

CoBACH Exhibit: Ice Harvesting in Brighton, Early 1900s



Ice Queen (BAHS board member Tammy Sexton) is no match for Mayor Ricci Bandkau's ice harvesting talents.

Plan a visit to downtown Brighton to see our Ice Harvesting Exhibit at the CoBACH Center during the month of February.

Photographs showing icehouses and ice harvesting from our local area are included with this exhibit. Pictures are displayed of Lakeland's Zukey Lake, Brighton's Millpond, and local lakes including Worden, Island and Lime. Included with the local scenes you will find historic pictures of all phases of harvesting ice in New England during the early 1900s.

There are also short movie clips where you can watch the complete process and see how men worked on these dangerous moving masses of ice as they handled blocks of ice weighing up to 300 pounds.

Inside the CoBACH Center, you can examine the recreated icehouse of the Brighton Ice Co. from the late 1800s. There is also a small hole in the wood siding of the old building where you can peek inside to see the ice being stored, layer on layer. Children will enjoy looking through the peephole, seeing the blocks of ice and feeling the chill of the air on their face. Old ice harvesting tools are on the side of the building just as the men would have left them when taking a break. Check out the wooden ramp bringing the ice blocks into the icehouse.

Several antique horse drawn ice-cutting plows can be examined on the artificial ice. You will see the engineering used for these plows to cut blocks of ice that all had the

same width. Various hand tools are displayed that were used to cut, fracture and move ice along the channel to the icehouse.

Children can pick up a coloring sheet and participate in the coloring contest. Winners will be selected for grade levels K-4th. The coloring scene is very similar to Brighton's Millpond and has a 1900s setting of men cutting ice. The coloring contest ends February 27. Winners of each level will receive a nice gift.

Enjoy your community and share this historical exhibit with your family!

Jim Vichich

Where and When

The Ice Harvesting Exhibit is held at the CoBACH Center:

202 W. Main St., in downtown Brighton next to the Millpond. (810) 250-7276

Parking is available on Main St and along St Paul St and West St next to CoBACH. Additional parking is available in a public lot on West Street just south of Main St.

Exhibit Hours:

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

Special presentations given on Sat & Sun at 2pm. Open to the public and no charge for the event.

Special points of interest:

LEARN ABOUT THE MICHIGAN FILM INDUSTRY AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE.

SEE PAGE 2

THE STORY CONTINUES THIS MONTH REGARDING THE EARLY DAYS OF DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE BRIGHTON AREA.

SEE PAGE 4

"Historical sense and poetic sense should not, in the end, be contradictory, for if poetry is the little myth we make, history is the big myth we live, and in our living, constantly remake."

Robert Penn Warren
1905 - 1989

Author, *All the King's Men*

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Dates to Remember

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23: 5pm-8pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26: 12nn-5 pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

Feb 6, 13, 20, 27: 12nn-8 pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

February 3, 10, 17, 24 9am-4pm
Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

Feb 23: 6 pm
BAHS Board Meeting CoBACH Center

Jan 22 - Feb 27
CoBACH Winter Program: Display of Tools and Techniques of Ice Harvesting. See front page for more details.

Area Organizations

Feb 4: 7pm
Richard Hutchins speaks on the Civil War. Livingston County Genealogical Society. LDS Church, 1041 W Grand River, Howell.

Feb 21: 7pm
"Lincoln's Cronies". Wixom Historical Society. 248-624-4557.

Special Thanks

We would like to offer our gratitude to the Knowlton's Ice Museum of North America for the loan of the many pieces on display in our CoBACH Ice Harvesting exhibit. If our exhibit interests you, then pay a visit to see theirs. Knowlton's Ice Museum is located in Port Huron and can be reached at (810) 987-5441.

Area History: The Film Industry and the State Police

There is a lot of interest lately in the budding Michigan film industry and its benefits to our state's economy. However, Michigan had a role in film from the very beginning. The Labadie-Detroit Motion Picture Company was based in neighboring Milford Township and produced many films.

In 1917, they produced the film, *The Rich Slave*, which was later released in 1921. Officers from the Michigan State Police played extras in this silent film portraying cowboys and "performing admirably all types of outstanding

Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Patron

- Dr. Fred Bonine*
- Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL)
- Tom & Melinda Kinsey

Family

- Charles & Muriel Allen
- Sally Baldwin (Gr Rpd)
- Shirley Barton*
- Robert & Nancy Carlson*
- Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter
- Gabrielle Currin (White Lake)
- Jerry Damon
- Anthony Dekker* (AZ)
- Mercedes Ferreyra & Tony Ferreyra
- Janice Field
- Marlene Fonseca (AZ)
- Lee & Sue Garcia
- Kathy Hoard
- Jeanette Johnson
- Helen Leitz (Dbn)
- Rudy & Doreen Meffert
- Joan Naylor (OK)
- Roland & Jane Owens
- Iva Louise Pettit
- Jim Pless
- Doris Singer (Gr Rpd)
- Bob & Ruth Watson

* Welcome new members

** Special thanks to these Life Members

horsemanship." They were used in action scenes which were shot on the Labadie property located on what is today Kensington Metro Park.

Originally called the Michigan State Troops Permanent Force, the State Police was a new organization at the time of shooting. They had only recently been formed in April 1917 amid domestic security concerns related to our nation's entry into World War I.

Compiled by Dave Ball from the Michigan DNR, the Michigan State Police, and U of M Labadie Collection web sites.

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
- Dr Bonine, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery*
- Susan Doyle, Realtor*
- Joe Agius / Burroughs Tavern
- Lawrence Autobody**
- Masonic Lodge #247**
- Michigan Commerce Bank*
- Patrick Financial Group, LLS**
- Promess**
- The Engravers Journal
- Yum Yum Tree

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- Marieanna and Bert Bair, Whitney & June Kimble for their help in preparing the January issue of Trail Tales.
- Sue Garcia, Tom Niemeyer and Anne Stratigos for their monthly delivery of Trail Tales to 100s of local businesses.
- Dave Ball for his fine work in the development of our web site and the publishing of Trail Tales.
- Judith Coebly and Sue Skwarski for bringing an awareness of the Society and the history of the area to the Brighton Area Schools.
- Nancy Cardle (Trtn), Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter, Mercedes and Tony Ferreyra, Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Tom & Melinda Kinsey, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Helen Leitz (Dbn), Roland & Jane Owens, Doris Singer (Gr Rpd) for donations to the Friends of Lyon School fund.
- Mercedes and Tony Ferreyra, Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Doris Singer (GrRap.) and Bob & Ruth Watson for their donations to the BAHS Projects Fund.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Norma Jean Pless, Tammy Sexton, and Jim Vichich for their steady and constant expansion of the BAHS Archives.

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.

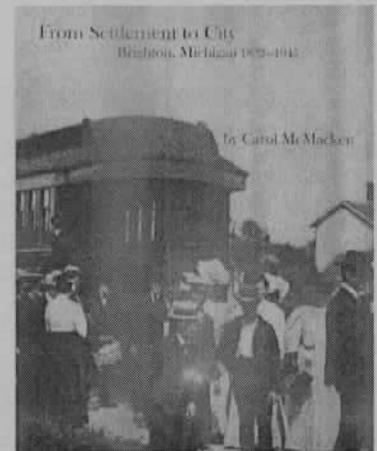
These include home décor items (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like.

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	Directors Dave Ball
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Joe Collins
Secretary Sue Garcia	Nancy Fredenburg
Treasurer Mindy Kinsey	Larry Lawrence
	Thomas Reinke
	Tammy Sexton
	Dick Weaire
Trail Tales Editor Dave Ball	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.

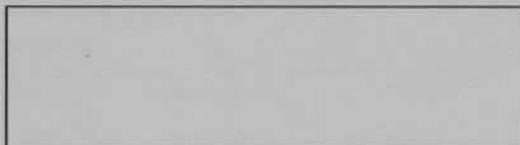
The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Medicine in Early Brighton (Part 2)

William C. Brown, born 1851 in New York, came to Brighton in 1880 at twenty-nine years of age. He was the nephew of Dr. William J. McHench and joined him in his medical practice. It is appropriate that Dr. Brown's office was on the second floor of the Pipp and Becker Hardware store (southeast corner W. Main and Hyne Street). Brown married Luise Becker, daughter of John Becker, owner of the store.

Dr. Brown was well loved and respected by the community. His obituary states, "He could often be seen in the center of a group of kids and doc was apparently as young as any of them".

During his twenty-three years in the area, he also assumed civic responsibilities. He was post master, a member of the Ore Creek Fire Department and several local organizations, including manager of the Brighton Baseball team. He died in 1919, after moving to Detroit several years earlier. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Other practitioners moved to Brighton in the early 20th century. Among them was Dr. Jacob Daniel Singer. Born in 1858 in Ohio, his early youth was spent in Pennsylvania, working in the mills and plants. A passion for music and art found him attending Baxter University in New York. He began studying medicine, while teaching music in Dakota Territory in 1883. In 1896, he graduated from the School of Medicine in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Singer arrived in Brighton in 1909. From his office at 131 W. Main, he became one of the town's most respected citizens. He, too, felt a responsibility to the community in which he lived and practiced. During WWI he served on the Volunteer Medical Corps. He was on the Brighton Board of Education in 1921 and was a member of several organizations, including Brighton Masonic Lodge #247. For a period of 16 years he was a camp physician at the Detroit Recreation Camp on Euler Road, west of Brighton. He continued practicing medicine up until a few

weeks before his death. His funeral in 1943 was conducted by the Lodge. He is interred in Fairview Cemetery.

In 1914, Dr. Horace Peter Mellus assumed the practice of Dr. M. H. Coan who'd practiced in Brighton for several years before moving back to Wyandotte. In February, 1931, Dr. Mellus opened Brighton's first hospital at 218 E. Grand River. Previously, he had an office and operating facilities in a house on E. North Street for several years. Before long, other area doctors saw their patients at Mellus Hospital.

Among these doctors were Duncan Cameron and Archibald McGregor. Dr. Cameron left to serve in WWII in 1942. After the war, he developed a practice in Detroit as a surgical specialist. Upon Mellus' death in 1939, McGregor managed the hospital. Dr. Mellus had become the first president of the Brighton Rotary Club. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery.

All three of these doctors had faithful patients secure in the quality of care they received. When Dr. Cameron left, he transferred his practice to Dr. Olin C. Wilkinson who arrived in Brighton in 1940. Dr. Cameron said, "You can have any of my patients you can keep."

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from clippings and "From Settlement to City - Brighton, Michigan" by Carol McMacken. . Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.



In Memoriam

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

Pat Fonseca of Arizona

and

Charles J. Brady

Pat was a long time Brighton Area Historical Society member. Charles was also a member and a Brighton native.