



Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

COMPLEMENTARY
COPY

Trail Tales

June 2008
Vol. XXVII No.6

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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Being a community member implies that we share many common interests. Many people in the Brighton area have donated their personal resources to assist in a common good at one time or another. Church fund raising, school PTO, civic responsibilities, meals on wheels, scouting, and many other important organizations have been the benefactors of this community spirit.

I remember being asked by my young son, why people donate money or spend so much time helping others. I told him that it is the generosity of people in the community that makes this place very special. It is this quality that makes Brighton an ideal community to live and to raise a family.

Several months ago, Archer-Huntley Financial, a local business, was in need of some old photos of the Brighton area. Their office had relocated to a new office center and they wanted to provide some old historical photos in their new setting. Archer-Huntley Financial visited the Society's archive room at Lyon School to review photos. After making copies of the desired photos, Jason demonstrated the Brighton community spirit.

Jason recognized the need to digitize these visual records of the past. Archer-Huntley Financial donated a new computer, high-resolution scanner and flat screen monitor.

Jason was unaware that one of the Society's goals for 2008 was to start a process to digitize the archival records. Presently, these records are stored in folders and binders in file cabinets. This goal required new computer equipment and new museum software.

It is indeed a gratifying event, when a community member steps forward, and makes a donation to benefit the common good. The Brighton Area Historical Society endeavors to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area. This donation, which embodies community spirit, will start the process of preserving this history digitally, so that future generations will be able to access this information through the web. Many thanks to Tom Archer and Jason Huntley, of Archer-Huntley Financial.

Jim Vichich

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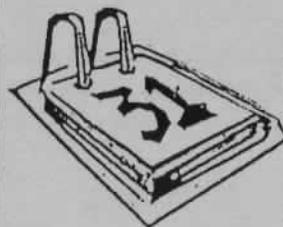
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Dates to Remember



June

- * 6,12,19,26: 9-noon. Archives at Lyon School. Your help is welcome
- 7,14,21,28: 8-1 p.m. Booth at Farmers' Market. Your help is needed.
- * 8: 1-4 p.m. Open House at Lyon School. Graduates' Day
- * 30: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. Welcome

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

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Charles & Janice Beach (09), Bill & Jackie Damm, Steve & Kate Lowry, Bill & Barb McCririe (11), Barbara Smith (09) (Howell), *Marge Wilcox and Henry & Mary Lou Winegar.

*Welcome to **Marg** as a new member. Thanks for the support and confidence from renewing members.

If you are reading this issue of the newsletter and note 'Complementary Copy' on the address portion, it is assumed you have an interest in the history of the area and the preservation, advancement and dissemination of that history. Many opportunities are open for your participation, one of which is your membership. Consider becoming a member and/or making a donation of time, labor or funds.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Bert Bair, Ida Bair, Jackie Damm for their help in mailing the May Newsletter.

.....Anne Stratigos for delivering the newsletter to 47 downtown businesses; Judy Coebly and Sue Skwarski for delivering to 103 teachers and educators; Sue Garcia for delivering to 27 out-of-town businesses.

.....Mindy Kinsey, Bud Prine and Jim Vichich for helping with the cemetery survey.

.....Jim and Vicki Vichich and Tom Reinke for hosting the Society's booth at Farmers' Market.

....Barbara Smith and Marge Wilcox for their donation with their dues.

.....Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, for continuing stocking the Society's Brighton history book.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

..... Booth hosts at Farmers' Market.

..... Alumni (and others) to visit Lyon School June 8, 1-4 p.m.

..... Folks to help with Lyon School maintenance.

Questions on any of the above may be directed to any board member.

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

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Digitizing the Society's collection of local history is progressing well. Contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-4840 to offer help.

BOOK: 'From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945' by Carol McMacken is one of those books that is easy to peruse and difficult to put down. Contact a board member or Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, for your copy.

June 8, 1-4 p.m.

GRADUATES' DAY AT LYON SCHOOL

Lyon School alumni are especially invited to return and reminisce. Rural schools have a special mystique and attributes of their own. Students' experiences were different from those attending school in town. This is an opportunity to renew friendships and preserve the special experiences of 'country school kids.'

The school is at 11455 Buno Road, between Van Amburg and Pleasant Valley Roads in Brighton Township. Refreshments too.

!!! CORRECTION !!!

In the May issue of Trail Tales, a very obvious typo occurred in the article on 'The Civil War Hits The Brighton Area'. The first line in the third paragraph should read '... they came in the mid 1830s to the Brighton Area.' Many thanks to a sharp-eyed reader who cared to call.

Please accept our apologies and continue to provide patience.

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, Lowell 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:

June 14: **Plymouth Historical Museum** open. 'Inaugural Gowns of the First Ladies' exhibit, 155 S. Main, Plymouth, MI.

June 21: 10-noon, **Historical Society of Clinton.** **FREE!** Window and Door Restoration and Rehab class. 517/456-7494 to register. Façade Restoration/Rehab on October 11.

June 28: 10-5; June 29: 12-5, **Waterloo Area Historical Society.** Blacksmiths-Soldiers and Log Cabin Weekend. www.waterloofarmmuseum.org

August 17: 7 p.m. **South Lyon Historical Society** will visit the Mary Jackson Home in Milford. 248/437-9929. Depot Day is September 6.

November 7, 8: **Michigan Oral History Association** 2008 Conference - **Oral History for Michigianians** at Rogers City. E-mail: gwisquemann@arg.net; www.michiganoha.org, or 517/321-1746.

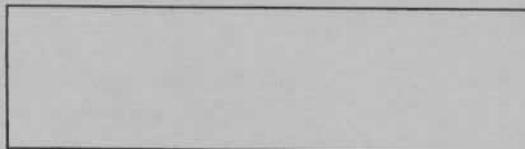
INTERESTING STUFF

- Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden", and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.
- The State with the highest number of people who walk to work: Alaska.
- The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. Now get this, the percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.
- 111,111,111 times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.
- If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

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

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THE EDGARS STOP IN MICHIGAN ON THEIR WAY WEST

Before moving from Livingston county, New York, Robert (b. 1799, IR), and Mary (Whalen) (b. 1809, VT), Edgar purchased 40 acres in Brighton Township November 11, 1834. (At that time the southern two tiers of townships of the county were still part of Washtenaw Country.) The land is described as the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 26. By August 8, 1835, they'd moved to Michigan and bought the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 26. The 80-acre total was just north of a large wetland, which drained into a branch of Woodruff Creek. The Edgar's house was built shortly after, about one mile east of Pleasant Valley Road on Spencer Road. (In 1915, the Myron West family is living there.) The children attended Gage School.

The writer of the 1880 History of Livingston County writes of Robert, "He is prominently connected to the first clearing of the township and is known as an able expounder of divine truth." He officiated at the first funeral in the township, Abram L. Andrews, age 27, June 13, 1835. Neighbor Melzer Bird provided a coffin from boards from his barn.

With Robert and Nancy came their three older children: Nancy, 1829, William, 1831, and Mary, 1833, all born in New York. In 1840, Margaret Elizabeth was born to be followed by Matilda, 1842, James W., 1844, Robert G., 1847, Walter, 1853, and Emery, 1855. Records from the Butterfield's store in the town of Kensington indicate Robert paid 19 cents for a rake, 6 cents for thread, 38 cents for tobacco, and 19 cents for a hat in 1851.

Of Robert and Nancy's children, Nancy, Mary and Margaret E. appear to be deceased by 1920, a conclusion brought to light upon reading sister Matilda's obituary of 1924.

Son William and wife Lucy had two daughters who were orphaned by 1872. Minnie (1867/1900) and Rae (1871) were raised by their Uncle James W. and Aunt Lamira (Gage, m. Jan. 3, 1870) with their own two, Walter D. and Leila R. (Lamira was a daughter of John Jarvis, an early settler and neighbor, in Green Oak Township). James and Lamira spent their entire life in Livingston County. The first aggregate mining in Green Oak took place on his farm in Section 11, in 1875; the C.N. Ray Gravel Co. Trees from his property were used to make railroad ties for the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad siding on his land. A report describing the growing demand for a particular agricultural product portrays him as a grower of wheat. His political career began in Green Oak in 1869 as school inspector. In 1876, 1898, and 1904 he's a Justice of the Peace; township treasurer in 1884-1885; township supervisor in 1880 and 1892; sat on the board of review in 1909. He served as County Judge of Probate 1893/1897. Lamira died after a fall into the basement of the barn while watching a summer storm with daughter Leila, July 27, 1919. James died when visiting his son in Minneapolis, MN, March 31, 1920.

Daughter Matilda was the second wife of Lewis C. Hudson, a Wesleyan Methodist minister, who was a widower with two small children. Lewis and his first wife, Elizabeth, who died of consumption in 1870, were boarders at Matilda's parents' home in Brighton Township. Matilda and Lewis married and had a son. Before 1880 Lewis also died. Convinced her children's future was farther west, she, the three children, her windowed mother Nancy, and brother Robert and his small family moved to McLaughlin in Dakota Territory c. 1881. The notice of Robert's death, December 12, 1923, was sent to Brighton by his son, James. It was also noted Robert had been serving the Salvation Army in Philadelphia for 20 years.

The youngest, Emery, is located in Saskatchewan, Canada c. 1923. Why did these children of Robert and Nancy continue on the journey west begun by their parents in 1835? Was it in their genes to continue looking for new challenges? Matilda died December 6, 1924, and is resting in North Webster, S.D. Her mother, Nancy, may be with her. Robert Sr., James W. and Lamira are buried in Kensington Cemetery, as are Lewis C. and Elizabeth Hudson. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County, Yesteryears of Green Oak; census records; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau; and Kensington Cemetery Records. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.)