

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

October 2007
Vol. XXVI No. 10

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WHY PROMOTE AN HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMISSION

A governing body, city council, township board, or county board can promote the preservation of the character of its domain while bolstering that uniqueness, promoting economic growth and assuring maintenance of the environment.

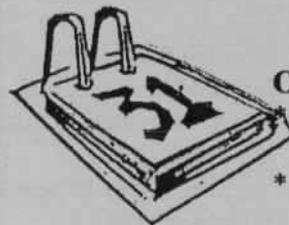
An historic district study commission, members of which are appointed by the governing body, will identify these historic resources and make recommendations regarding their historic value to this governing body. Appointment of this study commission is the first step to identifying the area's historic resources.

The resources may be a building, neighborhood, natural features, etc. Their preservation will pay off economically and culturally. Property value in so designated districts are stabilized. Owners will find economic value resulting from preservation efforts.

This kind of rehabilitation and preservation attracts caring residents to downtown, investors receive a return and vintage resources are preserved.

Area residents must request, and perhaps be prepared to serve on, the designation of an Historic District Study Commission.

The Michigan Local Historic District Act is available from the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, P.O. Box 30738, Lansing, MI 48909-8238.



Dates to Remember

October

- * 4, 11, 18, 25: 9-noon. Work in Society archives. You can help. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- * 14 1-4 p.m. Lyon School Open House – Halloween fun.
- * 22: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. You are most welcome.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Dietrich & Mary Jean Richter (Fraser), Carole Scott and *Lyla Spelbring (Howell).

*A sincere welcome to Lyla, a long-time member of the Livingston County Genealogical Society.

Society members will want to consider renewing for 2008. The review of the mailing list is coming up. If this issue is stamped 'Complementary Copy', you should consider returning dues. The Society exists only because of many caring volunteers and those who provide funds to cover administration expenses, i.e. remit dues. The P.O., utilities, etc., aren't in the business of providing funds for the Society's expenses. They want a check. Dues pay these expenses. Donations are dedicated to Archives, Lyon School, Historic Resource Survey, etc. And the planned barn doesn't come at no charge. Society dues and donations are Income Tax deductible.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Judy Coebly and John & Janice Field for help in mailing the September newsletter.

..... Lyla Spelbring for her donation with her dues.

..... Carole Scott for dues to Friends of Lyon School.

..... Mindy Kinsey and Bob & Shirley Knight for the great paint job at the Lyon School. They endured warm days, but it looks great.

..... Lucille Weaire for arranging for the various Society booths this summer.

..... Peg Siford for a copy of 'Service Record Book of Men & Women of Brighton, Michigan and Community' compiled by American Legion Auxiliary Unit #235. Peg also provided a History of Brighton Area Community Chest (1958-66), and Brighton Area United Fund (1967-77), including agencies of neighboring communities.

..... Tim & Helen Hurst for several very early school textbooks.

..... Bert Bair, Heidi Clausnitzer, Sue Garcia, Mindy Kinsey, Bob & Shirley Knight and Carol McMacken for help with setting up, attending and taking down of the Society booth at the Harvestfest.

..... Creative Images for the base cupboard used in the rest room at the Lyon School

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Ongoing recording/filing of the history of the area. Local residents (that means you also) are requested to record/write their memories of their time here. These, and photos, are vital additions to the area historical record.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: A group of 16 seventh graders from Scranton Middle School toured the Holden (Plains) Cemetery on Maltby Road. They then hosted a Society member for a program, thanks to teacher Esther Morell.

A local history program is available. There is no charge – a donation is appropriate.

LYON SCHOOL: Housecleaning is needed. October 26, 27, Spencer School children will be visiting.

A HALLOWEEN PARTY !!!

October 14, 1-4 p.m.

Come, pick out and decorate pumpkins to take home. A coloring contest is planned. Many Halloween decorations will be displayed by Mill Town Questers. Bring yours for exhibit. Cider and donuts served. Costumes optional.

POT LUCK DINNER !!!

Annual Meeting

November 11, 1-4 p.m.

The annual membership meeting will be held at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township (between Van Amburg and Pleasant Valley Road). A pot luck is planned.

A short business meeting will follow. Election of Board Members for 2008 will be held. Nominations of members will be accepted from the floor. (All members should consider serving in some capacity; board member or on a project; Lyon School maintenance, archives, P.R. booth, program planner, etc., etc., etc.)

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

..... Donations to the flagpole fund and to the Lyon School insurance bill.

..... Someone to prepare applications for historic site markers.

..... Someone to sew period clothing for use at the Lyon School events.

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.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

October 6, 7 p.m. - Grand Rapids Home Tour.
www.heritagehillweb.org

October 21, 2-4 p.m. - Green Oak Township Historical Society Annual Meeting. Pot Luck, election.

October 21, noon - 5. - Clarkston Historical Society Tours of Historic and Working Barns.
Ten barns \$10, 248/922-0270.
www.clarkstonhistorical.org

2007 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

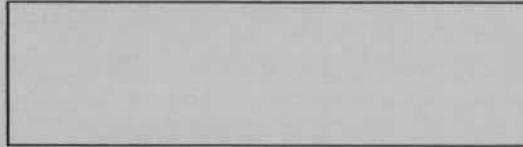
Advance Craft Home Builders; **Lawrence Autobody; **Patrick Financial Group, LLS; **Promess, Inc. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society
** Life Member

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

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LYMAN AND JULIA JUDSON BEGIN LIFE TOGETHER IN MICHIAN

The 1859 map of Brighton Township shows Lyman Judson owning 160 acres; the NW ¼ of Section 32 (east of Brighton settlement). This is now bounded on the south by Grand River and on the east by Old 23. His home was in the southwest corner of the tract on the north side of the Grand River Trail, both sides of which were farmland.

At age 25, in 1839, he came from New York with his wife Julia Little. Daughter Amelia was born, 1839, on Pleasant Valley Road, Section 14. She, and three more daughters -- Adelaide (1843), Diantha (1846), and Matilda (1849) -- preceded sons Charles F. (1855) and Frank E. (1857). Little Ella, January 1860, lived only 18 days.

Lyman's profession was as a miller. In 1849 he bought the mill in town from Everett Woodruff. A French turbine wheel was installed and he enlarged the mill. The mill, built by Orson Quackenbush in 1849, was at the northwest corner of North and West Streets. Lyman was the local miller until he sold it to Albright and Thompson in 1856.

As a responsible citizen of the township, Lyman held the supervisor's office in 1851/53, 1860/62 and 1874. In 1864, he was one of the local businessmen who contributed to the construction of the St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church on Rickett Road. He was dedicated to all children's education. In 1852, he served as moderator of the school and as director in 1865 and 1872. Amelia (music) and Adelaide both went into the teaching profession. Lyman also farmed his 160 acres. As a progressive agriculturist, he joined the Brighton Grange and was a charter member of the Livingston County Agricultural Society, serving as secretary in 1859-60. At the first fair, October 6, 1853, in Howell, he exhibited a variety of "domestic manufactures." At the first meeting of the Livingston County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, May 10, 1863, he was appointed director. By 1872, he was president of the company. To promote economic growth, he realized the need for better transportation for the local rural economy. He became a director of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad June 15, 1864. Lyman was a charter member of the Livingston County Pioneer Society, formed prior to the country's centennial.

Daughter Amelia married George Smith, one of Brighton's early businessmen. In the mid 19th century he was a hardware dealer. At one time, he owned the Brighton Mill and later was in the lumber business with S. H. Conely, with a yard by the tracks. About 1880, he and Amelia moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota, to 'grow up with the city' and raise their family of five.

Adelaide was the second wife of Charles Holdridge and lived in the area. Diantha died in 1861 at 15. Matilda married businessman Augustus Reiner, living in the home he built on Rickett Road. Six children were born. Charles married local girl, Florence Carpenter. Daughter Marjorie married Earl McBratner, living in Davison. Daughter Heidi married Joseph Brady, who had a store in Chilson -- then a meat market on W. Main, in business until 1951. Several of their descendents live in the area. Frank, a pharmacist, was in business with Charles for 20 years. The 'Judson Bros' store was at Main and Grand River (Lu & Carl's). The first public phone in town was located in the store in 1882. Frank and Zella Morris had three daughters.

With Lyman and Julia are four more Judsons at rest in the Old Village Cemetery. Eight of the Holdridge family and five of the Reiner family joined them. The old farm was sold for a thoroughbred stock farm in 1925. By 1935, it is the 'Brighton Country Club'. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from material compiled by Milton Charboneau; Carol McMacken; William Pless; census records; and 1880 History of Livingston County. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)