Medicine in Early Brighton (Part 3)

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Compiled by Marianne Barr from an interview with Robert Wilkinson and clippings. Cameron was noted in the February Trail Tales. A 1945 Argus photo has him receiving the Army Bronze Star. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.

In Memoriam

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

Harold Solow and Lyla Spierling

Lyla was a member of the Brighton Women’s Roll of Honor. Both she and Harold were supporters of the Friends of Lyla school and BAHs Members.
Howell Sanitarium

Prior to the development of antibiotics, tuberculosis patients were treated with general medical care. The Mich. Public Act 254 of 1905 called for a state sanitarium to be built. Howell was chosen for the site, the land being purchased with money raised partially by Howell residents.

The Howell Sanitarium began accepting patients in 1907 at a cost of $1 per day for six months, with the indigent being treated for free. The site design supported the "fresh air cure," a program of living with plenty of rest and light exercise along with sun and fresh air. Patients were taught management of their disease through good health habits. This meant eating simple, healthy foods, staying well rested, keeping their homes clean and ventilated, and learning to carry a cloth to cover their mouth when coughing, which was sterilized by boiling in carbolic acid. After treatment, the patient would return to their normal life.

Drug therapies developed in the 1940s allowed many TB patients to be treated as outpatients. In 1954, legislation changes allowed the Sanitarium to treat patients with other ailments. In 1961, the state closed the Howell Sanitarium. The facility then became the Howell State Hospital, which treated patients with mental illness. In 1971, it became the Hillcrest Center and renamed to the Hillcrest Center for the Developmentally Disabled in 1978.

The state closed Hillcrest in 1982 and the site was eventually razed around 1985. Compiled by Dave Ball from "A Healing Place" by Mary Zinmuth, Archives of Michigan, December 1, 2009

Dates to Remember

Mar 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30: 5pm-8pm BHAS hosts at CoBACH Center
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 9am-12nm Archiving/Open House at Lyon School
Mar 23: 6pm BHAS Board Meeting CoBACH Center

Area Organizations


Mar 19: 10am-4pm Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair

www.hven.org/info/dexterartsmuseum/

Mar 20: 2pm Green Oak Twp Historical Society, 10789 Silver Lake Road. Ice Harvesting program presented by Jim Viichich, 810-229-6402.

Mar 26: Waterloo Area Historical Society - Farm opens. waterloofarmmuseum.org

Thanks to...

The BHAS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

* Bert and Marianna Bier for help in preparing the February Trail Tales.

Support BHAS: Become a Member or Donate

The BHAS 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

E-Mail: info@brightonareahistorical.com

BHAS Merchandise

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

Thanks and Recognition

Member renewals/New Members

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

Patron
Don & Ricci Bandhuk
Richard & Katie Chydyer (FL)*
William & Margaret Dixon*
Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan
Emil & Joan Engel
Phyllis Korlakie (Gr. Pt. Farms)
Sam & Brenda Ochondrsky

Family
Wanda Bari*
Elaine Blight
Joe Collins and Doris Fay
John Curry (Eaton Rapids)*
Bill & Jackie Damm
Sandra Everett*
Bill Franklin (AZ)
John & Sharon Kluck
Bob & Shirley Knight
Larry Lawrence
Dennis & Maria Littleworth (KS)*
Brenda McCarty
Nora Miller
R. Ted Miller
Tom & Ute Niemeyer
Edwin & Sherry Nyhus
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Redditt
Tom Reineke

** Bruce & Betty Schuman
** Tammy Sexton
** Connie Sherman
** Margaret Sidor
** Yvonne Taylor
** Bill & Jane Tomlinson
** Dick & Lucille Wear
** Paul Weber (FL)
** Robert Willkinner (Dekem)*

* Welcome new members.
** Special thanks to these Life Members

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 Adams / Burroughs Tavern
* Lawrence Autobody
* Masonic Lodge #247*
* Michigan Commerce Bank
* Patrick Financial Group*
* Promex*
* Refrigeration Research*
* The Engravers Journal
* Yum Yum Tree

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

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Jim Viichich
Vice President
Marianna Bier
Secretary
Sue Garcia
Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey
Trail Tales Editor
Dave Ball

Directors
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Joe Collins
Nancy Fredenburg
Lawrence Thomas Reineke
Tammy Sexton
Dick Weare
Education Liaison
Judith Coody
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Phone: (810) 250-7276

US Mail:
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Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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Brighton Area Historical Society - brightonareahistorical.com

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We are approaching the time of year when new life starts to sprout and the dirty snow of winter retreats for another season. The green thumbs of the local households are busy planning outdoor improvements. Time has arrived to remove the broken branches and scattered leaves strewn about the yard.

This spring cleanup at Old Village Cemetery is entering its third year, and the community volunteers need your help for this important civic pride event! Please join our effort as a way of giving back to our community! This spring cleanup is about respecting and preserving the grounds.

**Third Annual Old Village Cemetery Spring Cleanup**

marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Many veterans from other wars are also buried here. As Memorial Day approaches, it is appropriate for our community to band together and donate some time to help clean up these grounds. Your donation of five hours is a small tribute to pay for your lifetime of liberties that these veterans fought to defend. Our veterans deserve this respect.

We are guaranteed a spring day that will provide fellowship to all participants. All volunteers will leave the cemetery with a wonderful feeling of civic pride knowing that a donation of five hours is a small price to our veterans that have served this great country.

Please call to sign up so that you can plan work accordingly. Everyone is needed! Thank you in advance.

Jim Vichich

**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. Chairs are needed.