



SPECIAL GUEST VISITOR
APRIL 4 and 5
MARK TWAIN

You can experience a wonderful evening in an intimate setting with the affable Mark Twain as he concludes his March and April performances at the CoBACH Center next to the Millpond in downtown Brighton. Pat Tucker from the Livingston Players creates a wonderful lesson on history, as he portrays the feisty American writer and humorist. You will enjoy Mr. Twain as he indulges his guests with wit and satire on the American issues of the mid to late 1800s that still transcend to the politics and issues of today.

This concluding spring performance is a different presentation than the very popular solo talk we experienced at his last October 2013 visit. The satire Mr. Twain employs is the late 1800s version of today's comedy club. Please visit the CoBACH Center on April 4th or 5th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are limited due to the intimate setting and are available at CoBACH Center and the Brighton Chamber of Commerce for \$5 during regular business hours.



SPECIAL GUEST VISITOR
June 6, 7, 20 and 21
MARY TODD LINCOLN

Set your calendars for the Mary Todd Lincoln presentation where you can listen and enjoy Chris Miller of the Livingston Players, as she portrays the president's wife. Listen to this extraordinary historical icon as she reflects on her stories of her childhood, courtship with Mr. Lincoln and life in the White House. Hear her own accounts of her life from before and after the assassination of her beloved husband. Presentations are June 6, 7, 20 and 21 at 7:30 pm.

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
at
Brighton Area Historical Society

If your not a member of the
Brighton Area Historical Society
See page 3

REMINDER
SIXTH ANNUAL OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY CLEANUP
SATURDAY, MAY 3 FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM
A GOOD TIME WILL BE HAD BY ALL
CALL JIM TO PARTICIPATE: 810.250.7276

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's Editorial
See Page 1
- Evolution of Area Roads (part 2)
See Page 4

OFFERED BY THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

LIFE:

Dr. John and Barbara Jacoby (MN).

FAMILY/INDIV:

Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Joyce Hubbs (Cldwtr)*, Lawrence Johnson (Lnsng), Joyce Terry, Sheryl Vigmostad, Paul Weber (FL), Henry & MaryLou Winegar, John & Anne Zemke, Susan Zimmermann, and Tammy Sexton.

**A warm welcome to new member, Joyce Hubbs.*

The Society is fortunate that caring members step up to do their share in an organization which promotes their community's history. Active participation is vital.

THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Jackie Damm, Jeanette Johnson, Norma Jean Pless and Jim Vichich for preparing the March issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Marlene Fonseca and Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby for their donation to Friends of Lyon School with their membership.
- Marlene Fonseca, Joyce Hubbs, and Sheryl Vigmostad for their donation to Society Projects with their membership.
- Lin and Clark Millar, Mindy Kinsey and Loretta Murray for display items. Mindy and Lin for setup of "So You Think You Can Sew".

THANKS— Continued:

- CoBACH volunteers for March: Bob Knight, Tammy Sexton, Joe Collins, Hank Winegar, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- Judith Coebly for making professional exhibit signage for all the displays at CoBACH Center.
- Mindy Kinsey and her great work of designing and setting up informative exhibits at CoBACH Center.
- Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for the never ending job of removing snow at the Lyon Schoolhouse.
- Marieanna Bair for her continuous research work and providing written stories for page four of the Trail Tales.
- The BAHS treasurer and Trail Tales editor, Jerry Damon, for the great work of keeping financial records correct and putting our monthly newsletter together.
- Joe Collins and his fresh muffins that he provides for the archiving crew every Thursday.
- Tom Reinke for investigating competitive insurance rates for Lyon School and CoBACH Center.
- Tammy Sexton for volunteering to narrate and provide historical stories for the Brighton CoRe bus tour around the community on July 19-20.

Society Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong
Tom Archer
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

2013 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.
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 **
** Life Members

Dates to Remember

April CoBACH : "So, You Think You Can Sew!" Exhibit. Exhibit will feature sewing products and machines through different periods of the 1900s.

April: 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 27 and 30—5pm-8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun, Wed and Thurs.

CoBACH CLOSED, Sunday, April 20, Easter Sunday

April 3, 10, 17, 24—9am-12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Share some old family photos that show buildings in Brighton.

April 10—6pm-9pm: Spring Cluster Meeting of local libraries and historical societies.

Sponsored by Milford HS and held at their Mary Jackson House located at 648 Canal St, Milford 48381, Confirm with Carol Watkins, 248.684.5045

April 23—6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH

May 3—9am-1pm: Join the 6th Annual Spring Cleanup of Old Village Cemetery. Your help is needed as the revitalization of Brighton's oldest cemetery readies the graves of U.S. veterans and others for the Memorial Day observance.

May 26—9am-1pm: Special CoBACH Civil War exhibit today only. See two wonderful private collections of Civil War memorabilia

including rifles, swords, uniforms and other armaments.

May 26—10am-11:15am: Memorial Day Parade in downtown Brighton to honor American soldiers that died defending the freedoms of our country.

July 18-20: Brighton Community Reunion (CoRe). An all-class BHS Reunion and Community event in downtown Brighton. Watch for info in the Brighton Argus and BAHS Trail Tales

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

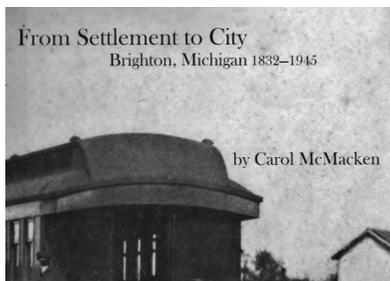
April 17: Main Street, Milford program www.milfordhistory.org

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:		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"/> \$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 thirty 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, 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
Linda Millar

Treasurer
Jerry Damon

Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

Directors
Joe Collins
Nancy Fredenburg
Mindy Kinsey
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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Brighton, MI**

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Evolution of Area Roads (Part2)

By 1875, the Ann Arbor-Flint Trail passed over the Huron River on a sturdy bridge north of Winans Lake Road. Instead of taking the Rickett Road route one could continue north to the connection with the Grand River Trail about one mile east of Brighton. It was still necessary to travel into Brighton on the Grand River Trail then to follow Flint Road north to current Old US 23.

By 1895, this road, and other main roads (still dirt) were widened and somewhat improved with the addition of gravel on a fairly regular basis. However, with horse drawn wagons, it was still difficult to move produce and products from the farm to markets and the railroad and to receive merchandise not produced at home.

New mode of travel, trucks and automobiles propelled by gasoline engines, greeted the dawn of the 20th Century. As novel as this mode of travel was, many of the 1904 population still doubted the reliability and durability of this newfangled machine. Could it negotiate the early 1900 roads? Could it climb the hills of southeast Livingston County? A story is told of the necessity of driving one's auto backwards up Seim's hill (Brighton Road west of Bauer Road) in order to keep gas flowing to the engine. And what about breakdowns?

Local historian Bill Pless wrote "I remember seeing a Glidden Tour fleet of cars go through; I think it was 1906. There were about fifty cars in the caravan. They started in Detroit and I think their route was to take them to Grand Haven, then south along Lake Michigan to return to Detroit on the Detroit-to-Chicago Road which is now U.S. 12. The trip took several days, and only half of them made it without breaking down. Many had so little hill climbing ability that we boys ran behind and pushed them up the hill west of the Ratz School." (Northeast corner of Kellogg and Grand River.)

Charles Glidden, an early promoter of the auto industry, had launched the Glidden Tours in 1905, after participating in a 1904

tour. These events, of which the majority of participants were in their own vehicles, had strict rules and record keeping. With the exception of 1912, these tours continued through 1915, stimulating interest across the country in this growing industry.

The documentation compiled by the Glidden Tour participants relayed to manufacturers the kinds of improvements needed in their products, soon. The tours were built-in advertising for manufacturers whose vehicles were included. Glidden might well be credited as running America's first automotive proving ground. (General Motors Proving Ground, commenced in 1924, in Brighton Township is now in its 90th year.)

Impatient with snow-blocked roads in the winter, mud bogs in the spring, and dust during the summer, automobile purchasers made their irritation and dissatisfaction known to national, state and local governments. By the second decade these entities began responding appropriately.

In 1913, the National Trunkline Highway Act authorized the planning and construction of 3000 miles of Trunkline Highway in Michigan. (In 1924, another 6530 miles of Trunkline Highway were authorized in Michigan.)

To be Continued....

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from "From Settlement to City—Brighton"; "Yesteryears of Green Oak"; "writings of Bill Pless; various clippings and articles. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)