

# Trail Tales

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

April 2008  
Vol. XXVII No. 4

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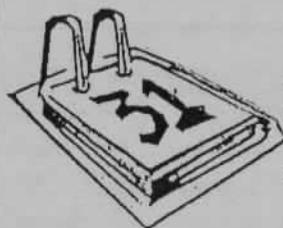
## PRESERVING MEMORIES OF BRIGHTON AND OUR FAMILIES

A new project is about to be launched that will preserve all the vital photos of Brighton's past. Today all our visual records are photographs, negatives or newspaper prints. The valuable images that document our early families' travels through life are deteriorating as we move forward in time. Included with our family photos are the many pictures that show our community in the various stages of growth and development.

As a historical society, our goal is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of our community. We will be preserving all existing and future images using a digital format. This will maintain photographic quality of those same original images for future generations to enjoy. Current older photos have already lost the sharpness in picture quality due to the damaging effects of light, humidity and the acid content in the paper. Employing the digital format enables us to freeze the current photo quality before more damage occurs. These new digital pictures of the old photos will look the same in the future as they do today.

I am very excited about this new project. I invite members of our community to bring those old photos of family, friends and community to us to permanently record. While we scan your pictures, they will only be an arm's reach from you. We scan your picture while you wait. After scanning, you take your pictures back home with you with no fear of being lost. Your family's presence in the Brighton area will be recorded for future generations to enjoy. *(More info to follow in the future!)*

Jim Vichich



## Dates to Remember

### April

- \* 3, 10, 17, 24: 9-noon. Archives at Lyon School. You are needed. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- \* 13: 1-4 p.m. Lyon School Open House. Public is welcome.
- \* 28: 6:30 p.m. Board meeting. You are welcome

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

**BUS/PROF:** Bonnie M. Corrigan.

**PATRON:** Margo Metzger

**COUPLES/INDIV:** \*David & Joanne Bellmard (Howell), Tim Bennett, \*Fay Hall (CA), Charles & Stephenie Koehn, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Harold Salow, Connie Sherman, Lyla Spelbring (Howell), Bill & Rosemary Ulmer, Donna White (A2), Willis Wolfe (CA).

\*Welcome to new members David & Joanne and to Fay. Your support, as well as that of renewing members, is what brings life to the Society.

To reduce the volume of record keeping, membership is scheduled on a fiscal basis. There will not be a 'Complementary Copy' stamp by the address label if a 08, 09, 10, etc., is noted on the label. If an error has been made, contact a board member to make a correction. Your patience is appreciated.

## THANKS THANKS THANKS

.....Bert Bair, Ida Bair, June Kimble and Rosemary Ulmer for their help in mailing the March Trail Tales.

.....Fred Wark, of Pinckney, for the donation of his research on the Hamburg Junction trail disaster, 1893.

.....Sue Garcia and Norma Jean Pless for their help in the archives and historic resource survey.

.....Fay Hall (CA), Margo Metzger, Lyle Spelbring (Howell) for their donation with their dues.

....Tim Bennett (Clio), Margo Metzger, Harold Salow, Lyle Spelbring (Howell), and Willis Woolfe (CA), for 08 membership in Friends of Lyon School.

Sympathies of the Society  
Are extended to the families of

**TED CARMACK**  
Long-time member and  
former resident

And

**MELVIN 'MEL' SKEMAN**  
Lifetime resident and  
Charter member of the Society

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

## PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

**ARCHIVES:** Years of collecting clippings, photos, etc., of the changes to the mill pond over the years have been copied and filed in a notebook for easy reference.

Changes to the city's streets have been chronicled in a like manner. The public is invited to review them.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY:** The histories of addresses are being compiled. This important major undertaking is being developed into a quickly researched file.

**LYON SCHOOL:** a large group of Brownies from St. Patrick's School will make a visit on April 7 at 4 p.m. These kinds of uses exemplify the reasons for the school's restoration.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS:** The Society's speakers' bureau has programs regarding the history of the area. These can include transparencies of many early sites.

**HISTORY BOOK:** Heidi Clausnitzer and Elaine Saxton placed book jackets on 'Settlement to City - Brighton, MI - 1832-1945' to ready copies for sale. Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, also has them in stock.

**COVERLETS:** C. 48" x 60", are welcomed as gifts by all. These red, green or blue coverlets are woven with nine local scenes in the design.

For information on any of the above, contact any board member or 810/229-6402.

## SECOND SUNDAY AT LYON SCHOOL

April 13, 1-4 will commence this year's public programs. It is planned to hold these Open House events through December. A tour of the school and of the history will be of interest. The April 13 date will include residents of the area reminiscing. They will try to answer your questions.

## 2008 FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH

The Market booth, Art Fair, etc., are prime opportunities to promote the Society and its mission. Saturdays from 8 until noon, an experienced booth tender will be there. You are needed to lend a hand. Society membership is not required. Your support is valuable. Call 810/229-6402 to schedule a convenient time.

## 2008 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders; \*\*Lawrence Autobody; \*\*Patrick Financial Group, LLS; \*\*Promess, Inc.; Bonnie M. Corrigan. 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](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL 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 -- Size 48" x 60".

**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:**

April 21, 7:30 - Wixom Historical Society. Joyce Mellin will speak on doll beds/quilts at City Hall.

April 24, 6:30 - Hamburg Historical Society --- "The Great Depression in Hamburg". Hamburg Township Library. 810/986-0190. May 3 / June 30 - Hats, Shoes & Purses exhibit at the museum, 7225 Stone Street.

May 17, 18 - Antique Tractors and Trucks at Waterloo Area Historical Society. [www.waterloofarmmuseum.org](http://www.waterloofarmmuseum.org)

June 7, 10-5 - Indian Village Home/Garden Tour. [www.historicalindianvillage.org](http://www.historicalindianvillage.org).

Thru August: Detroit Historical Society Guild presents: Rallying the Home Front: Posters from WW II at the historical museum, 80 posters displayed. 313/866-7935.

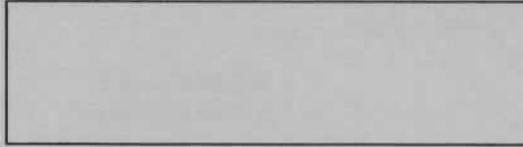
**Wise Old Sayings** (Plymouth Hist. Society Jul. '05)

- I can't be out of money, I still have checks left.
- A diplomat is one who thinks twice before saying nothing.
- There can't be another crisis this week, my schedule is completely full.
- Blessed is he that expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed. (Ben Franklin)
- Only in America, if you fail as a person, you can always write a book. (Joyce Stevens)
- Patience is never more important than when you are on the verge of losing it.
- Young men think old men are fools, but old men know that young men are fools. (G. Chapman)
- I never let my schooling interfere with my education. (Mark Twain)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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### THE BARNARDS FIND THEIR WAY TO MICHIGAN

The return to St. Louis, in 1806, of Lewis and Clark's Voyage of Discovery, confirmed possession the young United States required of this vast territory, the Louisiana Purchase. However, England (in 1812) is reluctant to accept the terms of the treaty following the Revolutionary War, which set the northern border of the U.S. This attitude made it difficult to assure that Michigan Territory was part of the U.S. and that its citizens could safely settle there. The Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, resolved the matter.

The Federal government fully realized it was vital that its citizens be encouraged to move west, over the Appalachian Mountains, to validate its sovereignty of the area. To remove that mountainous block to transportation, the Erie Canal was constructed from Albany to Buffalo, opening in 1825. This event, and big-time promotion by the governors of Michigan Territory that this was the land of opportunity, induced 10s of 1000s to travel west in search of a possible better future for themselves and their children.

Among those migrating were members of the Barnard family. While still in Madison County, New York, Ely Barnard, b. 1807, bought 240 acres in Sections 7 and 8 in Genoa Township, December 23, 1834. Noted as the first settler in the township, and while still maintaining his large farm, Ely moved to Howell Village and became very active in local government. He was the first Register of Deeds in newly organized Livingston County, receiving 81 votes of 81 ballots cast; serving from 1836 / 1840. In 1843 and 1844, he was a representative to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Legislatures. The 1850 State Constitutional Convention saw Ely as a delegate from the county. As a commissioner of the Detroit and Shiawassee Railroad Company, the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad and the board of the Detroit and Grand River Plank Road Company, he was involved with the several, rather fruitless, attempts at promoting transportation in Michigan. His interest in improved agricultural practices prompted him to help organize the Livingston County Agricultural Society in 1853, working with the Society as president in 1859 and 1860. (\$1 charge to join, 50 cents per year membership; three years later upped to 75 cents.) He exhibited cattle at the first fair of the Society, held in Brighton, October 6, 1853. Ely did take time to marry Aristine P. Curtis, his brother's sister-in-law, daughter of another early settler, and had eight children. The Barnards and Cutises were acquainted before coming to Michigan. Aristine was a very capable homemaker and farmer in Genoa during Ely's active political life. Even though he owned lots in Howell, his Genoa farm was his home. Ely died in 1872, but Aristine is noted for her help in composing the history of Genoa Township for Franklin Ellis, author of the 1880 history of the county.

Ely's brother, Pardon – b. 1811 – recorded the purchase of 80 acres in Genoa Township, section 17 and 18, June 24, 1835. He had married Eliza Ann Curtis in 1832. Shortly after purchasing his 80 acres, they left Madison County, bringing children William T. and Mary along. Even though settlers were in a wilderness, they felt strongly their children's education should not be neglected. In 1837 he served as school inspector. His calling as a preacher led to the organization of the Howell Methodist/Episcopal Church. The Barnard schoolhouse was the site of Sunday services and classes. The Livingston County Bible Society thrived with his guidance. As a charter member of the county Pioneer Association, 1871, he recorded his recollections of early settlers' struggles. Pardon died in 1879 and Eliza Ann followed about 10 years later. Several of their children have joined them at Lakeview Cemetery.

James, b. 1785 in Connecticut, bought 80 acres in Iosco Township prior to moving from Orleans County, New York – May 30, 1836. He and wife, Abigale, b. 1798 in Connecticut, were recorded in the early censuses but only Abigale is noted in the 1870 census with her son, James. (He had 11 siblings.) He fought in the war of 1812 as a private in Capt. Hero's N.Y. Militia. Dates of death and places of burial have not been located. Young James was a veteran of the Civil War 50 years later. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; 18<sup>th</sup> History of Livingston County; and Early Settlers and Landowners of Livingston County by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.)