



2015 BAHS Board

Left to Right Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Tammy Sexton, Tom Reinke, Carole Damon, Bill Besso, Mindy Kinsey, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Jim Vichich, Lin Millar, Larry Lawrence, Jerry Damon.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Please Join and Support the BAHS in 2015

When you become a member of the Brighton Area Historical Society you are stating that the history of the Brighton area is important. Your generosity compels others to ponder our local history and to join the effort to preserve it. The BAHS monthly newsletter for members is the *Trail Tales*. You will find new articles of local history and learn of the progress of the society's local preservation efforts. Please join the expanding base of local supporters! Read below for some of the society's preservation projects.

The society has assumed responsibility for the refurbishing of the Old Village Cemetery, now in its seventh year. Located next to the downtown Brighton Millpond this 1838 burial ground is being rehabilitated. The 7th Annual Spring Cleanup takes place on May 2, 2015. Starting in June through October on the 4th Monday, the society restores broken headstones. The society is in the third year of the ten year headstone preservation project. Over 60 headstones have been reassembled over two years.

The restored 1885 Lyon One-room Schoolhouse located at 11455 Buno Road serves as headquarters for the BAHS. Every Thursday from 9am to noon you will find local archivists rediscovering early Brighton history. Consider joining this active group of fun loving volunteers. Teachers and students from local schools visit in spring and fall for a day in the old style classroom. Local teachers present a unique curriculum that teaches about early education in the typical one-room schoolhouse. A special free Christmas program in December enables parents and their little ones to experience Santa, Mrs. Clause and a unique supervised make and take craft program.

Volunteers are needed at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center located downtown next to the Millpond. Within the former Old Town Hall building you will find displays of local history from BAHS, drama presentations by the Livingston Players and wonderful exhibits from local artists of the Brighton Art Guild. The CoBACH Center provides a venue for experiencing local culture. The BAHS needs volunteers here on Sunday and Wednesday from 5-8pm.

If you are a newly retired person or a person that enjoys history, consider joining a volunteer group within the society. You will enjoy the people and the new activity!

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



CONGRATULATIONS
Members of Brighton Masonic Lodge Chapter #247 recently recognized Rolison Hardware for 100 Years of continuous business within Brighton.

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

LIFE: Jerry & Carole Damon, Richard Park (IL)*

PATRON: Kathy Alrubaiy (CO), Margaret Bowland, Joyce Hubbs, Jere & Kay Michaels, Lois Tobias (NE).

BUS/PROF: Buckley Jolley Real Estate Team, Clark Eye Center*, Davis Multimedia Int., Inc.

INDIV/FAMILIES: George & Muriel Allen, Sally Baldwin, Bradley Beal (CA, 2016), Robert & Nancy Carlson, Mary Jo Comiskey, Denise Daddino, Bill & Jackie Damm, Evelyn Dothager, Jan Fairbanks, Janice Field, Pat Franklin, Phil & Peggy Gage, Ruth Green (MS), Jeanette Johnson, Jack & Beverly La-Belle, M. Lenninger & M&N Partridge, Dennis & Maria Littleworth (FL), Brenda McCarty, Nora Miller, Gus & Lillian Mitsopoulos*, Cleo Moran, Pat Nelson, Bob & Kitty Padget, Robert & Priscilla Pettengill* Tedd & Linda Potter, Leland, Genal & Nolan Pratt, Mildred Quinn, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, David & Janice Shoewe, Connie Sherman, Jim & Judy Tavarozzi, Alice Wyland, John & Anne Zemke.

*Welcome to new members Richard Park (IL), Clark Eye Center, Gus & Lillian Mitsopoulos, Robert & Priscilla Pettengill.

THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Jerry & Carole Damon, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the December issue of the newsletter for mailing.
- Monica Winberg at Lawrence Autobody for selling the BAHS history books.
- The McCrie family for their donation in memory of Bill McCrie.
- David & Judy Bair for their donation in honor of his parents, Marieanna & Bert Bair.
- The archivists working every Thursday to recreate and preserve the past. Many interesting stories of the past come to light every week. Stop by and share your stories of the past with Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Larry Lawrence, Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia and Jim Vichich. Anecdotal stories are important since these stories generally were not found in the newspapers.

- All the 2014 BAHS board members for their valued guidance and assistance with society programming. The Brighton Area Historical Society and the Brighton area residents are very fortunate to have these dedicated community members!
- The new 2015 BAHS board members whose donation of time and talent will allow the BAHS to have a wonderful new year with much fun and fellowship!
- The 2014 Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Team: Don Thomas, Larry Lawrence, Bill Dixon, Dave Pettigrove, Ed Vitez, Hank Winegar, Joe Collins, Bob Knight, Dave Rebigier, Jerry & Gunnar Damon, Lin & Clark Millar, Paul Hunkele, Gary Reutter and Jim Vichich. Awesome work completed over two years by restoring 60 broken headstones while digging out an equal amount of leaning headstones and made vertical again. Save your 4th Monday in June through October and join this group.
- Volunteers at Lyon School for the wonderful Christmas program that included Santa and Mrs. Claus along with many craft projects: Mindy & Tom Kinsey, Lin & Clark Millar, Joe Collins, Bill & Mary Kay Besso, Tom Reinke, Tammy & Steve Sexton, Bob & Shirley Knight, Vicki & Jim Vichich. An extra thank you to Mindy, Lin, Clark and Judith Coebly for the many hours in decorating the Christmas tree and schoolhouse and then the takedown of the Christmas decorations.
- Judith Coebly, Lin & Clark Millar, Shirley & Bob Knight for taking down the CoBACH "Christmas of Yesteryear" display and setting up the latest display, "It's Winter in Brighton, Let's Play!"
- CoBACH volunteers for December: Joe Collins, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence, Lin Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Jackie Armstrong, Mary Jo Comisky, Pat Franklin, Gus & Lillian Mitsopoulos, Cleo Moran, Tedd & Linda Potter for their donating to the Friends of Lyon School for 2015, when remitting their 2015 dues.
- Jacque Armstrong, Mary Jo Comiskey, Bill & Jacque Damm, Joyce Hubbs, Cleo Moran, Pat Nelson, Robert & Priscilla Pettengill, Paul & Cindy Sawallich for donating to the Society Projects when remitting their 2015 dues.

Society Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong
Tom Archer
Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen)
Shirley Barton
Donald 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

2015 Business /Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC
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

January-February CoBACH Exhibit: "It's Winter in Brighton. Let's Play!!" The entire first floor exhibit will feature displays of how local people kept busy during the cold snowy winter season. See exhibits featuring outdoor themes that include ice fishing, skating and skiing. Board games will be featured with an indoor home setting. The display cases will show old tins, snowmen displays, old classic games and snow globes.

January 4,7,11,14,18,21,25,28; 5pm—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

January 8,15,22,29; 9am—12nn: Archiving at Lyon School.

January 28; 6pm: First BAHS board meeting for 2015 at CoBACH.

April 23; 6:30pm: Cluster meeting of local historical societies and libraries at the Lyon Schoolhouse. Enjoy special guest presenter, Mark Twain as he shares unique stories of the past during his 15 minute performance. A guaranteed fun program!

May 2; 9am-1pm: Old Village Cemetery 7th Annual Spring Cleanup. Reserve this date as the community joins together to cleanup winter debris in our community's oldest cemetery with burials that date from 1838. This day of "Community Civic Pride" will help restore the beauty and respect of this burial ground as we prepare all grave sites including those of our veterans for Memorial Day.

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: _____

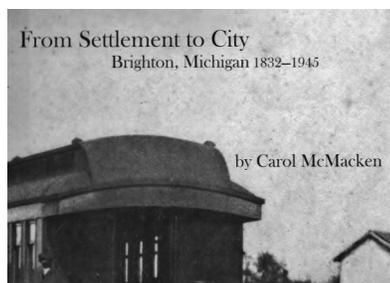
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-Mail: _____

How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: Email US mail
(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Membership Plan:	Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		

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.

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

OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS ON
Please consider renewing your membership
or becoming a new member.

BAHS Leadership 2015

- | | |
|---|--|
| President
Jim Vichich | Directors
Bill Besso |
| Vice President
Marieanna Bair | Joe Collins |
| Secretary
Carole Damon | Nancy Fredenburg |
| Treasurer & Trail Tales
Editor
Jerry Damon | Mindy Kinsey |
| | 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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“THE BRIGHTON AREA RECEIVES MAIL”

During the early days of settlement of Livingston County, pioneers knew full well there would be no dependable delivery of mail. In this southeast quarter of the county, as elsewhere, mail delivery was by horseback from Detroit to settlements along the Grand River Trail. One of these weekly riders, contracted by the Postal Department, was Lewis Thompson. By 1838, the center of this part of the county was Brighton Village. Here Post Master Wilber Fisher, after its delivery by Thompson, sorted mail and handed it to settlers when they came to town on business.

Genoa Township is traversed across its northern portion by the Grand River Road. “The stage line was in operation over the Grand River Road...a post office called Genoa P.O. was established”, notes a contributor to the 1880 History of Livingston County. Post Masters were appointed by the Postal Department to serve the rural areas. Chester Hazard received the first appointment in Genoa, at his farm on the Grand River Trail, just east of Hughes Road. Because so much care and detail was involved, after several years Hazard asked that John Weimeister be appointed in his place in 1848. By then Weimeister owned the Dutch Grocery, built by Lawrence Euler, c. 1837, at Kellogg Road, on the Trail. “Old” John Meyers, who lived nearby was appointed Weimeister’s deputy.

After the Grand Trunk Railroad was constructed through Genoa Township, 1871, the post office is moved to Genoa Station and James Bogan is Post Master. Genoa Station was located at the intersection of Dorr and Crooked Lake Roads and the railroad. It was still necessary for the local farmer to go to the post office to get mail.

Green Oak Township pioneers also had to travel to receive and send mail. Northville or Whitmore Lake were the nearest for Green Oak settlers. Robert Warden settled in the northeast portion of Green Oak Township in 1833. He applied to the U.S. Government to have a post office on his farm near the intersection of Silver Lake

and Kensington Roads, called Greenock, commemorating his hometown in Scotland. Application was granted but the name became Green Oak. Brother-in-law Kinsley S. Bingham was appointed the Post Master.

A postal route from Ann Arbor to Pontiac was formed in 1847. The route appears to have followed Rushton Road north from Eight Mile Road. Thomas Dunlap, on horseback, made the weekly trip. Green Oak Mills and Green Oak Station were post offices on the route. By 1859, Anna Hollister was Post Master at a post office on her farm on Winans Lake Road near the south end of Rickett Road. This post office was in operation until October 21, 1862.

The arrival of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad, 1872, across the northeast part of the township, intersected with Silver Lake Road near Rushton Road. A small community, including a store and a boarding house run by the Parker sisters was established; it was logical to locate a “Green Oak Station Post Office” at the site. In operation until July 16, 1906, a number of post masters served throughout the years.

By 1875, the Green Oak Post Office is located in the small community of Rushton, a half mile south of Ten Mile Road served by the Grand Trunk Railroad. A sawmill and a grist mill were built there. Farmers, having occasions to go there for business could also pick up mail. 1884 finds Clark Coe is Post Master; 1888 it’s Frank E. Richards. To be Continued.....

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City, Brighton, 1832-1945” by Carol McMacken; “Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830-1930”; plat maps; newspaper clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)