Have you ever wondered how our Brighton area has changed over time? What were the early businesses? Who were the people that took a chance and became the early settlers and store owners? What sustained our rural community through the challenging periods?

Get your time machine out and travel back. All you need is the desire and the inquisitive nature. Set the controls for your local website www.BrightonAreaHistorical.com and prepare to visit your community’s past.

Select “History” and then “Historic Maps” to initiate your retro landing in time. In this location you will find files for township and city maps of Livingston County for the years 1875, 1895 and 1915. Set the time machine for 1875 and dial in Brighton Township. The roads are unnamed but the locations have stayed basically the same. Of course, you won’t see any expressways since your time machine precedes those roads by over 80 years.

Along the bottom of the map is Grand River Road and as you travel west to Brighton the road veers to the north at today’s Rickett Road, formerly the Ann Arbor Road. Follow some of the local roads and you will recognize many old Brighton family names as you pass their farms.

Every Thursday morning from 9am-noon, the history detectives meet at the 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse to discover, share and tell stories gleaned from newspapers and maps. Feel free to join in the fun as we return to the past and continue our sleuthing!

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

Memberships:
LIFE: Paul and Kathryn Bair (Allen)*

Welcome to Paul & Kathy Bair as LIFE members and to Patrice Starkweather and Edward Vitez as new members. Community support is vital to the Society.

THANKS:
- Marianna Bair, Carole Damon, Lin and Clark Millar, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the July newsletter for mailing.
- Nancy Fredenburg, Judith Coebly, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich for the setup of “My Hometown” at CoBACH.
- Bob and Shirley Knight, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Tom and Mindy Kinsey for assembling the float, the costumes, and participating in the Fourth of July Parade.
- Tammy Sexton for her program on the historic sites around Brighton that was shared during a special historic bus tour on July 19 as part of the festivities of the Brighton CoRe reunion weekend.
- Pat Mrozek for helping to preserve Brighton history through her donations of Brighton Argus newspapers that are over 100 years old.
- Vicky (Muller) and Dave Sobieski for sharing information on the Graham Hotel and allowing BAHS to scan several of their old Brighton photos.
- The Old Village Cemetery headstone preservationists who are restoring the broken headstones in Brighton’s oldest cemetery. The help of these volunteers is critical in preserving these family monuments. Thanks to the June volunteers: Joe Collins, Dave Pettigrove, Don Thomas, Larry Lawrence, Bob Knight, Lin and Clark Millar, Paul Hunkele and Jim Vichich.
- The Thursday morning archivists at Lyon School who keep everyone laughing and having fun: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marianna Bair, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Judith Coebly and Suzanne Skwarski for opening, closing and cleaning of the Lyon Schoolhouse for students that came from Cornerstone Church School and Birmingham Schools in June. Students get to experience the one-room schoolhouse and learn in a setting that was standard in the US and Canada from our earliest days through the 1950s.
- Our Trail Tales editor, Jerry Damon, for the wonderful job in preparing our monthly newsletter.

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
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.
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

CoBACH Future Exhibits:
Do you have items to loan?
Oct: “Silent Film Festival”
Nov- Dec: “An Old Time Home Christmas”

Dates to Remember

August-September CoBACH Exhibit: “From Farm to Table—Food Preserving”
Exhibit will feature technology used to preserve food from the 1900s.
August 3,6,10,13,17,20,24,27,31; 5pm-8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.
August 7, 14, 21, 28; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Tour the school or share photos and stories with archivists.
August 25; 9am—2pm: The Headstone Preservation Project Team meets today and the 4th Monday of each month through October 27 at the Old Village Cemetery. Your help is needed as we rebuild broken headstones. No experience necessary. You can learn as we work together. Info call Jim at 810-250-7276
August 27; 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
August 9, 10 am: Antique Tractor, Truck and Farm Equipment Show.
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.

**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  [ ] $100  
- [ ] $25  [ ] $250  
- [ ] $50  [ ] Other $______  

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

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**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

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**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

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**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  
Bill Besso

**Education Liaison**  
Judith Coebly  
Sue Skwarski

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**BAHS Projects Fund:**

- [ ] $10  [ ] $100  
- [ ] $25  [ ] $250  
- [ ] $50  [ ] Other $______

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**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.

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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.

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Brighton Area Historical Society - BRIGHTONAREAHISTORICAL.COM
First the Surveyors Then the Settlers

When the first settlers: Elizabeth Cushing, Elijah Fitch, Anthony Gale, Maynard Maltby, William Noble, etc. began coming to the Brighton area, in 1831, they didn’t just start blindly walking west out of Detroit. Trails had been blazed through the forests, swamps and streams and had been crossed by those first men with the title of surveyor.

The signing of the Treaty of Ghent, following the War of 1812, confirmed again the land claimed by the United States in 1783 following the Revolutionary War from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River. Land west of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi became known as the Northwest Territory.

In order to put the land on the market the Ordnance of 1785 committed the federal government to the surveying of land to assure the provision of legal title. The Ordnance also described the procedure by which these public lands were to be surveyed. These surveys would determine precise locations, the description and designation to be registered with federal authorities.

Base lines running east to west and prime meridian lines running north to south were the most important lines to be fixed. The baseline is located at 42 degrees, 26 minutes and 30 seconds north latitude. This line, today (21st century), is the northern boundary of Wayne, Washtenaw, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The meridian line is located at 84 degrees, 22 minutes and 24 seconds west longitude running north from Defiance, Ohio. These intersect near the northeast corner of Jackson County and the northwest corner of Washtenaw County. Following the determination of these lines the surveyors were to mark township lines; each township to be six miles square and subdivided into 36 sections of 640 acres. These sections to be numbered from the northeast corner of the township beginning with #1, proceeding west to #6, then numbering east until #36 was in the southeast corner of the township.

The War of 1812 interfered with conducting these surveys. It was 1815 before surveying could begin running the base and meridian lines. By then the Michigan Territory was organized separate from the Northwest Territory.

The first government land office in which to register land sales was located in Detroit in 1818. Work was begun first in lower southern Michigan; those lands most likely to attract settlers. Each purchaser had an accurate systematic permanent record of his or her acreage along with a map and surveyor’s notes. By 1851, all of Michigan was surveyed.

The surveyor’s party included axemen, chainmen, hunters and packers, often a party of 8-10. Equipment included axes, chains, compasses, corner posts, pencils, pens, paper, ink and metal pins with a ring with a strip of red flag to note corners of each section (1 sq. mile). Witness trees were often used as markers. Early on the surveyor depended on a magnetic compass set on a tripod. C. 1840, he was also required to use a solar compass. To run a straight line one needed two chainmen and one axeman to clear brush and mark corners at each section corner and to drive a hardwood stake into the ground with one foot above. A survey party worked at least four months, requiring the surveyor to prepare skillfully and amply.

The legal description of the piece of land on which this writer lives begins: “A part of the Northeast fractional (1/4) of Section three in town One North (Green Oak Township which southern boundary is Eight Mile Road, the Base Line), range Six East (East of Meridian Line), Michigan and described as follows: Commencing at the North 1/4 post of said Section: thence, etc., etc.,...”

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: “Surveys and Surveyors in Frontier Michigan” by Alan S. Brown; “First Land Owners Livingston County” by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)