

**Congratulations to
Brighton's Becker
Family**

You may not recognize the family name of Becker but you will recognize their extreme effort in preserving and repurposing one of Brighton's oldest landmarks.

The three story, red brick Western House Hotel was constructed on Main Street and the railroad crossing in

1873. A new generation of travelers began visiting Brighton in 1871 with the arrival of the iron horse. Traveling salesmen kept the Western House Hotel and other public houses busy as they sold their new products to the local businesses.

The appearance of this hotel started to decline in the depression years and reached its low point in 1954 when pink aluminum siding was used to hide its scars of time. Many residents still refer to this building as the "Pink Hotel" although its pink skin was removed in 1984. Different parties attempted to purchase this worn out historic structure with their own dreams of rebirth. The future of Brighton's oldest public house was looking rather bleak as these attempts failed.

The Becker family saw a classic old building and



BREWERY BECKER
West Main and North First Street

and its large interior will also have an outdoor beer garden that will be inviting to patrons on those wonderful days of summer.

It is ironic that this building was built because of the arrival of the steam engine and reborn 140 years later because of the arrival of the microbrewery. It can be said that this building owes its existence to the science of boiling water!

Best of luck to Brewery Becker! Grand opening should be in full progress by February. Please plan a stop there in your travels. You will enjoy visiting this classic building that has been saved from the wrecking ball. Tell Matt Becker thanks for investing in our community and repurposing an important structure.

Jim Vichich, BAHS President

began brewing their new business plan that would preserve the old hotel far into the future. Extensive changes have been completed to the interior as a new microbrewery called "Brewery Becker" is in its final stages of construction.

Classic old style beers and modern blends will be the signature products. The beautifully repurposed building

POINTS OF INTEREST:

President's Editorial	See Page 1
There's Music In The Air (part 2)	See Page 4

**Looking for a great
Stocking stuffer!**
The "The Brighton Area"
softcover photo-history book
\$20.00
or
From Settlement to City
Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945
Hardcover history book by
Carol McMacken
\$65.00

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

Old Time Christmas Program at Lyon School, December 8, 2013 1-4pm

Con Weber's Brighton: Portrait of Family, Church and Nation, 1832-1942

Brighton native and B.A.H.S. member Paul Weber, a teacher of German and history in Sarasota County Fl. Schools for 34 years has recently completed a biography of his grandfather. If you're interested in a good read over the holidays chronicling the German immigrant experience from the time of the Kaisers, spinning wheels and frontier settlement to the Great Depression, you won't want to miss this touching story about a family that called Brighton home for 100 years. Limited editions available in December at PeppertreePublishing.com, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com or Books-A-Million.com. ISBN 978-1-61493-226-0 . Priced under \$25.00

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL:

The Buckley Jolly Group, LLC

PATRON:

Roland & Jane Owens

FAMILY/INDIV:

David & Joanne Bellmard, Bill & Mary Kay Besso, Tom Reinke, Carole Z. Scott.

Renewing members provide encouragement to the board.

Thanks:

- Jerry and Carole Damon, Lee and Sue Garcia, Pat Nelson, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the November issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- CoBACH volunteers for November: Sheryl Vigmostad, Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Hank Winegar and Jim Vichich.
- Sue Garcia for her continuous work of updating the Historic Resource Survey. This resource lists business owners in Brighton who have occupied specific addresses in the community back in time.
- Jerry Damon for his extensive research documentation program in creating a residential history of addresses for all homes in the City of Brighton.
- Carole Scott for a donation to Society projects with her dues.
- Green Oak Charter Township for stocking BAHS publications for sale.
- Kathy Smail, Judy Coebly and Mindy Kinsey for the CoBACH display "BOO!"
- Dennis Dimoff, Bruce Ritter, Nancy Fredenburg and Mindy Kinsey for the CoBACH Christmas display "Lighting Your Way to Christmas".

- BAHS archivists who volunteer at Lyon School on Thursday mornings. Their research and preservation of Brighton's past is invaluable! These enjoyable mornings are shared by Joe Collins, Caren Bierman, Jerry Damon, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Sue Zimmermann, Lynn Millar, Marieanna Bair, Tammy Sexton and Jim Vichich.
- Headstone Preservation Team of volunteers who are rebuilding and resetting the broken and fallen headstones of the 1838 Old Village Cemetery. Within the past year 33 fallen and broken headstones have been rebuilt and reinstalled. An equal amount have been lifted from the ground and relevelled. Thanks to the 2013 team comprised of Lynn and Clark Millar, Joe Collins, Bob Knight, Dave Pettigrove, Bill Dixon, Larry Lawrence, Tammy Sexton, Don Thomas, Gary Reutter, Jerry Damon, Gunnar Damon and Jim Vichich. Work will recommence on April 22, 2014. If you have 5 hours to volunteer for one day a month and want to participate in civic responsibility, please contact the BAHS. You will learn as we all participate doing the work on the fourth Monday of each month from April to October. You are guaranteed a fun time with a great bunch of folks and a wonderful personal feeling at the end of the work day.

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
Buckley Jolley Group LLC
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 enhanced with the support of our Business/Professional members.

Dates to Remember

December 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22: 5pm-8pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun, and Wed.

December 5, 12, 19: 9am-12nn
Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Join us and bring several old Brighton photos to share.

Lyon School will be closed on Thursday, December 26.

December 8, 1—4pm
Old time Christmas Program at Lyon School

- Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Take your family holiday photos.
- Fresh made cookies and hot chocolate.
- Enjoy many old fashioned Christmas decorations.
- Supervised make and take children projects.
- Great day for kids—Bring your camera!
- Set your calendar.

Entire Program is FREE

No December Board meeting!

CoBACH closed Christmas Eve through New Years Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
From your Brighton Area Historical Society

With other organizations:

December 7, 8: Waterloo Area Historical Society—Xmas on the farm.

www.waterloofarmmuseum.org

December 14, 15: Saline Area Historical Society—Xmas at the Rentschler Farm Museum. www.salinehistory.org

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: Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) ____-____

Address: _____

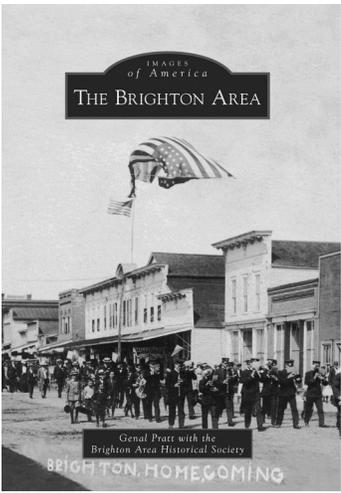
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-Mail: _____

How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: Email US mail
(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Membership Plan:	Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		

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 this need?"

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 | Directors
Joe Collins |
| Vice President
Marieanna Bair | Jerry Damon |
| Secretary
Judith Coebly | Nancy Fredenburg |
| Interim Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey | Larry Lawrence |
| Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon | 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.

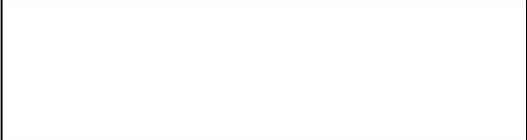
The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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There’s Music In The Air (part 2)

In 1840, Orson Quackenbush constructed a dam on Ore Creek on the south side of Main Street to capture power for the grist mill he built on the corner of West and North Streets. The water, held back by the dam formed the millpond on the north and south side of Main Street. One forded the stream on foot, horseback, buggy or wagon. Not until 1871, with the arrival of the railroad and resultant commercial growth, was the fording considered an obstacle. Merchants on each side of the creek, and the millpond were eager to be convenient to their customers.

Not long after the formation of the Brighton Peerless Band and the Brighton Cornet Band to commemorate the nation’s centennial, a trestle bridge over Ore Creek was built and edges of the marsh filled in. The trestle bridge was removed c. 1900, the marshy edge of the pond filled further and a board walk constructed.

To take advantage of the ambiance of the millpond area, members of the Brighton bands constructed a band stand about midway between the Town Hall on the east and the livery on the west. W.H.H. Seger, a band member and experienced well driver, supervised. Huge piles were driven into the pond, on which the stand was constructed. About 25 feet square it reached over the water in about the area of the present flag pole. At some time willow trees had been planted. This picturesque view can be seen in an early photo. Another photo, dated October 23, 1909, shows members of the Brighton City Peerless Band on an outing in the ‘band building’ on Maltby Lake. Gathered at a long, well set table, the large drum with the band’s name prominently displayed, are 17 gentlemen. The musicians are not identified, nor has any reference been found to indicate Henry Maltby, on whose farm the site was

located, was ever in the band. It is known Henry was a respected, industrious business man in the city and may likely have hosted the band. Members of the Brighton Band also held a ‘Band Camp regularly at Ore Lake where they practiced, relaxed and ate pot luck suppers.

There was a need to perform on the part of the musicians; there was also a need on the part of the listeners to delight in music played by their friends and neighbors. Regular weekly concerts helped fill that need.

To further satisfy residents’ longing for music, choral groups were also formed, church choirs, school chorales and the “Ye Olde Folkes Concerte” society. This 21 member group of local amateur singers performed this Concerte in 1800 period costumes. The program included “...sacred hymns, tunes, and likewise worldly songs certain of which were sung in ye yeare of our Lord 1800...for ye verie greate delights”. Accompanied by Mrs. Grace Goucher, piano, Agnes Goucher (age 11) violin and Ethel Goucher, cello, the December 6, 1917 program was performed at “...ye Federated Church”. (300 E. Grand River) Many of this group sang together for at least 25 years. A “Brighton Singers” group was formed; a double quartet, providing entertainment well into the 1930s.

To be continued...

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: writings of Bill Pless; “From Settlement to City,” by Carol McMacken; Historical Society archives; Green Oak Township Historical Society. Additions/ corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)