Brighton’s Main Four Corners (Part 5)

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Following the war, owner of the corner site, Bob Leiland, used the lot as a parking lot. Within a few years he built and owned a luncheon on the corner - "The Brightest Spot in Brighton. From 1958 - 1960, it was itself's Restaurant. The Sportsman's Grill was in business there from 1961 - 1964. They opened at 6:00 am, seven days a week.

In 1965, Howell Town & Country Real Estate Coldwell Banker moved in. Major changes were made in 1997 when a two-story addition arose on the small parking site south of the building, which included living quarters on the second floor. The portion on the corner was also rebuilt. Howell Caldwell Banker is on that site in 2010.

Compiled by Marianna Bair from references in the BAMS Historic Resource Survey file. To compile a more complete history of this site, and others, our readers are urged to donate, or allow the copying of, articles, photos, clippings and oral histories of memories of this site and others. Contact the BAMS or Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Millpond in Front of the Brighton Old Village Cemetery

Memorial Day 2010 marks the renewal of the public's ability to enter and visit Brighton's historic 1837 Old Village Cemetery. The new walkway allows family, friends and community members easy access into the cemetery through the new entrance gate that will be unlocked every day.

On a beautiful Memorial Day, the rededication of Old Village Cemetery took place marking the formal process of recognizing the new and revitalized improvements. Many people were responsible for these hallowed grounds being opened to the public once again. Those grounds were closed due to vandalism many years ago.

The Brighton Area Historical Society led the effort to reopen this community burial ground. Now all interested in history can visit the earliest settlers of the Brighton area.

Rolling Thunder, Michigan Chapter 5, also helped with the heavy work of clearing weed trees and brush so that all veterans of the United States will have a respectful final resting spot.

Donation of the new entrance gate was made by the BAMS and construction of the new walkway was funded by the Downtown Development Authority. The millpond gazebo and on the west side of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

Following the rededication, a unique tour of eight grave sites was provided. Actors portrayed the lives of early Brighton area residents at their grave site. The re-enactors wore clothing that was representative of those early days while presenting a historical narrative of their lives. Thanks to actors Tammy Sexton, Sue and Pat Tucker, Lee Garcia, Cheryl Grocholewski, Karen Goss, Ken Joslin, Hunter Gibson and Aldyn Hoeschender for the outstanding job!

When you are next visiting the millpond or local restaurants in downtown Brighton, take time to include a walk through Old Village Cemetery. You will see the military headstones for many veterans including over 30 Civil War soldiers. Mature trees in this peaceful setting will surround you as you look down over the glittering millpond and observe our wonderful community.

Jeni Vlich
Recent and Future Happenings

Dates to Remember - July 2010
July 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28: 5pm-8pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 9pm-4pm
Archiving/Open House at Lyon School
July 18: 1pm-4pm
Open House at Lyon School
July 28: 6pm
BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

Area Organizations
July 1: Genealogical Society
Tim Bennett, at the Cultural Hall, LDS, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ptms/...

The Archives
Interested in local history and the people who made it? Join our group! We meet Thursdays at 9:00am at the Lyon School. Your help is needed with our archives.

Thanks and Recognition

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

- Idea Bair for help in newsletter mailing.
- Brighton Masonic Lodge #247 for generous donation to Lyon School fund.
- Fifth Michigan Regiment Band for performing in the Memorial Day program.
- Lisa Andreassen for photos of her Sein ancestors.
- Mike Ewing for use of speaker system.
- Marianna Bair, Joe Collins, Jim DeJohn, Nancy Fredenham, Jim Viehch, Bonnie Gaugler, Larry Lawrence, Jim Miller, Tami Sexton and Dick Wease for serving as CoBACH BAHS hosts.
- Diane Russell, Jim Totten and Alan Ward for their support in compiling a history of the Blue Lantern Casino at Island Lake.
- Brad Beal for survey services.
- Judith Coody for her program of Women Serving in the Civil War.

Interesting Michigan Facts

- Sault Ste. Marie was founded by Father Jacques Marquette in 1668. It is the third oldest remaining settlement in the United States. Also, it is the oldest town between the Alleghenies and the Rockies.
- Four flags have flown over Michigan - French, English, Spanish and United States.
- The world's first international submarine railway tunnel was opened between Port Huron, Michigan and Sarnia, Ontario, Canada in 1891.
- In 1879, Detroit telephone customers were first in the nation to have phone numbers to facilitate calling cards.
- In 1929, the Michigan State Police established the first state police radio system in the world.

These facts and more can be found at: www.50states.com/facts/michigan.htm

Addendum To BFD Series


In Memoriam

The BAHS would like to extend thanks to the family of...

Dorothy (Dot) Bandka
Brighton Area Historical Society member

Description:

This large volume hardcover book contains a beautifully detailed history of Brighton from its earliest days until the mid-1940s. It contains over 300 pictures and illustrations.

This item is a must for any book collection on Michigan and its rich history.

Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

If you would like to donate a membership or make a one-time donation, please visit our website at www.brightonareahistorical.com or call us toll-free at 810/250-7276.

BAHS Gift Shop

Product Spotlight

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

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Directors
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Larry Lawrence
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Judith Coody
Sue Skwarski
Trail Tales Editor
Dave Ball

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

The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Help us out while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of physical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.
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Lyon School
11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The Lyon School is a restored one-room schoolhouse and serves as our 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 former town hall building.
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