

Congratulations to Brighton's Chamber of Commerce!



The former Mellus Hospital building, built in 1931, is now home to the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce.

If you are unfamiliar with the history of Brighton, then you need to know that the Chamber of Commerce has relocated to an 80 year old building. This building, unoccupied for several years, has great local historical significance.

Pam McConeghy, Executive Director and CEO of the Chamber, deserves a 'thank you' for selecting this building for their new home. Repurposing of this classic two-story brick building has brought smiles to many longtime residents of our community.

This prominent building was built in 1931 and served as Brighton's first modern hospital until 1957. Dr. Horace Mellus built this two story Georgian-styled building. His hospital was previously located in a renovated home on east North Street. The new Mellus Hospital had an x-ray machine permitting diagnosis and treat-

ment for the all too common serious farm injuries.

The modern operating room, located on the second floor, protrudes to the west from the rear of the building where natural light streamed through glass on three sides of the room. Today, this room has a wonderful view of downtown due to the hill upon which the building is located. This is now office of the Chamber's Executive Director, where business networking is fostered and visions of future development are conceived.

Now that this historical building has been repurposed by the Chamber, its future longevity as a viable structure in the community is much more certain. An additional 'thank you' is due Brighton's Downtown Development Authority for assisting in the process of preserving the former hospital. While many younger members

of our community will start to associate this building as the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, the Mellus Hospital name will persist for decades to come as so many members of our community were born at this location.

Jim Vichich
BAHS President



Your Support is Needed

The BAHS exists because our members believe in our mission. They do so because they understand the importance of preserving our local history. Without people willing to act to preserve and protect our history for future generations, it is at risk of being lost.

For an organization like ours to pursue its mission, we rely on the support of our members. We count on you to volunteer your time. And we count on your financial support. All of our projects cost money. Maintaining the Lyon School is also costly. Printing and mailing this newsletter is another recurring expense. Without your financial support, we cannot continue to exist.

One of our main sources of financial support comes from your annual dues. As this year is quickly coming to an end, dues for 2012 are now due. If you believe in our mission of preserving your local history, will you please consider taking a moment to renew your membership? (*cont'd - page 2*)

Points of Interest:

THE BAHS NEEDS YOUR HELP IN MANY AREAS. PLEASE SEE IF YOU CAN HELP OUT.

SEE PAGE 1

THE STORY OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED IN OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE'S HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

SEE PAGE 4

"If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace."

The American Crisis - No. 1 (December 1776)

Thomas Paine
1737 - 1809

Inside this issue:

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Thanks and Recognition

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- Bert, Ida and Marieanna Bair, and Jane Tomlinson for preparing the November Trail Tales mailing
- Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence and Jane Petrie for hand delivery of Trail Tales
- Judith Coebly and Sue Skwarski for delivering 100+ copies of Trail Tales to the local school system
- Carole Scott for her donation to BAHS Projects Fund
- Larry Lawrence for a donation in memory of Jack and Grace Harvey
- Tom & Mindy Kinsey for donation to the Friends of Lyon School fund
- Sarah Grusin for compiling information for shortwave radio display tags
- Judith Coebly for making display tags for shortwave radio exhibits
- Dave Ball for his role as editor of the Trail Tales newsletter
- Marieanna Bair for her role as historian and author of page 4 historical article
- Larry Lawrence for managing the BAHS Facebook page with regular updates
- Sue Garcia for serving as the BAHS secretary for the last year and her hard work of researching local businesses for the Historic Resource Survey

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Patron

- Tom & Mindy Kinsey

Family / Individual

- Pat Anderson
- Dave & Joanne Bellmard
- Tim Hurst
- John & Madelyn Park (Flint, 2014)
- Dan Schmidt
- Carole Scott

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
- Davis Multimedia, Inc.
- Dr. Bonine Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Susan Doyle, Realtor
- Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Hands on Mind and Body Wellness Center
- Joe Agius / Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody**
- Masonic Lodge #247**
- Michigan Commerce Bank
- Patrick Financial Group**
- Promess**
- Refrigeration Research **
- Yum Yum Tree

Date to Remember

Dec 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center CoBACH will be closed on Dec 24 - Jan 2.

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22: 9am-12nn

Archiving/Open house at Lyon School

Dec 18: 1pm-4pm

Christmas Program including Open House at Lyon School.

- Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Take your Family Holiday Photos
- Fresh Made Cookies and Hot Chocolate
- Enjoy many Old Fashioned Christmas Decorations
- Supervised Make and Take Projects for your Children
- Great Day for Kids! Bring your Camera!
- Set your Calendar!

Please Note: There is no BAHS Board Meeting in December.

This Month at CoBACH

Dec 6 – Jan 15

Tue-Sun: 5pm-8pm / Sat: 9am-12nn

Christmas Exhibit: Old Style Christmas Decorations; Including Nutcracker Display

Next Month at CoBACH

Jan18 – Feb 29

Classic Farm Implements and Tools exhibit. If you have old farm items to loan for the display, please contact Mindy Kinsey at (248) 660-3964.

Your Support is Needed (continued from page 1)

Also, some members have asked us what other ways they can support the organization financially. That is why we have our two special purpose funds.

The Friends of Lyon School Fund is used strictly for the expenses related to maintaining the school and its property. This includes monthly utilities, simple repairs and large improvement, such as the insulation project done earlier this year.

The other fund is the BAHS Projects Fund. We use donations to this fund to cover expenses related to special projects, such as the Oral History project or the digitizing of the old copies of the Argus newspaper. Many of the projects are expensive or require special equipment. Donations to this make such projects possible.

One final thought for you. The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. That means all donations are fully tax deductible. As we are at year end, this is a great opportunity to make a donation that you can claim on this year's tax return. In other words, a donation to the BAHS is a win-win for both you and local history.

Research and Preservation

At 9am – 12noon, each Thursday at the Lyon School, can be heard much conversation and laughter. Researchers and people reminiscing are compiling reference material for the Archives and the Historic Resource Survey. You are welcome to join in at any time. Any photos, letters, stories, etc., which can be copied are welcome also.

Help Needed

The BAHS is seeking a new treasurer. Many thanks can hardly express the gratitude due Mindy Kinsey by our organization. Since 2002, Mindy has been an outstanding and responsible treasurer. Now it is time for another to accept that responsibility. Please contact us if you are interested in this position.

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Address Changes and Vacation Holds

We mail all Trail Tales with *Return Service Requested*, in order to learn of address changes. We are charged 44¢ for each issue that cannot be delivered due to a wrong address or vacation hold. To avoid this expense, please contact us in advance for any changes to mailing.

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: Name: _____ Phone: () -
 Brighton Area Historical Society Address: _____
 P. O. Box 481 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Brighton, MI 48116-0481 E-Mail: _____
 How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: Email US mail
 (PLEASE CHECK ONE)
Membership Plan:
 New Renew \$2 Student \$25 Family \$60 Business/Professional
 \$15 Individual \$50 Patron \$500 Life

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.

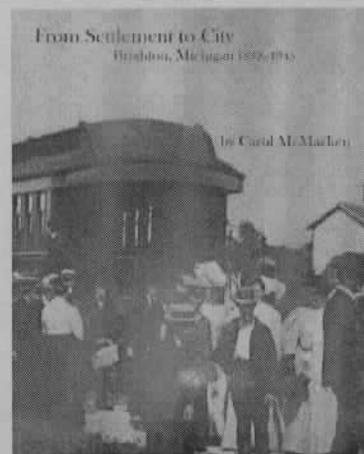
To see our full gift shop offering, please contact us, visit CoBACH Center or the Lyon School, or see our web site.

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

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, barrier-free 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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 8)

"The first date found places George P. Dudley in Brighton in April of 1861, when John Gillully, as Captain and commissioned officer, was organizing what later became known as The Livingston Company I in (the) 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. George P. Dudley volunteered and was enlisted August 27, 1861, and became a non-commissioned 5th Sergeant in Company I. September 17, 1862, he was promoted as a Sergeant-Major, as 2nd Lieutenant, July 4, 1863, the day after the battle at Gettysburg. ... The 5th Michigan Volunteers were mustered out at Detroit, July 17, 1865, and George P. Dudley returned to Brighton. Miss Anna Woodruff, a daughter of Evert Woodruff, who had built the Woodruff Mills on Pleasant Valley and Grand River Roads in 1833, taught school in the Village of Brighton that same year of 1865. So it followed that the pretty school teacher and the returning Lieutenant and war hero soon married, and lived out their lives in Brighton."

~ Quoted from William Pless's Supplement to the DAR Records of the Brighton Village Cemetery.

Further research reveals George was born in England in 1832. He came to Brighton Village by 1860 and by trade was a cabinet maker and carpenter. George was a boarder with the John Doane family. John Doane was the village grocer. He and Anna had a son, Frank, born in 1870, a daughter, Grace, born in 1872 (who died at five months of age), and another son, Percival, born 1875.

Before moving to Howell by 1890, George had served as Brighton Village Treasurer 1869-71 and 1873-74. Although Anna's family history is quite well documented, very little has been learned of George Dudley's lineage other than his location of birth and of his English parentage.

Both George and Anna Dudley are buried in the Village Cemetery, along with their daughter, Grace. George died in 1903,

and Anna followed him much later, in 1930. Their son, Percival, died in 1936. Percival and wife Julia L. (died 1956) are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Howell. The location of Frank's grave has not been determined.

Serving with Dudley was DeWitt Clinton Russell, when the 5th Michigan left for Washington, D.C. on September 11th, 1861 arriving in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on September 13th. From there they were "... numbered off and stowed away in cattle cars of the most old and dilapidated kind; in this wretched way we proceeded to Baltimore..." , writes a comrade.

The regiment arrived in Washington on September 14th. Four days later, in Arlington, Virginia, they experienced the first rebel fire directed at them. Two miles south of Arlington, the men built Ft. Lyon, where the regiment remained for the next two months. It was here that DeWitt Clinton Russell died of disease on December 12, 1861, at age 24.

DeWitt was a son of William and Jane Russell, who had purchased 169 acres in Section 3 of Green Oak Township in 1833. DeWitt, along with his parents (Jane died in 1850 and William died in 1870) and brother William (died 1895), is buried above the millpond in the Village Cemetery.

By Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; Census records, cemetery transcriptions by John & Janice Field; and Bill Pless's Supplement to the DAR Records of Old Village Cemetery. Corrections/additions requested. 810-229-6402.

In Memoriam

The Brighton Area Historical Society wishes to extend its sympathies to the family of :

Pat Brady Convery

Pat was a Brighton native and long time BAHS member.