Should We Celebrate Brighton’s 150 Years?

As we approach Brighton’s 150th year as a city (2017), should there be festivities and celebrations? What types of activities would be enjoyed? Should activities be focused for all age groups? Would you be willing to help in the planning and operation of the program?

In 1967 Brighton held their centennial with a celebration program than ran from August 20-26. The Executive Committee and their committee chairmen totaled over (35) volunteers. Many more volunteers helped in the operation of the individual programs. It takes a community of support to make a successful, safe celebration from its earliest brain-storming until the final cleanup is performed.

Please contact me and share your thoughts. Planning is the key to a successful program. Your ideas are needed. Think about fun events that you have experienced in other communities.

The Brighton Area Historical Society will be planning some history specific community events that relate to Brighton and its rich history. These BAHS events will take place even if a community-wide celebration does not happen.

A community-wide 150th celebration program will only be successful with your help. I look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts!

Jim Vichich
President, Brighton Area Historical Society
jvichich@comcast.net
Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:
LIFE: Charles & Janice Beach.
INDIV/FAMILIES: Andrew & Mary Parker, Brian Pawlak, Lynn Strong (2016).

Renewing members indicate others share the society’s goals: preservation, advancement and dissemination of knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

THANKS:
- Trail Tales editor and BAHS Treasurer, Jerry Damon for the wonderful work in assembling the monthly newsletter.
- Archive Preservation Team of the society who work diligently preserving and organizing historical records of the Brighton area at the Lyon Schoolhouse each and every Thursday. Great work and fun times by Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Sue Garcia and Jim Vichich.
- Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Gary Reutter, Jackie Damm and Jim Vichich for preparing the April issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Andrew and Mary Parker for their donation to Friends of Lyon School.

- Thanks to Beth Smith for her submission of the story on Burroughs Farms on Page 4 of this month’s Trail Tales.

History Skills Workshop Series
Historical Society of Michigan

For details and session descriptions, visit www.hsmichigan.org

May 15 — Bringing History to Life: Creating Crowd Pleasing Living History Events
May 29 — Volunteer Recruitment and Management
June 12 — Printed Marketing
July 10 — Copyright Issues for Historic Collections
July 24 — How to Successfully Publish Your History Book
August 14 — Museum Stores: Using the Past to Plan for the Future
September 11 — Advanced Digitizing of Collections
October 2 — Basic Archives
October 23 — Online Marketing
November 13 — Advanced Archives

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

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.**

2015 Business/Professional Members:

Dates to Remember

May 4—July 6 CoBACH Exhibit: “Summer Wheels” Check out the classic bikes and scooters that helped kids have fun and stay busy in the summer. Sun-Fri: 5-8pm, Sat: 11am—5pm, Mon: Closed
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 grave sites for Memorial Day.
May 7, 14, 21, 28; 9am—12pm: Archiving / Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse.

May 3,6,10,13,17,20,24,27,31; 5pm—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun. and Wed.
May 25; Memorial Day Parade; 10 AM: Veterans Step Off Parade in downtown Brighton. Millpond Veterans’ Memorial Service at 10:30 AM.
May 25; 9am—1pm: CoBACH Center-Civil War Display. Two private collections of handguns, rifles, uniforms, drums, cannon balls, canteens, etc. Great museum collection in downtown Brighton, before, during and after parade. **Life Members

May 27; 6PM: BAHS Board Meeting at Co-BACH.
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, PayPal, credit card, or at CoBACH Center.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:
Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame, 213 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing. Exhibit “The Story of Women in the Military WWI to The Present” (Through February 27, 2016) www.michiganwomenhalloffame.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: ___________________________ State: _____ Zip Code: ______
E-Mail: __________________________

How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: ☐ Email ☐ US mail
(please check one)

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.

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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

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We are looking for new members
Please consider becoming a new member.

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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
Education Liaison
Judith Coebly, Sue Skwarski

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BAHS Projects Fund:

Friend of Lyon School:
☐ $10 ☐ $100
☐ $25 ☐ $250
☐ $50 ☐ Other $_______

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.

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From Settlement to City: Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945

By Carol McMacken
450 plus pages
Over 300 photos
$65.00

We are looking for new members
Please consider becoming a new member.

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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.

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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.
The inspiration for Burroughs Farms is credited to Burroughs Adding Machine Company (BAMCo) Vice-President Alfred J. Doughty. He is often referred to as the “Founder” of the Farms. Mr. Doughty is said to have proposed the idea of a recreational “center” for BAMCo employees. There may be several reasons for his idea. In the 1983 Burroughs publication, In Focus, it was said that the decline in industrial sports teams following World War I was what drove the idea of having a place for employees to recreate. In my opinion, it was more than that.

In the decades or more before 1927, when the Farms was created, the Company made it an annual habit of taking all of its employees and their families for a day-long “picnic” excursion, something the Company called “Burroughs Day.”

For Burroughs Day, the company shut down the factory so that all employees could attend. In the summers of 1913—1916, and again in 1918, almost 2,000 Burroughs employees and their families climbed aboard a boat each of those years and went to Put-in-Bay, on South Bass Island in Lake Erie in Ohio, for a day of picnicking, swimming, games and dancing. In 1919 and 1920, three thousand reportedly went on trips each of those years to Tashmoo Park, near Algonac, Michigan, in the St. Clair River, which had a “casino”, beach, sporting fields and picnic grounds. In addition to adult pursuits, activities included races for the children.

You see, BAMCo was more than just an employer. They considered their employees as part of a family. There was a Burroughs band, Burroughs baseball teams, Burroughs bowling teams, Burroughs tennis teams, a Burroughs gymnasium and pool to teach employee’s children athletics and more. Athletic teams from BAMCo competed against other manufacturing companies’ teams in the Detroit area such as Ford Motor, Studebaker, Northway Motor, Packard, Grinnell Electric and others. I believe that at some point in the mid-1920s, A. J. Doughty decided that it would benefit the Company if employees and their families had somewhere to swim, dance, play sports and picnic more than just one day a year.

The evidence is this: when the Farms was born, the first endeavors were to have a beach, picnic groves, a “casino” or dance pavilion, and sports fields. The 4th of July celebrations centered on races and games for the children. It would be like Put-In-Bay or Tashmoo Park everyday.

My father once told me that BAMCo had looked into buying what would become Kensington Metro Park before they settled on a series of Brighton farms scrabbled together to make Burroughs Farms.

Next month... The acquisition of land and the fruition of the dream. (Thanks to Beth Chapman Smith for her submission.)

See CoBACH Exhibit in July-August featuring Burroughs Farms Memorabilia