

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

November 2004
Vol. XXIII No. 11

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

SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 22, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

LYON SCHOOL, 11455 BUNO ROAD

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810/229-3066

CHAIRPERSONS

John S Janice
Field:
Cemeteries/
Archives
810/599-6195

Elections will be held for the 2005 board. All officers' and directors' positions are open for nomination. Any member of the Society may serve on the Board of Directors. Those attending may nominate from the floor.

Members are encouraged to nominate themselves as a board member in whichever capacity they wish. It could be in the archives; the Society web site; Lyon School maintenance; elementary school liaison for student visits; fund raising; planning public programs; the next book; historic resource survey; local photography; there is no end. Let the Society know what you can do.

Revised bylaws will be voted upon also.

Come, tour the school, see where you fit, AND, yes, refreshments.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

The Corps, November 3, 1804, began construction of log houses for protection during a winter in which temperatures fall to -40 F. Not far from the Missouri River, cottonwoods provided the materials needed. The site was named Fort Mandan (N.D.) in honor of their neighbors.

While the men worked Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had regular visits with the Mandans. An interpreter who could communicate with the Shoshone Indians to trade for horses was imperative. The horses were vital to cross the Rocky Mountains beyond the headwaters of the Missouri. Sacagawea, 15 years old, six months pregnant (one of two stolen teenagers), wife of Toussaint Charboneau, was selected.

November 13, brought the first ice on the river. The voyageurs returned to St. Louis, as planned, with the pirogues before being frozen in.

Many conversations with many Indian leaders and British traders afforded the expedition leaders more information than had been known earlier.

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Dates to Remember:

Nov. 9, 10 a.m. Civil War Flag tour.

Michigan History Center, Lansing.

*10, 17: 7 p.m. Lyon School Restoration/
maintenance. Welcome.

*11, 18: 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.

19: 5-10 p.m. Film Fest, Brighton High School.

*22: 6:30 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING. Welcome.

*Lyon School, 11455 Bunno Rd. Brighton

MEMBERSHIPS

LIFE MEMBER: *Promess, Inc.

PATRON: Jere & Kay Michaels and Bob & Pauline Schaffer.

COUPLES/INDIV. * Tim & Kerry Bennett (Clio), Margaret Bowland, Bill & Helen Hyne (Chelsea), Esther Jarvis, Roland & Jane Owens, Norma Jean Pless (Roscommon), Dan Schmidt and Bernie Young (Florida).

*A warm welcome to Promess, Inc. and to Tim & Kerry Bennett new members.

Renewing members are much appreciated.

The membership/ mailing list is under review for 2005. The Society would like to send Trail Tales to everyone but must remain fiscally responsible. Consider becoming a member. If this issue is stamped 'Complementary Copy' you are receiving it free of charge. If '04' is noted on the label, consider renewing for '05'.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Bair, John & Janice Field and June Kimble for help in mailing October Trail Tales.

...family of June Luttermoser Miller for a donation in her memory.

...Charles and Carol Toy (Highland) for bound 1963 Brighton Argus.

...Margaret Bowland for including a donation with her dues. She and Norma Jean Pless renewed their Friends of Lyon School membership.

...Brighton Chamber of Commerce for donation of a 1967 Brighton City Centennial banner.

CIVIL WAR FLAGS TOUR

November 9, 10 a.m., at the Michigan History Center, Lansing. Meet at the white pine tree inside. Take I-96 to 496 to Logan Street (M99) exit. North three blocks to Kalamazoo Street, right one block to History Center parking.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, The Fence Spot, Lawrence Autobody and Promess, Inc. (Life). The continued support and confidence of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration please. The support of others in the community is welcome.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Memorabilia, donated by generous people, are being filed as appropriately as possible. The file drawers notebooks and boxes are filling. Archival storage facilities are being purchased as funds allow. The Society has a remarkable amount of research material, available to researchers. The newly installed door promotes proper archival atmospheric conditions and security.

LYON SCHOOL: The flag pole is installed. To avoid noise pollution the Society decided to purchase a pole with an interior cable. (Despite the extra cost.) Financial contributions may be made to cover the cost of the door and the pole. Every school needs a pole.

HISTORY BOOK: 'From Settlement to City Brighton, Michigan - 1832/1945' can be ordered now. Members = \$60.00, non-members = \$65.00. Shipping, if necessary, = \$3.00. Your check can be sent to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton 48116, to reserve your copy. Carol McMacken has included over 300 pictures on the over 400 pages in this hard bound book of local history, the first of its kind.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...YOU to help publicize the Society and its mission at the Art Expo booth, November 19, 5-10 p.m. at the high school. If you can give an hour or two call 810/229-6402.

...Information re: St. Vincent de Paul orphanage on E. Grand River across from Academy Drive c. 1920s? Dates begun, dates ended, photos, etc. Children of former residents and the Society archives would appreciate your help. Call 810/229-6402.

...Someone to direct the construction of a building in the style of an early barn. Many offer early agricultural tools but there is no place for display. Such a structure would enhance any visitor's experience to the Lyon School. Construction details and fund raising are necessary. Past experience makes one confident this structure, and exhibits, will be a reality shortly.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mel Skeman, on his 90th birthday. Mel is always willing, and capable, to answer a question. He is a charter member of the Society and a Brighton native.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48115-0481

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
 (Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? () Yes () No () New () Renewal

DUES: () \$50.00 Patron () \$25.00 Couple () \$2.00 Student
 () \$50.00 Bus/Prof. () \$15.00 Individual () \$500.00 Life

Be a Friend of Lyon School: () \$10.00 () \$20.00 () \$25.00 () other \$ _____

DONATION: () \$10.00 () \$20.00 () \$50.00 () \$100.00 () other \$ _____

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS: early local scenes; pkg. 6/\$3. NOTE PAPER: pkg \$2.50; MUGS \$5; TOTE BAGS \$15.; NEEDLEPOINT KIT \$8.; PEWTER PLATES \$35.; all show the Old Town Hall.

1875 PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Howell, Iosco and Oceola Townships and 1915 of Brighton and Howell Cities @ \$1. AFGHANS: red, green or blue, woven with nine local sites \$49.; TAPESTRY PILLOW with railroad depot and train, \$28.; 2004 CALENDAR with local scenes \$5. SOCIETY POLO SHIRTS: Navy, forest green and black with BAHS emblem. S/XL \$25., XXL \$26.50. To order any of the above, 810/229-6402.

Your signature, or that of another of your choice, embroidered on the SIGNATURE QUILT, \$10. An appropriate, simple way to support the Society. the quilt will remain in the Society's archives.

TILES: 13 local scenes on black/white 6"x6" ceramic tiles. Limited editions. Available at Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main. \$8. or 3/\$21.00.

Brighton's own "FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY... 1832-1945" history book. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. \$60. to members, \$65. to non members plus shipping. Reserve yours.

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WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m. dedication of restored stained glass windows at First Presbyterian Church, Howell.

Saturday, Dec. 4, 10-5 and Dec. 5, noon to 5 p.m. Christmas on the Farm. Waterloo Area Farm Museum. Music, gifts, food and decorations. 517/596-2254.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 11-4 and Dec. 12, 1-4 p.m. Christmas at the Rentschler Farm, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. 734/944-0442.

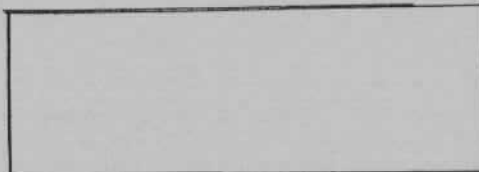
When we lose an historic place, we lose a little of whom we are.

Attempting to replace the tribes' allegiances to the British with trading only with Americans; trying to keep the peace among the tribes, not all of which were pleased with the new arrangements; convincing the tribes they should follow the great white father even tho' the gifts offered were considered very inadequate; the constant need for food bought from the Mandans; going on buffalo hunts; kept Lewis and Clark on their toes, mentally and physically. They were naively unaware that the Indian meaning of peace and war was very different from theirs. Indian leaders were selected from among contending warriors; from where would new native leaders come?

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

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THE CARPENTERS COME TO FARM

From Niagara County, N.Y., William Carpenter at 18, with his father, William, came to Lyon Township, Washtenaw County in 1836. They very likely came by way of the Erie Canal, in the area of their home, and Lake Erie. "Here they cleared away the forest and turned the wilderness into a highly cultivated and richly productive estate." The younger William married the c. 20 year old Catherine Dolph c. 1840. They had eight children. William, Jr., who died at 15, Arthur and sister, Carrie (who married Arthur Smith, from Green Oak Township, 1878), are the only three of the eight we can identify. Grandfather William lived in Lyon Township the rest of his life as did Arthur's father who farmed until his passing in 1887 at 69. The parents and brother are buried in New Hudson Cemetery.

In 1883, Arthur b. 9-30-1848, had his own farm in Green Oak Township. March 28 of that year he married Addie Ryder, born in Livonia, June 25, 1851. Arthur and Addie had no children. Three years later he bought 120 acres in Brighton Township, Section 22: the north east corner of Van Amburg and Buno Roads. "...his beautiful farm lying on the slope of Pleasant Valley is well adorned and improved by the good buildings which he has placed upon it." (Some structures were already in place.) Daniel O. Van Amburg had bought it from Richard Lyon prior to selling to Carpenter.

In 1904, they moved into Brighton Village and three years later he was elected to village trustee. He also served on a coroner's jury, 2-23-1911, determining that the death of a woman having been hit by a train was an accident. Addie died January 5, 1918 (one suspects the flu epidemic) and in 1919 Helen Parker purchased the 120 acre Carpenter farm. Arthur died in 1935. Both he and Addie are buried in Fairview.

By 1926, John Henry (Harry) and Bertha Young owned the 'beautiful farm in Pleasant Valley'. It was developed into Pleasant View Hills Subdivision beginning in 1964. The Highways I-96 and US 23 make it possible for many to enjoy Arthur Carpenter's pleasant view.

Sister Carrie and her husband had three children, one of which died at 10 years of age. Carrie suffered another tragedy in 1918, when Arthur, 61, died in a saw mill accident on the Hyne farm in 1918. A jack-of-all trades, farmer, painter, carpenter, etc., Smith was working as a setter, operating the lever which sets the log for the saw. Somehow he got onto the saw and died almost instantly. (No protective shields in those days.) Carrie, who died in 1923, Arthur, and little Lola are near her brother and Carrie in Fairview Cemetery. Research provides other Carpenter names, who settled in other parts of the county. Can someone help connect them? (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Photo/Biographic Album; census records; First Landowners, obituaries copied from the Brighton Argus and cemetery transcriptions by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections welcomed. 810/229-6402.)