

Memorial Day Weekend, Downtown Brighton Activities



View of the new walkway and gate to the Old Village Cemetery next to the Mill Pond Pavilion in Downtown Brighton

The following events will take place in Downtown Brighton over the Memorial Day weekend. All events are open to the public and free of charge.

Sunday, May 30:
5:00pm - 6:00pm: CoBACH Center (Old Town Hall next to the millpond)

Civil War presentation titled "When A Rose Is Not A Rose" by Judith Coebly.

Learn the story of how women participated in Civil War battles as they hid their identities and became men in uniform. This fascinating presentation will allow all guests to broaden their knowledge of this war.

Over 900 women fought side by side with men and went undetected serving both the Union and Confederate armies. Space is limited.

Monday, May 31:
10:00am - 2:00pm: CoBACH Center

Special Civil War display featuring original weapons including muskets, swords and clothing worn by soldiers. Also displayed are enlarged photographs of Brighton's own Grand Army of the Republic in familiar downtown settings in the early 1900s. Original lithographs depicting battle scenes present a vivid picture of the scenes experienced by soldiers during this War of Rebellion.

10:00am - 11:15am: Main Street-Memorial Day parade
Show your respect to our veterans as members of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars provide a short memorial service on Main Street in front of the millpond at the conclusion of their parade.

11:15am - 12:00nn:
Rededication of Old Village Cemetery following parade

Experience the authentic music of the 1860s as the 5th Michigan Regiment Band, leads the community into the cemetery on the new DDA walkway. A short program will present a history of Brighton's 1837 cemetery, and the improvements that are in progress.

12:00nn - 1:30pm: Tours of Old Village Cemetery

The Livingston Players and volunteers will portray individuals buried here. The reenactors will wear period clothing while standing at graveside and tell of the lives and times of the deceased. Enjoy the tours while the band plays a concert with background 1860s music.

The Brighton Area Historical Society is proud to share in the celebration of the 130th Anniversary of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Please join us for cake and refreshments. Visit the interior of the 1880 church and their community center following your tour of Old Village Cemetery to see historical memorabilia.

Jim Vichich

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

"History is philosophy teaching by example and also by warning."

*Lord Bolingbroke
(1678 - 1751)
English politician and philosopher*

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Recent and Future Happenings

Dates to Remember - May/June 2010

May 30: 5pm-6pm

Civil War presentation by Judith Coebly at CoBACH Center. Free Admission

May 31: 10am-1:30 pm

Memorial Day - Downtown Brighton

10:00am: Legion/VFW Parade

11:15am: Old Village Cemetery Rededication ceremony

12:00nn: Old Village Cemetery Tours
Free Admission

May 31: 10am-2pm

Civil War display of muskets, swords, and other unique items at CoBACH Center.

Author Carol McMacken book signing, "From Settlement To City, Brighton, Michigan, 1832-1945". Free Admission

June 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

June 3, 10, 17, 24: 9pm-4pm

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

June 12: 12nn-1pm

Civil War presentation by Judith Coebly at CoBACH Center. Free Admission

June 20: 1pm-4pm

Open house at Lyon School

June 23: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

Area Organizations

June 5: Howell Area Historical Society

"This Place Matters" groundbreaking for exterior renovation. 7pm; (517) 548-6878 howellareahistoricalsociety.org

June 5: Milford Historical Society

Spring Tea at Mary Jackson House. milfordhistory.org (248) 685-7308.

June 24: Hamburg Historical Society

Hamburg Snippets. 810-986-0190.

July 3: Milford Historical Society

Independence Day Parade. Museum open.

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. Questions fly and answers are sought; old businesses are researched; files are compiled and organized.

Addendum To BFD Series

Recognition of the work of BFD volunteers includes the preparation of the booklet prepared for the July 3-8, 1946, "Victory Home Coming". A list of local servicemen was included. The four-day celebration commemorated the year of peace following WWII.

A photo of the 1946 BFD members listed the following: Lee Bidwell Sr., Albert Cole, Robert Cole, George Drew, John Dymond, Floyd Fuller, Frederick Hyne, Waldo Jones, Gerald Morgan, Lloyd Pearsall, Merle Rolison, William Seger, Melvin Skeman, Pat Sharkey, George Stonex, Chief Harold Jarvis Sr., and Assistant Chiefs Lyman Daniels and Maurice Thompson.

Thanks and Recognition

Thanks to...

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

- Ida Bair, Judith Coebly, and Sue Skwarski for help in mailing the May issue of Trail Tales.
- Keith & Kathy Collins for their donation to BAHS projects.
- Barbara Smith for her donation to Friends of Lyon School.
- Dorothy Riley for information on her grandparents, August & Anna Olbrich.
- Dick Weaire, Joe Collins, Jim DeJohn, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Tammy Sexton, Jim Vichich, and Mindy Kinsey for hosting at CoBACH Center.
- Brenda Moline and Jim Vichich for their scanning of archives.

Memberships

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

Individual

- David Ball
- Barbara Smith
- Bill Zink

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*
- Joe Agius/Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody*
- Masonic Lodge #247*
- Patrick Financial Group, LLS*
- Promess*
- Yum Yum Tree

*Special thanks to these Life Members!

Approximately 92% of our 2009 membership roster have renewed their commitment to the mission of the BAHS for 2010. They have confirmed their dedication to the many projects in which we are involved. Many serve in our booth at Farmers' Market and other events. Others welcome visitors to the CoBACH Center. All encourage new members. The archives and Historic Resource Survey are being continually improved for preservation and research. Board members assume major responsibility to BAHS administration so that donors can be assured their efforts and donations are well spent. Contact us by phone or email to learn where you can pitch in.

Is there a "Complimentary Copy" stamp on your Trail Tales copy? This indicates 2010 dues have not been received. We hope you will want to continue to support us in this manner - especially if you aren't able to help in any other way.

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 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:

☐ New

☐ Business

☐ \$500 Life

☐ \$15 Individual

☐ Renewal

☐ Personal

☐ \$50 Patron

☐ \$2 Student

☐ \$25 Family

Friend of Lyon School:

☐ \$10

☐ \$100

☐ \$25

☐ \$250

☐ \$50

☐ Other \$ _____

BAHS Projects Fund:

☐ \$10

☐ \$100

☐ \$25

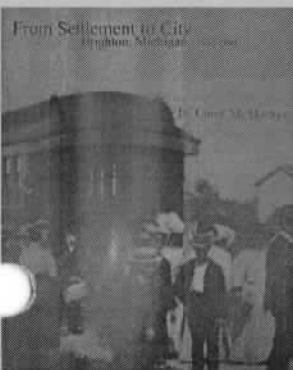
☐ \$250

☐ \$50

☐ 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

Jim Miller

Sue Garcia

Larry Lawrence

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 Lyon School is a restored one-room schoolhouse and serves as our headquarters.

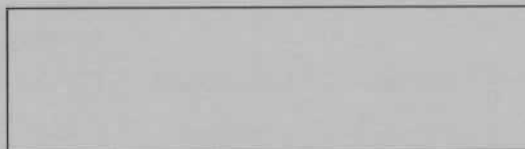
CoBACH Center

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 4)

Seth Jacobs, owner/editor of the Brighton Argus, writes of the southwest corner of the Main Four in the 1907 Homecoming issue: "In 1838, Robert Thompson, a typical Scotsman, erected the building which stands on the corner of Grand River and Fitch known as the Weichers Building." This was a two-story hip-roofed structure with six large six-over-six windows on the second floor.

May 21, 1874, the Brighton Citizen included an ad "J.E. Weichers, dealer in crockery, glass, lamps, tableware, wall paper ... at reasonable prices." An 1883 ad announced "Received new stock. Carrying spring millinery goods." By April 1886, it is noted "A variety of Easter cards at John E. Weichers."

The Model, a two-story building in 1893, has a 1 ½ story gable roof addition to the south and is advertising hats, caps and clothing. In a photo, cement sidewalks are evident, as are the hitching rails and a dirt Grand River Road. Very tall, mature elm trees line the road from the top of the hill at Spencer Road down beyond Fitch Street. Later, a Silent Sentinel at the intersection of these two major roads indicates right-of-way.

The Model, in 1918, has the hip-roof extended over an entire two-story building, with ample windows and entrances to businesses. Before long, the Model also offers cleaning and pressing.

June 20, 1920, the Argus announces the sale of Dr. H.P. Mellus' Drug Store to Mr. George Wood. The ice cream fountain business was included and soft drinks would still be available. Evidence indicates it is the same building as The Model. Mellus came to Brighton in 1914 and built a hospital in 1931.

A new sign, about 1927, announces the C.F. Weiss Barbecue also has drugs and sodas available. January, 1928, "...the Weiss Barbecue opened its new addition to the public the latter part

of the week. With artistically finished interior, shaded lights and potted ferns, it presents a very pleasing appearance."

It was also treated to a fresh coat of paint. A dance floor was installed above the restaurant. The barbecue becomes so popular, carry-outs are available. In April, Weiss was "... building an addition in the form of a modern bakery, which will supply all baked goods used in the house." Approximately \$5,000 was being expended for the addition and equipment. (To be continued.)

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from clippings in the Historical Society's Historic Resource Survey file; Brighton Argus 1907 Homecoming issue. Additions and corrections are requested. (810) 229-6402.

New on Our Web Site

We have been updating our web site with new articles and information. You can find the archive of many of our past Historical Perspective articles, such as "Brighton's Main Four Corner's" above. We currently have around one hundred articles online and will be adding more in the near future.

Another feature you might enjoy are the historical plat maps. We have the original plats all of Livingston County for 1875 and 1895. We will be adding the 1915 plats soon.

If you enjoy old cemeteries, then you will find our cemetery list very interesting. We have published a list of all known cemeteries for Livingston County on our site. We have added some notes and location information as is available. We hope to add Google Map links, photos and history in the future.

Finally, in the next month or so, we hope to have PayPal enabled for our online store purchases and dues payments. A lot is planned so visit our web site today.