

Get Your New Brighton History Book: Available July

The long-awaited history book from the Brighton Area Historical Society is within three months of delivery from the publisher. The book titled **Page 4** will provide revealing information on the people and businesses that set our young community of Brighton into motion.

Page 4 is a selected compilation of the researched history articles that have graced the monthly newsletter, *Trail Tales* for over 30 years. One of the Society's earliest members, Marieanna Bair, has been researching the history of Brighton since the early to mid-1980s. Her written articles have always occupied page 4 of the *Trail Tales*.

This soft cover book will provide an informative glimpse of the merchants that plied their trade on Brighton's most notable thoroughfares of Grand River Avenue and Main Street. Of course the farmers and local residents are included since their produce and desired household supplies helped to fuel the local growth. A feel for the community's spiritual needs can be acquired in the chapters that bear on the early congregations. Likewise, the local lakes will provide the setting for some early business ventures and recreational past-times.

For a modest \$20, you will get an interesting local history book with many photos and great coverage of early Brighton in about 200 pages. Order yours today!

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

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends sympathy to the family of **Evelyn Hyne Dothager**. Evelyn was a native of Brighton and long-time member of the Society.

EXHIBITS at CoBACH

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



May 4 through June 30
"G. B. Ratz & Son Hardware"

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: John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park.

BUS/PROF: Acorn Deck Accessories, Buckley-Jolley Group, LLC.

PATRON: Jack & Joann Allen, Jacqui Armstrong, Carolina DeLuca.

INDIV/FAMILY: Edmund Case (MD)*, Sandra Everett, Doris Singer.

*Welcome to new member Edmund Case.

THANKS:

- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle, and Jim Vichich for preparing the April issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Jacqui Armstrong, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Sandra Everett and Doris Singer for their donations to Friends of Lyon School.
- Donors to BAHs CoBACH Events: Jerry & Carole Damon and Doris Singer.
- Doris Singer for her donation to the Old Village Cemetery project and her gift membership to Edmund Case.

- CoBACH volunteers for April: Bob Knight, Jerry & Carole Damon, Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Hank Winegar, Nancy Fredenburg, Sheryl Vigmostad, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- The Thursday archiving team that files local history information and shares a story or two include: Jerry Damon, Lin Millar, Peggy Van Sickle, Lynn Strong, Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Marieanna Bair, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich.
- Marieanna Bair and her interviewers, Sheryl Vigmostad and Jerry Damon who interviewed Marieanna on camera to learn many details of her early days in the Brighton area.
- Carole and Jerry Damon as they prepare the first new BAHs book in 5 years. The book titled "Page 4" is a compilation of the local historical writings of Marieanna Bair that have graced the last page of the *Trail Tales* newsletter 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

May 4 through June: CoBACH Center Exhibit, "Ratz & Son Hardware"

May 1, 4, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29; 5—8pm: BAHs hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun. and Wed. **CLOSED** Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8.

May 5, 12, 19, 26; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse.

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 25; 6pm: BAHs Board Meeting at CoBACH.

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, cannon balls, swords canteens and more.

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

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 — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park Richard Park (IL) — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman Anne Stratigos — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

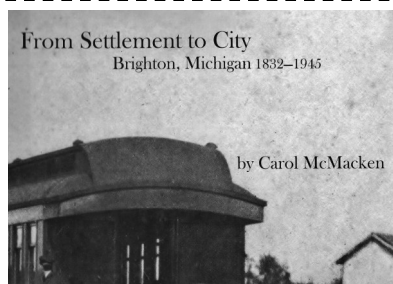
Business /Professional Members: (** Indicates Life Members)

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** — 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 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 \$ _____
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

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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 9

At Superior Drive stands two stone pillars. These are remnants of an early indicator to the traveler on Grand River where one should turn to reach the Blue Lantern. These pillars had blue lanterns at the peak and the words "Blue Lantern". (This researcher has not been able to determine an exact date of their construction.

The seeming proliferation of roller skating rinks of the 1920/30s was noted by Bill Pless. In the late 1880s "...a roller skating craze swept the country...every small town had a rink in the 1880/90s, including Brighton." The Opera House (c. 125 E. Grand River), owned by Solomon Gould in the 1880s, had a maple floor for skating and dancing. A very popular place.

During WW II dancing and/or roller skating at the Blue Lantern was suspended. Buddy Bruce and orchestra were among the performers at resumption of entertainment September 9, 1946. In 1947, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Parlove bought the Blue Lantern, including the restaurant and bar. Their six children helped with the many chores involved. Parlove had a 16 piece orchestra, directed by one of his sons. With Parlove, Henry Francisco parked cars and served as security officer. If things got out of hand he would call the sheriff; but this seldom happened. Because of the expense involved with large bands, smaller three-piece bands were engaged c. 1950. During the early 1950s, the ballroom was renovated for weddings, etc. The Parloves held teen dances each Wednesday during the summer.

John and Delores Thiel moved from Ludington in 1957 where they had conducted teen dances. Thiel worked at WHMI at the time, and by 1963, the Blue Lantern Teen Club held dances every Friday and Saturday.

In May, 1950, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Baprowski bought the Island Lake Resort, 6269 Academy Drive, with beaches on both Island and Briggs Lakes. For the safety of their patrons, the Baprowskis in-

stalled a pedestrian underpass, 40 feet long, seven feet eight inches high and six feet wide from Briggs Lake in 1959.

"John, Kate and George!" invited all for the grand opening of the Academy Inn, 6631 Academy Drive, April 28, 1954. One found modern facilities, a dance floor and the Stan Rutter Trio providing dance music.

May 18, 1964, the Blue Lantern dance hall burned, signaling the end of an era that began with the opening of the 20th century. The availability of better and easier transportation by rail, later by automobiles over improved roads, created the opportunity for far-from-the-big-city recreation. Entrepreneurs, sensing the opportunity to provide lakeside living, soon sold lake lots for cottages which later transformed into year round homes.

In January, 1974, the state announced new proposed changes for Island Lake State Park under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Included are an entrance to the park from Kensington Road; a nature center; a living farm; trail development for biking and hiking; a canoe landing, etc. Not all of these have come to fruition as in the original proposal. The park is now Island Lake Recreation Area. A volunteer organization, Friends of Island Lake meets monthly to "Build opportunities for families and youth of all ages to get outdoors." www.islandlakefriends.org

To be continued...

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from clippings; "Yesteryears of Green Oak" by the Green Oak Historical Society; "From Settlement to City, Brighton" by Carol McMacken; Andrew Haapala, Island Lake Recreation Area Manager. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)

Correction: At the beginning of the third paragraph in Part 8, Island Lake Story, "In the 1920s," etc. should be have been "In the 1930s".