

Trail Tales

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

March 2009
Vol. XXVIII No. 3

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY CLEANUP-SATURDAY, MAY 2

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The historic Old Village Cemetery, adjacent to the millpond and behind St. Paul's Church, will be getting a spring-cleaning.

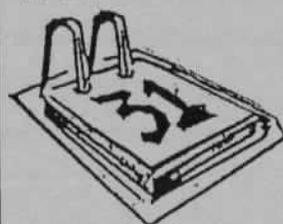
The winter has been very cold, and our area has had above average winter snow with several larger snowfalls. These snowfalls break branches, which in turn fall to the ground and create an unsightly picture for such a venerable cemetery. Overgrown shrubs and branches will be cut back or removed. Slight depressions will be leveled with topsoil and seeded.

Your involvement in this clean up is vital. Please reserve your morning and early afternoon to help in this important community activity. The Historical Society is doing this planning and scheduling of needed work. The City of Brighton is supportive of this effort. They will assist with any heavy lifting, and will haul away the debris.

Join us and enjoy getting in touch with nature. Your efforts are important for having the cemetery in top shape for the Memorial Day holiday at the end of May.

Tentative time is 10 A.M. until 3 P.M. Please contact me if you are able to join the crew for this spring clean up at the Old Village Cemetery.

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

March

*5,12,19,26	9-noon	Archives at Lyon School. You can help. Call 229-6402 to confirm
*25	6:00 pm	Society Board Meeting
*26	9 a.m.	Spring cleaning

You are welcome at any of the above.
Please call 810/229-6402 for more information.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Emil & Joan Engel, Whitney & June Kimble, John & Barbara Jacoby (MN), and Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL).

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Many Society members sent 2008 dues during the year. Volunteers helping prepare the newsletter for mailing are requested to add the 'Complementary Copy' note when the label does not indicate dues for 2009 have been received. Adding this note has been found to be a satisfactory, and inexpensive, reminder to those wishing to support the Society and its mission. Thanks to all who've responded in an understanding manner.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Ida Bair, Rosemary Ulmer for their help in mailing the February issue of Trail Tales.

..... Joyce Powers for a framed Norman Rockwell print of a one-room school scene.

..... Larry Lawrence for copies of photos, including early local school classes, a colorful map of 1875 Brighton Township, and lending of the 1885 diary of Malone Boswick.

..... Judy Coebly for an almost-full box of early school chalk..

..... Brighton District Library for a box of photos donated to them.

..... Norma Jean Pless for correction of the name of Bill Pless' father noted in the February issue: his father's name was Charles.

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

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: With support from Archer-Huntley Financial, volunteers have been scheduled to scan and compile resource material into the electronic file

Furniture and items in the archive room have been reorganized due to the caring and energy of President **Jim Vichich**. He could use assistance in regard to physical labor. He's also been the snow mover of the parking area and the walk at the Lyon School. In his spare (?) time, he also scans material and tends to presidential duties.

Marianne Comiskey, Larry Lawrence, Jim Miller and Norma Jean Pless are helping compile an organized history of the area. Each of our readers has something to contribute. Thursdays, 9 A.M. at Lyon School.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: As earlier newspapers, fliers, advertisements are reviewed, a more accurate history of local businesses and buildings, both in Brighton and out of town, is emerging. **Sue Garcia's** diligent attention results in a convenient means of research.

LYON SCHOOL: Spring maintenance is needed at the Lyon School. March 26, 9 A.M. the Plank Road Chapter of Questers will be wielding brooms, dust clothes, etc. You can help that day or another. Contact Jim Vichich, 227-4840, to schedule your work time. Exterior repairs and painting are major jobs to be done.

ORAL HISTORY: c. 1995 several video oral histories of long-time Brighton residents were conducted by members of the Phoenix class at BHS. The Society now has an appropriate facility to preserve these. Information as to the location of these video interviews is needed. Contact the Society if you know how they might be located.

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 NEEDS....

..... those with a collection of historical interest to share with others at the Lyon School Open House.

..... people to help host Lyon School Open House.

.....people to conduct Oral Histories with long-time residents. 'How-to' available.

.....help with review of early Argus issues, researching local people, government issues, transportation changes, obits, businesses, etc.

.....people to help scan collections into the computer.

Call Jim Vichich, 810/227-4840 to volunteer.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

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

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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, Howell, 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

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

March 16: 7 p.m.
Wixom Historical Society. 'Detroit-Windsor Tunnel.'
248/624-4557

March 19:
Milford Historical Society. Moving Historic Homes.
248/685-7308
www.milfordhistory.org

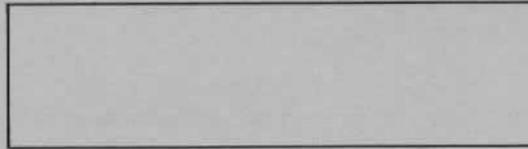
In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight."

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THE MARTIN FAMILY OF HAMBURG IN 1885

Most of us are looking forward to March, 2009, as a relief from a long, bitter cold winter with lots of snow. An 1885 diary, written by Hamburg Township resident Malone Boswick, recounts a similar winter. The mercury is regularly at 18° as the high for the first week of 1885. Often it's snowing "... like a New England snowstorm." This continues for several days with temperatures dropping to -18° at night with high winds. In February the neighbors are working together with teams and shovels to break a path for horses and sleighs through the drifts.

During this period Malone's daughter and family, Minnie and Hiram Martin with children Annie 10, Wheeler 8, and Smith, not yet 5, must keep their farm and home going. They had settled November 18, 1875, coming from New York, setting up "... tents at the Doppel place." The Martins had previously lost two boys as babies. This winter the children are battling whooping cough. Dr. McHench comes from Brighton, when he can get through, to try to alleviate their discomfort. Several neighbor children, of the Appleton and Tompkins families, are also sick.

In the meantime with temperatures at 4°, three hogs are butchered, and calves are born. Minnie must add the task of making sausage and head cheese to her regular chores of cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, mending, sewing, etc., to be ready when Mrs. (Theron) Phillips comes to help make quilts the next day. Quilting at each others' homes was a regular occurrence.

The Martin farm is in Section 4, 120 acres, 1 ½ miles south of Chilson, four miles west of Brighton, on Chilson Road. At least once a week, usually Saturday, Hiram drives the team into Brighton to trade (wheat, produce, dried apples) for supplies and to get eagerly awaited mail from the post office.

The temperature is -10° January 26, a good day to cut ice on Bishop Lake. Many farmers had an ice house in the yard. "Mr. (Orville) Saxton is getting ice. An awful day for it. Mr. (Theron) Phillips got in the lake. Mr. (Hiram) Martin pulled him out." Wood cutting and chopping was a vital chore. Several neighbors combine their efforts for this also.

Even with the frigid weather, difficulties with transportation, illnesses and hard work, every few weeks Mrs. Boswick records an anniversary party, a church supper, a 'social' or a surprise party on someone. In between there is an occasional daytime visit taking a home-made goodie along.

Spring rains melt the snow quickly and the creek rises. April 1, "A fair day. Birds and children enjoy it." By mid-April, school will begin for the summer term. "Mr. & Mrs. Appleton are cleaning the school house." This is Cady School, about ½ mile south on Chilson Road. Teachers at these rural schools boarded with the various families in the district. Miss Mary Boylan often was with the Martins. Little Annie is not well enough to attend school regularly.

In the next few days frogs are heard peeping, pasture seed is sown, sheep put to grass, lambs are born, bedding and curtains are washed and hung out to dry and the swallows return.

By mid-May, Hiram plants potatoes, the children plant lettuce and radishes. Marking prepared fields for corn planting takes several days, and then there is the work of planting. The three children seem to be recovering from their bout with whooping cough. However, little Annie is far from well. (To be continued. Compiled by Marieanna Bair from a diary loaned by Larry Lawrence; census records; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additions, corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)