

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

www.brightonareahistorical.com

Trail Tales

October 2008
Vol. XXVII No. 10

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

RECOGNITION OF THE PAST- STATE OF MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKERS

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The State of Michigan offers a Historical Marker Program to inform the public about buildings, structures, and sites of historical interest. These markers inform the public of the importance of Michigan history. Connections are made between the present and the past. These connections encourage preservation of Michigan's past and allow the public to develop a sense of identity that is unique to our state. These markers promote cultural tourism in the state by supporting residents and visitors to investigate Michigan history and the state's historic sites.

Brighton Township recently approved funding for getting three historic markers. The desire is to get a marker for each of the three historic cemeteries: Bird, Pleasant Valley and Kensington. These markers have text that will recognize an early community leader or organization that was associated with a contribution that helped to evolve the early Brighton Township community.

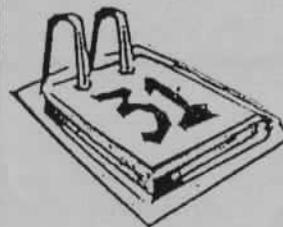
This marker project is a joint project with the Brighton Area Historical Society and Brighton Township. The township will purchase the historical markers and the Society will provide, at no charge, the resources to conduct research, provide all the documentation, complete the application forms and submit them to the Michigan Historical Commission.

The Brighton Area Historical Society looks forward to joining the Brighton Township Board in preserving the memories and paying respect to our early community members that endured difficult, and challenging situations as our community evolved.

Commendations go to Bud Prine, Township Supervisor and to the Brighton Township Board for their strong support of the historic markers for the township cemeteries!

Jim Vichich

Dates to Remember



October

| | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| * 9,16,23,30 | 9-noon | Archives at Lyon School. Your help is needed. Call 229-6402 to confirm |
| *12, | 1-4 pm | Lyon School Open House - Trick or Treat |
| *27 | 6:30 pm | Society Board Meeting. Welcome. |

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

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Tom & Mindy Kinsey

COUPLES/INDIV: Pat Anderson, Irene Ellis, Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), *Jim Fox, *Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Dick & Mary Jean Richter, *Lois Tobias (NE).

*A sincere welcome to Jim, Tom & Ute and Lois as new members. With the continued support of new and continuing members, the Society can continue fulfilling its mission.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Jackie Damm and Sue Garcia for help in mailing the September issue.

..... The FONSECAS (AZ) for sending an address change. (Saves .42 ¢)

.... Irene Ellis, Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), and Tom & Mindy Kinsey for their Friends of Lyon School membership of 09. Friends of Lyon School is an opportunity for designation of funds to help with continued maintenance and utility expenses. The Society is not a manufacturing business. All income is generated by members and the public. You are encouraged to consider becoming a Friend of Lyon School.

.....Jim Fox for contributing to Society projects.

....Jim & Vicki Vichich and Mindy Kinsey for their dedication in hosting the Society booth at the Farmers' Market and the Harvest Fest. The Society booth is a major means of informing the public of the Society, its mission and how to be of help.

.....Jim Vichich for seeing to the building of a new gate at Lyon School.

.....Mindy Kinsey and Sue Walters-Steinacker for the great quilt show at the recent Lyon School Open House. The weather wasn't the greatest, but a goodly number of visitors attended.

..... Larry Lawrence for the several photos, c. 1970s, of 302/306 W. Grand River and the interior of the Canopy Hotel when it was noted statewide for its food, ambiance, conviviality, décor, service, etc.

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**

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Continual digitizing of compiled local histories is in need of volunteers. A few hours a week would be a big help. This is not done just for the Society it's being done for your community.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: As information is gathered, the documentation of each address can become more complete. As a for instance: each block of Main Street has a 3" notebook of histories of each address. Help is needed to properly file information in a research-friendly manner. Each Thursday, 9-noon, volunteers are at the Lyon School assisting the completeness of these records. Your help would be welcome.

CEMETERY SITE REGISTRATION: Preparation of the application to the Michigan Historic Marker program is continuing in regard to the Kensington Baptist Cemetery. Proper documentation of the history, the site's significance in the community, that it represents a valued portion of local history which should be commemorated with an historic marker, all must be conveyed to the Michigan Historic Commission.

The Marker program not only informs the traveling public, but also the local residents who are often unaware of the area's past. Application will also be made for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery and the Bird Cemetery.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

..... Funding assistance for the Lyon School insurance premium

.....Booth helpers for the remaining October Farmers' Markets. Contact Jim Vichich 810/227-4840.

..... Helpers with Lyon School maintenance, the barn search committee, support the Society with a year on the board, or the fund raising committee to organize a home, town, cemetery, business, etc., tour, etc., etc., etc.

..... Reviewers of photos to determine their value to the society and how best to file them.

SYPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY
are extended to the family of

JIM WINCHEL

Member of the Society
And former Mayor of Brighton

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

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\$\$\$ 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:

October 9, 7:30 pm, **Plymouth Historical Society** - www.plymouthhistory.com or 734/455-8940. "Two Centuries of American Fashion" by Pam Yockey.

October 19, 2-4 pm, **Green Oak Twp. Historical Society**, Old. 1856 Twp. Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road. Pot Luck. Program on the 19th Amendment. www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.com

October 22, 7:30 pm - **Salem Area Historical Society**, www.sahshistory.org, Restoration of Old Gravestones.

October 25, 10 am - 5 pm **Salem Area Historical Society** - Country Fair/Flea Market.

November 6, 7 pm - **Livingston County Genealogical Society**, Howard Armstrong - "Early Livingston County, A First-Hand Perspective." www.rootsweb.com/~milcgs

November 7 & 8 - **MOHA Annual Conference**, Rogers City, www.michiganoha.org or 517/321-1746.

November 28, 29 - **Hamburg Historical Society**, Holiday Shopping Boutique in museum at 7225 Stone Street.

December 13, 14 - **Saline Area Historical Society** - Christmas on the Farm in 1930.

TRICK OR TREAT AT LYON SCHOOL

October 12, 1-4 p.m.

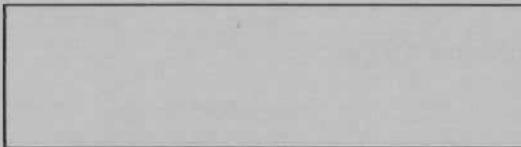
Select your pumpkin and paint it. Then take it home. Have fun in the same school room children used 123 years ago. Treats and refreshments.

Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 9. Plan to attend and have your say as to Society projects, goals, future plans. Consider serving on the board or on a committee. Elections will be held.

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

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THE WEST SIDE OF THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST GRAND RIVER

Upcoming planned changes to the built landscape of Noble's 1837 Plat of Brighton, which includes new construction on both sides of Grand River north of St. Paul Street, encourage a study of previous uses of lots 40-43 on the west side.

Citing the 1875 Plat map of Brighton Village, beginning with lot #43 (northwest corner of W. Grand River and St. Paul Street), one notes a structure and the name of H. (Henry) W. Pipp as owner. Pipp was a wagon maker and owned a hardware store. He was Village President in 1869-70. By 1902, the Stuhburg bothers were on that lot, perhaps in Pipp's old house. (They were proprietors of the Eastern House, a block south.) As gasoline engines began to supplant horses, the house was replaced with a gasoline/service station. Various brands were sold throughout the years. By 1946, Earl Smith ran his Super Service Mobil Gas at 205 W. Grand River. A service station was on the site until the early 1970s, when Ann Arbor Trust Bank was built. Banking facilities have been on this site since then, most recently TCF Bank.

Lots 41 and 42, in 1875, are owned by Ransom M. Fillmore and wife Viola. A structure is indicated on lot 42. In the 1950s, Mrs. Olive Rose was the proprietor of the Homestead Restaurant, formerly a house. In 1952, there was a fire in the upper floor. The Brighton Fire Department determined a defective neon sign might have been the cause. Mrs. Rose said it would be only two weeks before repairs would be completed and the business would resume. In 1953, Virginia Bamber Disspain bought the site and opened Virginia's Beauty Shop on the first floor at 225. Virginia and husband, Tom, lived on the second floor. In ten years, the building was razed to be replaced with a brick structure (1963). Their living quarters were in the south portion, her beauty shop in the north. Virginia was in business until shortly before she died in 2007. Tom preceded her in 1989.

Although not included in the recent development changes, it appears that 301 W. Grand River is on lot #40, including the area platted for Nelson Street as shown on the old plat map, but which was never constructed. At that time, C.F. Cushing, with a home indicated, is owner of the lot. Research provides evidence Cushing is the owner of a substantial number of lots in the Noble Plat. Roy Murray's Service Station was built on this site in the early 1940s. AA Muffler and Brakes does business there now.

All of these lots are bounded on the west by an alley between them and the Old Village Cemetery.

Proceeding north on Grand River, the grade gradually rises until Flint Street, then gradually slopes down to the bridge over Ore Creek. Much of the land of lots 40-43 was low and marshy. It is estimated four feet of fill provides today's grade for both the structures and the street.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the Society's Historic Resource Survey; Plat maps; Wm. Pless' Supplement to the Old Village Cemetery records; interview with Larry Lawrence. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)