

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

December 2008
Vol. XXVII No. 12

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

The Season for Giving Thanks

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Looking out the window at the beauty of our recent snowfall, and thinking of the upcoming holidays, I feel that it is very appropriate to give "thanks" for our good fortune, even though many families are so financially challenged with the current economic crisis.

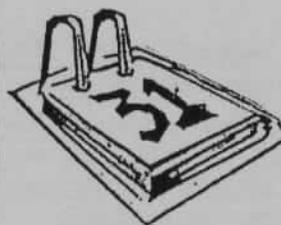
I am thankful that I live in the United States of America! Our freedoms are an example of the best democracy in the world. Thank you to the women and men of our armed forces that protect those freedoms. There can never be enough thanks given to those individuals and their families that sacrifice so much. Please express your gratitude to passing soldiers by shaking their hand and saying thank you!

The Brighton Area Historical Society is thankful to our community and to the Society's many supporters. The goodwill of the citizens, indeed, makes the Brighton area a wonderful home to raise a family.

The Society's officers, board of directors and members donate precious time and talents in promoting and preserving our community's past and present. My appreciation and gratefulness to these dedicated individuals is truly heart felt. Their involvement makes the organization an enjoyable place to work and spend time.

A special thanks is owed to Dick Weaire. Dick has been involved in the Society and the Board for many years and found it necessary to resign this fall. Dick's self-initiative for fixing broken objects and making maintenance repairs is unbelievable. He would fix objects before anyone knew they were broken or in need of repair. His self-initiative is only surpassed by his wonderful demeanor and enticing laugh. Dick's frequent presence at Lyon School will be missed but his touch will remain forever. I am hopeful that Dick will continue to stop by to share pleasantries. The Society is extremely grateful to Dick and his many talents!

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

December

- * 4,11,18 9-noon Archives at Lyon School. You can help. Call 229-6402 to confirm
- *14 1-4 pm Lyon School Open House and Christmas Party. Everyone is invited
- *25 A merry Christmas holiday.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Margaret Bowland

COUPLES/INDIV: **Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Tim Hurst, Esther Jarvis, Carole Scott, Lyla M. Spelbring (Howell), Sue Walters-Steinacker and Arlene Warner.**

It is good to receive membership renewals from those listed above. Board members need to know the community is supportive of their efforts. Dues for 2009 are being received, both renewing and new members.

Whether near or far, a 2009 membership to the Brighton Area Historical Society would be appreciated by anyone with Brighton connections. Recipients will receive a monthly newsletter, and you'll know you've made a contribution to the Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... **Ida Bair, Judy Coebly, and Jackie Damm** for helping mail the November issue of Trail Tales.

..... **Dora Lezovich and Brenda Moline** for scanning Society archives for preservation and future research.

.... **Esther Jarvis and Carole Scott** for their donation to project needs with their dues.

..... **Tim Hurst and Arlene Warner** for their donation to Friends of Lyon School with their dues.

..... **Dick Weaire** for 'being there' when the Society and/or the Lyon School needed him.

..... **Nancy Bohlen** of Preview Properties for photos of guests visiting the Canopy, the former business in that building.

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

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Much help is needed to review the material in the Society archives at the Lyon School for better organization and retrieval of information. Among the many subjects is found information relating to hotels, recreation, schools, railroad, agriculture, families, organizations, etc. This information is in the form of clippings, records, albums, photos, reports, etc. Contact 810/229-6402 to schedule a good time for you. Thanks to volunteers recruited by Archer-Huntley Financial, the scanning of organized material is ongoing.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Buildings that have been around for years are suddenly gone and we can't remember what they looked like. It is important to the recording of site histories that a photo is taken today. It would be good if someone (you?) would have a camera ready to preserve the image for filing.

LYON SCHOOL: Regular maintenance continues. The work is often mundane but very important overall. Members of the board, who are already involved, could use your help. Call 810/227-4840 to offer your assistance.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 14, 1-4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Come see Santa and old-time Christmas displays. Tour the one-room school and learn its history. Cookies and cocoa too. 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township.

THE SOCIETY EXPRESSES SYMPATHY

To the family of

IRENE BOICE ELLIS

Irene was a native of the area and a
Long time sincere, supportive
Member of the Society

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

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.

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.

For more information, call 810/229-6402

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

December 13 - **South Lyon Historical Society.** 'Grandma's Attic Sale' 248/437-9929

December 13, 14 - Saline Area Historical Society. Christmas at the Rentschler Farm-house. Christmas During the Depression Years. www.salinehistory.org or 734-944-2219.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

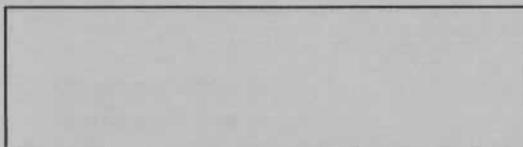
- Donations to the flagpole fund and to the Lyon School insurance bill.
- Someone to prepare applications for historic site markers.
- Someone to sew period clothing for use at the Lyon School events.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE HOLLISTERS MAKE THEIR MARK

Archibald Hollister, born in Connecticut, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. A son, Algernon Sydney (A.S. as he was popularly referred to), was born January 28, 1796, in Vermont. Anna Teall, born in Vermont in 1800, married A.S., an Episcopal minister. With sons Charles (b. 1825), Algernon, Jr. (b. 1826) and Edward T. (b. 1832), A.S. and Anna arrived in Troy, Michigan in 1835 to evangelize and educate. Here he set up a 'select' school. In 1845, they came to Green Oak Township, settling in Section 20 on 160 acres. One source indicates the Reverend and Anna had seven children; five sons and two daughters. James (b. 1838) and Mary (b. 1839) were born in Michigan.

Rev. Hollister had begun missionary work in Hamburg in 1843. Following efforts by earlier missionaries, his work culminated in the establishment of a parish – St. Stephen Episcopal Church. He was the first rector, serving until his death January 2, 1847. His struggles, along with Methodist Episcopal preachers, are detailed in an 1847 letter. "Our greatest difficulty arises from the poverty of our people and the custom extensively prevalent in this county of the mass of people neglecting public worship and spending the Lord's Day in visiting and amusements. Brighton is important for laying the foundation of the church it is a sad discouragement at present to find no gentlemen of influence to interest themselves in promoting a church."

Son Charles was educated in his father's school and at the age of 20 began teaching. In 1847, he bought 80 acres in Section 19, Green Oak Township. Eliza Jane Miller married Charles June 5, 1850. Their home was southwest of the intersection of Rickett and Winans Lake Roads. In 1861, a half mile north, 120 acres in Section 17 bear his name. Charles and Eliza also had seven children. Two of the boys, Millard and Joseph, moved to Boise, Idaho, in 1875 and 1881 respectively. In 1915, daughter Bessie is owner of the land in Section 17.

The conviction of the value of education was evident in the early settlers by the organizing of rural school districts at an early date. The Hollister School district #4, northwest corner of Winans Lake and the Ann Arbor Road intersection, was organized in 1838. The school, built that fall, was not a log cabin but built according to detailed instructions to the builder, including: a frame structure with plaster walls, a portico and ten windows. The existence of a library at the town hall in 1888 confirms the belief that education was a vital ingredient in a productive life. A c. 1947 photo shows 25 smiling pupils posing for the annual photo; not a Hollister among them. Construction of U.S. 23 in the 1960s eliminated Hollister as well as Holden School, 2.5 miles north.

With Hollister School, Hollister Post Office (Anne was the first postmaster March 22, 1858 / October 21, 1862) and a stagecoach stop, the intersection of Winans Lake and the Ann Arbor Roads was a busy one. At that time, the trail from Ann Arbor to Flint came north to Winans Lake Road, west to Rickett Road, and continued north through Brighton Village. A.S.'s son, Algernon, Jr., located in the Howell area as a goldsmith by 1850 and son, Edward T., bought his parents' property after his father's death.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: census records; First Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; Hamburg Cemetery Records by James Tayler; Hamburg Memories by Joyce Terry; Green Oak 1830-1930 by Green Oak Township Historical Society; 1891 Photo and Biographic Album; From Settlement to City – Brighton by C. McMacken. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)