

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

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

July 2007
Vol. XXVI No. 7

THEY IS US

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"If you build it, they will come." A popular quote. We'd say, "If you restore it, they will come." More families are including involvement in arts and culture in their recreation time. More are researching local history. More are visiting the sites where local history can be found.

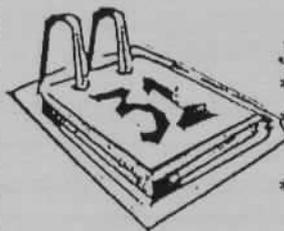
Why this interest in research? Especially in this mobile society do we want and need something to which to refer to find meaning in our own lives. Identifying our lives today with those who've preceded us helps us to be secure in our search for tomorrow. That quality of life for which we strive includes having a vision, being creative, encouraging our imagination to grow. Physical and moral growth is aided and abetted in a belief in something larger than one's self.

Many in the area are sincerely concerned with the cultivation of the arts and cultural traditions. Are we guilty of ignoring the value of the preservation of local history, which will promote these very values? The arts, cultural traditions and the opportunities they offer promote economic increase and stability.

It's a cop-out to say, "They tore this (or that) building down." "They developed every piece of land." "They let it fall down." We are just as culpable if we allow this loss of parts of the history of the area. It's important to inform the officials we've elected as to whether or not preservation of local history is important to us. Do we want to be remembered for the many historic sites we've allowed to be neglected or destroyed?

As law-abiding citizens, we have a political responsibility to preserve those realities of our past; whether they are landscapes, structures, objects or traditions.

If no respect is shown those whose efforts have brought us this far, can we expect respect for the lives we're leading today? The decisions we make today will affect all of us, and our progeny, in the future. When we take no pride in our history we can be assured no one else will either.



Dates to Remember

July

- * 8: 1-4 p.m. Lyon School Open House
- * 12, 19, 26: 9-noon. Archives filing. You are needed. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- * 23: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. Welcome.
- 27/28: 9-5 p.m. Society booth at Summerfest - Main Street, Brighton

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton Twp.
A Michigan Registered Historic Site

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Richard Lee, Secy.

COUPLES/INDIV: **Tim & Kerry Bennett** (Clio), **Lois Clark** (Midland 08), **Barbara Smith** (Howell 08), **Bill & Jane Tomlinson** (08).

Continued support from the community in the form of memberships, donations, labor, etc., are all necessary to keep the Society viable and faithful to its mission. It is good so many note the 'Complementary Copy' stamp, indicating 2007 dues have not been received. The Society consists of people who care and believe their quality of life is improved by not forgetting from where we've come.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... **Ida Bair, Judy Coebly, John & Janice Field, Sue Skwarski** for help in getting the newsletter in the mail.

..... **Anne Stratigos** for delivering Trail Tales to businesses in town and to **Sue Garcia** for delivery to real estate offices, banks, government offices, etc.

..... **Mindy Kinsey** and **Sue Walters-Steinacker** for power washing and painting the fence around the Lyon School. It looks great!

..... **Lucille Weaire** for planning Farmers' Market and Summerfest booth for the Society.

..... **Brighton Chamber of Commerce** for their support.

..... **Barbara Smith** and **Bill & Jane Tomlinson** for their donation with dues.

..... **Big PDQ** for prompt printing of Trail Tales.

..... **April Dertian** of Events, Etc., Inc. for inviting the Society to host the booth at the Summerfest, July 27, 28.

A Wise Old Saying

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: With **Sue Garcia's** help, the copying of the 1967 Brighton Centennial Scrapbook is underway. We've been able to assist Tim Bennett, Dough Richardson (PA), Lisa Garvey and Linda Bruder (both of N.Y.) with research on their ancestors.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: As changes are noted in the appearance of the Brighton community, they are included in the Survey notebooks. Histories of commercial changes are compiled for future reference.

HISTORY BOOK: Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, continues to stock this fine 2nd edition of 'From Settlement to City - Brighton, MI - 1832-1945'.

LYON SCHOOL: The recent washing and painting of the fence makes the site sparkle. At the June Open House the many quilts adorned the fence. Thanks to **Sue Walters-Steinacker** for organizing the affair. July 8, 1-4 p.m., one can learn about early Michigan education, see early pictures of Brighton Village, and visit the archives at the next Open House. And... who were Richard and Martha Lyon? Come, find out - call 810/229-6402 for more information.

BARN needed for the Lyon School site. The search continues for a barn for a possible move. The display of early agricultural equipment will inform all of us of the area's agrarian beginnings. Dick Weaire, 810/229-3066 with information.

SOCIETY BOOTH AT SUMMERFEST

Under the direction of **Lucille Weaire**, the annual booth will have fund raising items for sale: the History Book, pillows, coverlets, tiles, etc. - July 27 and 28. You'll find us downtown.

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.

** Life Member

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, 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.

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.

For more information, call 810/229-6402

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

August 11, 12: - Waterloo Area Historical Society, Stockbridge. Woodland Indian Living History - 517/596-2254 www.waterloofarmmuseum.org.

August 18: Green Oak Township Historical Society, Green Oak Day 32nd Annual Celebration at the 1856 Township Hall, Silver Lake Road.

September 8: South Lyon Historical Society, Depot Days, pioneer crafts, handiwork - 248/437-9929

July 4: Happy Birthday USA!

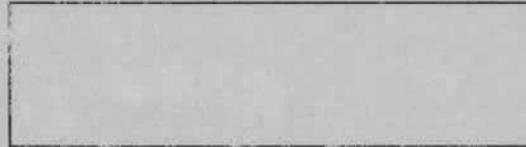
'When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. - We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'

1776-2007

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ISRAEL AND JULIA ARMS MOVE FROM MASSACHUSETTS

By 1826, Israel and Julia Ann (Parsons) Arms were in Michigan Territory, undoubtedly in Detroit as it was the first place to come ashore in Michigan for early travelers and settlers after crossing Lake Erie. (The other settlements were Fort Mackinaw and Sault Ste. Marie.) Israel and Julia were both born in Massachusetts. A son, John, was born in 1828 in Michigan Territory. South Lyon Cemetery records and the 1840 census records indicate a daughter, Harriet, was born in 1825, probably in Massachusetts.

By 1835, they were living in Washtenaw County, when Julia recorded 40 acres in Brighton Township, NW¼ of the NW¼ of Section 10, on April 27, 1836. The following February 23, Israel recorded the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 33 in Hartland Township. More land was acquired later in Sections 9 and 10 in Brighton Township. Over the next 16 years, six more children were born to them. Their neighbors included the Warners, Bidwells, Kellys, Marshes, Rosses, Conelys, etc; all one mile or more distant through the wilderness. However, they were near enough for Nancy, born June 20, 1830, to meet and marry Seth Bidwell December 19, 1850, after the death of his first wife, Laura Hutchins.

The Arms family set about building a home and clearing land to farm in Brighton Township. Besides farming, Israel also constructed farming equipment. These were so practical and functional that he was awarded a premium for farm implements at the first Livingston County Agricultural Society Fair, which was held in Brighton on October 6, 1853. Both Israel and son John were charter members of this organization, which was organized in 1853. In 1843, Israel is Justice of the Peace in Brighton Township, and among the first trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Brighton in 1854. Born February 29, 1804, Israel died December 3, 1856, about ten years after his last child, Catherine, was born. In 1860 July and her three youngest children (Edwin, Julia Ann and Catherine) are living in Brighton Township near son John. By then, daughter Eleanor had married E. A. Calkins in South Lyon. After 1850, son Henry appears to have left Livingston County. Born November 29, 1801, Julia died February 24, 1874, and is buried next to Israel in Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Brighton Township.

John inherited his father's talent for producing farm implements. He was well known for making the first 'Yankee Grain Cradle' in the county. Until then, the backbreaking, labor-intensive sickle was used. The cradle scythe allowed the harvester to stand while swinging the cradle by the two handles on the shaft. A long curved knife was at the bottom of the shaft, along which were several curved, finger-like wood slats attached above the knife, parallel to it. Each swing (still laborious) cut near the base of the stalks of grain, dropping them against the slats. The backward tip of the cradle deposited the grain to the ground where it was gathered, tied and stood on end with other bundles. Besides being less work, this method resulted in a three-fold increase in acreage cut, as opposed to the .5 to .75 of an acre in a day when a sickle was used. John used the power from upper Woodruff Creek, in Section 10, for producing his tools and later moved to Brighton Village, where he had a small factory on Ore Creek in the Third Street/Hamburg Road (Brighton Lake Road) vicinity. "He also did a general wood lathe business," according to the newspaper reporter.

John married Martha Crane, ca. 1854. They had seven children, at least one of whom died in infancy. By 1880, they were living in Green Oak Township near South Lyon. John died in 1901 and Martha in 1906. Both are buried in the South Lyon Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanne Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; census records; Pleasant Valley and South Lyon Cemetery records; Early Settlers and Landowners of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections 810/229-6402.)