



**SEVENTH ANNUAL OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY  
CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION  
SATURDAY, MAY 2 FROM 9AM—1PM**

In Old Village Cemetery headstones of Brighton leaders and residents peer down over their city as if to observe the changes through time. Please join community members for a civic pride event working inside the beautiful ornamental fence under the canopy of mature trees honoring those buried there. You will find the names of prominent and ordinary folks from Brighton's earliest days that endured hardships that can only be imagined as they settled these frontier villages.

One of the goals of this spring restoration is to have Old Village Cemetery in respectful condition for the veterans buried there this Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Veterans of the Civil, Spanish-American Wars, WWI and WWII are part of the rich Brighton history.

The Brighton Area Historical Society recognizes the contributions that our service men and women have made to preserve the freedoms we experience. Please join the working teams as we revitalize these grounds and provide a respectful setting. Workers with grass/leaf rakes, branch/brush shears, garden tools and work gloves are needed.

Restoration work on the headstones will also take place during this same time. If you have an interest in learning to restore these historical headstones and monuments, please join us. No experience needed as we will train you.

We are guaranteed a spring day that will provide fellowship to all participants while experiencing the beauty of the 1838 Old Village Cemetery. Everyone will leave with a feeling, emanating deep from within their hearts that their donation of four hours is one small thank you to our veterans that have served this great country.

Please call me to volunteer. Everyone's help is needed!

Thank you in advance.

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

**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

President's Editorial	Page 1
"The Brighton Area Receives Mail" - continued.	Page 4



**Aprons & Hats**  
**"Tie One On and Top It Off."**  
March—April  
At the CoBACH Center  
Sunday-Friday 5-8 pm  
Saturday 11am-5pm  
Closed Monday

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## Thanks and Recognition

### Memberships:

**PATRON:** Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer, Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, Margo Metzger.

**BUS/PROF:** Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Mancuso & Cameron.

**INDIV/FAMILIES:** Joe & Tina Anderson, Don & Ricci Bandkau, Bill & Mary Kay Besso, Caren Biermann, Tim Bennett, Nancy Cardel, Jim DeJohn, Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Richard Hyne, Bob & Shirley Knight, Stanley Kourt, Susan Lanning, Don & Edie Leith, Dwight & Joyce Matteson, Richard & Mary McKinnie, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Jim & Janis Miller, Rosemarie Oldford, Dave Rebiger, Jonathan Redditt, Tom Reinke, Ann Tice\*, Jane Tomlinson, Dick & Lucille Weaire, Robert Wilhide, Robert Wilkinson, Al & Karen Wirth.

\*Welcome to new member Ann Tice. Renewing members indicate others share the society's goals: preservation, advancement and dissemination of knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

### THANKS:

- CoBACH volunteers for February: Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong, Nancy Fredenburg, Hank Winegar, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- The February Trail Tales mailing team comprised of Marieanna Bair, Jeanette Johnson, Judith Coebly, Gary Reutter and Jim Vichich.
- Jim DeJohn, Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, Margo Metzger, Marlene Fonseca, Richard & Mary McKinnie, Don & Edie Leith, Jane Tomlinson, Al & Karen Wirth and Ann Tice for donating to the Friends of Lyon School with their dues.
- Our history preservationists who meet weekly on Thursdays at the Lyon Schoolhouse. The work of Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Mindy Kinsey, Joe Collins, Larry Lawrence, Sue Garcia and Jim Vichich is greatly appreciated as Brighton's history is documented and preserved for the future.
- The Headstone Preservation Team of Old Village Cemetery. Join the team on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday from June through October and help with the rebuilding of broken headstones that date from 1838. Several Saturday training dates are being considered for this July. Eastern Michigan University students that are doing graduate studies in historic preservation will have a **FREE** hands-on morning/afternoon on the art of headstone repair. Info 810-250-7276.
- Emil Engel. During his almost 40 years as Post Master in Brighton, he collected 100s of Letters to Santa. The Society is grateful for his donation of these epistles and hopes to integrate them into the archives.
- Caren Biermann, Margo Metzger, Marlene Fonseca, Bob & Shirley Knight, Richard & Mary McKinnie, Richard & Judith Parsons, Ralph & Liz Romano and Peg Siford for donating to Society Projects with their dues.
- The snow removal team of Besso and Vichich for sidewalk and driveway clearing at Lyon School.

### 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 \*\*  
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

**March-April CoBACH Exhibit:** Aprons and Hats, "Tie One On & Top It Off." Sun-Fri: 5-8pm, Sat: 11am-5pm, Mon: Closed

**March 1,4,5,8,11,12,15,18,19,22,25,26, and 29; 5pm-8pm:** BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**March 5, 12, 19, 26; 9am-12nn:** Archiving /Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Join us and bring several old Brighton photos to share.

**March 25; 6pm:** BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

**April 23; 6:30pm:** Spring Cluster Meeting at Lyon Schoolhouse. Semi-annual meeting of local historical societies and libraries.

**Program:** Special 20 minute performance by guest Mark Twain.

**May 2; 9am-1pm:** Old Village Cemetery 7<sup>th</sup> 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 nonveteran gravesites for Memorial Day. See Page One.

**May 25; 9am-1pm:** CoBACH Center-Civil War Display. **ONE DAY EXHIBIT!!**

**June 12, 13 and 19, 20; 7:30 pm:** CoBACH Center. *Meet the Remarkable Molly Brown!* Sponsored by the Livingston Players. Tickets \$10 . [www.livplayers.org](http://www.livplayers.org), PayPal or credit card.

## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

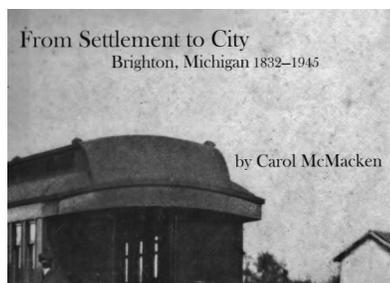
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>Membership Plan:</b>	<b>Friend of Lyon School:</b>	<b>BAHS Projects Fund:</b>
<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 CONTINUES**  
Please consider renewing your membership  
or becoming a new member.

## BAHS Leadership 2015

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>President</b><br><b>Jim Vichich</b>                                    | <b>Directors</b><br><b>Bill Besso</b>                          |
| <b>Vice President</b><br><b>Marieanna Bair</b>                            | <b>Joe Collins</b>   |
| <b>Secretary</b><br><b>Carole Damon</b>                                   | <b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>  |
| <b>Treasurer &amp; Trail Tales</b><br><b>Editor</b><br><b>Jerry Damon</b> | <b>Mindy Kinsey</b>  |
|   | <b>Larry Lawrence</b>  |
|   | <b>Lin Millar</b>  |
|   | <b>Thomas Reinke</b>   |
|   | <b>Tammy Sexton</b>  |
|   | <b>Lynn Strong</b>   |
|   | <b>Education Liaison</b><br><b>Judith Coebly ,Sue Skwarski</b> |

## 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**



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**“THE BRIGHTON AREA RECEIVES MAIL” continued**

The U.S. Post Office department instituted Rural Free Delivery in 1896. The Brighton Post Office observed this centennial October 1, 1996. One of the honored guests was Art Schuman the oldest RFD carrier in Michigan, retiring in 1957. Others honored were James Appleton representing the Appleton family and Hildreth Bakhaus representing the Clark family (Rush and Irving Clark) in Green Oak Township.

With the inauguration of RFD, carrier routes were established, each with hundreds of stops. A February 20, 1901, clipping states that “...boxes put up by the patrons of RFD shall be of such a character as to be secure not only from the weather but from mischievous or malicious depredations”. Eventually the carriers sold stamps and money orders and parcel post was instituted. It was not unusual each spring to hear chicks, in their boxes, peeping in the post office awaiting delivery by the carrier.

Research of local RFD carriers and routes indicates Amos E. Hilton was assigned the first RFD Route #1, March 1, 1901. March 2, 1902, Herbert Dean was one of the first carriers for Route #2, retiring October 31, 1941. As various routes were mapped more carriers were assigned. Between 1901—1911, Carl C. Conrad (applied for Route #2, February, 1903), George Conrad, John Hunter, Howard Hunter (carrier for 15 years until 1925), Almon H. and Henry F. Maltby, Henry B. Appleton, Clark Rickett and Paul Sawyer were among the early carriers.

The early carriers used various forms of transportation: horseback, sleigh, buggy, horse and wagon, bicycle and motor vehicles, all owned by the carrier. Local historian Bill Pless has written “Howard Hunter was the first carrier in Brighton to use an automobile to carry mail. He had a little, two-cylinder Brush Runabout with the gasoline tank under the seat so when he came to Weicher’s Hill

(Brighton Road, west of Bauer Road) west of town, he had to turn around and back up the hill, as it was too steep for gasoline to flow to the engine while climbing forward on that hill.”

Later carriers included J.D. and S. Bert Appleton, Horace C. Birkenstock, Charles Case, Ardis E. Foust, Elmer Gage, Marian Goodchild, Ken Graham, Ellen F. Hill, Duane E. Hyne, Andrew W. Robertson, Robert O. Smith, Arthur Timmons and David A. Wenzel.

In November, 1922, the Postal Department required postmasters, Clio Case in Brighton, to go with the carrier over each route in April and October to note condition of boxes, etc. A September 9, 1971, note to rural patrons directed that the name and address was to be on the box. At that time the number of rural routes was increased from six to eight.

The 1875 Plat Map of Brighton City and period Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps together with newspaper clippings show the Post Office location as 128 W. Main Street until the WWI years. A March 8, 1911 clipping notes that a burglar had used nitroglycerin to wreck the post office safe at that site. It was also noted it was the third post office robbery in 15 months. In March, 1926, the post office was located at 401 W. Main at the rear of the building. In October, 1939, it was at 318 W. Main until 1959. To be continued.....

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