



We Must Never Forget!

Brighton resident Private John Prosser was killed in action. His only headstone was placed into the ground at Old Village Cemetery on Monday, June 22, 2015. You might think that this soldier was recently killed in action in Afghanistan or Iraq. But would you believe that he was mortally wounded while serving in the State of Virginia!

Private Prosser fought for the North during the Civil War. He died May 13, 1864 the day after he was wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania and was buried on the battlefield. For the next 150 years there was no monument or headstone to honor this man who gave his life to save the Union. No headstone in his hometown of Brighton. No headstone at the site of his last service to country. For all intensive purposes, there was no monument to document this man's life or existence. How tragic!

In the fall of 2014, BAHS researcher Tammy Sexton was investigating the Prosser family of Brighton on Ancestry.com. Ms. Sexton began dialoguing with a Prosser family member living near Denver, CO. Their joint investigation revealed the unthinkable. It appears that Private John Prosser's life was forgotten.

This spring a Veterans Affairs (VA) memorial headstone was requested by the family. Bill Dixon of Sons of Union Veterans Camp 120 in Howell, Brighton's DPW staff, the City Council of Brighton, City Manager Dana Foster, and the Brighton Area Historical Society worked together to correct this omission of local history.

This memorial headstone can be viewed just 80 feet on the right, straight inside the main entrance gate of Old Village Cemetery in the Prosser family plot. WE MUST NEVER FORGET!

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President, Brighton Area Historical Society
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POINTS OF INTEREST:

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"Burroughs Farms"

July—August

Photo Memories of Brighton's
Burroughs Farms
At the CoBACH Center
Sunday—Friday 5-8 pm
Saturday 11am-5pm
Closed Monday

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

INDIV/FAMILIES: Darr family, Jason & Elizabeth Walker, Bob & Ruth Watson (2016).

THANKS:

- Bob & Ruth Watson for their donation to the Society Projects Fund with their membership.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Jerry & Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for preparing the June issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- CoBACH volunteers for June: Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Sheryl Vigmostad, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Thursday archive workers who give their time and energy to preserve our community's history include Jill Eastcott, Valerie Haggerty, Mindy Kinsey, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong and the affable gentlemen of Jerry Damon, Joe Collins, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Brighton's DPW workers and staff people, Dave Blackmar and Patty Thomas, for assisting with the receiving and transportation of the new John Prosser memorial headstone. Also thanks to Bill Dixon, Tammy Sexton and the John Manutes family for assembling information to submit to the VA. This headstone is for Brighton's Civil War Soldier John Prosser, killed at the Battle of Spotsylvania and buried in an unmarked grave. This new memorial headstone will be positioned in the Prosser family plot of Old Village Cemetery between the headstones of his parents and his sister. (See Page 1)
- The OVC Headstone Restoration Team, Gary Coebly, Bob Pettengill, Joe Collins, Gunnar Damon, William Dixon, Bob Knight, Larry Lawrence, Dave Rebiger, Don Thomas, Jim Vichich, Ed Vitez, Hank Winegar, Jerry Damon.

Society Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong
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Marilyn Campbell (IN)
Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan
Jerry & Carole Damon
Nancy Fredenburg
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Larry & Kate Lawrence
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
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** Life Members

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends sincere sympathy to the family of Earland **Bert Bair**. Bert was a long-time supporter of the BAHS and the beloved husband of our Vice-President, Marieanna Bair.



Dates to Remember

July—August CoBACH Exhibit: "Photo Memories of Brighton's Burroughs Farms" Sun-Fri: 5-8pm, Sat: 11am—5pm, Mon: Closed

July 1,5,8,12,15,19,22,26,29; 5pm—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun. and Wed.

July 2,9,16,23,30; 9am—12nn: Archiving /Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse.

July 4; 10am: Parade on Main Street. Duck Race at the Millpond follows parade.

July 22; 6pm: BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH.

July 27; 9am—2pm: Old Village Cemetery Headstone Conservation Day. Help rebuild broken headstones at Brighton's 1838 Cemetery. 4th Monday of the summer months: August 24, September 28, October 26.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

July 10: Copyright Issues for Historic collections.

July 24: How to Successfully Publish Your History Book.

History Skills Workshop Series by the Historical Society of Michigan.

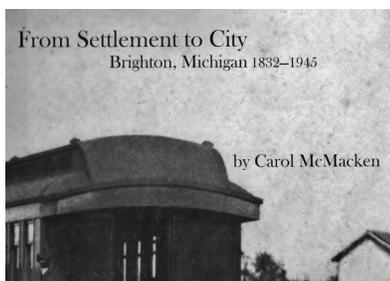
Info at www.hsmichigan.org.

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:		Name: _____	Phone: (____) _____
Brighton Area Historical Society		Address: _____	
P. O. Box 481		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Brighton, MI 48116-0481		E-Mail: _____	
		How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail <small>(PLEASE CHECK ONE)</small>	
Membership Plan:		Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
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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

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE UPDATES AT
www.brightonareahistorical.com

BAHS Leadership 2015

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

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Crippen’s Barn and Woodland Lake — Part 1

For about 100 years the Brighton area has been a destination for those seeking recreation. The many lakes still are an enticing draw. The paving of Grand River in 1924, promoted the already growing entertainment opportunities in the area.

At the traffic signal at Grand River and Hacker Road, it appears that Hacker veers off to the east. However, at that location it is Grand River which is heading westerly. Until 1924, Grand River Avenue followed today's Hacker and Bendix

Roads and turned sharply west to go around the tall hill. To ease the acute west-bound turn the curve now begins at the traffic signal.

At 2855 Hacker Road, stands the Ernest Crippen farmhouse which his parents, Ansel and Marilla Crippen, built after arriving in Brighton Township c. 1837. Following his service in the Civil War, along with his four brothers, Ernest and Helen Luce were married and moved into the house. A large barn was built to house the livestock Ernest raised. At that time the farmstead stood upon a steep hill below which flowed Ore Creek. One night, after an unusually heavy downpour, an enormous gully formed from which a large spring flowed. The spring ran strongly furnishing an abundant, good water supply for cattle and to cool cans of milk for shipment by rail to market.

In 1904, Ernest and Helen retired from farming, moving into town. Crippen sold the farm and its huge barn to Wallace Meyer



ing Woodland Lake. The barn now became the framework of a large club house, known as Woodland Lodge. During the years spacious additions were made to the Crippen barn. In the December 12, 1928, issue, the Brighton Argus reporter waxed rhapsodic in his description of the interior, which included two huge stone fireplaces, in his write-up of the grand opening of Pine Lodge. "...the lodge is a castle of medieval times,"

During the years of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the property returned to Wallace Meyer several times from various speculators. Many local groups and schools held special parties and proms at the barn during the 1940s. A December, 1943 ad promoted "...Al and His Pals from Lansing, also Ray Wright sensational square dance caller", at Pine Lodge Ranch.

To be continued...

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Bill Pless writings; the Historical Society's Historic Resource Survey File. Additions/ corrections requested. 810-229-6402)

er in 1922, who farmed before selling to Good & Spitzley, developers who converted the barn for dancing.

In September 1926, Tim Doolittle's Pine Lodge hosted Larry Schultz and His Boys for dancing to modern and square dancing. Four months later a special attraction was Ford's Original Band, Men About Town of WJR.

In 1927, the Capitol Land Company of Detroit dammed Ore Creek near Hilton Road, forming