



## Thank You to the Old Village Cemetery Volunteers

The 9th Annual Spring Cleanup of the Old Village Cemetery was a wonderful event due to Brighton's fantastic volunteers and great weather! These civic-minded folks help make our community one of the best in Michigan!

Brighton's oldest burial ground is ready for 2017 visitors! Leaves, branches and winter debris have been removed and the grounds look beautiful under the stately canopy of mature trees. The founding fathers and mothers of Brighton have a wonderful view as they gaze down on the tranquil waters of the Millpond. This Millpond helped to establish their small community located along the banks of Ore Creek.

The gravesites for the (45) Civil War veterans and (2) World War II veterans look respectful for the upcoming Memorial Day on Monday, May 29th.

Stop by, check out the grounds, visit the veterans and try to find the headstone of the first person to die in early Brighton. He was buried in 1838.

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

**Save the date: August 13, Noon—10pm. Brighton's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**  
Community picnic on Main Street, free cemetery tours; Old Town skilled trade exhibits; Civil War music by the 5<sup>th</sup> Regimental Band; kids games; Kiwanis concert with 50 Amp Fuse Band and special LASER SHOW on Main St. and across the Millpond.

### EXHIBITS at CoBACH

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

**CoBACH Display**  
**June**  
"World War I"

### CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding  
Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical  
Society**



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## Thanks and Recognition

### MEMBERSHIPS:

**INDIVIDUAL:** Pat Burgess, Eugene & Judith Dahlin, Joe Roberts\*.

\*Welcome new member, Joe Roberts. Dues-paying, donation-making and participating members keep this historical society viable.

### THANKS TO:

- Marieanna Bair, Jeanette Johnson, Bob & Shirley Knight, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for preparing the May issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Joe Roberts for his donation to Friends of Lyon School with his dues.
- Dan and Anna Oginsky (2017) and the Brighton Masonic Lodge (2016) for their generosity in becoming \$1000 Platinum Level Sponsors for Brighton Area Historical Society.
- The Thursday morning archivists: Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Norma Jean Pless, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich. Stop by and share a tale from yester-year. We close promptly at noon and head for a fun talkative lunch at a local restaurant. You are welcome to join us!
- CoBACH volunteers for May include: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Larry Lawrence, Lin Millar, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich. These volunteers work as docents at the CoBACH Center from 5—8pm on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- All the volunteers who helped with the 9th Spring Cleanup of the Old Village Cemetery.
- Special thanks to Lin Millar, Lynn Strong and Vicki Vichich for preparing the yummy food for the volunteers. Many nice compliments for the ladies! Also a special thanks to Father Deon and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for always opening their arms and letting the cemetery volunteers dine inside their building.
- Donations of old family photos by Anne and Jerry Dilloway.

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends sympathy to the family of

**Pat Nelson**  
a long-time member of the Society.

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## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Center Exhibit — FREE!! June —** World War I

**CoBACH Center Exhibit — FREE!! July—August:** Brighton's 150th Birthday. See large photos of Brighton before cars on Main Street. See business memorabilia from the past. See the special exhibit of Brighton's Victorian Silhouettes.

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

**June 4,7,11,14,18,21,25,28; 5pm—8pm:** BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sunday and Wednesday.

**June 26; 9am—2:30pm:** Old Village Cemetery Headstone Restoration Day. Additional 2017 dates: July 24, August 28, September. 25, October 23.

**June 28; 6pm:** BAHS Board meeting at CoBACH Center.

**July 4:** Parade on Main Street — 10am—12nn  
Duck Race at Millpond — 12nn—1pm

**August 13; 12 noon—10pm:** Brighton 150th Anniversary Celebration. Record on your calendar! Don't miss! See Page 1 for additional events.

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## 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 (2017) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Art Guild (2017) Brighton District Library \*\* — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm. \*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group, LLC (2017) — Clark Eye Center (2017) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2017) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc. \*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Autobody \*\* Make Believe Manor, LLC (2016) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* — Power House Electric, Inc. (2017) Preview Properties (2017) — Promess, Inc. \*\* Refrigeration Research \*\*

## 2017 Sponsorships

**Platinum Level:** Masonic Lodge No. 247 — Dan & Anna Oginsky

## 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><br>Brighton Area Historical Society<br>P. O. Box 481<br>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"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250          |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School  |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events   |   |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund  |   |
| <small>The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.</small> |  |   |   |

**Kensington Metro Park — 75th Anniversary:** This summer the City of Brighton’s Sesquicentennial will be celebrated. Additionally, Huron Clinton Metro Parks will celebrate their 75th Anniversary.

The idea for a regional park system in southeast Michigan can be traced back to two men, Dr. Henry S. Curtis and Prof. Harlow O. Whittemore. Dr. Curtis was a nationally recognized expert in recreation. Prof. Whittemore was chairman of Landscape Design at the Univ. of Michigan. He, too, was interested in parks and recreation and had helped design and develop many public parks. In 1936, Dr. Curtis directed a recreational survey of Washtenaw County for the National Youth Admin. The survey revealed that there were no public recreational facilities in the county. The survey brought Dr. Curtis into contact with Prof. Whittemore, who had long been interested in the recreational possibilities of the Huron River Valley. They began to see the benefits of developing both the Huron River Valley and Clinton River Valley.

Kent Lake Metropolitan Park was re-christened Kensington Metropolitan Park early in its development in honor of the original pioneering settlement that once thrived in the area. Although Kensington was the second Metropark project launched, it was the first to open to the public.

By late 1945, the HCMA had acquired 2,600 of the eventual 4,481 acres of forested hills, broad meadows, tamarack swamps, bogs, sloughs and spectacular rural views that roll around Kent Lake along both sides of the winding Huron River in Oakland and Livingston counties.

The park opened in 1948, offering picnic areas, hiking, biking, horseback riding, play fields, nature study areas, and sledding hills.

In its eighth year, Kensington offered rides on the Island Queen, a sixty-passenger paddle wheel excursion boat. Two years later, the Authority’s first nature center opened.

### BAHS Leadership 2017

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>President</b><br><b>Jim Vichich</b>                   | <b>Directors</b><br><b>Joe Collins</b>           |
| <b>Vice President</b><br><b>Marieanna Bair</b>           | <b>Nancy Fredenburg</b>                          |
| <b>Secretary</b><br><b>Carole Damon</b>                  | <b>Mindy Kinsey</b>                              |
| <b>Treasurer &amp; Trail Tales</b><br><b>Jerry Damon</b> | <b>Larry Lawrence</b>                            |
| <b>Editor</b><br><b>Jerry Damon</b>                      | <b>Lin Millar</b>                                |
|  | <b>Thomas Reinke</b>                             |
|  | <b>Lynn Strong</b>                               |
|  | <b>Education Liaison</b><br><b>Judith Coebly</b> |
|  | <b>Sue Skwarski</b>                              |

### 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 — Beck and Hacker Roads

Up until 1958, Beck Road extended 2-3/4 miles from Lucy Road east to Grand River in Genoa Township. In 1961, construction of I-96 closed access to Grand River. At that time, the C&O and the Ann Arbor Railroads intersected Beck.

Research indicates that no one with the name of Beck resided in Livingston County until the late 19th century. R.F.D. delivery, 1896, likely prompted the inclusion of named roads as one's address. The connection of the name Beck with naming of that road escapes this researcher.

Trails marking borders of townships were among the first surveyed and laid out. These were straight north/south, east/west trails except when natural obstacles (hills, lakes, swamps, etc.) were encountered.

A Brighton Argus clipping of August 8, 1923, describes the paving of the Grand River Road between Detroit and Lansing. The right-of-way would follow the old road; but fill valleys, remove the various small hills and numerous sharp curves would be straightened. "...the greatest departure from the track of the old highway will be to entirely do away with what for the last eighty years has been known as the Benjamin Corners. At the curve north of Bert Francis' farm the road will bear to the left instead of to the right, and continue to bear left until it strikes the east and west road at the top of 'Bunker's Hill'." That is the short stretch now known as Bendix Road.

William and Barbara Hacker, born in Germany, purchased land in Genoa Township, Section 23, October 4, 1837. A year later 40 acres in Oceola Township has the Hacker name. More property was acquired through the years. Two of their sons, Philip b. 1842, and Roloff, b. 1843, enlisted as privates to serve in the Civil War. Philip in Co. I, 5th Michigan Infantry and Roloff, Co.

G, 2nd Michigan Infantry. Both died as Corporals. Philip, February 13, 1863, in Alexandria, Virginia, of wounds received at Fredericksburg. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Alexandria. Brother Roloff, died November 24, 1863, Knoxville, Tennessee, probably of wounds suffered in the Battle of Chattanooga, where it appears he is buried.

Other descendants were skilled in many fields, among them as operators of a large dairy operation. A 1907 clipping reports (grandson) Frank Hacker, with three patented milking machines, milked 31 cows in 1-3/4 hours with one man. Twenty years later he bought three new milking machines and he is increasing his herd to 60 cows. This made him the largest dairyman in the county.

Approximately six miles long, Hacker Road still extends north on the borders of Genoa and Brighton, Oceola and Hartland Townships.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: census records; plat maps; "Early Landowners..." by Milton Charboneau; Argus clippings; and an interview with Judith Coebly. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)