

Trail Tales

June 2009
Vol. XXVIII No. 6

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

SUMMER WORK ASSISTANCE NEEDED

JULY 18, SATURDAY, 10-3 PM AT LYON SCHOOL

The exterior wood clapboard of Lyon School is in need of painting. The harsh effects of the multiple -10 degree nights this past winter accelerated the peeling paint in many areas. Scraping and priming will be required in these areas before painting. The exterior will need to be power washed at low pressure using TSP and bleach the week prior to painting.

The field stone foundation is in need of a skilled person who can tuck-point some of the areas where the old mortar is crumbling. The stone foundation, circa 1880's, is exposed approximately 8-12 inches below the wood frame construction and is easily accessible.

Please call Jim Vichich to volunteer for painting, power washing, or tuck-pointing. 810.227.4840 (H) or 517.304.7722 (C)

AUGUST 8 AND 9, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DOWNTOWN FOR ART FESTIVAL

The booth for the historical society will be setup on Main Street for this two-day event. This event has always been popular and all workers have enjoyed themselves. The historical society will be selling items as this occasion provides funds for the operation of the Society. Work shifts are in two-hour blocks, and you are sheltered under a white canopy tent if you would like to avoid the sun exposure on these beautiful days of August. Hours of operation are from 10-6 PM on Saturday and 10-5 PM on Sunday.

Please call Mindy Kinsey to volunteer. 248.684.0340.

The Brighton Area Historical Society depends on the generosity of its members and the community to provide cost effective help with its community-based programs. Your volunteer work talents provide significant returns to our community and are greatly appreciated!

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

Jim Miller
810/923-8498

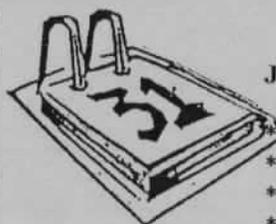
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT / EDITOR

Marieanna Bair
810/229-6402

Education Liaison

Judith Coebly
810/229-4608

Sue Skwarski
810/225-0908



Dates to Remember

June

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 6, 13, 20, 27: 8 a.m. | Society booth at Farmers' Market |
| *4, 11, 18, 25: 9-noon | Archiving. Welcome |
| *4, 11, 18, 25: 9-4 p.m. | Lyon School is open to public |
| *21 | 1-4 p.m. Open House, Father's Day Car Show |
| *24 | 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

COUPLES/INDIV: Ed & Pat Convery, *Tom & Bonnie Riutta, Barbara Smith (2010), and Ralph & Sue Skwarski.

*Welcome to new members Tom and Bonnie. Their interest is much appreciated.

The Society is composed of people who care that this organization is collecting, preserving, and disseminating the history of the Brighton area. This can continue as long as others show their support financially through membership and contributions and donations (or a copy) of items, photos, stories, etc., of local and historical interest.

THE ARCHIVES

Each Thursday, 9-noon, a dedicated group meets at Lyons School to compile the history of the area in a manner that preserves that history and enables research.

No matter how long you've lived here, your help is welcome. Direction will be given on the work to be done when you arrive. Lyon School is located on Buno Road between Van Amberg and Pleasant Valley Roads.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN

Nine to four each Thursday, the OPEN sign is on the door welcoming visitors. Exhibits are on display, the schoolroom can be toured and the archives are open for inspection.

To schedule your serving as a host, contact President Jim Vichich.

STUDENTS VISIT FOR A DAY

The Lyon School was again ringing with children's voices in May. Students from Hornung School spent four days experiencing a one-room schoolhouse education. Any school or teacher may contact the Society to schedule a visit.

FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW

June 21, 2009, 1-4 p.m.

Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road

Between Van Amberg and Pleasant Valley Roads

No Entry Fee – No Prizes – Just Fun

Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda

All vehicles welcome

Livingston County Humane Society Co-hosting

Donations of Pet Food Welcome

YOUR MEMORIES VALUED

Many who receive this newsletter have memories of people, events and incidents of earlier days in the Brighton area (including surrounding townships). You are asked, and encouraged, to set these memories on paper or computer or e-mail, what ever. You can add life and animation to the story of this area. Your story will leave a void if it's missing.

If you want corroboration your memories are important, please call a board member. These memories will make more whole the story of the area.

The Society Extends Sincere Sympathy
To the family of

HORACE P. TAYLOR

Lifelong resident of the area and
Contributing member of the Society

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

June 14: **Wixom Historical Society** holds Ice Cream Social, 1-4 p.m. 248/624-4557.

June 16: **South Lyon Historical Society** present 'Cryptic Clues in the Bone Yard', and

June 20: a cemetery tour, 'Men That Worked at the Depot.' 248/437-9929, and

September 12: 'South Lyon Depot Day'. 248/437-9929.

BRIGHTON ART FESTIVAL

August 8-9

The Society booth will need many to help. This is always a fine opportunity to assure the community is aware of the Society's existence. Contact Mindy Kinsey to schedule your several hours.

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

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, Well 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

THANKS TO

Bert Bair, Sue Garcia, Sue Skwarski for help mailing the May newsletter.

Those who sent changes of address.

Mindy Kinsey, Jim Miller, Tom Niemeyer, Jim Vichich, et al, for tending the Society booth at Brighton Farmers' Market.

Contributors of plants for exchange day, May 17, Lyon School Open House.

Jim Miller for taking 'today' photos, complementing the 'yesterday' photos in the file.

Brenda Moline for weekly scanning archives into the computer.

George Moses of Marketeer for the DVD of a movie made at Brighton's centennial, 1967.

Linda Wintermute, Mel Skeman's daughter, for the 1915 Livingston County Atlas, 1929 International Atlas, 1880 History of Livingston County and her father's school slate.

Barbara Smith for becoming a Friend of Lyon School, 2010.

Shirley Knight for the 1908-1909 record book of business activities at Stewart's Elevator by the railroad track. Are there any others out there?

Dave Ball for developing the Society's web site. Check for

yourself how well he's doing.

Mindy Kinsey, Jim Miller, Jim Vichich for preparing new displays of artifacts in the Lyon School. See for yourself at Open House, June 21.

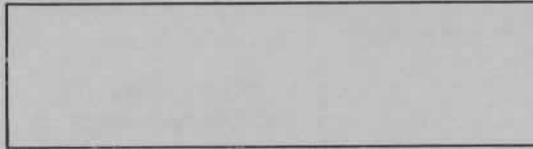
LYON SCHOOL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE
One's home always needs maintenance. The Society's home is no different. Cleaning, scraping, painting are planned July 14, 18, 27. Contact President Vichich regarding when and how you can help.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ... NOW
Several have committed to being interviewed for the Oral History project. More interviewers are needed. The Society feels a strong sense of urgency regarding this project. (Longer-time members of the community are leaving us each day.) Training is available. You'll be surprised how enjoyable this project is. The board is researching the purchase of a camcorder for this project. Donations can be made toward this item.

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 OWN CARNIVAL MAN

New York was the state from which large numbers of the Brighton area's settlers came. However, members of the Tanner family also called Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island home. Among the earliest in the county were John b. 1800, Lucretia b. 1791, and Sylvester and Albert b. 1824. However, these Tanners settled in Tyrone, Conway and Handy Townships, 1850.

Abigail (b. 1785 MA) Tanner's son John W., b. 1811 N.Y., married Harriet Case (daughter of Samuel) c. 1826 in N.Y. Harriet's birthday was July 22, 1806. They had four sons. No later record has been found of John W. nor of son Russell, b. 1843.

With sons George C., b. November 1836, John J., b. August 27, 1838, and Charles F., b. August 1844, Harriet moved to Michigan in the early 1860s. (Perhaps she wanted to be with her many Case relatives already settled here in Michigan.)

These three established themselves in the Brighton area. George was active politically; he was Brighton Village's first Street Commissioner (Village organized March, 1867). George's wife, another Harriet Case, lived only a few years after their marriage, dying December 21, 1883. She, with George's second wife Clarissa Hause, is buried in Chilson Cemetery. George's burial site has not been established. Of their two sons, Lewis and Egbert, there is no further record. A daughter, Edna, who married a Weston, d. at 26. Her obituary indicates burial in the Village Cemetery, but this is not verified.

Son Charles F. married Amelia Campbell February 6, 1867, and appears to have been a dentist in Brighton post Civil War. Local historian, Bill Pless, describes Harriet's son John J. as "One of Brighton's unforgettable characters." He writes "John had toured with a carnival, owning and operating a merry-go-round, a ride called the 'Ocean Wave' and a small, four-seat wood Ferris wheel." In that day, horses powered the rides, doing double duty by pulling the wagons loaded with the rides, to the next carnival site. Probably the most eccentric part of his show was a side show where he exhibited his long beard. A rather short man, he'd stand on a box displaying a beard longer than he was tall. Between shows the beard was stored in a long cloth sack under his clothes, extending down one pant leg. Between seasons, the carnival equipment was stored in a barn near his house.

When not on the road, John J. met the train with an enclosed coach, to take travelers to the local hotels. The coach was stored in the barn when the carnival rides were on the road. Let us imagine "Old John wearing a beaver hat, long-tailed coat, sitting high up on the front of the hack, whip in hand, driving his old pair of horses." Brass buckles, ivory rings and jingling chains added to the scene.

When Henry Ford first began developing Greenfield Village, the countryside was searched for items depicting life of an earlier day. He purchased the coach from John J. By then John J. had married Emma Elton of Hamburg, years earlier, c. 1870. This couple, their lifestyle, appearance and individuality fascinated Mr. Ford. He had concerns because of their age and arranged for them to have a complete checkup at his hospital in Detroit, inviting them to stay until they were well and strong and ready to return to their home in Brighton. The hospital's top floor was where prominent persons recuperated. Amenities included afternoon tea. Pless relates Emma enjoyed living like a queen and was in no hurry to get home; becoming so demanding of the staff they were at wits end. But one didn't complain to Mr. Ford. John J. finally got homesick.

On the northwest corner of Beaver and East Streets in Brighton, John J. Tanner's house still stands. A 15 acre strip extending east for 1/4 mile, about 1/8 mile wide had been purchased from brother George C. in 1869. Children enjoyed playing in 'Tanner's Woods'. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records; Milton Charboneau's First Settlers and Land Owners of Livingston County; Stephen Leith's genealogy; Bill Pless' Supplement to the Old Village Cemetery records. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402)