On December 14, 2014 the Brighton Area Historical Society will host Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Lyon School on Buno Road in the township. The 1885 One-room school will be decorated with an early 1890’s theme for the Christmas holidays. This is a wonderful time of the year for families to visit and tour the school that instructed children in Brighton Township from the 1880s through the 1950s. Allow your children to experience history at a one-room school that was rural America.

Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and take your family holiday photos
Enjoy fresh cookies and hot chocolate
Enjoy many old fashioned Christmas decorations
Supervised “Make and Take Projects” for your children
Great day for kids. Bring your camera!

Jim Vichich
BAHS President

THE BAHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS THIS MONTH
The BAHS is involved in many efforts to preserve our local history. Including the ongoing support of the Lyon School, and the digitizing of thousands of archives including newspapers, photos, and maps. It also includes the cemetery preservation program, the headstone preservation program, the CoBACH (Old Town Hall) programs, and displays.

Please consider renewing your membership so these programs can continue.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE
On Sunday November 16 the BAHS Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Lyon School to elect the 2015 Board of Directors including Officers. A potluck gathering at 1pm will celebrate friendship and enable members to exchange pleasantries.

Official business will start at 2:00.

Please consider how you can participate
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:
LIFE: Brighton Veterans’ Memorial Committee*
FAMILY: Tim Hurst, Dave & Marilyn Pettigrove*, Norma Jean Pless, Carole Scott.
*Welcome to new members Brighton Veterans’ Committee as LIFE Members and to Dave & Marilyn Pettigrove.

THANKS:
- Marieanna Bair, Sue Garcia, Jeannette Johnson for preparing the October newsletter for mailing.
- CoBACH volunteers for October: Denise Daddino, Jim DeJohn, and Judy Kline, Bonnie Riutta, Bob Knight, Nancy Fredenburg, Joe Collins, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey, Tom Reinke and Jim Vichich.
- Dana Foster, Brighton City Manager, for his kind words and special recognition of the Brighton Area Historical Society and its volunteers at the City Council Meeting on September 18. Recognition was for outstanding community service at the Old Village Cemetery including the annual spring cleanups and headstone preservation project. A PowerPoint slide presentation showcased various headstones that have been restored. Each headstone project volunteer in attendance was recognized for their outstanding work!
- Lin and Clark Millar for taking down the recent display at CoBACH and thanks to Kathy Small, Marieanna Bair, and Mindy Kinsey for display items.
- The headstone volunteers at Old Village Cemetery who restore respect to these hallowed grounds by giving back countless hours in the process of rehabilitation of broken headstones. Thanks to our September workers: Paul Hunkele, Jerry Damon, Gary Reutter, Bill Dixon, Joe Collins, Bob Knight, Ed Vitez, Dave Pettigrove and Jim Vichich.
- The history preservationists whose perseverance allow lost and misplaced history to be recreated and saved every Thursday from 9am to noon at the 1885 Lyon one-room schoolhouse. The weekly volunteers are: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- The volunteers from the Questers Plant Road #236 comprised of Judith Coebly, Heidi Clausnitzer, Sue Zimmerman, Elaine Saxton, Jeannette Johnson and Kay Flynn who spent a morning of their own time spraying cleaning solution on the headstones at Old Village Cemetery.
- Norma Jean Pless for a donation with her dues to the Friends of Lyon Homecoming book he donated.

CoBACH Future Exhibits:
Do you have items to loan?
Jan-Feb 2015: “Winter in Yesteryear Brighton” Do you have photos to loan for this exhibit that show you having winter fun like ice fishing, skiing, showing snow, outdoor hockey, snowmobiling, digging your car out of a snow drift?

Society Life Members:
John & Deb Armstrong
Tom Archer
Paul & Kathrynn Bair (Allen)
Shirley Barton
Donald Black (N.J.)
Marilyn Campbell (IN)
Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan
Nancy Fredenburg
William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst
Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN)
Larry & Kate Lawrence
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Carol McMacken
Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick
Robert & Pauline Schaffer
Anne Stratigos
Jim & Vicki Vichich

2014 Business/Professional Members:
Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC
Buckley Jolley Group LLC
Davis Multimedia, Inc.
ERA Griffith Realty
Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.
Lindhout Associates**
Mancuso and Cameron P.C.
Lawrence Autobody**
McCririe & Associates, P.C.
Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Patrick Financial Group, LLC**
Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research**
Archer Huntley Financial Services **
Brighton Veterans’ Memorial Comm.**
** Life Members

If you’re not a member of the Brighton Area Historical Society
See page 3

Dates to Remember

November-December CoBACH Exhibit: “Old Time Home Christmas” Exhibit will feature classic Christmas decorations and toys from the past. While some may consider these antiques, others like you and I know these as wonderful memories. Stop by and share your memories of family and friends with your children and grandchildren.
November 2,5,9,12,16,19,23,26,30; 5pm to 8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.
November 6,13,20; 9am to 12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon School. Closed Thanksgivin Day, Nov 27. Share your Brighton photos and memories with archivists. Tour the refurbished one-room school set in the early 1900s.
November 16; 1pm to 4pm: Lyon Schoolhouse. General membership meeting with 2015 elections. Potluck from 1 to 2pm. Business meeting 2-4pm.
November 19; 6pm: BAHS final Board meeting for 2014 at CoBACH. This meeting is the third Wednesday due to Thanksgiving.
NO December Board meeting.
December 14; 1pm to 4pm: Lyon School Christmas with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Great time to get those Christmas photos for this very popular FREE event.

January 28; 6pm: First BAHS board meeting for 2015 at CoBACH.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
November 9-14: Noon-4pm. Antique Appraisal Fair, Wixom City Hall.
wixomhistory@yahoo.com
November 20: A Service Man’s Story. Milford Historical Society. www.milfordhistory.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 ☐

Membership Plan:
☐ New ☐ $2 Student ☐ $50 Patron
☐ Renew ☐ $15 Individual ☐ $60 Business/Professional
☐ $25 Family ☐ $500 Life

Friend of Lyon School:
☐ $10 ☐ $100
☐ $25 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ Other $ ______

BAHS Projects Fund:
☐ $10 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ $100
☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______

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

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

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.

From Settlement to City:
Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945
By Carol McMacken
450 plus pages
Over 300 photos
$65.00

This large volume hardcover book offers the reader an opportunity to gain insight into the chronology of the first one hundred and thirteen years of Brighton’s existence. Through text and an extensive photo collection it is possible to appreciate the effort of the early inhabitants as they endeavored to establish a viable community.

This book can be found at Lawrence Autobody and CoBACH Center or by calling 810-250-7276

BAHS Leadership

President
Jim Vichich

Vice President
Marieanna Bair

Secretary
Linda Millar

Treasurer
Jerry Damon

Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

Directors
Bill Besso
Joe Collins
Nancy Fredenburg
Mindy Kinsey
Larry Lawrence
Thomas Reinke

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.
To build one’s home on the shores of a lake is the dream of many. This possibility has made the SE quarter of Livingston County the goal of residents of large nearby cities. The advent of hard surfaced roads and the availability of convenient transportation spurred many to dream in the early 1920s. While traveling on Grand River, one saw road signs reading “50 LAKES IN A 5 MILE RADIUS” on the approaches to Brighton City. These 50 lakes were soon the major destination for many. It wasn’t long before a number of man-made lakes came into being. Developers and entrepreneurs realized the possibilities.

These lakes owe their existence to several streams. Mann Creek rises in Oakland County, joining Woodruff Creek and on to the Huron River in Green Oak Township. Draining the NE part of Brighton Township, Mann Creek gains volume from Beach Lake. A dam on the creek, just north of Buno Road, provides the shore line of Lake Moraine.

From Hartland Township Ore Creek flows south through Brighton Township, through the city, then into Genoa and Hamburg Townships and the Huron River. July 27, 1927, the Brighton Argus noted that the Capitol Land Company of Detroit had purchased about 1400 acres of farm land a few miles north of town. A dam was installed on Ore Creek, just north of Hilton Road creating a large lake on which soon many homes were built. A golf course, hotel, club house, dancing pavilion, ball playing field and an airfield were all promised on the beautiful new Woodland Lake.

In Brighton, on the north side of Main Street, in the middle of town, is the earliest area lake, man-made, the Mill Pond. On the south side of the street Orson Quackenbush installed a dam and built a mill on Ore Creek in 1840, creating the pond. His mill was a major attraction in the area. Farmers brought wheat to be ground into flour and other grains for livestock. By the mid 1920s store-bought flour, bread, rolls, etc., became preferred by the homemaker and the mill closed.

A Brighton Argus reporter broke the news that a new lake was coming to Brighton in November 1926. Charles Howell a land developer from Detroit recently purchased the 280 acre Herbst farm in Section 36 of Genoa Township. His vision was to create a new large lake with home sites from the existing spring fed pond and the waters of nearby Ore Creek. The waters of the new Brighton Lake would flood the surrounding lowland by the construction of a dam on Ore Creek.

Work continued on the site but as money availability stiffened due to the impending financial disaster of the depression, the purchase of home sites dried up. In September 1937, the Brighton Argus reported that the Boy Scouts of America had purchased this property for their new Charles Howell Scout Reservation.

Quackenbush and others (Woodruff, Maltby, Kelley) could be noted as being the first to exploit the many streams in the county. Giving no thought to residential/recreational development possibilities, the very earliest settlers dammed Mann Creek, Ore Creek, Woodruff Creek, etc., for the power available. Saw mills, grist mills, etc., provided the settlers with many of life’s necessities.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: News clippings; 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City, 1982-1945” by Carol McMacken; writings of Bill Pless. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6401.)