



**2016 BAHS BOARD**

Front row; Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar. Second row; Nancy Fredenburg, Marieanna Bair, Lynn Strong, Carole Damon. Third row; Larry Lawrence, Bill Besso, Jim Vichich, Jerry Damon, Joe Collins. Missing from the photo, Tom Reinke

## THANK YOU TO BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL !

### Greetings for the New Year of 2016!

The Brighton Area Historical Society was pleasantly surprised and very grateful for the recent unsolicited donation of \$2000 from the Brighton City Council for the Old Village Cemetery. This year's current budgeting allocation by the Council is indeed proof that the BAHS volunteers are doing a remarkable job of restoration to the broken and leaning headstones within the 1838 cemetery. Thanks are also due to former City Manager, Dana Foster and his support over the years. Gratitude is also due to the DPW management team of Dave Blackmar and Patti Thomas. As the volunteer group prepares to enter their 4th year, over 90 broken headstones lying in the dirt and sod have been repaired and are standing proudly in the upright position. The funds will be used to purchase needed tooling and supplies to continue the progress of this estimated 10-year restoration project.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Lyon Schoolhouse Santa, Mrs. Claus and craft program on Sunday, December 13 so memorable to the children and their parents! Over 100 children spoke to and had photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The cute take home tree ornaments were a fine finish to a truly special day!

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

### THE BAHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES THIS MONTH

The BAHS is involved in many efforts to preserve our local history. Including the ongoing support of the Lyon School, the digitizing of thousands of archives including newspapers, photos, and maps. Efforts also include the cemetery preservation program, the headstone preservation program, and CoBACH (Old Town Hall) programs, and displays.

**Please consider renewing your membership so these programs can continue.**

### EXHIBITS at CoBACH

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



**January 10 through-  
 February 28, 2016  
 "Let the Chips Fly"**

### A Woodworking Exhibit

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF RICCI BANDKAU. RICCI WAS A LONG TIME MEMBER AND SUPPORTER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MANY OTHER BRIGHTON ORGANIZATIONS.

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## Thanks and Recognition

### Memberships:

**BUS/PROF:** Kimble Appraisal, Preview Properties\*

**LIFE:** Brighton District Library\*, Emil Engel, Jere & Kay Michaels.

**PATRON:** Judith Coebly & Gary Reuter, Joyce Hubbs, Kathy & Val Jacoby (FL), Mindy & Tom Kinsey, Gus Mitsopoulos, Kathy Pearson (OR).

**INDIV/FAMILY:** Sally Baldwin, Caren Biermann, Bernice & Joe Collins, Denise Daddino, Janice Field, Sue & Lee Garcia, Joanne Harte, Jeanette Johnson, Stan Kourt, James Lauridson, Sylvia Lawing, Helen Leitz, Michael Lenninger & Kathy Partridge & Nancy, Maria & Dennis Littleworth (FL), Kate & Steve Lowry, Brenda McCarty, Ray Moses\*, Pat Mrozek, Joan Naylor (OK), Cindy & Paul Sawallich, Suzanne & Ralph Skwarski, Ann Tice, Sherri & Mike Wisser (2017), Alice Wyland.

\*Welcome to Preview Properties, Brighton District Library and Ray Moses to the Society's membership roster.

### THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Shirley & Bob Knight, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for processing the December issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- CoBACH volunteers for December: Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Hank Winegar, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Lyon Schoolhouse archivists who preserve valuable historical data while sharing a mirth or two include: Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Jill Eastcott, Joe Collins, Lynn Strong, Lin Millar, Peggy VanSickle, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Carole Damon and Linda Wintermute, for their donation to the Old Village Cemetery restoration project.
- To those who noted they would be gone for several months. The mail crew will hold issues of Trail Tales until their return.

- Caren Biermann, Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, Kathy & Val Jacoby (FL), Helen Leitz, Gus Mitsopoulos, and Ann Tice for donating to the Friends of Lyon School with their dues.
- Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, and Sherri & Mike Wisser for donating to the Old Village Cemetery Project with their dues.
- Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, Joyce Hubbs, James Lauridson, Mike Lenninger & Kathy Partridge & Nancy for their donation to Society Projects with their dues.
- The Lyon Schoolhouse "Christmas with Santa" helpers who provided a wonderful classic "Christmas with Santa and Mrs. Claus" for children on Sunday, December 13 include: Bob and Shirley Knight, Lin and Clark Millar, Jerry and Carole Damon, Vicki and Jim Vichich, Tom and Mindy Kinsey, Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Julie Gajda, Erin Pauley, Tammy Sexton, Marieanna Bair, Valerie Haggerty, Larry Lawrence, Peggy Van Sickle and Lynn Strong.
- City of Brighton for their support of the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center and their lease with the three non-profits who staff and operate the building. Inside community events include themed historical exhibits by the BAHS, themed displays of art by the Brighton Art Guild and stage performances by the Livingston Players.
- Lin Millar, Mindy and Tom Kinsey, Peggy VanSickle, and Valerie Haggerty for helping setup Lyon Schoolhouse for the Santa and Mrs. Claus visit. Also thanks to Bruce Ritter for donating the Christmas candles.

### Society 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)  
Bernie & Bonnie 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  
Richard Park (IL)  
Bob & Donna Phillips  
Joyce Powers  
Douglas & Carole Rearick  
Robert & Pauline Schaffer  
Anne Stratigos  
Jim & Vicki Vichich  
Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

### Business /Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc. (2015)  
Advance Craft Builders (2015)  
Brighton District Library \*\*  
Buckley Jolley Group LLC (2015)  
Clark Eye Center (2015)  
Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2015)  
ERA Griffith Realty  
Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc. (2016)  
Lindhout Associates\*\*  
Mancuso and Cameron P.C. (2015)  
Lawrence Autobody \*\*  
McCrie & Associates, P.C. (2015)  
Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\*  
Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\*  
Preview Properties (2016)  
Promess, Inc. \*\*  
Refrigeration Research \*\*  
Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\*  
Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\*  
\*\* Life Members

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## Dates to Remember

**January-February** CoBACH Center Exhibit, "Let the Chips Fly." Woodworking Exhibit, Jan 10—Feb 28.

**Jan. 6,10,13,17,20,24,27,31; 5—8pm:** BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

**Jan. 7,14,21,28; 9am—12nn:** Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse.

**Jan. 11; 6:30pm:** Lyon School hosts St. Pat's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Pack #344.

**Jan. 12; 6pm—7pm:** CoBACH Center. Committee planning meeting for BAHS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program that will be held Sunday, July 17, 2016.

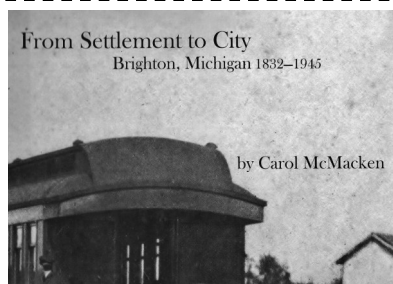
**Jan. 27; 6pm:** BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH.

## 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.

<b>Mail check or money order payable to:</b> Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481			<b>Name:</b> _____		<b>Phone:</b> (    )    —
			<b>Address:</b> _____		
			<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____	<b>Zip Code:</b> _____
			<b>E-Mail:</b> _____		
			<b>How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail		
<b>Membership Plan:</b>			<b>Donation to—Check One:</b>		<b>Amount of Donation:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School		<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS Projects Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com)**

## 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](mailto: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.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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## A Story About Island Lake — Part 5



The purchase of the former site of the Spiritualists' campground May 1920, by C.W. Burton & Company from A.G. Brown, added more exciting evidence of growth and development in the Island Lake area. Located across the lake from William's Hillside Bathing Beach, Burton's new Island Lake Pavilion would have a 70x82 foot dance floor which would be among the best in the state and also extend out over the water. About 250 couples could be accommodated. J.O. Hearn of Detroit, the manager, announced a free radio concert each evening; but no Sunday dancing. In addition Burton plans to construct a "...12 foot gravel road all around the lake, with electric lights beside it. They will also build flat roads on all the cross streets of the property."

It should be noted that prior to Burton's purchase from Brown, when Brown's Island Lake Hotel was in operation, another dance hall, the Hamilton, was located on the hill overlooking Island Lake from the north. Dancing on Saturday nights to old -time music was enjoyed by many. Those having a good time, often found they had a hard time getting their cars out of the soft sand, or even the lake. Someone always forgot to pull up the brake lever and the car would be in the lake. Burton's plans for a better road was welcome news.

Calamity struck September 21, 1921, a month after George William's water slides were built; his Hillside Bathing Beach burned during the night. Only the fire fighting skill of Tom Leith and the Academy boys saved Williams' cottage across the street, and other nearby cottages. The Argus reported: "Mr. Williams is hard struck by the fire, but he declares that he will begin immediately to build a new pavilion; this time of fireproof material." By February, 1922, pamphlets were out advertising George Williams' new Island Lake Hotel to replace the pavilion which had burned the previous fall. Wilber Seger was the contractor. It was under the management of Alf Pelanden and Roy Downing. May 24, 1922, Williams advertises that the entrance to the finest bathing beach is through the Island Lake Hotel. Men and women would have separate bath houses and 500 wool bathing suits had been purchased. These would be in first class condition at all times. A full service dining room, music on the water and free radio concerts were provided.

As if the construction of places of entertainment, the Michigan Military Academy, and dozens of private cottages was insufficiently exciting, Williams had a special attraction. Babe Ruth the 'King of Swat' visited Island Lake when the Yankees played in Detroit; staying at Williams' Island Lake Hotel. His presence was advertised as a draw to Williams' Island Lake Hotel. Babe was known for entertaining children by hitting balls into the water for them to catch. June 14, 1922, "...he will knock a baseball from Island Lake Pavilion to the first island just to show the boys how it's done." A banquet that prominent people prepared for him in Detroit was minus its guest of honor when all was ready. Babe preferred dinner with Governor Groesbeck and George Williams at the Island Lake Hotel. He is quoted, "Best place I was ever at. I'll be back in July." (*To be Continued*)

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from "From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1830-1945" by Carol McMacken; "Yesteryears of Green Oak;" donated photographs and clippings. Additions/ corrections requested 810-229-6402.)