RESTORATION OF LT. COL. JOHN GILLULY MONUMENT

The Brighton Area Historical Society has been actively working to restore the 1838 Old Village Cemetery for the past six years. This outdoor museum of history is one of the hidden gems adjacent to the downtown Millpond. One facet of this project is the restoration of all broken and leaning monuments.

The Lt. Col. John Gilluly headstone has been broken in three pieces and laying half-buried horizontally in the dirt for decades. Hardly the respectful display for anyone’s gravesite but certainly not for a distinguished officer killed in action during the Civil War at the battle of Fredericksburg.

This beautiful white marble headstone is being restored this summer and will be standing tall by the time the autumn colors begin visiting this fall.

A new concrete base has been poured to support this monument. The headstone repair process has begun with the assembly of the two lower broken pieces. Mold, mildew and encrusted dirt are being carefully removed while the headstone is lying down on timbers for repair work.

Many other headstones are being repaired at the same time as the Gilluly headstone. Feel free to visit this cemetery and see the work in progress. If you would like to join in this preservation program that is extremely rewarding, please contact me. No experience necessary. We train as we do the work!

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK at Brighton Area Historical Society
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:
PATRON: Margaret Bowland.
STUDENT: Chelsea Sturza* (2015)

*Welcome to new Student member Chelsea Sturza. Continued community support promotes the Society’s purpose.

THANKS:
- Marieanna Bair, Sue Garcia, Jeanette Johnson, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the August newsletter for mailing.
- Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Judith Coebly, Jerry Damon, Shirley Knight and Jim Vichich for the setup of “From Farm to Table” exhibit at CoBACH.
- CoBACH volunteers for August: Nancy Fredenburg, Joe Collins, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence, Sheryl Vigmstad, Mindy Kinsey and Jim Vichich.
- Bob & Ruth Watson for their donation to the Society Project Fund.
- 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 July volunteers: Joe Collins, Dave Pettigrove, Jerry & Gunnar Damon, Larry Lawrence, Bob Knight, Lin & Clark Millar, Paul Hunkele and Jim Vichich.
- The Lyon School Thursday archivists who work to preserve history while enjoying the blueberry muffins made by Joe Collins. The weekly archivists are: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Lin Millar, Mindy Kinsey, Joe Collins, Marieanna Bair and Jerry Damon for their work in rearranging and updating museum room at the Lyon School.
- The editor, Jerry Damon, of the Brighton Area Historical Society’s monthly newsletter titled Trail Tales for the wonderful job in preparing our monthly newsletter.
- Northville Historical Society for donating a hand-held fan advertising the Boylan Store in Brighton. This men’s clothing store was on Main Street during the 1920s/1940s.
- George & Fritzie Seger (FL) for a photo of the “Little School” (on Rickett Road), a brass $.50 piece from the 1967 Brighton Centennial event, and a framed collection of calling cards.

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 **
McCririe & Associates, P.C.
Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
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”
Jan-Feb: “Winter in Yesteryear Brighton”

Dates to Remember

September CoBACH Exhibit: “From Farm to Table—Food Preserving” Exhibit will feature technology used to preserve food from the 1900s. See an early display of a typical kitchen.

September 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21, 24, 25, 28; 5pm—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday.

September 4, 11, 18, 25; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Tour the school or share photos and stories with archivists.

September 22; 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

September 24; 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

December 14; 1pm—4pm: Lyon School Christmas with Santa and Mrs. Clause.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
September 5: Basic Genealogy and September 12: Basic Archives Workshops by the Historical Society of Michigan, 9 am—Noon. www.hs michigan.org
September 18: Chelsea Jiffy Mix Story hosted by Milford Historical Society. www.milfordhistory.org
September 21: Pittsfield Township Historical Society hosting the Pittsfield Harvest Festival. pittsfieldhistory@yahoo.com
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  □ Renew  □ $2 Student  □ $15 Individual  □ $25 Family
□ $50 Patron □ $50 Business/Professional □ $50 Life

Friend of Lyon School:  □ $10  □ $25  □ $50  □ $100  □ $250
BAHS Projects Fund: □ $25  □ $50  □ $250

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.

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.

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

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

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BAHS Leadership

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Jim Vichich
Vice President
Marieanna Bair
Secretary
Linda Millar
Treasurer
Jerry Damon
Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

Directors
Bill Besso
Joe Collins
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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.
Part 1—History of the First Brighton State Police Post

Larry Lawrence of Brighton’s Lawrence Autobody worked at the Busy Bee Market, 10840 E. Grand River Avenue, while in high school in the early 1960s. Larry had many unique skills. For this story he had figured out the exact timing of the traffic light at the intersection of Old US 23 and Grand River Ave to make the green light every time. He offered to use that skill to rope-tow Jim Longthorne’s car from his home on Kissane Avenue to the Busy Bee. Jim’s car needed a tow because it had no engine! The adventurous part was that Jim’s car also had no brakes! If they could manage to get the car to the Busy Bee, Larry’s boss Walt Moore had said they could use the electricity to run the tools to work on the now helpless automobile.

They tied the cars together with the rope. Larry waited until the right time to take flight down Grand River and past Old 23. Great news! Larry and his towed rider made it through the green light as planned! Bad news! Two unfortunate things occurred at that moment. The tow rope released as Larry started to brake sending Jim’s car speeding down the hill past Larry’s car. At this same moment, a state policeman saw this successful feat of intersectional manipulation and pursued Jim’s car which couldn’t stop because, of course, it had no brakes. Larry drove off avoiding any consequences. Hopefully, by the time this story publishes, he is covered by a statute of traffic-type limitations!

What happened to Jim? His car finally rolled to a stop about a mile and a half past the light. The police officer gave Jim a ticket for driving without a license plate, driving without a driver’s license, and driving with no brakes. But wait, there’s more! Jim received the ultimate in policing paradoxes: a speeding ticket for a car that had no engine!

One might say that he was unlucky to have been spotted by the state trooper, but I haven’t told you this: the original Michigan State Police Post was located on the northwest corner of two federal highways; US 23 and US 16 (Grand River Avenue) until the early 1980s. They towed that car smack in front of the State Police Post! Great Balls of Fire!

Here lies the story of that State Police Post. Speeding had increased and was causing accidents on state roads. By 1924, it was decided to make a special division of the State Police which would give direct attention to highway issues. They were known as the “Flying Squadron” and they were to cooperate with sheriffs and local police. In 1931, through the persuasions of a delegation lead by young attorney, Martin Lavan and Brighton Mayor Boylan, the Governor agreed that Brighton was the best spot to build a State Police Post.

Stay tuned for next month’s feature where I continue the State Police Post history and tell the story of two Brighton state troopers recruited by a U.S. Marshall to help dig a hole next to a house behind the Log Cabin Inn. Why? They were digging to locate two quart jars of nitroglycerin!

(Compiled by Tammy Sexton from the adventurous tales of Larry Lawrence; “From Settlement to City” by Carol McMacken; The Brighton Argus, April 23, 1958. Additions/corrections welcomed. Call 313-910-3807 or email tammyjosexton@yahoo.com)