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
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 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 Cromaine 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 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
Nancy Fredenburg — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Larry & Kate Lawrence
Anne Stratigos — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

Business/Professional Members: (** Indicates Life Members)
Lindhout Associates** — Make Believe Manor, LLC (2016) — Lawrence Autobody ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
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.

### Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

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#### Membership Plan:

- New
- Renew
- $2 Student
- $15 Individual
- $25 Family
- $50 Patron
- $60 Business/Professional
- $500 Life
- $10 Friend of Lyon School
- $25 BAHS Projects Fund
- $250 Old Village Cemetery Fund

#### Amount of Donation:

- $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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### 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

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### 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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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

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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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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE UPDATES AT**

www.brightonareahistorical.com
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 redecorated. 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...