Spring Cluster Meeting with Mark Twain

Meet and greet Mark Twain on April 23, 2015 at the Lyon One-Room Schoolhouse as he brings his humor and satire to the Spring Cluster Meeting. Wear your period 1900 clothes and get a wonderful personal photo for your family album!

Mr. Mark Twain (aka Pat Tucker) will be the featured guest at the 2015 Spring Cluster Meeting of Historical Societies and Libraries from Livingston and western Oakland Counties. He has developed wonderful satiric stories of the mid to late 1800s from the recently released biography of Mr. Twain. The performance is similar to the political satires encountered at today’s comedy clubs but what is really amazing is how similar Mr. Tucker resembles Mr. Twain. His connections to the past and links to the present will fulfill your need to laugh. You will discover that past history is indeed very much today’s history and you are there!

After this 15-20 minute program the meeting will commence where each guest organization will present a five minute snapshot of their own projects. This sharing of information among groups is the real significance of this meeting. Good ideas are shared with the true good and bad experiences that resulted from these good ideas.

Please share this information with other members of your organization so that we can have a wonderful turnout. Plan on arriving around 6:30pm as refreshments will be available and guests can share pleasantries with others. The meeting will last no longer than 9pm. The Brighton Area Historical Society has their headquarters at this 1885 Lyon One-Room Schoolhouse located at 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township. This historical building has been refurbished and is barrier-free. We look forward to you joining us for this fun and interesting evening. Please confirm your attendance.

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

“It’s Winter in Brighton. Lets Play!!”
Come and see this display!
At the CoBACH Center
Sunday-Friday 5-8 pm
Saturday 11am-5pm
Closed Monday
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

PATRON: Phyllis Kerslake, Tom & Bonnie Riutta.

BUS/PROF: Kimble Appraisal Group.


THANKS:

• To those who send in changes of address which avoids mail-returned fees.

• Richard & Judith Parsons, Tom & Bonnie Riutta and Bruce and Betty Schuman for donating to Society Projects when remitting their dues.

• Judith Coebly, Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry & Carole Damon, Gary Reutter and Jim Vichich for preparing the January issue of Trail Tales for mailing.

• Judith Coebly, Gary Reutter, Bill & Mary Kay Besso, Lin & Clark Millar, Shirley & Bob Knight, Mary Posuniak, Hank & Mary Lou Winegar, Tammy Sexton, Marieanna Bair, and Mindy Kinsey for the loan of items and the time for setting up the display at CoBACH, “It’s Winter in Brighton, Let’s Play!”

• CoBACH volunteers for January, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong, Nancy Fredenburg, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.

• Our local members who participate weekly at the Thursday archive session at Lyon Schoolhouse. The work of Marieanna Bair, Jerry Damon, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong, Mindy Kinsey, Joe Collins, Bill Besso, Larry Lawrence, Sue Garcia and Jim Vichich is greatly appreciated as the history of Brighton is being preserved and reconstructed from old newspapers.

• The Headstone Preservation Team of Old Village Cemetery. Join the team on the 4th Monday from June through October and help with the rebuilding of broken headstones that date from 1838. Great day of fellowship and an important civic give-back to the community of Brighton. Info 517-304-7722.

THANKS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!
For renewing your membership, for donations to our projects, for being there when we ask. It is your support that keeps this organization moving forward at a high level.

If there is anything we can do please do not hesitate contacting us.

Society Life Members:
John & Deb Armstrong
Tom Archer
Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen)
Shirley Barton
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

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 **
McCirie & 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

February CoBACH Exhibit: “It’s Winter in Brighton. Let’s Play!” Sun-Fri: 5-8pm, Sat: 11am-5pm, Mon: Closed

February 1,4,8,11,15,18,22,24; 5pm–8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

February 5,12,19,26; 9am–12pm: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Join us and bring several old Brighton photos to share.

February 25; 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

April 23: 6:30pm: Spring Cluster Meeting at Lyon Schoolhouse. See Page 1 for information.

May 2: 9am-1pm: Old Village Cemetery 7th Annual Spring Cleanup. Reserve this Saturday and join many community members as they participate in the “Community Civic Pride” event as volunteers prepare veteran and non-veteran gravesites for Memorial Day.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

March 19: Milford Historical Society, “An Evening with Mark Twain”. Information at www.milfordhistory.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: ____________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
City: _________________________

E-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.

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 Continues
Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member.

BAHS Leadership 2015
President
Jim Vichich
Vice President
Marianna 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
Education Liaison
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 1897 two story brick building, also known as the Old Town Hall.
The transport of mail by the railroad, ended the era of the stagecoach along the Grand River Trail. The mail bag was left at the depot to be taken to the post office at 132 W. Main. The June, 1909, obituary of Gilbert W. Abrams states he “...carried mail between the train and the post office for about eight years”, probably between 1895-1902. A clipping informs us Art Hutchings brought mail from the railroad to the post office (c. 1902), resigning in March, 1905. J.D. Smith took his place.

Since the appointment by the Federal government of Wilbur Fisher as Post Master, November 5, 1836, the Brighton Post Office has been served by a number of local men. Robert G. Power, February 8, 1838, took over, to be followed by James B. Lee, May 25, 1848. At the risk of turning off our readers, but because these early Brightonites should be recognized, the following served as Post Master for a year or more: John G. Spencer, John T. Smith, Stephen K. Jones, Benjamin T.O. Clark, Nicholas Kennedy, George W. Stewart, Willard C. Brown, Frank M. Blatchford, Clio S. Case, Earl Brown, Gerald R. Pitkir, Guy E. Pitkin, J. Al Bosworth. With the appointment of Emil Engel, May 30, 1980-1995, and an eye toward brevity, this list is concluded for this research. These men can be considered as having some responsibility in Brighton’s growth. They were merchants, farmers and mechanics, doctors, attorneys and grocers, among other occupations.

The isolation of rural families in the 18th—19th centuries is inconceivable in this 21st century. Devoid of today’s instant communication possibilities, the farmer’s links to the rest of the world were newspapers and mail, which were delivered to the local post office. The time and effort involved to pick up mail meant a trip to town and back, often a day’s travel. Such a trip would probably also include the purchase of food, clothing, equipment and its repair, etc. It could be several weeks, or even months, before mail was picked up.

The concept of rural free delivery was first promoted in the early 1890s by the Post Master General John Wanamaker. Not everyone believed this plan could work. It was considered impractical and too expensive to have a carrier travel over poor roads, through forest and around swamps to deliver mail; braving weather year round. As can be surmised, rural residents were all for Rural Free Delivery (RFD).

A major side effect of RFD was the stimulation for the development of America’s systems of roads. To qualify for RFD, local governments had to see that passable roads were constructed. Occasionally farmers banded together and improved their neighborhood roads in order to qualify.

RFD became a major factor in serving as a connection between rural and industrial America. The cultural and social changes which came to America are most stunning. To be continued......

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City, Brighton, 1832-1945” by Carol McMacken; writings of Bill Pless; clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)