 32. Field and Wait cleared some of the land and built a log cabin about one mile northwest of Whitmore Lake on Nine Mile (M-36) Road before returning to Detroit for the winter. The following spring, 1836, Betsy and the six children were met at the dock in Detroit by her husband and her brother. With a team of oxen, pulling a wagon with their belongings and supplies (no local grocer or merchant), a tedious journey of two days brought them to Green Oak Township after struggling over a dirt trail, fording rivers and streams, dragging through mud and swamps.

When Eldad and Betsy arrived, they were almost 40; not considered young at the time. The six children ranged in age from 1-12 years; four boys (James b. 1824, Ira b. 1826, George b. 1832, Milton b. 1833) and two girls (Anna b. 1830 and Eliza b. 1835). Eldad R. was born after their arrival in Michigan. The boys often found work with neighbors as they grew up; when their dad didn't need their help.

Research indicates several of the Field men were active in forming local governments (no women's suffrage yet) and held responsible positions throughout the years – all the while continuing agricultural and economic pursuits. The Michigan Pioneer Society, agricultural improvement organizations and churches benefited from their active participation. When School District #1 was established in Green Oak Township, settler Eldad Spencer provided a site; Field School. Eldad died in 1865, Betsy lived to 96 years of age. Both are interred in the Hamburg Cemetery as are a number of others of the Field family.

Son George married Harriet E. Ela on December 3, 1854. The Field, Wait and Ela families were already acquainted in New York. George and Harriet had six children; four girls, two boys. By 1875, George has built a fine home on Ann Arbor Road about one mile northeast of father Eldad's. (In 2003 this home was moved and shortly after demolished.) George died at 90 and with Harriet is also in Hamburg Cemetery.

George's son, Ela Milton, b. July 7, 1861, married Carrie Ann Fisher on January 13, 1885, the daughter of neighbor Frank Fisher. In a not heavily populated area, and transportation difficult, neighbor often married neighbor. Of their six children, Irving married Alta Emma Chamberlain; they had four children. Of them, John Mark (great, great, grandson of Eldad S) married local girl Janice Sutton and lives in Green Oak Township continuing the tradition of responsible citizenship.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; cemetery transcriptions; 1880 History of Livingston County; Yesteryears of Green Oak; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries collected by Milton Charbonnet. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)