



FREE

**CHRISTMAS 2015 AT LYON SCHOOL
WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS**

FREE

On Sunday, December 13, 2015 the Brighton Area Historical Society will host Santa 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 (810-250-7276)
President, Brighton Area Historical Society
jvichich@comcast.net

**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, the digitizing of thousands of archives including newspapers, photos, and maps. Efforts also include the cemetery preservation program, the headstone preservation program, and CoBACH (Old Town Hall) programs, and displays.

**Please consider renewing your membership
so these programs can continue.**

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

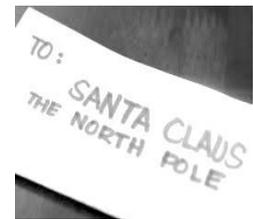
On Sunday, November 15 the BAHS Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Lyon School to elect the 2016 Board of Directors including Officers. A potluck gathering at 1pm will celebrate friendship and enable members to exchange pleasantries.

Official business will start at 2:15.

Please consider how you can participate

EXHIBITS at CoBACH

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Closed Monday



**Nov. 11 — until Dec. 23
"Letters to Santa"**

Letters sent to Santa that the Brighton Postmaster has kept from the mid 1980s until the 2000s. Come see if your letter is there. Also, figurine candles to be given away.



**January 2016
"Display of Woodworking
Tools"**

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

PATRON: Roland & Jane Owens, Tom & Bonnie Riutta

INDIV/FAMILY: Carole Scott, Jason & Stephanie McIntyre*, Constance Sherman.

*Welcome to Jason & Stephanie McIntyre as new members. The Society's administrative expenses are covered by memberships. Donations and fund raising receipts enable the Society to continue its many projects.

THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Jerry & Carole Damon, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for preparing the October issue of the newsletter for mailing.
- Carole Scott for including a donation to Society projects with her membership.
- CoBACH volunteers for October: Bonnie Riutta, Joe Collins, Lynn Strong, Mindy Kinsey, Hank Winegar, Sheryl Vigmostad, Nancy Fredenburg, Bob Knight, Tom Reinke, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Secretary Carole Damon and her outstanding work with Society minutes and for digitizing our Trail Tales mailing list.

BAHS has a large number of old photos. Copies are available for purchase from the Society. Contact Jim at 810-250-7276 or visit the Lyon School on Buno Road any Thursday morning from 9am—12nn.

- The September and October OVC Headstone Preservation team: Dave Fuller, Hank Winegar, Bob Pettengill, Bill Goodwin, Jerry Damon, Judith Coebly, Gary Reutter, Bill Dixon, Dave Pettigrove, Don Thomas, Larry Lawrence, Dave Rebigier, Joe Collins, Ed Vitez, Bob Knight and Jim Vichich. Outstanding work by all was done in 2015!
- The History Archivists who meet every Thursday at the Lyon Schoolhouse include: Marieanna Bair, Jerry Damon, , Mindy Kinsey, Jill Eastcott, Joe Collins, Valerie Haggerty, Lynn Strong, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Treasurer Jerry Damon's thorough and complete work with the monthly bills and for keeping the books balanced. Also thanks to Jerry for his time consuming work of compiling page 4 articles from the Trail Tales newsletter for a new 2016 BAHS book to be called "Page 4".

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK
at
Brighton Area Historical Society

Mark Your Calendar
December 13: 1—4pm
Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Lyon School (Free Event)

Society Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong
Tom Archer
Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen)
Marieanna Bair
Shirley Barton
Charles & Janice Beach
Donald & Shari Black (N.J.)
Marilyn Campbell (IN)
Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan
Jerry & Carole Damon
Nancy Fredenburg
William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst
Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN)
Larry & Kate Lawrence
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Carol McMacken
Richard Park (IL)
Bob & Donna Phillips
Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick
Robert & Pauline Schaffer
Anne Stratigos
Jim & Vicki Vichich
Linda (Skeman) Wintermute
2015 Business /Professional Members:
Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Buckley Jolley Group LLC
Clark Eye Center
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

Dates to Remember

November 11—December 23, CoBACH Center; Christmas Exhibit, "Letters to Santa."

Nov. 11,15,18,22,25,29; 5-8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

Nov. 5,12,19; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. **CLOSED Nov 26,** Thanksgiving Day.

Nov. 7; 10am—10:25am: VFW/Legion Parade on Main Street including Reflections, Gun Salute, Laying of Wreath and Playing of Taps.

Nov. 7; 10:30am—11:15am: Brighton Veterans' Memorial Committee, Sons of Union Veterans #120 and Brighton Area Historical Society Program at Old Village Cemetery. Recognition of Local Area Veterans. Dedication of New VA Headstone for Brighton Civil War Soldier, Private Prosser and Rededication of Restored Headstone for Brighton Civil War Soldier, Capt. Rose.

Nov. 18; 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH. Held third Wednesday of November due to Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov. 25—30: CoBACH Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.

Dec. 24—Jan 4: CoBACH Closed for the Holidays.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Nov 13: Advanced Archives. A Historical Society of Michigan workshop in Lansing. hsmichigan.org.

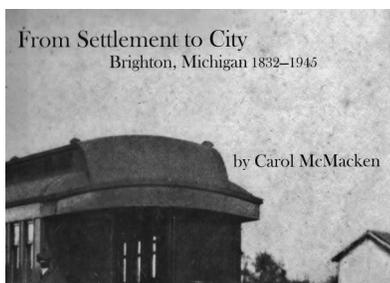
Nov. 29: Dulcimer Concert, South Lyon Historical Society. 248-437-9929.

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: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail	
Membership Plan:		Donation to—Check One:	Amount of Donation:
<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 \$ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	
		<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS Projects Fund	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	

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

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

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE UPDATES AT
www.brightonareahistorical.com**

BAHS Leadership 2015

President Jim Vichich	Directors Bill Besso
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Joe Collins
Secretary Carole Damon	Nancy Fredenburg
Treasurer & Trail Tales Jerry Damon	Mindy Kinsey
Editor	Larry Lawrence
	Lin Millar
	Thomas Reinke
	Tammy Sexton
	Lynn Strong
	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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A Story About Island Lake — Part 3

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Williams were living on Fonda Lake when they built the Downing Hotel on the east side of Island Lake, December 3, 1895, on the high bank on the west side of Academy Road, the road between Briggs and Island Lakes.

The sleeping rooms were above, the dining room built below with a screened porch erected over the water. Chester Peach of Green Oak helped with the construction. Tables were always nicely set with white linen table cloths and white linen napkins. Lena Bales was in charge of the dining room.

Except for horse-drawn buggies and rigs, visitors to the lake arrived and left at the railroad station at Academy Road; a convenient and dependable source of transportation. The steamer, S.V. Hallek, purchased from A.G. Brown of the Spiritualists, was a wood-burning boat which met vacationers alighting from the train, transporting them to several hotels and other venues on the lake. It is said the boat burned one day and sank to the bottom of the lake. The year in which this occurred has not been ascertained. One presumes it was before 1901, when the new steamboat the James H. White was "christened." White was president of the Spiritualists' Island Lake Camp Association in 1895. The availability of a boat was a vital necessity. (Now the question arises — who piloted the boat?) A 1903 clipping noted "...the hotel at Island Lake is filled to capacity, the largest number of guests ever entertained at any (Spiritualist) encampment."

By 1915, land west of Academy Road and south of the railroad was owned by Fred L. Russell; purchased from Truman Vanderlip. Adam G. Brown is owner of land on the east side of Academy Road, south of the railroad; then north from the railroad to within a half-mile south of Grand River. At one time he owned 3/4 miles of lake frontage on Island Lake.

The Spiritualists' lease for their campsite on the northwest side of the lake was with the railroad through A.G. Brown. The rail-

road broke the lease c. 1918, and Brown acquired ownership. About that time the Spiritualists disbanded and the hotel structure, Brown's Island Lake House, was used to store grain (120 acres of corn and beans) for many years.

Early in the 20th century the automobile began to make its debut and brought with it many changes. Agriculture, for 65 years the economic mainstay, was challenged for that position by recreation. Improved mobility enabled visitors to more easily come to the area. Similarly, when the railroad arrived 50 years earlier, farmers, merchants, craftsmen, etc., had to reconsider their product and how to move it to market. Cattle now moved by rail, not on foot with the drover. Store bought bread, milk, meat, produce, fuel, clothing, etc., became the preferred purchase. In a comparable manner, Henry Ford's 'tin lizzy' was taking over.

In May, 1920, A.G. Brown sold the Island Lake House, the Spiritualists' campground, plus most of his lake frontage to the S.W. Burton Land Company of Detroit. Burton also purchased property on Fonda Lake, and after platting all this, advertised the desirability of owning a lot at Island Lake. By September of 1920, 3000 lots had been sold. The Kirby Sorge Felske Company of Detroit, in June 1920, advertised for salesmen for the Grand River Colony Lakes, land south of Grand River between Island and Fonda Lakes. An April 27, 1921 issue of the Brighton Argus predicted the coming season would be even bigger. *(To be Continued)*

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from "From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945" by Carol McMacken and "Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930"; donated photographs and clippings. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)