YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO RESTORE BRIGHTON’S VILLAGE CEMETERY!

Please become a member or make a donation to the Brighton Area Historical Society in 2016. Your generosity will assist the historical society in rebuilding and restoring Brighton’s oldest cemetery. All funds received are utilized 100% in preserving the memories and history of the Brighton area. As a 501 (c)(3), your donation this year may be fully deductible on your 2015 income taxes.

The Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Project is completing its third year of operation. So far, about 90 broken headstones, which were lying in the dirt and sod, have been restored and are now standing proudly upright. An equal number that were tipping over have been removed and reinstalled in the vertical position.

This labor intensive volunteer project happens during the summer months. So far, our volunteers have donated over 1300 hours of labor in the transformation of the Brighton area’s oldest historical asset that had its first burial in 1838. All funds used to date have come through memberships and donations to the Society.

It is estimated that this volunteer project will take 10 years to complete. In the first three years the work was done on the legs, backs, and arms of the volunteers. The volunteers are all retired and range in age from the mid 60s to the early 80s. This next year is the transition year as we are now progressing into larger headstones and monuments that require the utilization of hydraulic power equipment. The expenses to continue will require significant increased funding.

Please support this vital community preservation project. You can help restore dignity to the graves of our founding settlers by donating to help restore and preserve their headstones and monuments. Wouldn’t you want the sole record of your life preserved for future generations?

Jim Vichich (810-250-7276)
President, Brighton Area Historical Society
jvichich@comcast.net

THE BAHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES 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.
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:


*A hearty welcome to new members Dana & Molly Foster, Matthew & Barbara Modrack, and Mike & Sherri Wisser. Hard working board and committee members are encouraged by the support of new and renewing memberships.

THANKS:
- Marieanna Bair, Carole Damon, Jeanette Johnson, Susan Zimmermann, Judith Coebly and Jim Vichich for preparing the November issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Andrew Haapala and staff at Island Lake Recreation Area for their help in research of the area.
- Pat Anderson and Dave & Karen Rebiger for their donation to the Old Village Cemetery Project with their memberships.
- Bill & Margaret Dixon and Tony & Beth Ferreyya for their donation to Society Projects with their memberships.
- Ralph & Elizabeth Romano for their donation to Friends of Lyon School with their membership.
- Teacher Phil Smith and the National Honor Society students from Cheryl Stockwell Academy who donated a Saturday morning in October for performing grounds maintenance in preparation of the Veterans’ Day Observance Program.
- Lynn Strong, Mindy Kinsey and team for helping with the making of the suit for Mrs. Claus.
- Shirley Knight, Lin Millar, Mindy Kinsey and Carole Damon for setting up the Santa letter display at CoBACH. Thanks to Bruce Ritter for donating Christmas candles to give-away at CoBACH and to Emil Engel for donating letters to Santa.
- The 5th Day Archivists who assemble at the Lyon Schoolhouse to research, laugh and preserve valuable historical data include: Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Jill Eastcott, Joe Collins, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Larry Lawrence, and Jim Vichich. Welcome to newcomer Peggy Van Sickle.
- Sons of the Union Veterans #120 from Howell for their outstanding program at Old Village Cemetery for the Veterans’ Day Observance on November 7. New and restored headstones were dedicated for Private John Prosser & Captain George Rose. These men were residents of Brighton and died in action during Civil War cam-paigns in 1864 at two different battles in Virginia. Thanks also to the Hartland High School History Club for assisting in this program. The program was led by Dick Hutchins who gave the historical perspective for both men. Special thanks to Bill Dixon and Dave Pettigrove for their work in the program and valuable talents in resto-ration of the Rose Headstone. Gratitude to our young 4th grade scouts, Dorian Petten-gill and Ava Hassan, who presented the colors and flowers for the ceremony.
- VFW/Legion Team and the Brighton Veterans’ Memorial Team for their organization and presentation work in the Millpond program done in conjunction with the Old Village Cemetery program on November 7.
- Judith Coebly for designing and producing the program used at Old Village Cemetery. WHMI and Jessica Matthews for spreading the word through the community about the Veterans’ Day Observance activities.
- 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) Wermute.

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 **
- McCririe & Associates, P.C.
- Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
- Patrick Financial Group, LLC**
- Promess, Inc.**
- Refrigeration Research **
- Archer Huntley Financial Services **
- Brighton Veteran’s Memorial Comm. **
- Life Members

Dates to Remember

Dec. 1: 6pm—7pm: CoBACH Center. Committee planning meeting for BAHS 35th Anniversary program that will be held Sunday, July 17, 2016.
Dec. 2,6,9,13,16,20,23: 5—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.
Dec 3,10,17,24; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. CLOSED Dec 24 and 31, Christmas Holidays.
Dec. 24—Jan. 4: CoBACH CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
Dec. 5-6: Christmas on the Farm. Waterloo Area Historical Society. 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 [ ] $60 Life

Donation to—Check One:
[ ] Friend of Lyon School [ ] BAHS Projects Fund
[ ] Old Village Cemetery Fund

Amount of Donation:
[ ] $10 [ ] $100
[ ] $25 [ ] $250
[ ] $50 [ ] 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.

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
Vice President
Marieanna Bair
Secretary
Carole Damon
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

Directors
Bill Besso
Joe Collins
Nancy Fredenburg
Mindy Kinsey
Larry Lawrence
Lin Millar
Thomas Reinke
Tammy Sexton
Lynn Strong
Judith Coebly, Sue Skwarski

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.

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.
A Story About Island Lake — Part 4

The Michigan Military Academy was established and founded by Tom Leith of Detroit in 1918. He purchased a site on Island Lake, with beach access, from Adam G. Brown in 1920. The property extended from the railroad tracks north along Academy Drive. There he located the Michigan Military Academy campus, housed in the Swastika Inn near the railroad the first year. That first summer, 17 boys received “...general tutoring, military training, nature study and sports.” Due to expanding student enrollment, a 40’ x 80’ two-story building, equipped with running water and electricity, to house 60 boys and ten instructors (one of which at one time was his brother, Donald) was erected in 1921. A large athletic field north of the railroad was developed to provide an area for military drills and physical fitness exercises for the boys besides those on the lake, which included learning how to rescue drowning swimmers. Shortly a basketball court was included. The college preparatory curriculum was offered from September 1, 1921/June 15, 1922. The Academy boys’ baseball team regularly played local teams at no dishonor to themselves. Mr. Leith soon built his own home at Island Lake.

In addition to the launching of the Military Academy, the spring of 1921, found George Williams completing the construction of a pavilion, located on the west side of the ridge between Island and Briggs Lakes (Academy Drive), the highlight of his summer resort center. Three stories tall, the pavilion would have dancing on the top floor which is level with the road. Part of the pavilion is built over the water. Refreshments and private rooms and an office will be on the second level. At water level, the first floor will have bathing booths constructed in a manner which allows bathers direct access to the water and beach. “They are providing first class wool bathing suits for rent.”

Williams also announced the Arcadia people of Detroit have leased his pavilion; the Arcadia Hillside Pavilion Company representative, L. W. Scutt, a professional dancer, will be in charge of the company’s policy to “...keep the place clean and respectable in every way.” Scutt is planning dancing classes soon.

The Arcadia people would also be responsible for the road between Island and Briggs Lakes to be built to a width of 50 feet. By August 17, 1921, Williams’ Hillside Bathing Beach was getting water slides built and there was a need for more parking space. It should be noted that two grocery and general stores were open along Academy Drive for the convenience of visitors and campers.

Even more exciting news broke early that April, 1921. Not only was Williams building his Hillside Bathing Beach and Tom Leith’s Michigan Military Academy was settling in, but now the scoop was that C.W. Burton & Company was also working on a $30,000 dancing pavilion on the north shore of Island Lake! Burton had purchased from A.G. Brown in May, 1920, the earlier site of the Spiritualists’ campground.

The Brighton Argus reporter noted that most supplies for construction and equipment for the amazing addition to the area’s economic base had been purchased from Brighton merchants, for which residents should be appreciative. (To be Continued)

(Compiled by Marianna 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.)

SEASON’S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS