

Third Annual Old Village Cemetery Spring Cleanup



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 restoring respect to these hallowed grounds.

Under the canopy of mature trees, this 1838 burial ground

provides the resting spot for Brighton's earliest settlers both prominent and common people. This cemetery has a beautiful, peaceful surrounding. You will be amazed at the beauty because you are on a small hill that overlooks the tranquil millpond. You might even pause and reflect on the discourse of life that the new settlers encountered as they dared to leave the comforts of the east and travel to these rural villages of the American frontier.

White marble headstones of Civil War veterans will catch your eye as you survey the grounds. There are over thirty five veterans buried here from the War of Rebellion that splintered our young nation. This spring

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 cleanup 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 I 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. Chainsaws are needed.

Special points of interest:

LEARN ABOUT THE HOWELL SANATORIUM AND ITS NEARLY EIGHTY YEAR HISTORY AS WE CONTINUE THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN THE BRIGHTON AREA.

SEE PAGE 2

THE CONCLUSION OF OUR SERIES ON THE DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE BRIGHTON AREA.

SEE PAGE 4

"Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; for human events ever resemble those of preceding times. This arises from the fact that they are produced by men who ever have been, and ever shall be, animated by the same passions, and thus they necessarily have the same results."

Niccolò Machiavelli
1469 - 1527
Italian philosopher,
humanist, and writer

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Howell Sanitarium

Prior to the development of antibiotics, tuberculosis was 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 Zimmeth, Archives of Michigan, December 1, 2009

Dates to Remember

Mar 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30: 5pm-8pm
BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 9am-12nn
Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

Mar 23: 6pm
BAHS Board Meeting CoBACH Center

Area Organizations

Mar 3: 7pm
Livingston County Genealogical Society, 1041 Grand River, Howell "Way Back Then, How Did You Pay for That?" by G. Loepertz.

Mar 19: 10am-4pm
Dexter Pioneer Arts Fair
www.hvcn.org/info/dextermuseum/

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

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

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- Bert and Marieanna Bair for help in preparing the February Trail Tales.
- Elaine Blight, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, John Curry, Bill & Jackie Damm, Emil & Joan Engel, Nora Miller, R. Ted Miller, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Tammy Sexton, and Paul Weber for their donation to the BAHS Project Fund.
- Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Sandra Everett, Bob & Shirley Knight, Larry Lawrence, Brenda McCarty, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Tom Reinke, Bill & Jane Tomlinson for their donation to the Friends of Lyon School Fund.
- Ed Bottum of Refrigeration Research for loan of an ice box for use in the Ice Harvesting display at CoBACH.
- Joyce Bidwell for five books of early area history and a photo (c. 1940) of employees of Chevrolet Engineering at the General Motors Proving Ground.
- Esther Jarvis for her donation in memory of Charles Brady.

Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Patron

- Don & Ricci Bandkau
- Richard & Katie Chrysler (FL)*
- William & Margaret Dixon*
- Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan
- Emil & Joan Engel
- Phyllis Kerslake (Gr. Pt. Farms)
- Sam & Brenda Ochodnicky

Family

- Wanda Barr*
- 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. Jon Reddit
- Tom Reinke

- Bruce & Betty Schuman
- Tammy Sexton
- Connie Sherman
- Margaret Siford
- Yvonne Taylor
- Bill & Jane Tomlinson
- Dick & Lucille Weaire
- Paul Weber (FL)
- Robert Wilkinson (Okemos)*

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

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 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.

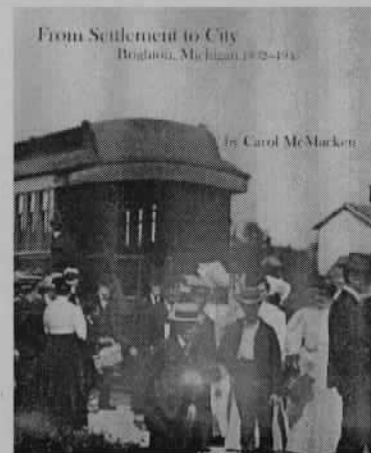
To see our full gift shop offering, please contact us, visit CoBACH Center or the Lyon School, or see our web site.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
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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

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Medicine in Early Brighton (Part 3)

Dr. Olin C. Wilkinson arrived in Brighton in 1940. In the Campbell house at 420 E. Grand River were two front rooms; one served as a waiting room, the second a treatment room. Doctor Wilkinson practiced osteopathy, the first such doctor in Brighton to hang out his shingle. People were wary of this unfamiliar method of treatment.

At that time McPherson Memorial Hospital, in Howell, refused surgical patients of D.O.s; it was necessary to use the Detroit Osteopathy Hospital for surgery patients. To break the ice and develop his practice, he regularly attended Brighton High School football games offering his services in the event of an injury. He became the team physician for about ten years.

He later had offices until 1950 at the Lee House at 314 E. Grand River. In 1942 a boyhood friend, Dr. William Rice, D.O., joined him. Eight years later, they built a clinic on the southwest corner of E. Grand River and W. North Street and there developed a combined practice.

From 1959 through 1963, Dr. Wilkinson served as mayor of Brighton City. Under his guidance, the first city manager, Bob Beekner, was hired. For three years, Wilkinson and others instigated and supported efforts to have the I-96 and US-23 interchange cloverleaf built near Brighton.

Wilkinson was also Chief of Staff of McPherson Community Health Center when it opened. Dr. Wilkinson died on December 21, 1969. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery. Dr. Rice retired in the early 1970s, died August 10, 1994, and is buried in Green Valley, Arizona.

In 1945, after serving five and a half years in the US Army, Dr. Niles A Clarke received his discharge. To help in determining the location of his future practice, Dr. Clarke visited the Michigan State Medical Society in Lansing. Brighton was among the sites researched. Thomas S. Leith, Mayor of Brighton, intro-

duced him to Dr. Archie McGregor and the decision was made. He opened his practice at 716 Spencer Road in 1945. By the mid 1960s, his office was located in the former Masonic Hall building at 116 W. Grand River. He moved his surgery and obstetrics practice to McPherson Memorial Hospital in Howell by 1948. Clarke served on the steering committee that successfully arranged for D.O.s and M.D.s to practice together. Dr. Clarke died in 1971 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Since the 1970s, the Brighton area has not been without sufficient medical assistance. Clinics serve every physical, emotional and mental distress. Emergency facilities, as well as practitioners of pediatrics, rehabilitation, hearing, vision, naturopathy, chiropractors, and acupuncturists are among the many varieties of assistance available. Within an hour's comfortable drive, one can find the world's finest hospitals.

Much has changed since the first settlers arrived. A dozen eggs, a bushel of apples or a chicken will no longer pay the bill. Nor does one find so many graves of young mothers and children. This writer for one is satisfied with the changes.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair 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 Salow

and

Lyla Spelbring

Lyla was a member of the Brighton Women's Roll of Honor. Both she and Harold were supporters of the Friends of Lyon School and BAHS Members.