

Brighton City Hall (1910) now CoBACH Center

Brighton's Indoor and Outdoor Museums of History

Many families travel to new areas to experience the sights and sounds of near and distant vistas. Parents focus these excursions so children can experience learning and have fun during the summer months. The nearby museums in Lansing, Detroit and Ann Arbor definitely enhance the knowledge of the arts, culture and local history. These one-day visits can run up a tab of several hundred dollars as souvenirs, lunches and dinner complete the out-of-town experience.

If you are looking for a simple 2-3 hours of learning and fun, stay in Brighton and experience the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center and visit the Old Village Cemetery next to the millpond.

The CoBACH Center at 202 W. Main Street has themed exhibits of local history and displays of quality art by members of the Brighton Art Guild. You will learn about Brighton's past as you examine cool old photos of our town and read about unusual events of an earlier period of time sponsored by the Brighton Area Historical Society. You may even catch an evening performance by Brighton's Own Livingston Players.

Brighton's oldest cemetery (1838) has many of the founding families buried here. Check out the family names, burial dates and examine the artwork in the old hand carved headstones. A former Michigan governor who died in office as a U.S. senator during President Lincoln's term is buried here. Over 35 Civil War soldiers have beautiful white marble headstones at their grave sites. You are guaranteed a unique, beautiful view of downtown Brighton from under the canopy of shade trees as you look down on the millpond that few have experienced!

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

CoBACH Display Sept 6—Nov 1 "Brighton State Bank"

See the many photos and memorabilia related to this part of Brighton history.



SYMPATHIES OF THE SOCIETY TO THE FAMILY OF

Matt Modrack, on his passing.
Matt was a member of the Society and a Brighton booster.

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

PATRON: Michael & Vivian Hatty*, Jane Tomlinson (2017).

INDIV/FAMILY: Tim Hurst (2017), Patrick Smith*.

*Welcome to new members Michael & Vivian Hatty and Patrick Smith. New and renewing members keep the Society viable and able to serve its reason for being.

- Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for preparing the August issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Patrick Smith for a donation to the Old Village Cemetery project with his new membership.
- Jane Tomlinson for her donation to Friends of Lyon School.
- To all those who made a donation to the Society in honor of Larry Lawrence's 70th Birthday.
- To Larry & Kate Lawrence for requesting that donations be made to the Society in Larry's name for his 70th Birthday.
- July and August Headstone Restoration Team volunteers include Judith Coebly, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Bill Dixon, Dave Fuller, Bill Goodwin, Jim Ireton, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, Larry Lawrence, Bob Pettengill, Dave Pettigrove, John Rawcliffe, Dave Rebiger, Gary Reutter, Pat Smith, Don Thomas, Ed Vitez, Sue Zimmermann, and Jim Vichich.
- Marieanna Bair and Carole Damon for tracking and updating memberships including donations to the Society.
- CoBACH volunteers for August: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Thursday Morning History Preservationists: Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich. Stop by and share some old stories at Lyon Schoolhouse from 9am—12nn.
- Mindy Kinsey and her dedicated volunteers who design the layout, then set up and take down the local history exhibits at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center.
- To those who helped out at the Brighton Fine Arts and Acoustic Music Fair. They include: Marieanna Bair, JoAnn Bellmard, Judith Coebly, Joe Collins, Denise Daddino, Jerry & Carole Damon, Jim DeJohn, Beth & Tony Ferreyra, Nancy Fredenburg, Betsy Herbst, Mindy Kinsey, Judy Kline, Shirley & Bob Knight, Carol McMacken, Joyce Powers, Genal Pratt, Tom Reinke, Pauline Schaffer, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle, Lucille Weaire., Sue Zimmermann and Jim Vichich.

Dates to Remember

September—October: CoBACH Center Exhibit, **FREE!** Brighton State Bank: Photos and Memorabilia of the Past.

September 1,4,7,8,11,14,15,18,21,22,25,28,29; 5—8pm: BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday ,Wednesday and Thursday.

September 1,8,15,22,29; 9am—12nn: Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse.

September 26; 9am—2pm: Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Day. Team meets 4th Monday through October. Set your calendar for: Sept. 26 and Oct. 24.

September 28; 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH.

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)

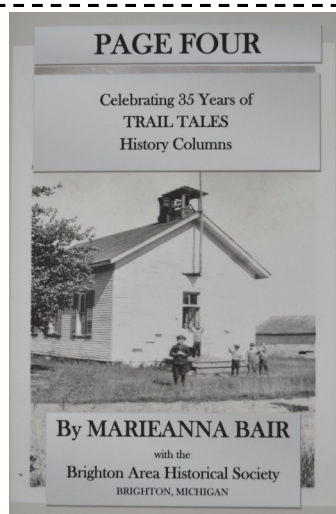
Acorn Deck Accessories (2016) — Advance Craft Builders (2016) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Art Guild (2016)
Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group, LLC (2016) — Clark Eye Center (2016)
Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2016) — Kimble Appraisal 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: _____		Phone: () —	
			Address: _____			
			City: _____		State: _____	Zip Code: _____
			E-Mail: _____			
			How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales:		<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail	
Membership Plan:			Donation to—Check One:		Amount of Donation:	
<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 CoBACH Events		<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.



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

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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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Early Roads in Genoa Township

Challis Road, west of Grand River, is intersected by railroad tracks at 3/4 miles, Bauer Road at one mile, with Baetcke School, 1844, on the southwest corner, Dorr Road at two miles, ending at Conrad Road, a total of 2-1/4 miles.

But from where does that name come from? It is not prominent in local histories and references. Instead one finds the names: Baetcke, Benedict, Hartman, Romer, Westphall, etc., who were among the earliest settlers of Genoa Township purchasing property along that road.

A relatively late arrival in the township, Phillip Challis (b. October 29, 1862, Eng.) purchased 102 acres at the northwest corner of Grand River and Challis Road from Conrad and Elizabeth Romer c. 1900. The Romers had bought that acreage in 1863 from her parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Conrad. (The Conrads arrived in 1844 and by 1870 owned 320 acres in the township.)

Traveling along two lane Challis Road in the year of our country's centennial one passed by farm homes, barns and the other outbuildings necessary for agriculture. One observed small ponds; a railroad crossing; and farms of 40-200 acres in size.

The 1915 plat indicates a house where Phillip and wife Julia Butchrite, (b. 1877, d. 1929) lived with their children. As one drives west on Challis Road there is still a small pond to the right. This small pond (just west of the UM Medical Center) is where three year old Ernest Challis, their son, drowned while playing on thin ice March 30, 1916. Phillip and Julia were heart broken. They did have four children who lived into adulthood. Phillip died February 2, 1923, at 61. He is buried with little Ernest in Calvary Cemetery.

(Scanty census records suggest Emma J. Challis (b. 1860) and Allise Challis (b. 1865), both in London, England may be sisters of Phillip.)

Hundreds of vehicles drive Challis Road each day. On the south side are located a restaurant (Big Boy), a bank (First National), hotel

(Homewood Suites), facilities for rehabilitation (Willow Brook), long-term care (Ashley Court) and a recreation facility (Mt. Brighton).

On the north side is the Brighton Towne Square with a number of big box stores, various businesses, a hotel (Holiday Inn), medical facilities (UM Medical offices). Also in the area are apartments (Independence Village) and a theater (MJR Cinemas 20). The Square has its own street layout.

During the 1950/60s, on the north side of Challis, the Iron Mustang Motorcycle Club had a clubhouse and recreation site.



It was not until electric power was extended to rural area in the early 1930s, that county roads were assigned names and the structures given numbers. The Detroit Edison Company needed proper addresses to which bills could be sent. Perhaps the proximity of the Challis home to Grand River at that time suggested the name.

August 16, 2016, the Livingston Daily notes heavy traffic on Challis Road calls for the construction of "... a roundabout at Challis and Bauer Roads."

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: census records; Early Settlers and Land Owners" and obituaries by Milton Charboneau; interview with Jean Ledford of Genoa Township Board. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)