BRIGHTON'S OWN CARNIVAL MAN

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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.

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COUPLES/INDIV: Ed & Pat Convery, *Tom & Bonnie Risttt, Barbara Smith (2010), and Ralph & Sue Skwarski.
*Welcome to new members Tom and Bonnie. Their interest is much appreciated.
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THE ARCHIVES
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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 Bunoo 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.

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FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW
June 21, 2009, 9-4 p.m.
Lyon School, 11455 Bunoo 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
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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
Life-long resident of the area and
Contributing member of the Society

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
June 14: Wixon Historical Society holds Ice Cream Social, 1-4 p.m. 248/624-4557.

BRIGHTON ART FESTIVAL
August 5-9
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 sustainer 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
ME: ____________________________ PHONE: __________

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481
www.brightonareahistorical.com

ADDRESS: (Include Zip and 4 digits)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

New ( )
Renew ( )

( ) $50.00 Life
( ) $25.00 Couple
( ) $5.00 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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$5.5 FUND RAISING PROJECTS $3.5

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/SL-$12

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS: $1.00 – 1875 maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Irons, 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.

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.
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 Marketer for the DVD of a movie made at Brighton’s centennial, 1967.
Linda Winternute, 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.

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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.
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Renew ( )
New Life ( ) $500.00
New Patron ( ) $ 50.00 Phone: ( ) $25.00 Couple
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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 150 and bleach the week prior to painting. The field stone foundation is in need of a skilled person who can tack-point some of the areas where the old mortar is crumbling. The stone foundation, circa 1850’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. 810.227.4810 (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

Dates to Remember

June 6, 11, 18, 25: 9 a.m. Society booth at Farmers’ Market
*6, 13, 20, 27: 8 a.m. Archiving Welcome
*5, 11, 18, 25: 9-4 p.m. Lyon School is open to public
*21: Open House, Father’s Day Car Show
*24: 1-4 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Society Board meets. You are welcome.

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

Please call 810/229-6402 for more information.