

Trail Tales

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area
OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY VISITED BY WORKING SPIRITS

May 2009
Vol. XXVIII No. 5

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If you had been in the vicinity of the Old Village Cemetery on Saturday, May 2, you would have encountered the true spirits of the community. Trees were falling, dust was rising, and the morning silence was broken as talented hands guided sharp metal links through the overgrowth. Horizontal headstones were unveiled as careful hands sliced at the encroaching sod around the periphery of the markers. The passing of the years caused many vertical headstones to lean as the ground settled; but thankfully many monuments were standing taller as skilled hands troweled the soil so the markers would be level.

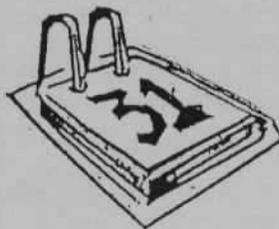
Over 50 individuals decided to spend a beautiful spring day participating in the First Annual Spring Cleanup of Old Village Cemetery. These community spirits believed the goal of revitalizing these hallow grounds was a project of number one priority. Over 30 graves hold the remains of United States servicemen who fought to maintain freedom. Some may not realize that Old Village Cemetery is located next to the millpond behind St Paul's Church. Through the passage of time, the growth of undesirable trees has consumed the banks surrounding the cemetery and intruded into the burying ground. The beauty of this peaceful place was hidden from the eyes of the caring public.

All workers endured hard, strenuous, back-straining movements. A "thank you" does not reach deep enough for the quality of effort given. The sense of pride and accomplishment was obvious as the hours passed. Tombstones were uncovered after years of being lost under the soil.

One group of workers must be recognized individually because they came in great numbers, exceeding 30. The men and women of Rolling Thunder Michigan Chapter 5, led by President Randy Galbraith, were there to help provide a respectful resting place for the heroes of the past. This organization was a major factor in the great success of this day. A great big "thank you" to their volunteers and all others who worked the cleanup.

Mark your calendars for May 1, 2010. You will not want to miss the Second Annual Spring Cleanup of Old Village Cemetery. The personal satisfaction of participating in such a worthy cause, and the fellowship of community members, is indeed a great experience. See you next year!

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

May

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|
| 2,9,16,23,30: | 8 a.m. | Society booth at Farmers' Market |
| *7,14,21,28: | 9-noon | Archiving. Welcome |
| *7,14,21,28: | 9-4 p.m. | Lyon School is open to public |
| 21: | 7 p.m. | Area Society cluster meeting at Green Oak Twp. Historical Society |
| *27 | 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: Tim Bennett (Clio), Carolina DeLuca (Hwl), Don & Shirley Jenks (Hwl), Bob & Shirley Knight, Rich & Judy Parsons, Paul Weber (FL), Henry & Mary Lou Winegar, Willis Wolfe (CA), William Zink.

Those regularly renewing their membership should know they give encouragement to those who also believe the Society's mission is valid. The Society is not a commercial business. The Society's success is the result of many volunteers and contributors. The preservation and dissemination of the history of the Brighton area has much to do with the sense of place enjoyed by the entire community.

Welcome to new board member, Jim Miller.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Marianne Comiskey and Brenda Moline for their help with scanning records, etc.

..... Bert & Sharon Kisak of the Yum Yum Tree (140 W. Main) for stocking post cards of early Brighton scenes.

..... Quester Plank Road Chapter #236 members Heidi Clausnitzer, Judy Coebly, Jackie Damm, Jeanette Johnson, Judy Marcinkiewicz, Mary Mudar, Sue Skwarski, Kathy Smail for the annual spring cleaning at Lyon School.

..... Dick Harris for a number of early Arguses from which several items of archival interest were copied.

..... Brighton NC Machine and Shirley Barton for the 12-drawer blue print files for maps and large ephemera.

..... Tim & Leah Thill and Jim Beebe for bringing to the Society's attention and allowing photos of the site of the Woodruff dam in Brighton Township, built c. 1833.

..... Carolina DeLuca, Bob & Shirley Knight, Paul Weber (FL) and Willis Wolfe (CA) for their donations to Society Projects included with their dues.

..... William Zink for joining Friends of Lyon School for 2009.

..... Friends of Brighton Library for holding a book sale at the April Open House at Lyon School.

..... Dave Ball for the fine work in developing the Society web site. Check it out.

..... Those who send notice of address changes.

SOCIETY PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: With the help of many, local historical information is recorded and filed. You also can join in Thursdays, 9-12, at the Lyon School. Your help is welcome..

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence and Jim Miller are compiling records of the area's residential, recreational and commercial sites. Photos of these sites of today are needed. This is something you can do.

ORAL HISTORY: Merrill Herbst's memories of rural life have been recorded. Many thanks. Everyone has memories which are of interest to the Society in fulfilling its mission. Your offer to interview, or be interviewed will help this project move along.

LYON SCHOOL: The third Sunday in May (17th) is Plant Exchange Day. Bring yours and take some home. Livingston County Master Gardners will provide technical advice.

Students from Cornerstone Christian School were hosted for a day in April. Please contact any board member with your interest in helping with any project/event.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

..... issues of "Today" magazine, published locally 1967/1969, by James Turner, to copy for inclusion in Society Archives.

..... hosts for Thursdays when Lyon School is open.

The Society Extends Sincere Sympathy
To the family of

RUDY HERRMANN

A long-time resident of the area and
A past president of the Society

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

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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, Tonaway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, 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

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

May 16:
Hamburg Township Historical Society Museum, 7225 Stone St. 'Aprons and Hankies: Comfort Cloth' display. 810/986-0190

May 16, 17:
Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. 'Apple Island Tours'. www.gwbhs.com or 248/682-2279.

May 29:
Waterloo Area Historical Society Museum opens. www.waterloofarmmuseum.org for information.

June 6:
Historic Indian Village Home/Garden Tour. www.HistoricIndianVillage.org for information.

June 14: 1-4 p.m.
Northville Historical Society and Mill Race Village opens. 248/348-1845.

October 11: 5:30 p.m.
Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society. stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com. Tour Oaklawn Cemetery; re-enactors.

NEW PROJECT SCHEDULED

The Society has determined the Lyon School should be available on a regular basis. To that end - the school will be open each Thursday, April/November 10-4. Member or not, those who agree this is a natural extension of the Society's mission are welcome to help host. 810/227-4840.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
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THE MARTIN FAMILY OF HAMBURG IN 1885

(Conclusion)

Minnie and Hiram Martin live in Hamburg Township in 1885. Her mother, Malone Boswick, records the events of the year. The last portion of the diary deals with the fall and winter activities of the family and the neighborhood.

October, altho' cold and frosty, is the time when large pumpkins are harvested and winter apples picked. Many of the apples will be sliced and dried to trade for groceries and household necessities with the merchants in Brighton. That October, dried apples sold for .03¢ a pound, butter brings .10-14¢, eggs trade for .12¢ a dozen, lard .08¢ a pound, and potatoes are .25¢ a bushel. Wood is \$3.00 a cord and pork \$4.50-\$5.00 per cwt.

"It's time to go to Brighton to get ... winter clothing for the children." The fall school term begins. Every two to three weeks the teacher Miss Boylan, boards with them. A clipping from October, 1885, records "... sort of a blizzard Sunday, a quantity of snow fell; a man without an over coat felt like being kicked to death by rabbits."

The ears of corn, piled in the barn, need husking. Hiram finds this a solitary job; many of his neighbors are earning cash as railroad workers. With (Theron) Phillips' and (Bert) Stewart's help, the corn stalks remaining in the field are cut for fodder for the livestock. Hiram now also, with his team and wagon, goes to work on the railroad for some actual wages. Mrs. Boswick writes, "I have been over to the fence to see the men and teams work on the railroad." She records that 'socials' are held, and the various births and marriages occurring in the community. The sheep sheds need repair.

November 18, 1885, is the 10th anniversary that the Martins "... set up their tents at the Depperman Place." Mrs. Boswick's positive demeanor is noted as she describes Thanksgiving Day, "... we ate our bread in peace and our meat in pieces."

Strikes are threatened by railroad workers. Altho' some leave, most go back to work. A fight looms where the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan tracks cross (and still do) the Detroit Railroad track in Genoa Township. Occasional explosions "... that shake things generally" are heard where tracks are blown up in the Railroad War.

Throughout December, Mrs. Boswick writes of the weather, "I thought the roof would blow off", the progress on the railroad, and that little Annie's health does not improve. School is closed for the winter; the family goes to see the engines and watches the track laying.

Sunday, December 20: "A rather mild day, somewhat cloudy. At sunset the clouds were a beautiful rose color. Dr. McHench came to see Annie. Says she has diabetes. Hiram has gone to Brighton."

December 21: "Two engines in sight on the fields above here ... Annie no better." December 22: the doctor here today." December 23: "Hiram gone to Brighton to see the doctor again. Annie does not get along as we want her to." December 24: "Annie not any better." Christmas morning: "Our Annie still breathes.... Dear, darling Annie is gone." at 2:15 p.m. Five neighbor women come to aid and comfort the family. Two days later, Annie is laid in the yard near the house next to her little brother. The damp, foggy weather makes it seem "... as if all nature was weeping with us." After a week, the realities of the struggle to survive are again foremost. Stock must be cared for, wood chopped, washing done, clothes made, meals prepared, roads cleared, neighbors visited and helped. Everything changes, everything stays the same.

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