

Trail Tales

April 2009
Vol. XXVIII No. 4

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

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY-THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

Join the cleanup of the Old Village Cemetery May 2, 2009 from 10:00 until 3:00 PM

As beautiful as the Millpond Park appears from ground level, few people within the Brighton community have seen the millpond from above. This view from above is awesome from the peaceful setting of mature oaks, maples and pines that are surrounded by a handsome, black, wrought iron fence. Hidden inside the fence, below the canopy of the trees, you will find the names of prominent and ordinary folks from Brighton's earlier history. Headstones record the passing of these community members. Many children are buried here and serve as a testimony of the trying and difficult times experienced by all the early settlers.

Melting glaciers from 10,000 years ago left this deposit of sand that forms an overlook, which is about 12 feet higher than the millpond. It is from this knoll that one sees the panoramic view of the downtown park from this early burying ground. People have an opportunity to visit these graves, participate in this important cemetery cleanup, and see the view from above the millpond.

One of the goals of this cleanup is to have the Old Village Cemetery in respectful condition for Memorial Day, May 25. There are over 30 graves of veterans whose final resting spot is here. War veterans of the Blackhawk, Civil, Spanish-American Wars, WWI and WW II are part of the rich Brighton history.

The Brighton Area Historical Society recognizes the contributions that our service men and women have made to protect freedom. Please join the working teams on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00-3:00 PM as we revitalize these beautiful grounds and provide a respectful setting. We are guaranteed a spring day that will provide beauty and fellowship to all participants.

Workers will need to bring their steel rakes, grass/leave rakes, shovels, axes, branch/brush shears, bow saws and work gloves. Some adults with chain saws will be needed to cut down the marked, small weed trees, up to six inches in diameter. Please call me to signup so that I can plan work accordingly. Everyone is needed!

Jim Vichich

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT / EDITOR

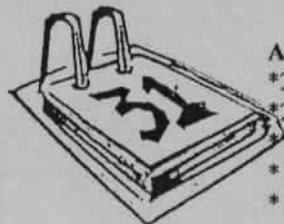
Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Education Liaison

Judith Coebly
810/229-4608

Sue Skwarski
810/225-0908

Dates to Remember



April

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| *2,9,16,23,30: | 9-noon | Archiving. You can help. Call 229-6402 |
| *2,9,16,23,30: | 10-4 p.m. | Lyon School is open |
| *7,21: | 9-12 | Scanning of Society holdings |
| *16,30: | 1-4 p.m. | Scanning of Society holdings |
| *19: | 1-4 p.m. | Lyon School Open House with Program:
Story Tellers' Day. |
| *22 | 6:30 pm | Society Board meets. You are welcome. |

Please call 810/229-6402 for more information.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Margo Metzger

COUPLES/INDIV: Sue Coebly & Gary Reuter, Denise Daddino, Susan D. Foster (CA), Lynnette K. Hawkins, Bill & Helen Hyne (OR), Rudy & Doreen Meffert, *Jim Miller, Shirley Ritter (Hwll), Harold Salow, Rosemary Ulmer (Whtmr. Lk).

*A sincere welcome to Jim Miller, the most recent new member. New members keep the Society growing, renewing members keep the Society steady. All find multiple volunteer opportunities, many of which are found in these pages.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Judy Coebly, Sue Skwarski and Jim Vichich for their help in mailing the March issue of Trail Tales.

..... Ray Tovar. Commander of VFW #4257. Arrangements are made to provide sufficient holders and flags for veterans in the Old Village Cemetery, by the millpond, in time for Memorial Day. The Society will take responsibility for placement.

..... Mike Kinaschuk, Larry Lawrence, John Lillienthal, Brenda Moline, and Jim Vichich for scanning archive material to a disc for preservation and research.

..... Susan D. Foster (CA), Phillis Kerslake (GrPtF), Margo Metzger, Bob & Ruth Watson (Hwll), and Kyle Muller Wilson for their generous donations to the various projects of the Society with their memberships.

..... John & Barbara Jacoby (MN), Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Helen Leitz (Drbn), Bill McConnell (Drbn), Margo Metzger, Tedd & Linda Potter, Harold Salow, and Kyle Muller Wilson for their 2009 membership to Friends of Lyon School.

..... Larry Lawrence and Norma Jean Pless for their significant help with Society archives.

..... Larry Lawrence for seeing to the printing of 1915 township atlas maps.

..... Sue Garcia and Jim Miller for work on the Historic Resource Survey.

2009 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., *Lawrence Autobody; *Patrick Financial Group, LLS; and *Promess, Their support is deeply appreciated. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

*Life Members

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Our readers have memories of the area as no one else. A record, of some sort, should be made. A place to begin would be any Thursday a.m. at the Lyon School. You will be able to fill in a lot of blank areas with your memories. **Larry Lawrence** and **Norma Jean Pless** have added much to the indexing of local history. You can help answer the many questions that come up.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: New Member, **Jim Miller**, has taken much interest working with **Sue Garcia** in preparing histories of local addresses, especially businesses. More researcher(s) are needed in compiling backgrounds for rural property in the area.

LYON SCHOOL: **Sue Daniels**, and three other members of the Midwest Outdoor Museum Coordinating Council, toured the Lyon School. Their attention to the donation box is much appreciated.

ORAL HISTORY: There are many long-time residents whose memories should be recorded. Procedures are in place to assure both interviewer and interviewee have a mutually enjoyable experience. You can be that interviewer. Interviewees will appreciate someone cared enough to conduct the interview – and you will find you've learned a great deal.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

..... blue print type file cabinet, for archiving large printed materials.

..... hosts for Lyon School open hours each Thursday.

..... archive helpers.

..... oral historians.

..... copies of the 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 local censuses and the 1890 Residents of Livingston County: available from the Livingston County Genealogical Society.

..... scanners of Society archives.

.....workers for the cleanup of the Old Village Cemetery May 2

Questions regarding any of the above may be referred to 810/227-4840 or 810/229-6402.

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 ()
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.

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.

For more information, call 810/229-6402

April 19: 1-4, STORYTELLERS DAY AT LYON SCHOOL

Hear folks talk about growing up in the Brighton area. Stories include adventures, entertainment, and more. Program will be shared with friends of the Brighton District Library. Bring used books to donate. Refreshments.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 19: Saline Historical Society. Trip to Gordon Hall, Dexter. Register - www.salinehistory.org or call 734/944-0442.

May 2: Milford Museum opens for the season. www.milfordhistory.org or 248/685-7308.

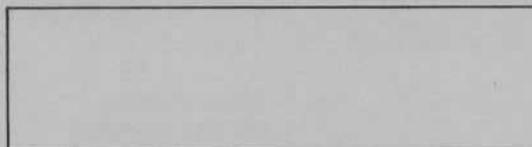
May 2/Dec.: 11 a.m. Saline Historical Society. Rentschler Farm Museum. 734/944-0442.

May 16: 2 p.m. Saline Historical Society. Steven Mills re: Houses of Washtenaw County. 734/944-0442.

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



THE MARTIN FAMILY OF HAMBURG IN 1885

(Installment two)

Malone Boswick is living with her daughter and family, Minnie and Hiram Martin, in Section 4 of Hamburg Township. In 1885, she kept a small diary detailing the hardships, heartbreaks and joyful successes of rural life of the time. The family strives to survive beginning with a very cold January with much snow.

Spring heralds the arrival of warm weather and the preparation necessary for the crops, to be grown for themselves and their livestock, begins.

May 18 reads "A very warm day. Strong south wind with little dashes of rain. Mr. Mangle's baby died. Jennie Sexton came for a dress to put on it to bury it. Evening very cool." This shocking entry is later followed on July 30; "Mr. Mangle died from sunstroke while working in the field. Temperature 80° at 8 p.m." It had been 90°-102° that week. A day later Hiram and others interrupt the haying harvest to attend his funeral at the Lutheran Cemetery in Genoa. Mrs. Boswick's interpolation of life and death is startling to read.

Farmers of the time either brought with them the knowledge of the hard work of the routine of farming or soon learned. The entire family helped with everything from the preparation of the fields, with very little mechanical help, to the final harvest of hay, wheat, corn, potatoes, apples and garden produce. Milk and eggs were usually available as was meat from the livestock raised. Reading the details of caring for the stock and the preparation of food prior to serving at dinner could easily make one weary.

Mrs. Boswick records that beans are planted and sheep were washed, in June, in readiness for shearing. The Martin boys, Wheeler 8, and Smith 5, appear to have overcome the whooping cough, which dogged them all last winter. But little Annie is still not very strong. Mr. & Mrs. Stewart celebrated a 30th anniversary with a big party. A cow dies giving birth, a baby boy is born at Ralph Beurmann's. "Mr. Martin begins the haying - signaling it by cutting off the legs of two hens before 10 o'clock." The very hot days include very strong winds. Again one notes the neighborly cooperation so vital to the success of each of them with haying and the wheat, corn and bean harvests as these crops ripen. A neighbor brings the first red raspberries and Minnie goes huckleberry picking a few miles west in the huckleberry swamp, and "... new apple pie for dinner."

One usually walked to the church on Swarhout Road, 1½ miles south, to hear a missionary or a lecture. An occasional baseball game made a Sunday complete.

When flour for the kitchen was needed, a trip to the mill at Pettysville or Campellton with a load of wheat ensued. Some was traded to the miller to pay for the milling, the rest sold to him. Later that fall two yearling cattle are driven to Mr. Pottertown in Hamburg. (Probably driven south on Chilson and Hamburg Roads, c. 5-6 miles)

Late August brought new excitement. The Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan Railroad is being built. It parallels Chilson Road about ¼ mile east of the Martin's. August also brought watermelon.

By September it was time to separate the ewes from the lambs. A trip to Brighton, when Minnie bought a raincoat and umbrella, also brought sweet potatoes. "...the first we have had." The pears are picked and preserved. Despite high winds, winter wheat is drilled September 16. In a week the Howell Fair opens. The bean shellers with the machine finally arrive. These beans will be taken to Brighton, perhaps to sell to the Hyne Elevator. An eclipse of the moon is observed by the family. During the year Mrs. Boswick notes meteors, sun dogs and northern lights. (To be concluded.)

Compiled by Marianne Bair from a diary loaned by Larry Lawrence; census records; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.