THE SMITH/MPHerson ADDITION

March 10, 1871, C. T. Hyne sold land north of Franklin, south of Walnut, east of 7th and west of Orleans Creek in Brighton Village to Hiram Smith and Edward and William McPherson, Jr. The portion north of Main Street had been originally purchased from the Federal government by Elizabeth Cushing May 8, 1836; that south of Main Street, by Elijah Fitch, July 29, 1836. There was, of course, no Main Street, merely the surveyor's line between Sections 30 and 31 of Brighton Township. (At that time still part of Green Oak Township). However, a wagon trail soon did extend west from the Grand River Trail into Genoa Township.

Smith and the McPhersons were instrumental in the drive to promote the development of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad Company. Since 1837, the state had commissioned several railroad companies but none resulted in lines as far west as Livingston County. Several consolidations had taken place over the years until July 4, 1871, when a jubilant crowd greeted the first train through Brighton on its way west. As it happened the D.L & B.R. tracks were located diagonally almost through the center of the newly purchased property.

Early in 1872, with much fanfare, flags waving, bands playing and banners flying the highly promoted opening of the Smith/McPherson Addition occurred. Statewide and national advertising always accompanied a new development. (One is amazed that today's developments are also well promoted.)

Hundred of residential and business lots were platted and sold. Lewis Dorr, Jacob and Henry Euler, Andrew and Lewis Pless, Henry Herbst and the Cooks were among the first purchasers. These were early settlers, who'd retired, decided to live in town and 'take it easy', leaving the farms to their children. Some wanted to engage in a business endeavor in town. Two lots were often bought, a home built on one and a stable on the other. A few of those small barns are still in evidence. Room for a garden, chickens, fruit tree, etc., was also desired. At least ten homes were built within the next three years. Brick makers, masons, carpenters, well diggers, etc., were in high demand. A tied shad move lots were donated to the Wesley Methodist Church at 4th/Washington and to the Baptist Church at 2nd/Madison; plus room for parsonsages.

Grain elevators, lumber yards, livestock pens, a planing mill, a depot and a hotel, the Western House, were built within a year or two. Blacksmith shops, general stores, hardware dealers, Lawrence's (1871) bank, candy/cigar stores, butchers shops, bakeries, livery, the Village Hall, professional offices and real estate (of course) offices, etc., were soon all in place east of the tracks. For some time the railroad tracks became the defining border between business and residential structures the many business owners lived on the second floor of their establishments. (Compiled by Maryanne Bair from Bill Pless' writings; 1890 History of Livingston County; The BAMS Historical Resource Survey; the 1887 Centennial History of Brighton. Corrections/additions welcomed. 810/225-6402.)
Thank you for your patience.

Membership renewals are vital if the Society is to continue to fulfill its mission. The Society does not manufacture a product; it depends entirely on memberships, donations and fundraising projects. Membership indicates a willingness to take personal responsibility to support the Society in its mission. Every effort is made to accurately record the year for which dues are paid on the mailing label. Contact the Society if an error is found. And thanks for your patience.

Memberships are vital if the Society is to continue to fulfill its mission. The Society does not manufacture a product; it depends entirely on memberships, donations and fundraising projects. Membership indicates a willingness to take personal responsibility to support the Society in its mission. Every effort is made to accurately record the year for which dues are paid on the mailing label. Contact the Society if an error is found. And thanks for your patience.

**DIGITIZING SOCIETY HOLDINGS:** John Filliocco, Nancy Fredenburg and Tom Reinke have been researching and will be recommending equipment for this project.

**HISTORY BOOK:** Carol McMacken’s *From Settlement to City-Brighton MI 1833-1945* is available. Parent-Teacher Tech 193. E. Grand River is stocking this 2nd edition. Or contact the Society. Members $60.00; others $65.00. Shipping $4.00.

**LYNCH SCHOOL:** Preparation is underway to host elementary students for a day at the school. The room will be split and span, ready to experience early Michigan education. Second Sunday Open House plans; various programs open to the public at no charge.

**MARCH - NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**

Local Women Recognized

The annual awards program of the Brighton Area Women’s Roll of Honor will be held March 13, at the Brighton Community Center at the lunch meeting of the Brighton Rotary.

Honorees are Genevieve (Jenny) Hill Fredenburg, Cheryl Drucker Johnson, Phyllis Fisher-Pearsall, Norma Jean Leitz Pless, Patricia Rogers Steele and Doris Pitkin Weber. Margaret Hall is included in memoriam.

Each of these women has a long-time connection to the Brighton area and has made distinctive contributions of an enduring nature by her commitment. Their personal ideals serve as a model for all women.

If you wish to attend call Joyce Powers, 229-2148, to reserve seating before March 9.

**2007 BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

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

**Life Member**

---

The South Lyon Historical Society has extended an invitation to a roundtable meeting of area historical societies, March 20, 7:30. Contact a board member if you’d like to attend.

---

**Archives:** Thursdays, 9-noon are set for sorting/filing. Archiving area history is a vital project of the Society. Generous donors provide resources to the Archive volunteers. Confirm this. Please contact the Society.

**Gifts:** (1) $500.00 Life (2) $250.00 Couple (5) $50.00 Patron (1) $150.00 Individual (2) $200.00 (3) Other.

---

**Membership/Donation Form**

**Name:** 

**Address:** New( ) Renew( ) Sand Membership Card yes( ) no( ) Include Zip and 4 digits.

**Dues:** (1) $500.00 Life (2) $250.00 Couple (5) $50.00 Patron (1) $150.00 Individual (2) $200.00 (3) Other.

**Donation to Society Project Needs:** $   

The Society is a 501(c)3 income tax deductible organization.

---

**Fundraising Projects**

**Book:** *From Settlement to City-Brighton MI 1833-1945* by Carol McMacken, Brighton's own history. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, $60.00. Non-members $65.00 + shpg. Second edition.

**TILES:** 8" sq., ceramic tiles, black/white, 13 local scenes. $8.00, 3/$21.

**Lyons School T-Shirts:** S/XL $12.00.

**Trophy Plaques:** $10.00, Brighton, Conwy, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Howell and Owosso. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

---

**March 17, 2-4:** Opening reception, Michigan Women's History Center & Hall of Fame, 213 W Main St., Lansing. Reception (no charge) Women Who Changed the World. 517-482-1860.

**March 18, 1-4:** Green Oak Township Historical Society pot luck. 1865 Hall, 10991 Silver Lake Rd. A program on play hooky. 888/309-5001.

**April 20-21:** Local History Conference, WUS, 810/209-6402 for reservation information. Connecting, archiving, oral history, genealogy, preservation, etc.

---

**2004 Calendar:** $4.00, with local scenes. More info: 810/209-6402.

---

**May 4-5:** 27th Annual Michigan Historic Preservation Network Conference, Distinctive Destination, Preservation's role in tourism, home studies of communities that are making it work. Mackinac Island. www.mhpn.org.
ARCHIVES: Thursdays, 9-noon are set for sorting/filing. Archiving area history is vital to the project of the Society. Generous donors have provided resources, and we seek your support. Contact the date: 1/28-6/202. Two 8” florescent bulbs were installed by Dick Waale. The malfunctioning refrigerator has been removed by Mandy Kinsey. Jim Vohchich has delivered sturdy shelving.

DIGITIZING SOCIETY HOLDINGS: John Filliaco, Nancy Fedunbrany and Tom Reinke have been researching and will be recommending equipment for this project.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken’s “From Settlement to City-Brighton MI 1832-1945” is available. Parent-Teacher Tech, 147 K. Grand River is stocking this 2nd edition. Or contact the Society. Members $60.00; others $65.00. Shipping $4.00.

LYON SCHOOL: Preparation are underway to host elementary students for a day at the school. The room will be split and span, ready to experience early Michigan education.

Second Sunday Open House plans; various programs open to the public at no charge.

MARCH - NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Local Women Recognized

The annual awards program of the Brighton Area Women’s Roll of Honor will be held March 13, at the Brighton Community Center at the lunch meeting of the Brighton Rotary.

Honorees are Genevieve (Jenny) Hill Fredenburg, Cheryl Drocker Johnson, Phyllis Fisher-Pearsall, Nonna Jean Leitz Pless, Patricia Rogers Steele and Doris Pittkin Weber. Margaret Hurl is included in memoriam.

Each of these women has a long-time connection to the Brighton area and has made distinctive contributions of an enduring nature by her commitment. Their personal ideals serve as a model for all women.

If you wish to attend please call Joyce Powers, 229-2148, to reserve seating before March 9.

2007 BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders; 84 Lawrence Autobody; 84 Patrick Financial Group, LLC; 84 ProPress, Inc. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainer of the Society.

84 Life Member

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

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

www.brightonashistoricalsociety.com

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

New ( ) Renew ( ) Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( ) (Include zip and 4 digit)

Dues: ( ) $50.00 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, + shipping. Second edition.

TILES: 8” sq, ceramic tiles, black/white, 13 local scenes, $8.00, 3/$21.

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

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS $1.00, 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, PEN/ERASER PLATE $35.00. All designed with the Old Town Hall and mill pond.

WOVEN Afghan $49.00, red, green, blue with nine local sites. Washable.

TAPESTRY PILLOW $14.00, shows Pere Marquette depot and engine c. 1910.

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: 810/295-6402

March 17, 2-4: Opening reception, Michigan Women’s History Center S Hall of Fame, 213 W Main St., Lansing. Reception (no charge) Women Who Changed the World. 517-484-1680.

March 18, 1-4: Green Oak Township Historical Society pot luck. 1865 Hall, 15097 Silver Lake Rd. A program on May hooking. 248/293-3001.

April 20-21: Local History Conference, WSU. 810/295-6402 for reservation information. Connecting, archiving, oral history, genealogy, preservation, etc.


ROUNDABOUT AT SOUTH LYON

The South Lyon Historical Society has extended an invitation to a round-table meeting of area historical societies, March 20, 7:30. Contact a board member if you’d like to attend.

NEEDS NEEDED

...Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John S Janice Field for help in mailing the newsletter.

...Phil & Peggy Gage of Sault Ste. Marie for archival memorabilia.

...Gladya Beckwith, John Filliaco, Phyllis Kiekkels, Ralph Miller, Bob & Ruth Watson and Kyle Wilson for sending their endowment.

...First Presbyterian Church for donation of eight sturdy tables.

...MEMBERS TO HELP GUIDE THE Society by serving on the board or help with a project: oral history, home tour, cemetery tour, summer picnic, newsletter, Lyon School upkeep, contact local businesses to stock fundraising items, archives, Friends of Lyon School. Contact a board member.

[cont. from p. 1] Members of the Brighton Planning Commission have an obligation to plan a livable community. If we care about what is planned for our community new construction, destruction, preservation of some portions of our community, they must be made aware of our preferences. One of the best way to do this is to be in attendance at Planning Commission meetings. Next on March 15, 7 p.m., City Hall.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Feb. 10-May 30: Washburnow Co Hist. Soc. exhibit: One room school of Washburnow County, 500 N Main, Ann Arbor. 734/662-3093

March 12, noon: Brighton Women’s Roll of Honor recognition, Brighton Community Center. 810/203-2449.

March 15, 6:30: Hartland Area Historical Society pot luck dinner, Hartland United Meth. Church. Howard Armstrong on how he is preserving Hartland’s history. 810/633-8022.
THE SMITH/MC PHERSON ADDITION

March 10, 1871, C. T. Hyne sold land north of Franklin, south of Walnut, east of 7th and west of Oak Creek in Brighton Village to Harris Smith and Edward and William McPherson, Jr. The portion north of Main Street had been originally purchased from the Federal government by Elizabeth Cushing May 8, 1835; that south of Main Street, by Elijah Fitch, July 29, 1836. There was, of course, no Main Street, merely the surveyor's line between Sections 30 and 31 of Brighton Township. (At that time still part of Green Oak Township.) However, a wagon trail soon did extend west from the Grand River Trail into Genoa Township.

Smith and the McPhersons were instrumental in the drive to promote the development of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad Company. Since 1837, the state had commissioned several railroad companies but none resulted in lines as far west as Livingston County. Several consolidations had taken place over the years until July 4, 1871, when a jubilant crowd greeted the first train through Brighton on its way west. As it happened the D.L. & B.M. tracks were located diagonally almost through the center of the newly purchased property.

Early in 1872, with much fanfare, flags waving, bands playing and banners flying the highly promoted opening of the Smith/McPherson Addition occurred. Statewide and national advertising always accompanied a new development. (One is reminded that today's developments are also well promoted.) Hundreds of residential and business lots were platted and sold. Lewis Dorr, Jacob and Henry Euler, Andrew and Lewis Pliss, Henry Herbst and the Cooks were among the first purchasers. These were early settlers, who'd retired, decided to live in town and 'take it easy', leaving the farms to their children. Some wanted to engage in a business endeavor in town. Two lots were often bought, one built on and one a stable on the other. A few of those small barns are still in evidence. Room for a garden, chickens, fruit trees, etc., was also desired. At least ten homes were built within the next three years. Brick makers, masons, carpenters, well diggers, etc., were in high demand. In a shrewd move lots were doated to the Wesleyan Methodist Church at 4th/Washington and to the Baptist Church at 2nd/Madison; plus room for parsonages.

Grain elevators, lumber yards, livestock pens, a planning mill, a depot and a hotel, the Western House, were built within a year or two. Blacksmith shops, general stores, hardware dealers, Lawrence's (1877) bank, candy/sugar store, butcher shops, bakers, liverys, the Village Hall, professional offices and real estate (of course) offices, etc., were soon all in place east of the tracks. For some time the railroad tracks became the defining border between business and residential structures the many business owners lived on the second floor of their establishments. (Compiled by Marleana Bair From Bill Pliss' writings; 1890 History of Livingston County; the BAHS Historic Resource Survey; the 1897 Centennial History of Brighton. Corrections/additions welcomed. 810/223-8402.)

Brighton is blessed and defined by its historic resources: Rollison Hardware, mill pond, old town Hall, Old Village Cemetery, St. Paul's, the Kelly House, Mellus Hospital, the Smith/McPherson Addition, the Lee Addition, etc., all of which have economic value.

Look around - Cities that have live downtowns are those whose downtowns have been preserved. We all know which cities have lost their downtowns. Will Brighton be a victim of annihilation? Will Brighton retain its own distinct image or will it not look any different than any place else? Will it lose its character and be a mirror image of every other town along Grand River? Will it be recognizable as a place of special distinction?

Cities are complex: buildings, streets, sidewalks, traffic, people, parks are intertwined/interdependent. Destroying any of those can destroy the balance. A city out of balance will be dull and unbelievable.

Dates to Remember:
March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27: Noon Archives Filing. Your help is needed. 810/223-6402 to confirm.
19: 7 p.m. City Hall. Brighton Planning Commission meeting. Open to the public.
20: 7:30 Area societies' Round Table at South Lyon Historical Society.
28: 9:00 Midnight.