

Trail Tales

November 2008
Vol. XXVII No. 11

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

27th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2008

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President/Editor

Jim Vichich
810/227-4840
jvichich@comcast.net

Vice President

Susan Walters-
Steinacker
810/229-4483

Secretary

Thomas Reinke
313/295-9326

Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey
248/684-0340

DIRECTORS

Dave Ball
248/894-6057
dball@brightonareahistorical.com

John Fillicaro
810/231-6521

Dick Weaire
810/360-8113
rlweaire@comcast.net

**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

The passing of the beautiful autumn colors reminds all that winter is on the doorstep and the New Year is almost upon us. It's that time again for the Brighton Area Historical Society to have the 27th Annual Membership Meeting so that officers and board members can be elected for 2009. Our meeting will be Sunday, November 9, from 1-4 PM at the Lyon School, located at 11455 Buno Road in Brighton Township.

The business meeting, starting at 1:45 PM, will be preceded with a potluck dinner that will run from 1-1:40. This is a pleasant time to visit with old friends while welcoming some of the Society's new members. The Society will provide tableware and liquid refreshments. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for some pleasant conversation. For those who have not joined us before, we are very informal and friendly.

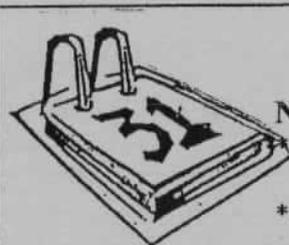
The nominations committee provides the following candidates for the 2009 board of directors: President—Jim Vichich; Vice President—Sue Walters-Steinacker; Secretary—Tom Reinke; Treasurer—Mindy Kinsey; Directors—Marieanna Bair, Dick Weaire, and Dave Ball. John Fillicaro will step back from being a director in 2009 due to time constraints in his work schedule. Many thanks to John for his contributions to the Society! Nominations will also be accepted from Society members in attendance.

A summary will be presented that will include the various activities that the Society has been working on during 2008. An annual financial report will be presented.

This board of directors is an awesome group of volunteers. Their dedication and hard work demonstrates their belief that our Brighton area history is important and that preserving, advancing and disseminating this history must continue. I am very thankful for their dedication! If you enjoy working with good people, and have some time to donate, please consider an investment in your local history by joining us.

I look forward to meeting new faces and seeing the old familiar faces at the annual meeting and if you have any questions, please send an email or give me a call.

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

November

*6,13,20	9-noon	Archives at Lyon School. You can help. Call 229-6402 to confirm
*9	1-4 pm	27 th Annual Meeting of Brighton Area Historical Society
*24	6:30 p.m.	Society board meeting. You are welcome

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

MEMBERSHIPS

COUPLES/INDIV: Mary Ann Catrell, Harold P. Leitz and Dan Schmidt.

A review of the Society's extensive Trail Tales mailing list is underway. If the issue is stamped 'Complementary Copy' near the address label, consideration must be given to the fact there is no interest in receiving Trail Tales.

The Society newsletter mailing expense is approximately \$55.00 per month. Membership dues are designated to General Fund expenses, which include that expense. (Also administration, projects, archives, Historic Resource Survey, Oral History, etc.)

The Society board will continue striving to make receipt of Trail Tales worthy of your interest and membership.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Judy Coebly, June Kinble and Sue Garcia for help in mailing the October Trail Tales.

..... Nancy Russell Cardle (Trenton) for memorabilia regarding Island Lake, National Guard training grounds, Brighton High School annuals, etc., and photos.

.... Mary Ann Catrell for her donation to Society projects and becoming a member of Friends of Lyon School.

SYMPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY

Are extended to the family of

GERRI LEITH

A Member of the Society
And long time Brighton resident

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

The Society suggests you consider some of the items in the Fund Raising Projects listing on page 3. There is a wide range of items and prices available. Any of these would be gladly received by anyone.

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 a contribution

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: a NUMBER OF CALLS REQUESTING FAMILY HISTORICAL INFORMATION HAVE BEEN PROCESSED. Can someone tell us about the c. 1900 Rural Property inventory (was basis for property determination), a WPA-funded project for jobless, i.e. CCC, Post Office artists, etc.? These were major Federal projects during the Depression about which we know too little.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Histories of local businesses, government, etc., sites are continually being filed in a retrievable manner. This collection continues to be refined by Sue Garcia.

CEMETERY HISTORIC SITE APPLICATIONS: Bird, Kensington and Pleasant Valley, in Brighton Township, are being prepared. It's appropriate these cemeteries should be included on the Michigan register. The township board is providing needed care for these sites in which many very early settlers are interred.

CLUSTER MEETING AT HAMBURG

Hosted by the Hamburg Historical Society, members of the Brighton Area, Milford, Northfield and South Lyon Societies, October 16, toured the fine historical museum. Discussion concerned a means of publicizing the various societies' sites.

Green Oak Township Historical Society will host the May 21, 2009, meeting at the 1856 Green Oak Township Hall.

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING

November 9, 2008, 1-4 p.m.
Lyon School; 11455 Buno Road

POT LUCK AND ELECTIONS

Dinner will begin at 1 p.m., General Meeting at 1:45. Bring a dish to pass. Table service, beverage and dessert will be provided. Some of the same delicious dishes served last year are planned.

For fun, a 'grab bag' of estate sales items will be offered. You may also bring your own. DON'T MISS THIS!!!!

TRICK OR TREAT AT LYON SCHOOL

The October Open House was fun for a lot of kids, and adults too. Mindy Kinsey brought an extensive hat collection, which everyone tried on, fanciful pumpkins were painted and cookies and cider devoured. And everyone toured the Lyon School.

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Include Zip and 4 digit)

New () Renew ()

Dues: () \$500.00 Life

() \$25.00 Couple

Send Membership Card yes () no ()

() \$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:

November 23, 1-4 – **Northville Historical Society** – Mill Race Village Christmas with a walk and holiday tea. Reservation and information 248/348-1845.

Late November/December – **Michigan Railroad History Museum and Durand Union Station**, 200 Railroad Street. A Festival of Trees. View the yards from the turret where the dispatcher controlled over 100 trains a day at the crossroads of the Grand Trunk and Ann Arbor Railroads. The restored depot is one of the most photogenic depots in the U.S. Learn the preservation story. 989/288-3551. www.durandstation.org

November 24, 1-3 p.m. – Independence Village at Brighton Valley. A quilt show by residents, including the stories of the quilts.

Listed below are some expressions that were in use in the 18th century and are still commonly used. In some cases the meanings have changed entirely since their inception – in others they have withstood the test of time. [Reprinted from The Essay Spring 2001]

To pull the wool over his eyes

Today it is taken to mean that one has been deceived or hoodwinked. The expression began at a time when gentlemen wore powdered wigs. At that time "wool" was a joking term for hair. The expression came from jokingly tilting a man's wig over his eyes so that he couldn't see what was going on.

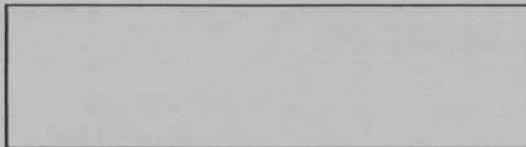
To make faces

This was not a fun activity in which children would engage. To those living in the 18th century through the early 19th century – it meant creating babies!

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



BRIGHTON'S FIRST DEVELOPERS

"Brighton, although not the oldest, is by no means the least considerable of the townships of the County of Livingston. Like many other townships it had, at first, no separate organization, but composed an important part of the Township of Green Oak, and it was not until April, 1838, that it was accorded a distinct existence." Recorded in F.E. Ellis' 'History of Livingston County, Michigan'. Eventually, 1867, from the township would be formed the village of Brighton.

As settlers moved into Michigan, the majority came via the Erie Canal, over Lake Erie, arriving in Detroit. After finding a room to rent for the family, the male members headed west along the Sauk Trail to Ann Arbor and points west, or the Grand River Trail. The trip from Detroit into the interior usually took 2-3 days. Trail markers blazed on trees helped define the way through the wilderness thick with hardwood trees, interspersed with streams, rivers and marshes.

Among those choosing the Grand River Trail were William Noble and son, William, Jr. from Connecticut c. 1835. One also could find Anthony Gale, also from Connecticut, William Dutcher and William McCauley, both from New York on the trail to Brighton.

Altho' the Maltby brothers are credited with being the first arrivals in August, 1832, those that followed were cognizant of the money to be made in reselling land for development. That development was sure to follow the construction of the Maltby's saw mill on Ore Creek.

Horace H. Comstock was already in Kalamazoo County by 1835, living in a town with his name. By March 25, 1833, he owned property in Brighton Township, Section 30; the east ½ of the southwest ¼. Whether he ever even saw the land, this writer cannot determine.

February 20, 1837, Comstock sold his property in Section 30 to William Nobel, Jr., at a time when Brighton Township was still part of Green Oak. By July 3, the Noble plat is prepared – north of Main, east and south of Ore Creek, west of East Street. This was known as; 'lower town'. Brothers Almon and Maynard Maltby were the first to buy in Noble's Plat and built the first frame house in the settlement (southeast corner Grand River and Mill (St. Paul Street).

Anthony Gale had purchased land in 'upper town'. This was located in Section 31, the east half of the northwest ¼, the northeast ¼ of the northeast ¼ and the west ½ of the northeast ¼. This he sold by 1840, retaining Gale's Addition, the area around the intersection of Grand River and Rickett Road.

Dutcher's Plat was in the area of Grand River, Spencer and Church Streets. Gale also sold to Harvey T. Lee, which then became J.B. Lee's Addition east along Spencer and McCauley's Addition was east along Grand River. McCauley was a merchant with a store on the southwest corner of Grand River and North later a furniture store.

"Wm. Noble, Jr., came from New England and brought with him many Puritanical ideas. He was very scrupulous in his religious duties, and held the use of liquor an abomination, which, in those tippling days, was sufficient to confirm his reputation for eccentricity." "Anthony Gale is described as a man of irascible temper, quick to resent a real or fancied wrong, but withal, a kind-hearted, and keen and active man of business." (Quotes are from Ellis' 1880 History.)

An early purchaser in the Dutcher Plat was Robert D. Power, who put up a log public house-tavern in 1836, on the northeast corner of Grand River and Noble (Spencer). Ellis describes him as a man of "much force and intuitive shrewdness, and being somewhat inclined to politics, exerted a considerable influence in that direction among the early settlers of the neighborhood." Shortly after the formation of Brighton Township, an organizational meeting was held at the home of Daniel Lane in Section 17. Various officers were selected with William Noble, Jr. as Clerk. William Pless notes there was no treasurer selected, as there was no money anyway. Compiled by Maricanna Baird in the 1880 History of Livingston County; William Pless' writings; Early Landowners and Settlers in Livingston County by Milton Charboneau; From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945 by Carol McMacken. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)