

# Trail Tales

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

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## PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING THE COMMUNITY CEMETERIES

If you have visited the Bird, Pleasant Valley or Kensington Cemeteries located in Brighton Township over the past five years, you will note that there has been a priority given to the continuous improvements in the appearance of these cemeteries. Many thanks go to the Brighton Township Board and to the Supervisor, Bud Prine. Bud has established a Perpetual Maintenance Fund and the Board is in strong support of this Fund. This Fund has annual money dedicated to the maintenance and renewal of these burial grounds. It is a wonderful tribute to the early settlers of the Brighton Township community for these grounds to get a refreshing makeover and to receive the care and upkeep that has been lacking in past decades.

Kensington Cemetery (c.1839), located at the northwest corner of Kensington Road and Grand River, is in a process of renewal. New metal fence that resembles wrought iron is replacing the old cyclone style fence on the south and east sides of the property. A new, arched entrance gate with cemetery name will welcome visitors. Gravel fill and grading of the parking area will enhance this entrance.

Pleasant Valley (c.1843) and Bird (c.1823) Cemeteries, both located on Pleasant Valley Road between Jacoby and Kensington Roads, were renewed in the last few years with improved fencing and signage.

All three cemeteries require future renewal work. A comprehensive plan for restoring the sites needs to be completed prior to work, due to the overgrowth of vegetation around headstones and the uncontrolled development of trees and brush along the property lines.

The Brighton Township Board and Bud Prine are to be commended for recognizing the need for improvement and for making positive enhancements to these historic sites. We are hopeful the new supervisor and board will continue with the same strong support!

Jim Vichich



## Dates to Remember

### September

- \* 4,11,18,25: 9-noon. Archives at Lyon School. 229-6402 to confirm. Your help is needed.
- 6: 8-noon. Farmers' Market. To help, call 810/227-4840.
- \*14: 1-4 pm.. Lyon School Open House. Annual Quilt Show.
- \*22: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. You are welcome

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

**PATRON:** Norma Jean Pless (Roscommon).

**COUPLES/INDIV:** \*Denise Dadinno, Emil & Joan Engel (09), Nora E. Miller (09), \*Rev. Dr. Sherry L. Parker (09), \*Bob Phillips (A2, 09).

\*A warm welcome to Denise, Sherry and Bob, and appreciation to those renewing members. Memberships are the life blood of any organization and encourages all to new heights of support.

A 'Complementary Copy' stamp by the mailing label indicates 2008 dues have not been received.

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## THANKS    THANKS    THANKS

..... Judy Coebly, Jackie Damm and Sue Skwarski for helping prepare the August Newsletter issue for mailing.

..... Milton Charboneau for a copy of North Hamburg Cemetery records.

.... Bernon Young (FL) for records of the Brown, Drake, Lee and Lyon family connections and their relationship to local history.

.....Lois Watson Tobias (NE) for the original Crooked Lake Highland Subdivision plat maps, showing its development and permission to scan two picture books of photos of the evolution of a cottage at the lake.

.... Bob Phillips for his donation with dues to a Society project.

.....Norma Jean Pless for her donation to Friends of Lyon School. (Funds are dedicated to preservation and utility expenses.)

.....Heidi Clausnitzer, Marian Comiskey, Jeanette Johnson, Mindy Kinsey, Shirley Knight, Carol McMacken, Tom Reinke, Jim & Vicki Vichich, Sue Walters-Steinacker, Lucille Weaire, and Hank Winegar for their fine help at the booth at the Art Fair last month.

..... David Bogden for lending photos, c. 1950-60, for scanning, of the Rosenbrook Fishing and Sports Shop, 201 E. Grand River.

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

## PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

**ARCHIVES:** To make more complete the record of the evolution of the Brighton area (Brighton city, Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships), it is important that your photos be scanned for filing. The Society is always searching for photos, maps, memoirs, your story, to compile the story of the development of the area. You are encouraged to contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-4840, to make arrangements. Membership is not a necessary element.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY:** Review of early journals, stories, newspapers, etc., helps determine the histories of local structures and sites. You can be of help, 810/229-6402. The Historic Resource Survey files are in need of phone directories prior to 1987.

**LYON SCHOOL:** Continued preservation helps keep this building in usable condition. Be sure to visit September 14, 1-4 p.m. Open House. The annual QUILT SHOW is planned.

**FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY,** the story of Brighton is available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River.

## HELP IS NEEDED

September 6, a Society booth will be at the Farmers' Market. This is a fine way to acquaint people with the Society and its mission. Come spend an hour or helping or, at least, stop and visit.

September 27, the Society will participate in the Brighton Harvest Fest with a booth on Main Street. Call 248/684-0340 and tell Mindy you would like to help.

## MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE REGISTER

An application is being prepared to include the historic Kensington Cemetery, corner of East Grand River and Kensington Road, on the Register. When accepted, one of those distinctive historic site markers will be installed.

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The sympathies of the Society  
are extended to the family of

**CHARMAINE ZINK**

She was a long-time member of the Society

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## 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 Ocoela. 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

A PARTNERSHIP

The Brighton district Library is partnering with the Society to compile a complete collection of issues of the Brighton Argus in anticipation of microfilming for research.

The Argus began publication in the 1890s. Do you have any ideas as to where these might be located?

Occasionally, bound volumes are in storage. Can you help with this search?

Argus issues for 1940-65 are also needed. Contact Mindy Kinsey, 248/684-0340.

QUILT SHOW AT OPEN HOUSE LYON SCHOOL
September 14, 1-4

quilts of all colors and designs to view. Tour this historic building and learn how it was saved, too.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

September 20, 10-4, Hamburg History Days, P.O. Box 968, Hamburg, 48139, 810/986-0190.

October 12, Pioneer Day at Waterloo Area Historical Society. Also December 6 & 7 - Christmas on the Farm. www.waterloofarmmuseum.org.

November 1, 8:30-6, Michigan History Museum and MHM Docent Guild, Lansing. Experts in museum interpretation, meet docents/volunteers. Tami Averill, Curator of Education, 517/241-4960 or averill@michigan.gov.

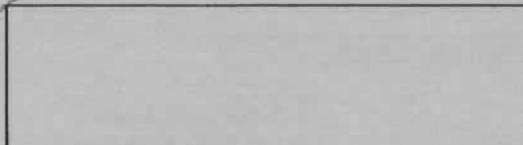
November 7 & 8, Michigan Oral History Association Annual Conference in Rogers City, 517/321-1746, or www.michiganoha.org

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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### A WALK NORTH ON THE EAST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER

A walk north on the east side of Grand River, in 1870, brought one past the Brighton Hotel (lots 47-48), noting the large barn to the east along East Fitch Street. The M.L. Case store (lot 49) is adjacent, bordering the Martin Wickes store (lot 50) and DuBois' blacksmith shop (lot 51). After crossing Mill Street (St. Paul Street, 2008), one notices a large home (lots 52-53), which appears to be the residence of the Cushings. The next two lots (54-55) would include M.D.L. Townsend's residence.

It is helpful to note that the first purchasers of land, c. 1834-36, in the area known as Brighton, quickly prepared plat maps, with streets sketched and natural features noted. Lots were designated and numbered. The owners speedily returned to the East and encouraged others to buy their lots in what would soon be a booming city. When electricity became available, addresses included site numbers. Lots 52-55 were numbered from 200-300. A May 1928 note in the Brighton Argus says, "David Reed is erecting a fine new garage on his property (#204) on Grand River". 2008 finds Matthew's B.P. Station at #204.

Lot 54 included numbers 216-222, which hosted a great variety of businesses in the two-story brick structure with rental apartments on the second floor. At various times, one found groceries and confections (Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kless in 1927); G.D. Van Camp Chevrolet service garage, 1940-1947. Ann's Dress Shop, 216 W. Grand River, was bought by Mary Mathias and Donna Nelson in October 1946, followed by Vogue Drycleaners in 1951. Meanwhile at 220, attorney Kenneth Weber had his office there in 1950. B.H. Morton has an aluminum storm door business in 1952. From 1950 to May 1963, Covietz Buick had a dealership. Podiatrist Dr. Owen Fowler practices in 1955. Realtor Donald Henkelman was at 222 in 1967, followed by The King's Things (antiques and gifts) in 1981. Brighton Garage Door Sales had offices there 1997-2001. Most recently Herb Munzell's Engineering and Survey Company conducted business until 2001.

By 1927, the Washington movie theater was located across the back of the building, which also served as a grades 5-8 classroom for a time in the 1927-28 school year.

300 W. Grand River also has a history. The Brite Spot Lunch was in place in the 1930-40s. The Blue Goose Bus could be boarded there. In 1947, one could catch a taxi from the site. It was run by various local people into the 1950s. By 1954, a beauty salon and barbershop could be patronized. By the mid 1980s, one could purchase flowers from the Country Lane Flower Shop.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the Society's Historic Resource Survey; telephone directories, atlases, Milt Charoneau's Brighton Landowners and Carol McMacken's From Settlement to City - Brighton - 1832-1945. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)