



Give the Gift of Brighton History

Thinking of a Christmas present? Consider giving the Gift of Brighton History! Many interesting photos and stories of Brighton's past are part of the trove of information that the Society actively pursues and shares. Buy an interesting and informative book and help the Society to continue with preserving the past. As a gift giver you are helping to advance and disseminate the proud history of Brighton. As a society we must all learn about the past to appreciate the present. The upcoming year is of particular significance as this will be Brighton's sesquicentennial as a village (1867-2017).

The Brighton Area Historical Society has written three wonderful history books that share the past in different styles.

From Settlement to City by Carol McMacken was researched for 10 years prior to printing. Great in-depth articles summarized from information gleaned from early Brighton families and Argus newspapers. Nearly 500 pages and about 300 photos grace this coffee table style history book. Published in 2004 and is available for \$65.

The Brighton Area by Genal Pratt presents the past with over 190 old photos with captions. The captions detail the photo and provide the current setting by business name and address. Published in 2012, soft cover with 128 pages and is available for \$20.

Page Four by Marieanna Bair, has researched articles with photos that have been compiled from multiple sources over the past 30 years. The articles share unique perspectives of Brighton families and those places that were integral parts of their daily lives. Great summary of Brighton's past that details our village as a whole community. Soft cover with 183 pages, published in 2016 and is available for \$20.

Jim Vichich (810-250-7276)
 President, Brighton Area Historical Society
 jvichich@comcast.net

**SYMPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY TO
 THE FAMILY OF
 Carolyn Schmadtke Kiser** on her
 passing. Carolyn was a native of
 Brighton Township.

EXHIBITS at CoBACH

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm
 Saturday 11am—5pm
 Closed Monday

CoBACH Display
Nov. 16—Dec 24
 "Christmas Exhibit"



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From your
 Brighton Area Historical Society

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding
 Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
 Society**

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

PATRON: Margaret Rowland, Mary Jo Comiskey, Joyce Hubbs, Dave & Charlene Kull*, Dennis & Maria Littleworth, Rich & Mary Ray, Lois Tobias.

FAMILY/INDIV: George & Muriel Allen, Joanne Bellmard, Elaine Blight, Robert & Nancy Carlson, Dr. Edgar Cord, Denise Daddino, Carolina DeLuca, Bill & Margaret Dixon, Tony & Beth Ferreyra, Lynnette Hawkins, Pam Hicks, Jim Lauridson, Ray & Bessie Maltby, Brenda McCarty, Bill & Evelyn McConnell, Nora Miller, Pat Mrozek, Joan Naylor, Pat Nelson, Rosemarie Oldford, Robert & Cathy Padget, Dietrich & Mary Jean Richter, Ralph & Elizabeth Romano, David & Nancy Schoewe, Jim & Judy Tavarozzi, Don & Pat Thomas, Sheryl Vigmostad, Edward Vitez, Shirley Warren.

*Welcome to new members David & Charlene Kull.

- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Larry Lawrence, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich for preparing the November Trail Tales for mailing.
- Elaine Blight, Bill Dixon, Tony & Beth Ferreyra, Joyce Hubbs and Jim Lauridson for their donation to the Old Village Cemetery project with their dues payment.
- Margaret Bowland, Mary Jo Comisky, Joyce Hubbs, Brenda McCarty and Ralph & Elizabeth Romano for their donation to the Friends of Lyon School with their dues payment.
- Carolina DeLuca, Pam Hicks, Joyce Hubbs, Peg Siford and Bob &

Ruth Watson for their donation to Society projects with their dues payment.

- Denise Daddino for her donation in memory of Bryan Smith.
- Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong and Carole Damon for setting up the Christmas Exhibit at CoBACH.
- CoBACH volunteers for October/November: Joe Collins, Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Bob & Shirley Knight, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Bonnie Riutta, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Fifth Day Preservationists: Please stop by and share some stories from 9am—12noon every Thursday with the Brighton History Group at Lyon School: Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- Doris Case Singer and daughter Virginia for visiting the Lyon School and bringing family photos and information that was scanned into the computer records.
- Cody Blachura for donating the 1911 Livingston County Road Map.
- The many dedicated volunteers including board members who donate time, talents and much energy in making the Society a valuable and respectable organization within Livingston County.

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS FOR 35 YEARS
OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT.**

Dates to Remember

December: CoBACH Center Exhibit, **FREE!** Christmas Exhibit starts November 16—December 23.

December 1,8,15,22; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. **CLOSED December 29 — NO ARCHIVING.**

December 4,7,11,14,18,21; 5pm—8pm: BAHs hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

December: There is NO December Board Meeting. Next Board Meeting is January 25, 2017.

December 11; Sunday, 1—4pm: Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit Children at Lyon School (**FREE**); 11455 Buno Road, Brighton Township.

Info: Facebook: Brighton Area Historical Society
BAHS Website: BrightonAreaHistorical.com
BAHS: 810-250-7276

December 24—January 2: CoBACH Closed. Christmas/New Year's Holidays.

December—January 31, 2017: Save \$5 on the purchase of "ANY 2" of the following BAHs Books: "From Settlement to City" — \$65, "The Brighton Area" — \$20, "Page Four" — \$20.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

John & Deb Armstrong — Tom Archer — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton — Charles & Janice Beach
Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan
Jerry & Carole Damon — Emil Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN)
Larry & Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Carol McMacken — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller
Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos
Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

Business /Professional Members: (** Indicates Life Members)

Acorn Deck Accessories (2016) — Advance Craft Builders (2016) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Art Guild (2016)
Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm. ** — Buckley-Jolley Group, LLC (2016) — Clark Eye Center (2016)
Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2016) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc. (2016) — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Autobody **
Make Believe Manor, LLC (2016) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Preview Properties (2016) — Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research **

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: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () _____
Membership Plan: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		
Donation to—Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund		
Amount of Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____		
How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail		
The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.		

A NEW BOOK FROM THE BAHS

A selected compilation of the columns Marieanna Bair has written faithfully over the past 35 years. The reader will encounter here a glimpse of the merchants that plied their trade. You will also meet the farmers and local residents who walked the streets, worked the farms, worshiped in the local churches, and recreated along the plentiful Brighton area lakes for the past 150 years.

This book can be purchased at Lawrence Autobody and CoBACH Center or by calling 810-250-7276. Cost \$20

PERFECT FOR
WINTER
READING



GREAT
CHRISTMAS GIFT

BAHS Leadership 2016

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
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



Early Roads in Genoa Township — Chilson Road

In the 1850s, travelers from Howell to Ann Arbor would have been able to follow, from Grand River, a trail through Genoa Township. The 1859 plat map indicates such a trail was in place, beginning just east of Howell. A rider could travel through the woods, around hills and swamps, ford streams all the way south through Hamburg Township to Eight Mile Road, a distance of 12 miles, traversing the two townships, and into Washtenaw County.

In 1859 there is no indication of a commercial settlement where the trail crosses Brighton Road.

Landowner records indicate August 21, 1854, a Nathaniel Chilson bought 80 acres in Putnam Township, Section 23, five miles west of the trail, which he sold in 1855. There is no indication a Chilson had ever resided in either township or acquired more land before 1870.

July 16, 1864, records indicate Samuel Carpenter, who came to the area in 1848, has purchased 40 acres each side of Brighton Road, Genoa Sections 28 and 33, which includes the intersection.

When the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan Railroad formed about 1878, it placed track north closely paralleling the early trail. A water tank, reputed to be the largest water tank on the T&AA Railroad, making use of the water from the nearby Crooked Lake was constructed. A train station was also built at the crossroads. The railroad bought to this "...area the advantage of an enormous shipping business with its huge gravel pits southeast of the station, which were active until about 1930." A dam placed in the stream flowing from Crooked Lake provided power for the "Chilson and Joslyn" flour mill and saw

mill. Not long after, Avery J. Chilson is noted as Chilson's first postmaster. A small settlement soon developed.

By 1897 Laughlin and Henderson operated a thriving store at Chilson in a large structure. Later Albert Smith bought the business and delivered groceries, etc., to local farmers. When Joe Brady and Paul Brogan bought the business they continued using the delivery wagon for a time.

The later development of Crooked Lake with cottages, campers and resorters found the station handy for transportation, and the store for supplies. By 1903, it was becoming a popular spot for building a cottage to rent to parties of young people from nearby cities, including Ann Arbor and Detroit, to spend a week or so "camping". "...duly chaperoned, of course, by their elders."

In 1927, the Burroughs Adding Machine Company acquired nearly 500 acres on the lake which greatly increased the volume of business transacted at the Chilson Store. It is very logical that Detroit Edison might apply the name Chilson Road to the old trail through Genoa Township.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Michigan Place Names; Early Land Owners by Milton Charboneau; Crooked Lake: A History by Willis Lyons; Census Records; Writings of William Pless. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)