



Visit the Time Machine in Brighton!

Are you aware that a time machine exists in the Brighton community? The concept of a time machine where one can travel back in history to visit the past has been a desire for centuries. A unique opportunity exists for early elementary educators to transport the young minds of your students back 100 years to a setting of the early 1900s.

In Brighton Township you will find an original 1885 one-room schoolhouse that is just waiting to share its past with you. The Lyon Schoolhouse has been totally refurbished and restored to an early 1900s setting. The Brighton Area Historical Society owns and operates this barrier-free building.

This is a great opportunity to provide a unique and exciting educational setting to enrich your students' knowledge of how families lived and worked together in our communities. Most American students attended a one-room schoolhouse from our country's earliest days up until the early or mid 1900s. One teacher taught grades K-8 with up to 30-40 students all learning together.

Several retired educators have collaborated to create a curriculum, which meets benchmarks required by the State of Michigan. Don't feel stressed by this field trip. Teachers, children and parents love this experience and this private rural setting. There is plenty of outside space for fun old-time games. Join the other public and private schools from Brighton, Howell and Birmingham that visit every year. Reserved dates for spring and fall are just starting. Plenty of dates are available and cost is \$3 per child.

Contact our education liaisons for more information:

Judith Coebly, 586.872.4535, greutter@comcast.net; Suzanne Skwarski, 810.225.0908.

Jim Vichich (810-250-7276)

President, Brighton Area Historical Society

jvichich@comcast.net

EXHIBITS at CoBACH

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11am—5pm

Closed Monday



Through April 30

"Bless the Little Ones"

A look at children's textiles

SAVE THE DATE

July 17

3:30pm—6:30pm

**35th Birthday Party for
the Brighton Area
Historical Society**

**Celebrate at CoBACH and
West Street**

**Cake, slide show of old
Brighton photos, old time
games, souvenirs,
balloons and more.**

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

LIFE: Bruce & Betty Schuman.

INDIV/FAMILY: John Park & Madelyn Kinston-Park (2022), Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Millie Quinn, Dick & Lucille Weaire, Al & Karen Wirth.

The Society board and other active members are always encouraged with renewals and new members.

THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, Jeanette Johnson, Larry Lawrence, Dwight & Joyce Matteson, Gary Reutter and Jim Vichich for preparing the March issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Bruce & Betty Schuman for their Life membership in memory of Bruce's parents, Arthur & Verna Schuman.
- All our new, renewing and life members for 2016 who have now topped the 200 membership level. Your generous support through volunteering, dues and donations is vital as the BAHS strives to maintain and improve our mission statement which is "Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area."
- The members of the Old-Village Cemetery Headstone Preservation Team who spend considerable time and effort in restoring broken and leaning headstones on the 4th Monday during the summer months of May through October. The team is entering its 4th year of restoring headstones in the 10-year project.
- Shirley Knight, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong and Lin Millar for items for display and all BAHS board members for "Little One Pictures" used in the current CoBACH display.
- Mindy Kinsey, Joe Collins, Shirley and Bob Knight, Tom Reinke, Gary Reutter, Judith Coebly, Hank Winegar, Bill Besso and Jim Vichich for dismantling and cleaning up the woodworking display.
- CoBACH volunteers for March: Bob Knight, Lynn Strong, Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Hank Winegar, Nancy Fredenburg, Sheryl Vigmostad, Bill Besso, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- CoBACH Display committee consisting of Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong, Judith Coebly, Lin Millar, Shirley Knight and Carole Damon.
- The weekly research and archiving team that join forces on Thursday morning to file local history information and share a story or two include: Lynn Strong, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Peggy Van Sickle, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Marieanna Bair for her wonderful research that is the basis for her monthly written historical articles that are found on Page 4 of the *Trail Tales* newsletter.
- The "Damon Team" as they prepare the first new BAHS book in 5 years. The book titled "Page 4" is a compilation of selected local historical writings of Marieanna Bair that have graced the last page of *Trail Tales* over the past 30 years. This softbound book will be available this summer and the price will be \$20. Look for more information in future newsletters!

Dates to Remember

Through April 30: CoBACH Center Exhibit, "Bless the Little Ones"

April 3,6,7,10,13,14,17,20,21,24,27,28; 5—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun. and Wed. and Thurs.

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

April 14; 10:30am—11:30am: Brookdale Brighton Seniors visit Lyon One-room Schoolhouse.

April 27; 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH.

April 28; 6:30pm—9pm: Spring Cluster meeting for local historical and genealogical societies, and libraries. To be held at the Hartland Cromaie Library. Great format for sharing information & learning about local history.

May 7; 9am—12:30pm: 8th Annual Old Village Cemetery Spring

Cleanup.. Bring your gloves and a leaf rake as we return beauty and dignity to Brighton's oldest cemetery. All gravesites including the many Brighton veterans burial sites will be freed from winter's debris of branches and leaves in time for Memorial Day, May 30.

May 23; 9am—2pm: Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Team begins 4th year of restoring broken and leaning headstones. Meets 4th Monday from May—October. Set your calendar for:

May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 23, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24.

May 30; 10am—10:30am: Memorial Day Veteran's Parade on Main Street.

May 30; 9am—1pm: CoBACH Center in downtown Brighton. Special one-day **FREE exhibit** featuring Civil War memorabilia. Awesome local display of quality artifacts used in the Civil War. See long rifles, pistols, mortar rounds, uniforms, drums, and more.

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 — 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 — Richard Park (IL) — Bob & Donna Phillips
Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman (*In Memory of Arthur & Verna Schuman*)
Anne Stratigos — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

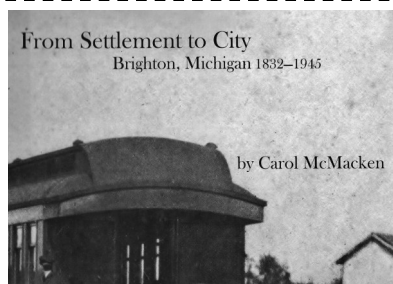
Business /Professional Members: (** Indicates Life Members)

Advance Craft Builders (2016) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Art Guild (2016) — Brighton District Library **
Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Clark Eye Center (2016) — Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2016) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc. (2016)
Lindhout Associates** — Make Believe Manor, LLC (2016) — Lawrence Autobody ** — 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: () _____ |
| How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail | | |
| 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 Projects Fund <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 \$ _____ |
| 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

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A Story About Island Lake — Part 8

In the June 19, 1927 issue of the Brighton Argus, Jean Goldkette, manager of the Blue Lantern announced July 4 celebration plans— music!, dancing!, prizes for races and fireworks! The crowd at that event was estimated at 100,000. (By 1924, Grand River was paved from Detroit to points west, making a throng that size feasible.) That year also, June 26, the granting of a permit for the Island Lake Improvement Company to operate a dance hall at Island Lake was delayed until the township supervisor could see the Prosecuting Attorney about stopping the Sunday dances.

The spring of 1925 saw Tom Leith's former Michigan Military Academy campus site, the Old Crystal Ice boarding house, remodeled and re-decorated. Now the Park Restaurant, it would be ready for Decoration Day per the proprietor, Peter Thoreau. By June 3, the Brighton Argus announced its opening with "State Park Dancing Pavilion with Red Curtiss and his band" and "New Park Restaurant with special chicken and steak dinners also lunches" was ready for the public.

In the 1920s, during the Great Depression, two stone bath houses and restrooms were built in the state park along with other infrastructure. Located west across the small bay from the Blue Lantern, they were built by the Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC) boys. Most of the stone came from the Peter J. Leitz and Elmer Boice farms on Buno Road in Brighton Township. These were removed in 1996 by the park management.

May 29, 1929, the Argus noted the Corn Huskers Bona Fide Orchestra was playing at Roy Downing's Island Lake Hotel on Academy Drive, every Friday. The next year the Island Lake Hotel burned. (This was on the same site as George Williams' Hillside Bathing Beach which burned in 1921.) However, it also was rebuilt, again. The first dance was scheduled for May 23, 1931. May 2, 1941, Roy Downing's Island Lake Hotel offered dancing every night, with food, beer and wine. In October 1942, the 43 room Island Lake Hotel burned again.

Henri Biagni's 12-piece orchestra played for dancers at the Patrician Ball, August, 1931, held by St. Patrick's Catholic Church at the Blue Lantern.

In 1930, Jim Seat opened the Lakeview Roller Rink, 6685 Academy Drive, across the lake from the Blue Lantern. Seat sold the roller rink to Mr. & Mrs. Daniel (Louise) Briggs c. 1952. Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Farmer owned the rink in May, 1961. Following a heavy snowfall, January 1967, the roof collapsed bringing the Lakeview Roller Rink to its demise. (At least it didn't burn.)

Besides the Island Lake Hotel and Seat's Roller Rink, a number of other merchants and businesses were located on Academy Drive. Among them was Ravillers Stand at 1714, serving German cooking, sandwiches, hot dogs, "good" coffee and buttermilk.

In June 1936, the Blue Lantern advertised the Ray Williams orchestra would be playing for dancing each Wednesday and Saturday night. During the 1930s money was often too tight to afford admission. However, to enjoy the ambiance and music, one did not have to be on site. One came in a row boat, or parked across the lake, or on a rise to the west to listen to the music across the water; the Fox Trot, Charleston, Jitterbug, Rag Time, waltzes, etc. On a clear still night, the music could be enjoyed by those living as far as Silver Lake.

In the effort to draw patrons into the Blue Lantern, owner Orville Godfrey had not been idle. June 22, 1941, he advertised major improvements including "...laid down a dancing floor in the restaurant" (music furnished by the Hammond electric organ) and "...deluxe roller skating facilities" (music furnished by the Magic sonovox). The rink could be rented for private parties. It was also noted that one should "Turn off Grand River at the big sign, Blue Lantern Roller Rink" at Superior Drive.

To be continued...