

Old Village Cemetery Gates Are Open



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. These grounds were closed due to vandalism many years ago.

The Brighton Area Historical Society led the effort to re-open 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 BAHs and construction of the new walkway was funded by the Downtown Development Authority have provided a barrier-free entrance. You will find the entrance gate and walkway located above

the millpond gazebo and on the west side of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

Following the rededication, a unique tour of eight gravesites was provided. Actors portrayed the lives of early Brighton area residents at their gravesite. 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 Grochowski, Karen Goss, Ken Joslin, Hunter Gibson and Aidyn Messerschmidt 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 glistening millpond and observe our wonderful community.

Jim Vichich

♦♦♦♦♦

Did You Know?

The first soda pop made in the United States, Vernor's ginger ale, was created by accident in 1866 in Detroit.

Special points of interest:

THE FOUR CORNERS OF GRAND RIVER AND MAIN ARE DISCUSSED IN THIS MONTH'S HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ARTICLE.

SEE PAGE 4

A FOLLOW UP TO THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE IS ALSO INCLUDED.

SEE PAGE 2

"The whole history of the world is summed up in the fact that, when nations are strong, they are not always just, and when they wish to be just, they are no longer strong."

Winston Churchill
(1874-1965)
British Orator, Author and Prime Minister

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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/~milcgs/

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.

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 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 handling calls.
- 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

A 1972 photo, identified as "BFD Seniors, Juniors and Associates", lists the following as participants: J. Anderson, R. Ash, C. Bidwell, R. Bourbonnais, J. Burk, M. Clore, G. Cole, F. Dymond, D. Farley, F. Fedrowich, G. Felty, L. Felty, D. Fisher, F. Gillespie, D. Hall, B. Hathaway, J. Mack, P. Mack, R. McGraw, B. Meisling, R. Michelson, S. Moore, P. Mullaney, D. Murphy, R. Myers, T. Reese, J. Rogers, B. Rowlette, D. Sanch, M. Sanch, G. Shelters, D. Shosey, M. Stani, D. Sucher, C. Thompson, W. Thompson, G. Unger, T. Watts, J. Wilson, and H. Wright.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

In Memorial

The BAHS would like to extend sympathies to the family of:

Dorothy (Dot) Bandkau

Brighton Area Historical Society member

Thanks and Recognition

Thanks to...

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

- Ida 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 Andreasson for photos of her Seim ancestors.
- Mike Ewing for use of speaker system.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jim De-John, Nancy Fredenburg, Jim Vichich, Bonnie Gaugler, Larry Lawrence, Jim Miller, Tami Sexton and Dick Weaire 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 Coebly for her program of Women Serving in the Civil War.

- Marieanna Bair, Mindy Kinsey, Tom Reinke and Jim Vichich for maintaining the BAHS Farmers' Market booth.
- Brighton DDA for building the new walk to the new gate at the Old Village Cemetery in time for Memorial Day,
- Judith Coebly, Gary Reutter and members of the SUVWC for their display at CoBACH for Memorial Day.
- AA Muffler's Tom Mitchell for arranging parking for 5th Michigan Regiment Band members.
- Marieanna Bair, Mayor Ricci Bandkau, Fr. Deon, Jim Vichich, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, members of VFW, and those who portrayed persons buried in the Old Village Cemetery for their help on Memorial Day.
- Jan Fuzak (Okemos) for donating three Brighton High School annuals.

Memberships

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

Patron

- Jim & Katie Fox

Family

- Bill & Jackie Damm
- Dr. Nancy Johnson*
- Tom Leith
- Patrick Smith*

2010 Business / Professional Members

The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. We encourage you to support these local businesses.

- Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc.
- Archer-Huntley Financial Services**
- Bagger Dave's Restaurant *
- Joe Agius/Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody**
- Masonic Lodge #247**
- Patrick Financial Group, LLS**
- Promess**
- The Engravers Journal*
- Yum Yum Tree

* Welcome new members

** Special thanks to these Life Members!

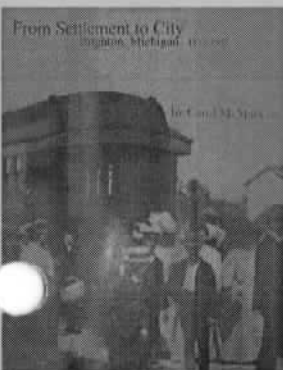
Support BAHS: Become a Member or Donate

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 visit our web site at 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: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () - _____
Membership Plan:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100	BAHS Projects Fund:
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<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.

BAHS Gift Shop



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 contains over 300 pictures and illustrations.

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

The Brighton Area Historical Society maintains an inventory of commemorative and Brighton history memorabilia for sale as fund raisers. 100% of all sales proceeds go to fund our ongoing organization budget needs, 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 brightonareahistorical.com.

BAHS Leadership

President

Jim Vichich

Vice President

Marieanna Bair

Secretary

Thomas Reinke

Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey

Directors

Dave Ball

Sue Garcia

Larry Lawrence

Education Liaison

Judith Coebly

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

Lyon School

11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The Lyon School is a restored one-room schoolhouse and serves as our headquarters.

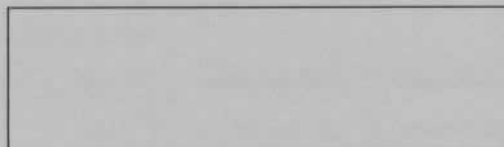
CoBACH Center

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.

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 historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Brighton's Main Four Corners (Part 5)

The Weiss Barbecue, which began business about 1927 at the southwest corner of E. Grand River and West Main, began an extensive remodeling campaign in 1930 to give better cafeteria service. Weiss Barbecue enjoyed a fine reputation for its food. Interviews reveal that this was the place to go following not only high school football games, but also for avid alumni of the University of Michigan. "They had the best."

"Detroit Creamery Velvet Brand, 39¢ qt, 20¢ pt. Made Fresh Daily" announced on a large sign on the side of the building. The on-site bakery undoubtedly sent an appetizing and inviting aroma to the public.

A photo (circa 1937) of the corner indicates C.F. Weiss Barbecue is also dispensing sodas and drugs. In photos prior to the paving of Grand River in 1924, hitching rails are present.

At present, research does not date when or how the building came down. However, by 1943, the site was a vacant lot. It was deemed proper to "... erect an Honor Roll for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces" from the Brighton area. This was built of seven 4x8 foot Masonite panels, painted white, on which the names were placed. By the end of WW II, only a small area remained blank. This constant reminder generated a continual appreciation of the upheaval all endured in so very many forms.

Following the war, owner of the corner site, Bob Leland, used the lot as a parking lot. Within a few years he built and owned a lunchroom on the corner - The Brightest Spot in Brighton. From 1958 - 1960, it was Itsell'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 Coldwell Banker is on that site in 2010.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from references in the BAHS 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 BAHS or Marieanna Bair, 810/229-6402.



Judith Coebly, Gary Reutter displaying Civil War Guns and Swords