

# Trail Tales

COMPLEMENTARY COPY

January 2008  
Vol. XXVII No. 1

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

## ANNUAL PASSING OF THE TORCH

The recent annual elections for the Brighton Area Historical Society resulted in a change that has not occurred since the early 1990's. There is a different president for 2008. Marieanna Bair has guided the society and been the outstanding historian and spokesperson serving continuously as president from 1992 through 2007. Some members may be wondering what has happened.

Marieanna is taking a well-deserved break in her tenure as president for the society. The society is very fortunate that she still desires to be as involved as she has been for many years. Anyone that has dealt with her knows that she has the energy of a dynamo. She insures that knowledge and history of our wonderful community is shared with all. She is editor of the monthly newsletter, gives tours of the cemeteries to the cub scouts and other groups, researches early families involved in our local history, attends state-wide meetings, works on the historical archives, gives presentations using the overhead projector to organizations and yes, she still shovels the snow if needed at the Lyon Schoolhouse. I am sure that I have left out many of the other tasks she does routinely while running this organization. We are grateful for her!

I am proud to have Marieanna as a friend, and I look forward to her as a mentor as I try to provide direction and leadership as this society's president for the next 12 months. With Marieanna's support, I only hope that I can continue the energy and enthusiastic hard work.

Jim Vichich

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President/Editor

Jim Vichich  
810/227-4840

#### Vice President

Susan Walters-  
Stainacker  
810/229-4483

#### Secretary

Thomas Reinke  
313/295-9326

#### Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey  
248/684-0340

### DIRECTORS

John Fillicaro  
810/231-6521

Dick Weaire  
810/229-3066

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT / EDITOR

Marieanna Bair  
810/229-6402

### CHAIR PERSONS

Questers #236  
Lyon School  
Open House Hosts  
810/231-3067

### Education Liaison

Judith Coebly  
810/229-4608

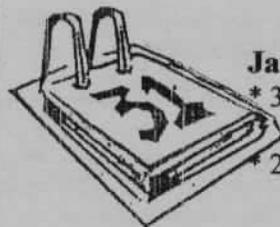
Sue Skwarski  
810/225-0908

### Dates to Remember

#### January

\* 3, 17, 24, 31: 9-noon. Archiving. Your help is needed. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

\* 28: 6:30 p.m. January Board Meeting – You are welcome



## MEMBERSHIPS

**PATRON:** Doug & Nell Bidwell (FL)

**COUPLES/INDIV:** Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Evelyn Dothager, Susan Lanning (Livonia), John & Ruth LePatourel, Rev. Don Thomas, Sue Walters-Steinacker, Arlene Warner and Kyle Colleen Wilson.

Support of the mission of the Society is confirmed by the renewal of your membership each year. If your membership is for 2008 or more, you'll find an '08' on the mailing label (and the absence of a 'Complementary Copy' stamp). If such a stamp appears, it would be good to consider renewing or becoming a member. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization, is non-profit and can only survive and grow if it receives dues or donations.

## THANKS THANKS THANKS

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

..... **Toni Tubbs** for her Halloween decorations display at Lyon School.

..... **Linda Potter** for the donation of copies of 1965-70 Brighton Township ordnances, plans and surveys. Also a 1971 Brighton State Bank Calendar with recipes on the back of each month.

..... **Rev. Don Thomas** and **Arlene Warner** for their donations to Friends of Lyon School for 2008.

..... **Parent-Teacher Tech** 117 E. Grand River, for stocking the Society history book of Brighton.

## MARCH – WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Brighton Women's Roll of Honor Advisory Council will identify women of the Brighton area and celebrate their achievements.

Since 2002, 24 local women and two women's groups have been recognized for their diverse accomplishments at the annual awards program.

Nomination forms are available at the Brighton District Library, the BECC Building lobby and the Brighton Chamber of Commerce. A deadline of January 31, 2008, requires prompt action.

For more information, contact Joyce Powers, chairperson, e-mail: [joycepowers@comcast.net](mailto:joycepowers@comcast.net) or 810/229-2149.

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

## PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

**ARCHIVES:** To not lose local history, various photos, maps, records, compilations, etc. need to be properly filed. Your help would be very welcome. Not familiar with local history? An interest in its preservation is the only criterion.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY:** What businesses, homes, churches, schools, etc., were located on various sites? Knowledge of the other uses, to which a site has been put, fades as time passes. Photographic records are vital. Take an hour a week, walk down a street, a local road and record what is there in 2008. Even natural features change – roads are cut, hills moved, swamps drained. Photos will enable those in 2058 to know our Brighton area.

**LYON SCHOOL:** Santa and his helpers came on December 9. Children made Christmas crafts, enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies. Insulating panels are being prepared for the windows. These will reduce the need for use of expensive fuel. Contact Dick Weaire 229-3066 to offer your services.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS:** An oral and/or visual program for your organization, or a tour of the Lyon School, can be arranged. Contact a board member for more information.

## NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

... Computer related equipment for compiling an electronic file of the Society's collections.

.... a planner for 2008 programs at the Lyon School Open House events.

... a P.R. person to schedule the Society's presence with a booth at local events: Art Fair, Farmers' Market, etc.

... several directors to continue guiding the Society in the promotion of the mission of the Society.

... someone to prepare applications for historic site designations and markers to publicize the area's history.

... a seamstress for period clothing for use at Lyon School events.

... a shallow drawer file cabinet for maps.

... a volunteer to clear a parking area, at the Lyon School, after a heavy snow, for meetings.

Contact a board member for more information.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

(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.

**WARNING - FRAUDULENT E-MAIL!**

Brighton Commerce Bank, through which Society finances are handled, has issued a warning of a fraudulent FDIC e-mail. This was not sent by the FDIC. Consumers are urged to NOT access the link provided in the body of this e-mail.

**2008 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

\*\*Lawrence Autobody;

\*\*Patrick Financial Group, LLS; \*\*Promess, Inc.

You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

\*\* Life Member

**WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**January 10, 7:30 p.m.: Plymouth Historical Society.** Program: "Emil Mettatal, Local Civil War Legend". 155 s. Main St.

**FACING THE FACTS**

A very homely young woman made an appointment with a psychiatrist. She walked into his office and said, "Doctor, I'm so depressed and lonely, I don't have any friends, no man will come near me and everybody laughs at me. Can you help me accept my ugliness?"

"I'm sure I can," the psychiatrist replied. "Just go over and lie face down on that couch, and we'll get started.

(Livonia Historical Society)

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #303  
Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### THE LANNINGS AND THE RAILROAD HOTEL

Although not among the very first settlers in the area, Richard L. and Eliza Lanning built and operated the Lanning Railroad Hotel, 520 Cedar Street, by 1873. Richard had built the hotel just east of the depot in Brighton to host travelers. A long, c. 35'x20', two-story frame building with a gable roof abutting a perpendicular, c. 20'x20', portion on the north end. The south and east sides had a covered porch. The office was on the side by the tracks, the lobby in the center, with the dining room at the rear.

Richard and Eliza were both born in New York, he in 1812 and she in 1814. (His father in Ireland, hers in England.) Their four children, Andrew R. 1842, Arthur W. 1845, Lora and Alice were all born in Michigan, likely in Washtenaw County.

Andrew R. was in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War and was lost at sea April 7, 1865. A memorial marker is at his parents' sites in Calvary Cemetery.

Arthur W., 18, was also a seaman in 1863, on the USS Mississippi for a year during the war. Then from August 24, 1864, to June 1865, he served on the USS Champion. Five years later, he married Alice Cecelia Wilkinson on November 7, 1870. Five children were born to them in the next 17 years. Daughter Lela, who married I.R. Sexton and had four sons. One child died an infant. Harry A. died in 1907 of rheumatism and kidney disease at 24, and 11 year old Volney died in 1908 of an infection after an appendectomy. Son, Roy Andrew, married Lucy Margaret Cobb. They had seven children of whom some descendants still live in the area.

The 1880 county census records show Arthur W. as a blacksmith as was his father, Richard L. Arthur's obituary, 1921, reveals an entrepreneur – he was a carriage maker, an agent for a gasoline engine maker (one of which was purchased by the Argus publishers in 1901), and in the lumber business with F. T. Hyne & Son. The October 1898 Argus advertises "A.W. Lanning has decided to close out his buggy business, so now is a splendid opportunity to get a buggy cheap." Arthur W. was also a hotel operator, acquiring the Lanning Railroad Hotel from his aging father, soon selling it to his sister Alice's husband, H.B. Ross. The last owner was Peter G. Hartman. It was their family home by the mid 1880s, Mrs. Hartman living there until her death in 1939. Unoccupied and appearing rather forsaken, it was razed after WWII.

By 1911, a number of locals owned automobiles, which often resulted in conflict with horse-drawn buggy owners. McMacken writes of an incident in which Floyd Sawyer's car caught a wheel of Wirt Beurmann's surrey, badly startling Wirt's team. Although parked at 334 W. Main with reins in hand, Wirt was thrown out and the panic-stricken horses took flight. Arthur W. finally caught them near the tracks sans the demolished surrey.

Other Lannings can be found in county census records in other locations. Their connection to the Brighton Lannings needs to be determined. Richard L., Eliza, Arthur W., Harry and Volney are interred in Calvary Cemetery.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1880 History of Livingston County; county census records; obituaries and cemetery transcriptions compiled by Milton Charboneau; and 'From Settlement to City – Brighton, Michigan' by Carol McMacken. Additions/corrections welcomed. 810/229-6402)