

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

July 2008
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Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

BRIGHTON MASONIC LODGE: COMMUNITY SPIRIT

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Our community is a wonderful place to live and to raise a family. You will find many fine people and organizations that take pride in civic responsibility. Civic responsibility affects all of us. However, it is easy to forget that each one of us has a responsibility to help support these organizations as they attempt to raise funds to assist others in our community.

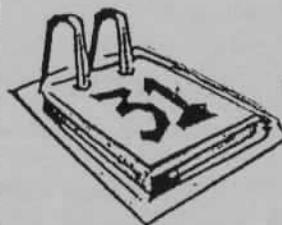
Sometimes support means financial donations, or it may be volunteering some personal time. Some organizations need to use public buildings because of the size of their fund raising activity. Others may need a parking lot and access to a hose for a car wash. The next time a community organization approaches you for an approval to use your site, please say yes. The fund raising that in turn is donated back within the community will benefit everyone including your business. To support these civic-minded groups, a no fee or low fee cost, allows more donations to return back into the entire Brighton area.

The Brighton Area Historical Society recently received a significant financial donation from the Brighton Masonic Lodge Charitable Giving Committee. I would like to thank President Dave Huff and Lee Garcia, both members of the Masonic Lodge Charitable Giving Committee, for their special efforts in helping to make this donation to the Society become a reality. The donation will allow the Society to procure software, training and memory back up for the Digitizing Project.

The Digitizing Project will provide on-line research of the archived material within the Society's possession. The archived material contains information about former and present Brighton area families and their many facets of life within the community. The on-line access of this historical information will benefit many members of our community and beyond.

Thank you to the Brighton Masonic Lodge and to your community spirit!

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

July

* 3,10,17,24,31:- 9-noon. Archives at Lyon School. Your help is Needed. Call 229-6402 to confirm.

5, 25: 8 noon. Booth at Farmers' Market.

* 13: 1-4 p.m. Open House at Lyon School.

* 28: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. Welcome

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

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Marge Wilcox.

COUPLES/INDIV: * Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bovid, Jerry & Lisa Cave, Lois Clark (09 Midland), Joe Collins (09), Jim DeJohn, Sherrel Rutter, *Sandra Hill Willhide (FL).

*Welcome to Sandra and the Bovids and thanks to renewing members. The Bovid's membership is a gift from Lois Clark. (Others might consider such a move.)

The membership list is for Society purposes ONLY. It is not shared or sold. The Society respects its members' privacy.

The year for which membership dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. If there is no date, you are receiving a Complementary Copy. If the date is 08, or higher, your support is keeping the Society on its feet. Any change of address notification is appreciated. It costs the Society .57 cents for each returned issue.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Judy Coebly and Sue Skwarski for helping prepare the June issue of Trail Tales for mailing.

..... Kevin & Margaret Fritz for a school desk, ink wells and early pens for use and display at the Lyon School.

.... Carroll Cook for donating an early F.T. Hyne ledger for research and archiving.

.....Peg Siford for help in indexing collected obituaries for reference.

.... Jerry & Lisa Cave for a donation with their dues.

.....Lois Clark and Jim DeJohn for their Friends of Lyon School membership.

.....Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, for stocking the Society's history book, 'From Settlement to City.'

..... Dan Bowen, Mike Kinaschuk, Ronald Rzepka, Dora Lezovich, Stan Schafer, Shawn Kitzman, and Jeremy Jones for help with scanning the archives.

..... Brad Beal for sharing his CD of Brighton pictures at the June Open House.

..... Heidi L'Esperance for the album of photos of the restoration of the Kenneth Hyne house.

FARMERS' MARKET SUPPORT NEEDED

Contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-8084 with your offer to help with the Society booth at the Market on Saturdays.

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The Society archives include histories of local places of worship; transcriptions of local cemeteries; histories of early education in the area; early newspapers on microfilm; genealogical references to early families; histories of area land use including places of businesses; etc. The more records are compiled the more are large gaps realized. You are encouraged to allow the Society to copy your early photos, 19th and 20th century, of area events, buildings, transportation, families, etc. Contact 810/227-4840 or 810/229-6402.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.

July 13, 1-4 p.m.

Bring the kids. Early children's games will be played: hoops, hop scotch, rope jumping, stilts, etc. Bring your old games. Refreshments will be available.

The open house in June brought several local alumni to tour, share memories, see displays. Hosted by Mindy Kinsey, Jim Vichich and Sue Walter Steinacker, albums were shared.

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

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

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.

TRANSCRIPTIONS of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery -- \$15, and the Old Village Cemetery -- \$25 are available.

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:

July 10: 7: p.m. **Livingston County Genealogical Society:** Ron Greener on "Make Your Own Web Page." www.rootsbeb.com/~milcgs.

July 19: 10-4 p.m., **Kettering University and Friends of the Library** hosting home tours of five G.M. executives of the 1920s/1930s in Flint. www.FlintGM100.com.

July 22-25: **Historical Society of Michigan** hosting PastPerfect Training. HSM offices, 120 W. Saginaw, E. Lansing. Members only. 800/692-1828, www.hsmichigan.org. To sign up, e-mail at training@museumsoftware.com.

INTERESTING STUFF

- In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb."
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.
- The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
- In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes, when you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase – "goodnight, sleep tight."

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

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THE STORE AT 334 WEST MAIN STREET

In 1871, Grant S. Burgess had been working for William McPherson & Sons in their general merchandise store in Howell. In partnership with McPherson he opened a dry goods, household, general store in Brighton, 1874. This was one of the very early businesses built west of Ore Creek at 334 W. Main. Originally the building included 332 W. Main. When Burgess bought out McPherson in 1879, the archway between the two buildings was closed to become separate stores. A large ad in the 1896 Brighton Argus Weekly noted "*Stylish Dress Patterns for \$1-\$4.*" Fabric included "*Fancy wool suiting, a yard wide. Imported French Serge in all the popular plain colors, 46" wide, navy, browns, tans and blacks.*" One should also buy "*New Waist Silks at 25¢, 33¢ and 50¢ a yard*", all for Spring. The early 1900s experienced a bicycle craze. Burgess & Company had coats, pants, belts and hose in order to be properly attired for a bicycle outing. In 1905, W.H. Risch opened an undertaking business in the store.

In 1910, John and Lois Hicks Strick (John born in England, Lois in Brighton) purchased the business at 334. She had met Strick in 1900 when he served as Sergeant in Co. H, 34th Michigan Volunteers in the Spanish/American War, training at Island Lake National Guard Camp. After their marriage in 1900, they lived in Ironwood, Michigan, moving back to Brighton in 1910. John advertised often in the Argus, placing a half page Easter ad for apparel for men: "*Suits, \$10-\$15*", "*Ties in beautiful material*", etc. "*Ladies and Misses spring coats - \$10-\$15*". Also "*Ladies waists in lawn, voile and linen also silk. An especially attractive assortment of new white dresses.*" Boys and girls were not forgotten: hats, gloves, neckwear, shoes, all at "*Popular prices*".

In 1910, the newly formed Brighton State Bank leased space in the building until construction of a new bank, 306 W. Main, was completed.

During the time John Strick was serving in France in WW I, Lois ably conducted business, raised her family of three, served in her church and retained membership in several local organizations. John died in 1935. However, Strick's Store continued operations.

At Lois' death in 1950, her sister, Sadie Hicks, who had been active in the workings of the store, followed the same business ethics as the Stricks had. In 1953 Sadie was an insurance agent with an office in the store. By 1938, Mi-Lady's Beauty Salon with Gretchen White was in a room in the rear of the store, followed by 1943 by Virginia Bamber Disspain, who had Virginia's Beauty Shop. A c. 1960 photo included employees of the time. Mesdames Pauline Baker, Dorothy Ernst, Marjorie Garwood, Mary Johnson and the Misses Esther Green and Sadie Hicks were ready to serve you. Twenty others are listed who were employed during earlier years.

Wanda Partridge bought the store in 1963, and it became an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, decorated in the 1900 period. At the August 10 grand opening, one sat on a stool at the counter or in a booth sipping a real ice cream soda or slurping a banana split.

Hobbyville, with a complete assortment of hobby and craft supplies and kits, was in business at 334 in 1972. By 1987, Betty Golden owns the popular Golden Gallery of picture, framing and display units.

In September 2001, Mona's can be found conducting business. In February 2006, the Michigan Candy Company prepares to open. At the present time, 334 is vacant, awaiting a new enterprise.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Historic Resource Survey records; William Pless' Old Village Cemetery Supplement; census records and 'From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945' by Carol McMacken. Additions/corrections requested - 810/229-6402.)