



Lyon School 11455 Buno Road

BAHS ANNUAL MEETING: 2014 ELECTIONS

On Sunday, November 17 the BAHS Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Lyon School to elect the 2014 Board of Directors including Officers. A pot luck gathering at 1pm will celebrate friendship and enable members to exchange pleasantries.

The official business will start at 2:15 pm. Reports of the 2013 activities will be summarized and potential plans for 2014 will be shared. Directors are invited to share their experiences for the past 12 months. Elections for 2014 Officers and Board of Directors.

BAHS has been a wonderful functioning organization. Much community good will has been fostered. Historical records for the community are being enhanced weekly. This speaks volumes to the dedication of all members but specifically the leadership by the different directors. If you would like to get involved with the team of directors, talk to a director and inquire about the efforts. There are many projects and ways to assist the organization. Feel free to give me a call.

Jim Vichich,
BAHS President

ARCHIVES NEEDS:

The Society Archives are lacking research materials on Art and Music making in the area. There were a variety of bands, choral groups, school music classes, etc., many of which organized in the 19th century. Contact the Society with any information you may have, to allow us to compile this area of local history. Copies of items can be made, donations would be welcome.

SLIGHTLY HAUNTED TOUR

On Saturday, October 12 at 5pm and again at 8pm at Old Village Cemetery, you will have an opportunity to learn about some of the movers and shakers from Brighton's earliest days.

Each tour is designed with two components. Everyone will meet indoor for the initial 40 minute indoor presentation. If the weather permits, a 35 minute guided stroll through the cemetery will further enhance your evening.

Each program is limited to 40 people, tickets are \$5.00 per person. It is advisable to purchase tickets early as last year's tours sold out. Tickets can be purchased during open hours at CoBACH Center. (Sun—Fri, 5pm—8pm; Sat 11am—5 pm, closed Mon.) or contact Tammy at 313-910-3807

POINTS OF INTEREST:

President's Editorial	See Page 1
The Western House	See Page 4

Images of America: The Brighton Area

Available at
Lawrence Autobody
CoBACH Center
Green Oak Township Hall
or by
Calling 810-250-7276

Next work date for OVC restoration project is the 4th Monday of October, October 28 from 9am –2pm.

Call Jim at (810-250-7276) for information.

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

LIFE:

Lindhout Associates, Architects*.

FAMILY/INDIV:

Richard Chrysler (FL), David A. Metz*, Robert & Cathy Padget*, Norma Jean Pless.

* Lindhout Associates, Richard Chrysler, David A. Metz and Robert & Cathy Padget are welcomed as new members. For the Society to pursue its mission, the community must be supportive.

Thanks:

- Marieanna Bair, Jackie Damm, Sue and Lee Garcia, Jeanette Johnson, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for the mailing of the September issue of Trail Tales.
- Richard Chrysler, Joyce Hubbs and Norma Jean Pless for their donations to Society Projects with their membership.
- Norma Jean Pless for her Friends of the Lyon School donation with her dues.
- CoBACH volunteers for September: Joyce Powers, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Hank Winegar, and Jim Vichich.
- The dedicated team from September 23 that is restoring broken and fallen headstones within Old Village Cemetery includes: Jerry Damon, Joe Collins, Bob Knight, Dave Pettigrove, Lynn and Clark Millar, Larry Lawrence, Don Thomas and Jim Vichich. Work days are the 4th Monday of

each month. Join us on October 28 from 9am—2pm with a noon lunch break. Contact Jim (810-250-7276) for information.

- The generosity of Dawn and Terry Hubert in providing classic memorabilia for the Petrol Exhibit during August and September called "Fill'er Up!" Many folks enjoyed the professionally restored gas pumps from the early 1900s through the 1950s and the beautiful old signs of this period.
- Lyon School archive volunteers who donate their Thursday mornings researching and preserving Brighton's past. These enjoyable mornings are shared by Jerry Damon, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Joe Collins, Sue Zimmermann, Lynn Millar, Caren Bierman, Marieanna Bair, Mercedes Freyre and Jim Vichich. Mercedes summer work was greatly appreciated, and will be missed, as she has returned to her university studies. We wish her continued success and look forward to her return.
- Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for taking down of the Petrol "Fill'er Up!" Exhibit at the CoBACH Center.
- Jerry Damon and his excellent work as editor of the monthly Trail Tales
- Many active society members who volunteer in the various BAHS community projects in support of the organization and community.

Like us on Facebook
at
Brighton Area Historical Society

Society Life Members:

Tom Archer
Shirley Barton
Marilyn Campbell (IN)
Nancy Fredenburg
William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst
Larry & Kate Lawrence
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Carol McMacken
Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick
Robert & Pauline Schaffer
Anne Stratigos

2013 Business / Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC
Brighton Bar and Grill
Robert Clark Eye Center, MD., P.C.
Caretel Inns of Brighton
Champ's Pub
Davis Multimedia, Inc.
Susan Doyle, realtor
Grace Pointe Church
Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.
Mancuso and Cameron P.C.
Schoolhouse Family Dentistry
SOS Livingston
Synergy Environmental, Inc.
Yum Yum Tree
Lawrence Autobody **
McCririe & Associates, P.C.
Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Patrick Financial Group, LLC**
Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research **
Archer Huntley Financial Services **
** Life Members

Our efforts are not possible without the support of our Business/Professional members.

Dates to Remember

October 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31: 5pm-8pm BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun, Wed and Thursday.

October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31: 9am-12nn Archiving/Open House at Lyon School. Visitors are welcome. Please share your early life Brighton experiences.

October 12: 5pm and 8pm two tours Old Village Cemetery Annual Slightly Haunted Fall Tours. \$5:00 per person; limit of 40 people per tour. Tickets for sale at CoBACH Center or contact Tammy at 313-910-3807. Meet first inside CoBACH Center for part 1

presentation, (40) minutes followed by part 2 cemetery stroll (25) minutes.

October 20: 1pm—4pm Fall Pumpkin Painting and Decorating. At the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse, 11455 Buno Rd, Brighton Twp. 48114 Admission is free. Pumpkins, paint, decorations, cider and cookies are free.

October 23: 6 pm BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

October 28: 9am-2pm with lunch break at noon.

Old Village Cemetery Headstone Project Workday. Join us the 4th Monday of the month as headstone repair work continues in 2013.

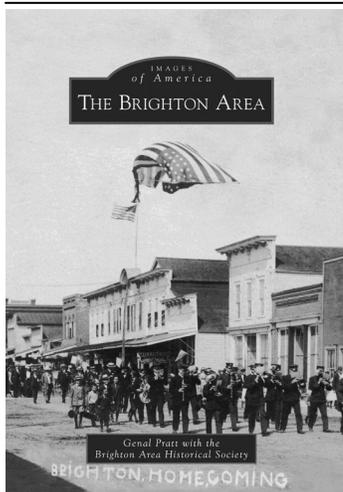
November 17: 1:00—4pm 31st Annual Meeting (business meeting and election of the board) at Lyon Schoolhouse, 11455 Buno Road. A Potluck gathering followed by the general membership meeting. See Page 1 for additional information.
Please consider how you can participate.

Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please mail to the address provided on the form below.

Mail check or money order payable to:		Name: _____	Phone: (____) ____-____
Brighton Area Historical Society		Address: _____	
P. O. Box 481		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Brighton, MI 48116-0481		E-Mail: _____	
		How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail <small>(PLEASE CHECK ONE)</small>	
Membership Plan:		Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.



New book released

Images of America: The Brighton Area

by Genal Pratt with the Brighton Area Historical Society

128 pages, and includes 199 pictures

\$20.00 Plus \$5.00 if shipping is required

Description: This new book contains a treasured collection of photographs and provides a fascinating historical record of the people, farms, and businesses that drove the growth of Brighton through the 19th and 20th centuries. The architecture, landscape, and cherished character of Brighton tell the stories that embody the foundation of our community today.

We Need Your Help

We are asking our members to step up and get involved. "Can you fill these jobs?"

Treasurer

Bookkeeping experience needed, knowledge of Quick-books a plus: Current Treasurer willing to advise.

Volunteers at CoBACH

Welcome desk, help set up displays, loan of personal items for displays of the early days of Brighton.

Contact Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276

BAHS Leadership

President

Jim Vichich

Vice President

Marieanna Bair

Secretary

Judith Coebly

Interim Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey

Trail Tales Editor

Jerry Damon

Directors

Joe Collins

Jerry Damon

Nancy Fredenburg

Larry Lawrence

Thomas Reinke

Tammy Sexton

Education Liaison

Judith Coebly

Sue Skwarski

BAHS: How to Contact Us or Find Us

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

E-Mail:

info@brightonareahistorical.com

Phone:

(810) 250-7276

US Mail:

Brighton Area Historical Society

P. O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Lyon School

11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored, barrier-free one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

CoBACH Center

202 W. Main Street, in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. CoBACH is formally known as the City of Brighton, Arts, Culture and History Center. It is located in the historic 1879 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

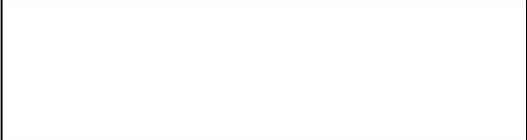
The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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The Western House

Early references to the Rounsifer family provide varying dates as to the construction of the Western House in Brighton. It may be assumed Asa Rounsifer and wife Hulda came to Michigan in the late 1860s. He had been in the hotel business in the east. The Detroit, Lansing and Northern railroad arrived in Brighton in 1871. Rounsifer bought four lots just east of the tracks, north of West Main. There he built the hotel, Western House, in the Smith-McPherson Addition. However, by 1873 his financial condition caused the sale of the hotel, stables, etc.

Prior to 1871, travelers arrived by stage coach on the planked toll road, the Grand River Road. Located approximately half way between Detroit and Lansing, Brighton had become a popular stop for rest and refreshment, and Ben Cushing’s Brighton Hotel (later the Eastern House) was on the northeast corner of Grand River Road and Main Street.

The arrival of the railroad signaled a decline in stage coach travel. Salesmen and agents calling on local merchants used the railroad for transportation. Those villages and crossroad stores not serviced by the railroad made it necessary to rent a livery rig to deliver products and take orders. A lively competition soon developed between the two hotels. Both kept horses and rigs to supply and cater to the travelers’ needs.

At the turn of the century, LeRoy King, “the man in short sleeves” was the proprietor of the Western House. He met each passenger train coatless in his attempts to ‘buttonhole’ or persuade travelers to select his hotel as the place to stay. The finest foods and liquors were served, each room had a window, beds were clean and comfortable and there was room for elegant parties and banquets. The horses in his stable, he boast-

ed, were spirited yet gentle and his rigs among the most stylish.

The hotel business was doing well until the early 1900s when the horseless carriage came into common use. More miles could be covered in a day and overnight hotel accommodations were less in demand. The salesmen didn’t need Mr. King’s rigs. Local residents often traveled out of town for recreation instead of spending their free time at the Western Hotel. To add the final blow, the county went dry and bootleggers, blind pigs and saloons in adjacent, wet counties acquired that part of the hotel’s business. Since the repeal of the 18th Amendment, various owners have modernized the building and operated it as a rooming house and a bar.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless writings, newspaper clippings and Rounsifer genealogy. Additions/corrections requested call 810-229-6402.)

Society member, Sheryl James, “Pulitzer Prize winning journalist” has written “Michigan Legends” Folktales and Lore from the Great Lakes State. www.press.umich.edu

Archaeology Day:

At the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing on Saturday October 12 from 11:00 am—3:00 pm. Parking, admission to the museum, and the event are all free. Tim Bennett will have a large display of artifacts from The Warner farm in Brighton Twp. There will be other once-a-year displays from archaeologists from around the state. For information check out https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-54463_18595_18596-283662--,00.html