



**Brighton Area**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

brightonareahistorical.com

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

# TRAIL TALES

Volume XXIX No. 1 | January 2010

## A New Walkway For Old Village Cemetery



A new concrete surface walkway is being designed so that visitors will be able to enter Old Village Cemetery from Millpond Park. There is no access to the cemetery today. The walkway will be located along a newly revised top terrace behind the gazebo. This new access is adjacent to the ornamental fence on the west side of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and connects to the sidewalk that fronts the church.

The walkway will connect to the new cemetery entry gate (donated by BAHS) installed earlier in 2009.

Revitalization of this historic burial ground is a BAHS priority. Two major cleanups in 2009 have removed significant overgrowth of brush and weed trees on the east and west property lines. Special group walking tours and individual audio tours will be developed that highlight the many early Brighton

families that are buried here. Perennial flowers and shrubs are under investigation as a method for adding year-round color that will attract visitors as are areas for reflecting and reading.

Work for the walkway will begin in mid-April and will be completed in three weeks. Old Village Cemetery will be rededicated on Memorial Day, May 31, 2010.

The Downtown Development Authority has made this project a priority. A well-deserved thank you is due to this group of involved local business professionals. This project will return benefits to the downtown businesses. It will further enhance the Millpond Park, by providing visitor access to the city cemetery. This DDA action is truly the right thing to do!

Thank you DDA!

Jim Vichich

## Time to Renew Your BAHS Annual Membership

With the coming of the new year, it is time to renew your BAHS annual membership. If you did not renew in the past few months, your membership has expired and needs to be renewed for 2010.

Your dues are an important contribution to our

organization and are a primary source of our funding. Your ongoing support is greatly needed and much appreciated. Please take a quick moment and send in your check for your 2010 membership renewal.

The BAHS cannot exist without the support of our members. If you value what the BAHS does, what it stands for, and the role we play in preserving our local history, then please consider supporting us again in 2010.

### Special points of interest:

LEARN ABOUT THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MANY WAYS THEY HELPED THEIR COMMUNITY.

SEE PAGE 4

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR BAHS MEMBERSHIP. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

SEE INSERT

*"History is the depository of great actions, the witness of what is past, the example and instructor of the present, and monitor to the future."*

Miguel de Cervantes  
Author of *Don Quixote*

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## Recent and Future Happenings

### Dates to remember - January 2010

**Jan 27: 6:00 pm**

BAHS board meets at COBACH. Public welcome

**Jan 7, 14, 21, 28: 9am-12nn**

Archiving at Lyon School

**Jan 6, 13, 20, 27: 2pm-8 pm**

Society hosts at CoBACH

**Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 5pm-8 pm**

Society hosts at CoBACH

### Area Historical Organizations

**Jan 7: 7 pm**

Problem Solvers by Society members. Livingston County Genealogical Society. Latter Day Saints Church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.

**Jan 14: 7:30 pm**

Plymouth Historical Society/Museum. Plymouth International Ice Festival. [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

**Jan 16: 8pm-5pm**

Saline Area Historical Society. Antique show. [www.salinehistory.org](http://www.salinehistory.org)

### Oral History

Each week, older members of the Brighton area die. Their memories of Brighton's earlier days are a valuable historical resource. To preserve this great asset, we have started an oral history project to record their memories.

We need your help in contacting older members of our community to schedule interviews. Please contact us if you can help with this project.

### The Archives

Information of the history of the area from agriculture to businesses, to churches, to education, from government to the military and residential, etc., is being compiled in a retrievable manner.

Your memories, photos, maps, directories, etc., will improve the quality of the Society's archives. These can be copied or donated.

Your assistance in compiling these resources is invaluable. Each Thursday, 9-noon, several members work in the archives at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road. You are invited to help.

### Santa Visits Lyon School

Children of all ages were welcomed by Santa at the annual Open House last month. There they toured the one-room school, made ornaments and had hot cocoa and cookies.

## Thanks and Recognition

### THANKS TO....

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time and energy to support the BAHS.

- Bert Bair, Ida Bair and June Kimble for help in mailing the December issue of Trail Tales.
- Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Helen Leitz (Drbrn) and Ralph & Elizabeth Romano for sending "Friends of Lyon School" membership for 2010 with their annual dues.
- Merrill Herbst, Marge Wilcox and James Miller for sending a donation to Society projects with their annual dues.
- Mindy Kinsey and Sue Walters-Steinacker for hosting the Lyon School monthly Open House during 2009. Their dedication to disseminating local history is most inspiring.
- The Society board members and committee chairs for volunteering their leadership this past year.

- Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) for sending a change of address.

### 2009 Business / Professional Members

The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. We encourage our members to patronize these local, independent businesses who are sustainers of the BAHS.

- Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc.
- Archer-Huntley Financial Services\*
- Jagielky Bookkeeping
- Lawrence Autobody\*
- Masonic Lodge #247\*
- Patrick Financial Group, LLS\*
- Promess\*
- Yum Yum Tree (New Member!)

\*Special thanks to these Life Members

### Memberships

We would like to thank the following members for their annual memberships:

### Patron:

- Dr. Harry & Carol Davis
- Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL)
- Jere & Kay Michaels
- Doug & Carol Rearick

### Individual

- Erv & Dorothy Bandkau
- William Franklin
- Nancy Fredenburg
- Merrill Herbst
- Susan Lanning
- Helen Leitz
- John & Ruth LePatourel
- James Miller
- Nora Miller
- Joan Naylor (OK)
- Rich & Mary Ray
- Ralph & Elizabeth Romano
- Wallyne Smail
- Rev. Don Thomas
- Dick & Lucille Weaire
- Marge Wilcox
- Doug Zimmerman\*

\*New Member—Welcome!

## 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 member, please visit our web site at [www.brightonareahistorical.com](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com) or mail in the following 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Plan:**

- |                                  |                                   |                                      |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New     | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student     |
|                                  |                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family |  |

**Friend of Lyon School:**

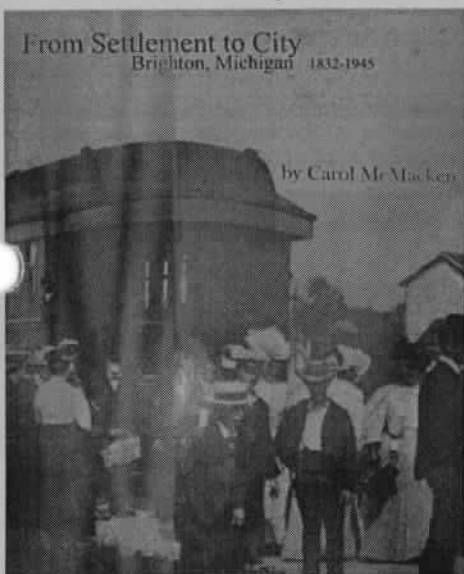
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

**BAHS Projects Fund:**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <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 Tax Deductible Organization

## BAHS Gift Shop



The Brighton Area Historical Society maintains an inventory of commemorative and Brighton history memorabilia for sale as society fund raisers. 100% of all sales proceeds go to fund ongoing organization budget needs of BAHS, including local history projects and Lyon School maintenance.

Our product offering includes BAHS apparel (shirts, hats, etc.), home décor (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like. To see in detail our full offering, please visit our online gift shop on our web site at [www.brightonareahistorical.com](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com).

### Product Spotlight

**From Settlement to City**  
Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945  
by Carol McMacken  
450+ pages  
Over 300 pictures  
**\$65.00**

**Description:** This large volume hardcover book contains a beautifully detailed history of Brighton from its earliest days until the mid-1940s. It also contains over 300 pictures and illustrations. This item is a must for any book collection on Michigan and its rich history.

## BAHS Leadership

**Executive Board**

President

**Jim Vichich**

Vice President

**Marieanna Bair**

Secretary

**Thomas Reinke**

Treasurer

**Mindy Kinsey**

Directors

**Dave Ball**

**Jim Miller**

**Sue Garcia**

**Larry Lawrence**

Education Liaison

**Judith Coebly**

Education Liaison

**Sue Skwarski**

## More About BAHS

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

**E-Mail:**

[info@brightonareahistorical.com](mailto:info@brightonareahistorical.com)

**Phone:**

(810) 250-7276

**US Mail:**

Brighton Area Historical Society  
P. O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

The Lyon School is located at 11455 Buno Road west of Pleasant Valley Road.

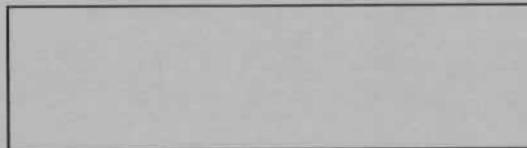
The BAHS is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization. Help out the BAHS and yourself with a contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts.

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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## **Historical Perspective: Brighton's Altruistic Fire Department (Part 7)**

The Wolverine Brush fire, 431 W. Main (December 31, 1971) forced the recognition that fighting such major conflagrations required more than the local fire department. The several departments in Livingston County began seriously considering how to more efficiently do the job. By March 1972, the Livingston County Fire Fighter Association came into being. In June, the Brighton Area Fire Advisory Board, promoting the continual improving and upgrading of the quality of fire fighting, bought a rescue squad truck. Three years later, the Brighton Township Fire Department was formed and built a fire-house on Old 23, south of Hyne Road.

Following John Dymond's service as chief (1970-1971), Mel Sanch (who joined in 1964) became chief of the Brighton Fire Department on January 26, 1972.

During the 1970s, festivities related to Independence Day were each on a larger scale and more well done than the previous year. The 1976 Bicentennial event was most memorable. A four-day celebration included a carnival, parade, battle of the bands, motorcar exhibit, athletic events and plenty of fire works. The 1936 American LaFrance pumper, which had been in use during the '40s and '50s, was completely restored in time for exhibition. Local businesses donated to cover expenses and about 4,000 hours of labor were contributed to its restoration.

The 45th annual Fourth of July parade and festivities included the new pumper purchased in April 1977, for \$102,000.

The 1980s saw much activity. After 30 years, the station at 209 W. Main was sold. August 3, 1982 was one of those special days: ground breaking for the new fire hall at Firemen's Field

on West Grand River. It was the well-deserved honor and privilege of Charles Bidwell and Chief Mel Sanch to throw the first shovel of dirt. Upon completion of the new hall the old bell, which had been originally placed in the Old Town Hall in 1883 and carefully stored following its removal from the belfry, was installed for display in front of the new fire hall. Also, in 1988 Dick Shinske was appointed full-time fire chief.

On May 30, 1991, the popular eating spot, Lynn's Café at 415 W. Main, burned down. Lynn's Café is presently at 180 N. First Street.

The 51st annual Halloween party hosted 1,226 costumed children in 1992.

In 1994, following Dick Shinske's retirement, Charles Bidwell served as chief until the hiring of Larry Lane on January 16, 1995. By now, the job of Chief includes the establishment of formal training programs, long-range planning of equipment replacement, working with other departments of the area, etc. Public education programs have been promoted and emergency and disaster preparedness programs have been developed. The Livingston County Fire Fighters Association continually reviews its recommended procedures regarding the qualifications of personnel hired/appointed to various positions.

In October 1997, Chief Larry Lane and Brighton Township Fire Chief, Roger Young, began a discussion relative to a merger of the two.

*Compiled by Marieanna Bair from clippings. Additions/corrections requested. (810) 229-6402*