



Grand River Trail

TRAIL TALES

Brighton Area Preservation News

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

The membership is composed of people who feel this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

P.O. Box 481 Brighton, Mi. 48116
Vol. x No. Summer, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Finance Comm. Mike Cuthbert	229-6728
Editor - Penny Szczechowski	229-7324

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The Brighton Area Historical Society has reduced the number of general meetings from five to three per year. It is hoped that by reducing the number of meetings plus offering special programs at each meeting which will include something of historic interest, the Society will gain a greater support and larger attendance at the regular meetings.

Another change at these meetings will be the absence of a business meeting. Society business will be conducted at the monthly Board Meetings which meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:00. These meetings are open to the general membership and you are encouraged to participate in these.

You will be receiving a survey during the month of August. Please take the time to complete it and return it to the Society. This survey will ask for suggestions for future meetings.

The September meeting is currently being planned for late in September. More information will appear in the September Trail Tales.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 10, 11 - Brighton Art Fair;
Main Street in Brighton;
Historical Society booth

September - General Meeting; date
to be determined

September 13 - Brighton Area
Historical Society annual
Spaghetti Supper; Brighton
Fire Hall, Grand River;

SPAGHETTI! SPAGHETTI! SPAGHETTI!

Please mark your calendar for Friday, September 13, 1991, then plan to join us for the Brighton Area Historical Society annual spaghetti supper (all you can eat) to be held at the Brighton Fire Hall, Grand River, Brighton.

We will be looking for volunteers. If you have thoughts as to something particular you would like to do to help make this dinner a success, please contact Audrey Leith (313 229-6165) or Kathy Grove (313 229-7876).

Your support will be appreciated. Further details will be available in the next issue of Trail Tales.

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BAKE SALE A SUCCESS

Many thanks to Jane Tomlinson and her calling committee for the work involved in the recent bake sale at the Brighton Farmer's Market.

If the callers missed you or you weren't able to bake anything- please consider a financial donation. All proceeds from fund raising activities such as this are placed in the fund for restoration of the Old Town Hall, the Lyons School, and projects such as a Historic Resource survey, Oral History, etc.

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BUTTONS BUTTONS BUTTONS

The Society is in need of buttons- old, new, small, large, any kind at all. Anne Stratigos and a group of Society members will be making button brooches to sell at the Brighton Art Fair in August. If you have any to donate, please call Anne, 229-5689.

BRIGHTON ART FAIR

Brighton will once again hold its annual Street Art Fair on August 10 and 11.

The Brighton Area Historical Society will have a booth at the fair. The Society will sell the historic tiles, postcards of Old Brighton, stationary and notepaper, and cookies and lemonade.

The Signature Quilt will be on display and you will be able to donate \$10 and have your name or a family name placed on the quilt along with other Brighton area residents.

Historical Society information and membership forms will also be available.

For more information or if you can volunteer some time to man this booth, call Mike cuthbert, 229-6728.

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The Brighton Area Historical Society is accepting bids on restoration of the Antique Horse Buggy that once stood outside the Old Mellus Hospital on Grand River. The buggy is now part of the historical collection of the Society. It is in need of extensive repair.

If you would like information on this project, please call Gary McCririe, 229-2191.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Eastern House (originally the Brighton House) was a stage stop between Detroit and Lansing. It was built in 1846 and burned to the ground in 1926.

LYONS SCHOOL UPDATE

The Brighton Area Historical Society is planning to restore its Lyons School Committee to begin further restoration of this historic building.

Herb Warner, previous chairman, has agreed to again head this committee. He is looking for members to join the committee and also workers who would be willing to donate time to help with the restoration.

The Society has set up a three year plan to complete the restoration. First plans include painting the outside of the building, putting up a fence and security lights.

The Society hopes that upon completion, the building can be used for meetings and tours. The interior will be restored as a one room schoolhouse as was its original purpose.

If you have any suggestions or items to donate to this project, please contact a board member.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

August 22-25 - Howell Melon Festival; 517 546-7477; Antiques and Treasures- Sat. Sunday, Aug. 24,25, 8:30 - 5:00; Depot Museum, Walnut and Wetmore, Howell; Sponsored by Livingston County Historical Society

August 20 - Contra Dancing; learn basic dances of the Victorian period; taught by a caller from Greenfield village; Sponsored by Mill Race Historical Village; Northville. call for more information.

September 7-8 - Marshall Home Tour

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WIXOM WIRE HOUSE MUSEUM

The Wixom Wire House Museum will be open during the month of August on Sunday, from 1 p.m. -4 p.m.

Housed in the original structure from 1855, displays include a Story and Clark Organ circa 1890, and Eastlake parlor set circa 1870, and many items of furniture, linens, china, clothing, and much more.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

() NEW () RENEWAL ()

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- () Bake sale () Help with spec. events () Newsletter () Research
- () Board member () Hospitality () Oral History () Restoration
- () Fund raising () Programs () Photography () Video taping
- () Genealogy () Membership committee () Publicity () Other work

I would be willing to do :

- FEES: \$25. Patron
- \$25. Business/Professional
- \$12. Couple
- \$ 7. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Michigan 48116

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA? (Cont.)

Among the early 20th century doctors in the Brighton Area we find Dr. Singer---

"In the death of Dr J. D. Singer, 85, [4-15-43] whose funeral will be held Sunday afternoon with Masonic rites, Brighton losses a man of unusual talents. He died Thursday at his country home, just west of the village after a brief illness." thus begins the obituary of Dr. Singer in the local press on 4-17-43.

March 24, 1858, saw the birth of Jacob Daniel Singer in Portsmouth, O. Early boyhood was spent in Freeport, PA, where his parents had moved. Rudiments of education were received there and he worked in the mills and plants of the area. At age 18, he was apprenticed to a stonecutter. He apparently enjoyed the occupation - at past 70 years of age he cut and placed each stone in the fire place of his home just west of Brighton which was situated on the bank of a lake.

He also had an undying love of nature which was fulfilled by his hobby as a farmer and fruit grower. An undeniable passion for music and art caused him to attend Baxter University of Music in Friendship, N.Y. He studied voice, piano, theory of music and instrumentation and 1883 found him in Wahpeton, Dakota Territory, teaching music. During this period he was also studying medicine with Dr. G. W. Arbuckle of Breckinridge, MN. He studied one year at Hahnemann College, Chicago, then entered the School of Medicine in Pittsburg, PA from which he graduated in 1896.

He practiced 13 years in Wyandotte (1896-1909) and then 33 in Brighton (1909-1942), where he continued to labor, even at the age of 85, until a few weeks before his death. He was known as one of the oldest practicing physicians in the state.

During his medical career he had taken courses in Harvard University, and the Lying-in Hospital in NYC. Post graduate work at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Detroit Post Graduate School of Medicine followed.

He became a member of the Volunteer Medical Corp during WW I. Dr. Singer was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and Brighton Lodge #247, F & A M, also Michigan Chapter OES #314 of Brighton. For a period of 16 years he was a camp physician at the Detroit Recreation camp on Euler Road, west of Brighton.

Throughout all of his medical career in Brighton he never lost his love of music and the arts. An accomplished musician, Dr. Singer trained choirs, bands and singing societies for many years. It is said that many Brighton youngsters were encouraged to develop their talent and follow a career in music. The Brighton Band and the Brighton Singers were beneficiaries of his talents.

His office on W. Main Street (just east of Singer Press [139 W. Main]) was situated approximately where a parking lot is located. Some descendants of Dr. Singer are still located in Brighton. Singer Press was begun by a son, G. Eric Singer; still in the Singer name with a grandson-in-law and great grandson in charge. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. Anyone with information regarding the subject matter of these articles is urged to contact her, 229-6402. She needs help.)

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