

Old Village Cemetery: Your Help Is Needed on May 7



The Brighton Area Historical Society is honored to sponsor the Third Annual Spring Clean-up of the historic Old Village Cemetery located next to the millpond. Brighton's many veterans from the U.S. armed services and many of the early community settlers are buried here in Brighton's earliest cemetery that dates from 1838.

The civic pride that is found in quality, family-centered communities is found in our quaint

community of Brighton and the surrounding townships. Individuals recognize their civic duty to assist in the common good of a community especially when presented with the need to respect our military heroes.

This spring cleanup will present a fresh face to these beautiful grounds. Areas around headstones will be cleared of debris and encroaching sod. Weed trees and brush will be removed

around the perimeter. This work will present a respectful setting for the Memorial Day holiday, where we remember servicemen who died in battle to protect our freedoms.

Please dedicate five hours of your time to this important community civic-pride event. Bring your work gloves and garden tools. Work details will be planned, so please contact me if you can attend. Thank you for your help!

Jim Vichich



Volunteers Needed!

When: Sat, May 7: 9am-2pm

Where: Old Village Cemetery, in Downtown Brighton behind St. Paul Episcopal Church next to the Millpond.

Park next to the cemetery behind the church and on W St. Paul Street.

What: Bring tools and work gloves. Extra tools will be available. Chainsaws are needed.

Special points of interest:

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE IS EXAMINED IN OUR AREA HISTORY ARTICLE.

SEE PAGE 2

LEARN WHAT LURED SETTLERS TO MICHIGAN IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY IN THIS MONTH'S HISTORY PERSPECTIVE FEATURE.

SEE PAGE 4

"There will always be a connection between the way in which men contemplate the past and the way in which they contemplate the present."

*Henry Thomas Buckle
1821—1862
English historian and author of a History of Civilization*

Inside this issue:

DATES TO REMEMBER	2
RECOGNITION AND THANKS	2
BAHS GIFT SHOP	3
BAHS LEADERSHIP	3
CONTACT BAHS	3
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	4

Cemetery Tours

At 11:00am on the fourth Saturday of every month, from May through October, there will be one-hour guided tours of the Old Village Cemetery. Tours will start at the new cemetery entrance gate and walkway that is located behind the millpond gazebo.

You will learn about many

early Brighton area community settlers and military veterans that are buried here. This will also give you a good opportunity to take in the beautiful cemetery grounds.

Tours of the cemetery will also be given before the Sunday Kiwanis Concerts at 5:45 PM on several select dates. Dates

for the Sunday tours will be presented in the near future.

Tours are open to all and there is no cost. Registration is not required.

Please join Tammy Sexton as your guide as she presents an enjoyable tour to learn about early Brighton and those unique stories from the past!

Dates to Remember

April 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27: 5pm-8pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

April 7, 14, 21, 28: 9am-4pm
Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

April 17: 1pm-4pm
Open House at Lyon School

April 27: 6pm
BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center

May 7, Saturday: 9am-2pm
Old Village Cemetery Spring Cleanup.
Parking available next to cemetery, along W St. Paul Street, and in public parking lots. Bring tools and work gloves. Extra tools available. Chainsaws are needed.

Area Organizations

April 7: 7:30pm
Livingston County Genealogical Society, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell. "What you can find in the Carnegie Library Archives"

Northville Historical Society
Call (248) 348-1845 or visit their web site (www.millracenorthville.org) for more info on the following events:

- **April 9: 1pm-3pm**
Polish Easter Tea
- **April 12: 7pm**
"Northville in the Civil War"
- **April 13: 7pm**
"Prison Bars & Hospital Beds"

April 17: 2pm

Washtenaw County Historical Society
"The Civil War" washtenawhistory.org

April 18: 7pm
Wixom Historical Society "Wixom Fire Department" 248-624-4557

April 19: 7:30pm
South Lyon Historical Society "South Lyon in the 40s and 50s". 247-437-9929

April 27: 7:30pm
Salem Area Historical Society "Michigan's Effort in the Civil War". sahshistory.org

April 30:
Milford Historical Society "Spring Tea at the Mary Jackson House". 248-685-2691 or www.milfordhistory.org

Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

Thanks to our existing and new members for their annual memberships:

Patron

- Margo Metzger*

Family

- Pat Burgess (Fenton)*
- Jim DeJohn
- Steve Flowers
- Joanne Harte*
- Bob Johnson*
- Frank & Monica Ninteman*
- Hilda Rondeau (CA)*
- Wallyne Smail
- Ralph Steinberger
- Edward Standlick (VA)*
- Paul Zurawski

* Welcome new members

** Special thanks to these Life Members

- Promess**
- Refrigeration Research **
- The Engravers Journal
- Yum Yum Tree

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- Bert Bair, Judith Coebly and Jackie Damm for help in mailing the March issue of Trail Tales.
- BIG PDQ for their prompt printing of Trail Tales each month.
- Mr. & Mrs. Keith Collins and Margo Metzger for a donation to the BAHS Projects Fund.
- Jim DeJohn and Margo Metzger for a donation to the Friends of Lyon School Fund.

- John & Debbie Armstrong for their donation of a scanner.

- Bert Kisak of Yum Yum Tree for donating gift certificates to the winners of the Ice Harvesting coloring contest.

- Esther Jarvis, Vicki Vichich, Marieanna Bair, Kristie Unger, Betsy Herbst, Pat Thomas, Shirley Kinsey, Judith Coebly and Shirley Knight for the use of their bridal gowns and items for the display at the CoBACH Center.

- Judith Coebly and Shirley Knight for helping setup the bridal display.

- In Memory of Stephen Bozyk – a donation to the Friends of Lyon School Fund from the Pleasant Valley Social Club.

Business / Professional Members

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

- Acorn Deck Accessories Inc.
- Advance Craft Home Builders
- Archer-Huntley Financial Services**
- Bagger Dave's Restaurant
- Dr. Bonine Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Susan Doyle, Realtor
- Joe Agius / Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody**
- Masonic Lodge #247**
- Michigan Commerce Bank
- Patrick Financial Group**

Area History: The Livingston County Court House

It used to be called Livingston Centre. Now, it is the city of Howell. It's small, for a city, but still the largest in the county. Howell is halfway between Detroit and the state capital in Lansing.

Howell is also the county seat and the location of the Livingston County Courthouse. The original courthouse was built in 1847. Before that, court was held at the Eagle Tavern, which was also the post office, a grocery store, and the other important county functions. Legend has it, the drunks would be escorted out in the morning to make way for court session.

The first courthouse was constructed of

wood. When built, it housed the jail and sheriff's residence, and served as a church for, per the Howell Bicentennial, "all but the Presbyterians who had their own building." It was replaced several times.

In 1889, a proposal was submitted to build a new courthouse. By this point a new jail and sheriff's residence had already been constructed. The new building was constructed on the same land as the old, in downtown Howell.

The courthouse, fully restored in 1979, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Excerpt from "My Town Monday: The County Courthouse" by Clair Nofs Dickson.

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: _____	Phone: () _____
	Address: _____	
	City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
	E-Mail: _____	

Membership Plan:		Friend of Lyon School:		BAHS Projects Fund:			
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<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 Merchandise

We have many great items for sale that help us generate much needed funds to carry on our mission.

These include home décor items (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like.

To see our full gift shop offering, please contact us, visit CoBACH Center or the Lyon School, or see our web site.

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 of wilderness settlement through to the growing community of the mid-1940s.

The book also contains over 300 pictures and illustrations and is a must for any book collection on Michigan and its rich history.



BAHS Leadership

President

Jim Vichich

Vice President

Marieanna Bair

Secretary

Sue Garcia

Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey

Trail Tales Editor

Dave Ball

Directors

Dave Ball

Joe Collins

Nancy Fredenburg

Larry Lawrence

Thomas Reinke

Tammy Sexton

Dick Weaire

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 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored 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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #303
Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Why Did The Pioneers Come To Michigan?

Among the acts of legislation by the new United States government in 1787, was that which formed the Northwest Territory (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin). By 1805, the Territory of Michigan was separated from the Northwest Territory as Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had been earlier.

When General Lewis Cass became governor of the Michigan Territory, he resolved to disprove the reports that the land was all swamp and sterile sand, with malaria, ague, chills and fever awaiting the first settlers. He was successful in his endeavor and soon hordes of eager and determined people from the New England and other eastern states made their way into the area we know as Livingston County.

Surprisingly, very few of the original pioneer purchasers of the newly surveyed government land had any previous experience as farmers. Besides those wanting to acquire virgin land for homesteading were many land speculators. Groups of artisans and guilds of various professions pooled finances and sent representatives to purchase thousands of acres to be divided when they would arrive in the early 1830s. One such trusted representative was Richard Lyon who came to Brighton Township.

Besides the lure of profit from the land, a cholera epidemic in the east gave an extra-added impetus to the rush to Michigan. Traveling in flat boats by way of the Erie Canal, over land by wagon train, on horseback and on foot many were anxious to leave the plague behind.

Besides those newly arrived from the Old World, among the settlers were those whose ancestors had been in the New World prior to the American Revolution. Some were descendants of passengers on the Mayflower, landing in Massachusetts in 1620. Those who originally helped build New Amsterdam (New York City) also had descendants who migrated to the Michigan Territory. Included in the trek were artisans, busi-

nessmen, professionals, skilled tradesmen, the clergy; bringing civilization and Christianity to the wilderness. Making a home for their families, land was cleared and fenced, roads and bridges built, schools and churches erected, pain and sorrow endured, separation borne and joys shared. Many present Livingston County residents are descendants of these brave, eager, resourceful, hardworking, determined (stubborn?) pioneers.

Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from writings by the late William Pless; a descendant of those early pioneers. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.

♦♦♦♦♦

Congratulations

Following are winners of the Ice Harvesting Coloring Contest:

- Kindergarten: Sarah Wright
- 1st Grade: Caleigh Hurley
- 2nd Grade: Carson Plum
- 3rd Grade: Ellie Larson
- 4th Grade: Dakota Hanson-Meier

CoBACH Exhibit

"Bridal Gowns of an Earlier Day", a collection of vintage bridal gowns and accessories will be on display now through May 15 at CoBACH Center in Downtown Brighton next to the Millpond.

Plank Roads

From 1844 until about 1900, Michigan was home to many private plank roads connecting distant cities, including Detroit to Lansing. They were built from planks set side-by-side in dirt or gravel to form a kind of boardwalk. The planks were also known for not enduring well. Mark Twain, when asked how he liked traveling the Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids Plank Road, replied, "It would have been good if some unconscionable scoundrel had not now and then dropped a plank across it."

Written by Dave Ball, sourced from DNR web site.