

### Enjoy Brighton's History with a Book!

Get that perfect Christmas book for the person who loves history or loves looking at old pictures of Brighton. These books can be found at CoBACH Center, 202 W. Main Street from 5-8pm or at Lawrence Autobody, 306 W. Grand River Ave., 8am—5:30 pm or by calling Jim at 810-250-7276.

These two wonderful books share the history of Brighton. Your purchase will help to support and preserve the history of our community.

Carol McMacken spent 10 years of research prior to writing her book *From Settlement to City: Brighton, Michigan 1832—1945*. This book is perfect for the coffee table! This beautiful hardbound edition contains over 300 photos together with enjoyable stories that were gleaned from the early microfilmed copies of the Brighton Argus. Learn about the early families, their farms and businesses in this rural community formerly called Ore Creek. Our Grand River Avenue used to be known as the Grand River Indian Trail and was an important path through the woods for settlers moving west. You will have difficulty putting this book down as you traverse time through its 500 plus pages! This priceless history resource is available for \$65.

Genal Pratt and the Brighton Area Historical Society have combined to produce *The Brighton Area* photo-history book. This soft cover photo book with detailed captions of the pictures provides an excellent resource to those who enjoy a quick read about an early topic. Each classic photo has an informative description, which tells about the early business with the present day business name and address. This book is the perfect stocking stuffer at 128 pages containing 199 photos for \$20.

Jim Vichich  
President, Brighton Area Historical Society  
810-250-7276

#### CoBACH Future 2015 Exhibits

Jan-Feb: "Winter in Yesteryear Brighton"  
Do you have old photos to loan for this exhibit that show you having winter fun like ice fishing, skiing, shoveling snow, outdoor hockey, snowmobiling, digging your car out of a snow drift?

#### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends sincere sympathies to the family of Bill McCririe, a long-time member of the Society.

#### POINTS OF INTEREST:

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#### Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus

Enjoy fresh cookies  
Old fashion decorations  
Supervised "Make and Take Projects"

**December 14, 2014**  
**1:00pm to 4:00pm**  
**FREE**

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## Thanks and Recognition

### Memberships:

**LIFE:** Bob & Donna Phillips\*

**PATRON:** Tim & Norma Clausnitzer, Emil & Joan Engel, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Tom & Melinda Kinsey, Sam & Brenda Ochodnicki, Kathy Pearson (OR), Rich & Mary Ray.

**INDIV/FAMILIES:** Pat Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Joanne Bellmard, Elaine Blight, Dale Borst, Joe Collins, William & Margaret Dixon, Tony, Beth & Clara Ferreyra, Lee & Sue Garcia, Joanne Harte, Lynnette K. Hawkins, James Lauridsen, Sylvia Lawing, Steven & Kathy Lowry, Charles & Evelyn McConnell, Clark & Lin Millar, Ralph Miller, Pat Mrozek, Joan Naylor (OK), Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Bob & Kitty Padget, Gregory Park (OH), Dave Rebiger\*, Tammy Sexton, Ralph & Suzanne Skwarski, Lynn Strong, Susan Zimmermann.

\*Welcome to new member Dave Rebiger and LIFE member, Bob & Donna Phillips. Without renewing members the Society could not exist nor fulfill its purpose.

### THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Carole & Jerry Damon, Pat Nelson, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the November issue of the newsletter for mailing.
- William & Margaret Dixon, James Lauridsen and Dave Rebiger for donating to Society Projects with their dues remittance.
- Val & Kathy Jacoby, Helen Leitz and Ralph & Liz Romano for donating to Friends of Lyon School with their dues.
- CoBACH volunteers for November: Nancy Fredenburg, Joe Collins, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- Lin & Clark Millar, Judith Coebly, Shirley & Bob Knight for taking down "Boo" and putting up "Christmas of Yesteryear", as well as lending items for display. Thanks also to Kathy Smail for lending her Halloween items for display.

- The archivists working every Thursday to recreate and preserve the past. Many interesting stories of the past come to light every week. Stop by and share your stories of the past with Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- The headstone volunteers who worked many summer hours to rebuild headstones and preserve the memories of Brighton's earliest settlers. Over the past two summers nearly 60 headstones have been reassembled from broken pieces. An equal number of leaning ones have been dug out and made vertical again. Old Village Cemetery is indeed an outdoor museum of Brighton history. Thank you to the October volunteers as they restore our past by practicing civic pride: Jerry Damon, Bill Dixon, Joe Collins, Bob Knight, Ed Vitez, Dave Pettigrove, Dave Rebiger, Larry Lawrence, Don Thomas and Jim Vichich.
- Stockwell Academy honor students who donated a Saturday morning to cleaning the Old Village Cemetery in preparation for the Gilluly Headstone Rededication.
- VFW, American Legion, Veterans' Memorial Organization, Brighton Area Historical Society, Gilluly-Kingsley Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans #120, Hartland High School History Club, Corrigan Oil Company, 5th Michigan Regimental Band and Scotty Alexander Entertainment for the fine job of programming the activities to honor our country's veterans on November 8 in downtown Brighton.

### Society Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong  
Tom Archer  
Paul & Kathryn 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  
Bob & Donna Phillips  
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 \*\*  
McCrie & 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

We encourage readers to patronize the business/professional members for their support.

## Dates to Remember

**December CoBACH Exhibit:** "Christmas of Yesteryear" Exhibit will feature classic Christmas decorations and toys from the past. Bring your family, friends, kids and grandchildren and share your memories of the past.

**December 3,7,10,14,17,21; 5pm—8pm:** BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

**December 4,11,18; 9am—12nn:** Archiving at Lyon School.

**No Archiving December 25 or January 1**

**December 24– January 1: CoBACH CLOSED**

Share your Brighton photos and memories with archivists. See the school decorated with old time Christmas holiday memories.

### No December Board meeting!

**December 14; 1pm—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.

**Mid January—February CoBACH Exhibit:** "Winter in Yesteryear Brighton"

**April 23; 6:30pm:** Cluster meeting of local historical societies and libraries at the Lyon Schoolhouse. Enjoy special guest presenter, Mark Twain as he shares unique stories of the past during his 15 minute performance. A guaranteed fun program!

### WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

**December 6; 2-7PM:** Wassail at Wixom Museum. wixomhistory@yahoo.com

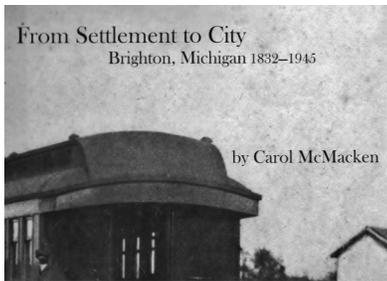
**December 6-7:** Christmas on the Farm. www.waterloofarmmuseum.org

## 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.

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

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



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

### Description:

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

## 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 (one day a month), help set up displays, loan of personal items for displays of the early days of Brighton.

Contact Jim Vichich at 810-250-7276

**OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON**  
 Please consider renewing your membership  
 or becoming a new member.

## BAHS Leadership 2014

<b>President</b> <b>Jim Vichich</b>	<b>Directors</b> <b>Bill Besso</b>
<b>Vice President</b> <b>Marieanna Bair</b>	<b>Joe Collins</b>
<b>Secretary</b> <b>Linda Millar</b>	<b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>
<b>Treasurer &amp; Trail Tales</b> <b>Editor</b> <b>Jerry Damon</b>	<b>Mindy Kinsey</b>
	<b>Larry Lawrence</b>
	<b>Thomas Reinke</b>
	<b>Education Liaison</b> <b>Judith Coebly</b>
	<b>Sue Skwarski</b>

## 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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Brighton, MI

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**“THE BRIGHTON AREA RECEIVES MAIL”**

Written communication, the transferring of information between people, governments, etc., has long been vital to individuals and governments alike. Carriers of this information have used a variety of means of delivery and various means of payment.

Great Britain was the major governing body ruling the colonies in North America in the 17/18th centuries. In 1863, Great Britain’s Charles II inaugurated the London Penny Post. British authorities could open any mail to ferret our political loyalties. This invasion of privacy was one of the reasons for the Colonies to revolt in 1776. This symbol of freedom became, for the 1782 Continental Congress, a critical issue regarding human dignity and one’s liberty.

Controlled by the Federal government the term ‘Post Road’ began to be used during the 1770s. The post road was designated as the route by which mail traveled. This could refer to roads, steam boats (1813), water ways (1823), the railroad (1838). Mail was transported by the lonely horseback rider and the stage coach, later the railroad, until 1901 when automobiles began to be used under contract with the Federal government. In 1914 government owned vehicles began to be used.

It was 1836 that uniform rates, envelopes and adhesive stamps were proposed in order to improve delivery and cover the expense. The recipient paid for the stamp prior to that time.

November 5, 1836, mail was delivered to Ore Creek by stage. Wilber Fisher was the first post master. Several theories are held as to the reason for the name change to Brighton, but February 13, 1838, mail was directed to Brighton Village. Towns where mail was delivered, on a weekly schedule, were along established stage lines; often to a general store or a tavern. A settler picking up any mail in town would also distribute neighbors’ mail.

July 24, 1837 (six months after statehood), settler Elijah Marsh was appointed post master for the Pleasant Valley Post Office. Mail could be picked up at his home on Hyne Road near Muir Road. It is written that after two years Marsh decided any extra income was not worth the bother and neighbor Peter Delamater took over. These sites are now part of the General Motors Proving Ground. By 1842, Melzer Bird, on Pleasant Valley Road, at Kensington Road, was post master for six years. The 1859 map of Brighton Township notes “North Brighton Post Office” on the corner of the Flint Road and McClements Road; five miles north of Brighton Village, convenient to local farmers. Rev. William Clark, who settled in the north-west corner of the township by 1838, also sorted mail for his neighbors, which were very few in number.

Settlers in Hamburg Township, in 1835, found it necessary to go to the post office at Whitmore Lake (on the Ann Arbor Road) for their mail. In Hamburg Village a post office was established c. 1840, with John F. Grissom as post master. Ferdinand Grissom served from 1861 except when R. S. Hall was post master during Johnson’s administration. In 1875, one finds a Hamburg Post Office on Chilson Road, one mile south of Chilson. D. S. Bennett may have been the post master. On the corner of Pettysville and Mercer Roads, 1863, Valentine Wiegand is the post master at the Pettysville Post Office. He served into the 1870s. *To be continued.*

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City, Brighton, 1832-1945” by Carol McMacken; newspaper clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6401.)