

# Trail Tales

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

February 2008  
Vol. XXVII No. 2

## GREEN IS THE WORD

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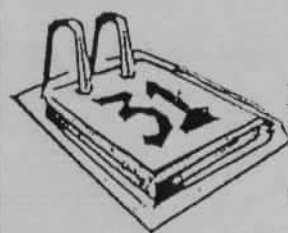
Old buildings are not perceived as 'green' compared to new construction with the latest in modern technology. Old buildings may be quaint, but are perceived as inefficient and drafty. "Let's get rid of the old and be 'green'".

A 'for instance': replacing wood-framed windows and doors with vinyl (which are often smaller than the original), but not properly insulating around these openings and in the walls and ceilings, defeats the original attempt to become 'green'. These wood windows have a long life. It's been said vinyl windows are called replacement because in 10-20 years they'll need replacing. Not only do the originals end up in the dump, so do the replacements. Not very 'green' is it?

Earlier buildings had to be built stoutly and efficiently. Homes with high ceilings, louvered shutters and designed to allow natural breezes through, were built in warmer climes. In the north, it was thicker walls, smaller windows and the use of shutters, which did more than provide decoration on new houses.

The 'inefficient' reputation of older buildings is not justified by data. Those constructed pre 1920, have an energy consumption of 80,127 BTUs per square foot. For those built since 2000, the figure is 79,703 BTUs. When demolition of the earlier structure is included – can that be described as efficient?

Sustainability and stewardship are what it's all about. Cultural and environmental resources must be conserved. The 'greenest' building is one that's already built.



### Dates to Remember

#### February

- \* 7,14,21,28: 9-noon. Work in archive room.  
810/229-6402 to confirm.
- \* 25: 6:30 p.m. Society Board Meeting – You are welcome.

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

### BUS/PROF: Advance Craft

PATRON: Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Douglas & Carol Rearick and Horace & Yvonne Taylor.

COUPLES/INDIV: Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Bert & Maricanna Bair, Janet Baldinger, Dan & Karen Bierer, Elaine Blight, Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Stephen & Kathy Davis, Elizabeth Eisenhardt, Irene Ellis, Merrill Herbst, Tim & Helen Hurst, Don & Gerri Leith, Helen Leitz (Drbrn), Tedd & Linda Potter, Tom & Sue Pound, Mr. & Mrs. David Schoewe, Alice Wyland, and Delores Yackley.

The continuing display of support by renewing members is very encouraging.

All do what they can at the time, in order to promote the mission of the Society.

Because it's important to them, many members are able to participate in a more dynamic manner. It is assumed all readers of Trail Tales are doing their best.

The community is grateful for the Society's contribution to its well-being.

## THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Bert Bair, Ida Bair and John & Janice Field for help in mailing the January issue of Trail Tales.

..... Sue Garcia and Anne Stratigos for distributing extra copies of the newsletter to local businesses.

.....Mr. & Mrs. David Schoewe for the extra donation with their dues.

..... Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Libby Eisenhardt, Merrill Herbst, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Helen Leitz (Drbrn) and Tedd & Linda Potter for their membership in 'Friends of Lyon School'.

..... Dick Weaire for looking after the infrastructure at Lyon School.

..... Sue Walters-Steinacker for a scanner/printer.

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

## PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Work is continuing on properly filing local history in an easily retrievable manner.

*Your help is needed.*

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Notebooks are filling with information on area business addresses. Needed are photos and street scenes of 2008.

*Your help is needed..*

LYON SCHOOL: Various cost-saving measures are being taken to reduce utility expenses and proper care of the building. Groups wishing to learn the history and mechanics of how Michigan educated its children can contact a board member to make arrangements.

HISTORY BOOK: 'From Settlement to City', with over 300 pictures, is available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River.

Contact a board member for more information on any of the above.

The BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

extends sympathies to the families of

**JOE CHENOWETH**

area native and long-time member

and

**HELEN HURST**

long-time member

### 2008 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

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.

**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**

**February 7, 7 p.m.:** Livingston County Genealogical Society: Roberta Estes: "The Lost Colony DNA Project" searching for descendants of early Virginia settlers.

**March 6, 7 p.m.:** Michigan Township Records; How to Find and What to Find. Cultural Hall, LDS Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

**February 14, 7:30 p.m.:** Plymouth Historical Society: Collecting, Collections, Collectibles, 155 S. Main Street.

**February 15, 6 p.m.:** Hartland Area Historical Society: "Old Glory Gala" fund raiser re: 36-star flag preservation and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum. 810/632-6711 or hartlandareahistory.org.

**April 4-5:** Local History Conference. Wayne State University, Detroit.

**May 8-10.:** Michigan Historic Preservation Network "Preserving History, Conserving Energy". Dearborn Inn. Sustainable design for life of buildings and community.

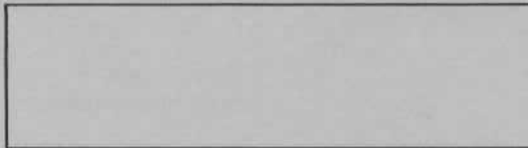
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- Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.
- Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are "XL".

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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### 175 YEARS OF TUTHILLS IN GREEN OAK

Thomas Tuthill, with wife Anna LeFivre and four children, arrived in Green Oak Township in the summer of 1833 from Cayuga, New York. They had purchased 146 acres of Section 31, sight unseen, earlier that spring. The children: Carlotta 1823, Solomon 1829, Martha Ann 1832 and Tunis LeFivre 1833, were born in New York. Oscar Lewis was born after their arrival in 1839. In 1850, Solomon is farming with his father. The children probably attended what was known as Field School, on the north side of Nine Mile Road, about a mile west of the Ann Arbor Road (Whitmore Lake Road). Not long after arriving in Green Oak, Thomas and Anna were instrumental in the organization of the Green Oak Presbyterian Church, June 15, 1834. Martha Ann and Tunis LeFivre were baptized at that meeting. In 1836, Thomas served as township treasurer. He waited ten months before expenses of his office were approved to be paid, a total of \$21.00. Expenses included service at elections and marking-out the road at \$1.00 per day. He later served as assessor.

An 1886 will indicates Carlotta married a man by the name of Abenteaux, and Martha Ann a man by the name of Leonard. Tunis LeFivre married Hattie Bostwick c. 1867. They had five children: Blanch 1868 (married Stephen Douglas); Anna 1871 (Knight); Cornelia 1872 (Stevens); Oscar Lewis 1875 (CeLora Purdy); and William 1877 (Mable G.).

Tunis LeFivre, in 1875, is described as a "... General farmer, making a specialty of raising, dealing in graded Durham cattle and good horses." He is one example of how farmers adapted to changing economics. As transportation improved, it allowed specialization, such as his. Farmers turned from supplying only their family's needs to raising various crops: orchards, sheep, cattle, swine, etc., for better returns. Changes in communications were also realized: c. 1937, Oscar paid \$7.80 for three months' phone, including long distance.)

William and Oscar Lewis were both students during the November 1892 / March 1893 winter term at the McDonald (or Maiden) School on Marshall Road. Growing boys often attended school only during the winter term – their labor was needed on the farm during other seasons. Tunis LeFivre farmed about 160 acres in Section 28 at the time, formerly owned by Benjamin Lumbard. A photo of Oscar Lewis tying bundles of grain is in the Green Oak History book.

In 1900-02, William served the township as school inspector and as constable. He and Mabel had two children, Harmon and Charles.

The father of Oscar Lewis' wife, Benjamin Purdy, was instrumental in the organization of the Kensington Baptist Church on Grand River and Kensington Roads. At the observance of the centennial of the church, October 20, 1935, CeLora Purdy Tuthill helped prepare a history of the church. Celora's daughter, Aurelia, born 1907, included a story of her mother's life in the Green Oak History. A life of physical labor, but also of caring and remarkable enthusiasm. Aurelia's siblings were Roy, born 1916 (Eleanor Stuckman) and Lloyd, born 1919 (Ella Green). A photo of Aurelia and Harley Tuthill, attending McDonald School c. 1915, is also in the History book. In 1925, Aurelia graduated from South Lyon High School. She later married Henry Francis.

In 1960, two acres were donated to the Green Oak Free Methodist Church by Lloyd and Ella. She remembers her mother painstakingly drying sliced apples, which she donated to the Woodstock Orphan Home in Illinois – gratefully giving of what she had to lighten life for others. In 1980, the Charles, Harmon, and Lloyd Tuthill families are residents on the property originally purchased by their ancestors. Great, great grandson Jim, and wife Sandy, are farming and conducting a yard waste composting business on the family farm; still adapting to change. Many members of this family are buried in local cemeteries.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; Hamburg and Kensington Cemetery transcriptions; obituaries compiled by M. Charboneau; and "Yesteryears of Green Oak" by the Township Historical Society.. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402)