



Brighton Area

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

brightonareahistorical.com

COMPLIMENTARY
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TRAIL TALES

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Cluster Meeting at Brighton District Library



Standing L to R: Mindy Kinsey, Mark Mullinax, Doug Cornett, Marion Cornett, Pam Rietsch, Bob Devereaux, Sallie Brodie. Seated L to R: Jim Vichich, Sue Grifor, Suzanne Hines, Marieanna Bair, Tammy Sexton. Photo by: Joe Collins

On Thursday, April 21st, the Spring Cluster Meeting of local historical societies and libraries took place at the Brighton District Library (BDL). Thirteen representatives from local organizations were in attendance from 6-9 pm.

The cluster meetings allow the representatives from local libraries and neighboring historical and genealogical societies to meet and share infor-

mation. Sharing of information is valuable because these organizations share their various activities and programs with their peers throughout Livingston County. Frequently, new ideas for projects and fund raising get their start at this forum.

A presentation by Mark Mullinax, genealogy and local history librarian for the BDL, examined all the newspapers that

have been published in Livingston County since the early settlers arrived in the 1820-30s. The presentation included publication names and editors, publication start and end dates, different mastheads used over time, and the publication total circulation quantity.

Most of the early publications started out as weekly papers. Their titles often indicated their political leanings. There were independent, republican and democrat papers in Livingston County. Several papers shared various theological views in accordance with their church affiliation. Publication lengths were in some cases, as short as a single issue. Overall, there were about 58 papers that presented opinions and news to the local citizens.

This program was very interesting and will be available on the BDL web site in the near future. I am sure that you will enjoy this information and the accompanying pictures.

Jim Vichich

Special points of interest:

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF DECORATION DAY, THE HOLIDAY NOW KNOWN AS MEMORIAL DAY.

SEE PAGE 2

THIS MONTH'S HISTORY PERSPECTIVE FEATURE TAKES A LOOK AT THE LIVINGSTON VOLUNTEERS, COMPANY I OF MICHIGAN'S FIGHTING FIFTH.

SEE PAGE 4

"Posterity: you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

John Quincy Adams

1767 - 1848

Lawyer, Diplomat, Politician,
President Of The United States

Help Needed When Visiting Garage and Estate Sales

The beauty of summer gets us out around the community and many people stop at those plentiful "Garage Sale" and "Estate Sale" signs. Please look for old Brighton phone books that were published **BEFORE 1950.**

The BAHS Archiving Department is in need of these early

phone books for a project. We need the early name and address information contained in them. Old area phone books are an invaluable resource for doing local historical research.

The goal of this project is to assemble as much complete location information as possible for early Brighton busi-

nesses and residences. The data collected will help complete the historical resource survey for the Brighton area.

If, in your travels, you come across pre-1950 area phone books, and are able to acquire them for us, please note that your donation will be both useful and appreciated!

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Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Family

- Charles & Janice Beach
- Caren Biermann*
- Cheryl Chidester
- Mary Jo Comiskey*
- Mike Ewing
- Susan Foster, Roberto Quintana (CA)
- John & Beverly LaBelle
- Tom Leith
- Rich & Judy Parsons
- Pat J. Smith & Sally C. Bender
- Gloria Winchell
- Henry & MaryLou Winegar

* 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

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- Mark Mullinax, Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Brighton District Library, for copies of oral histories conducted by Phoenix High School, the Brighton Library and the BAHS in 1987, and a 1988 home tour video.
- BAHS Project Fund donation: Caren Biermann, Rich & Judy Parsons, Pat Smith and Sally Bender
- Friend of Lyon School Fund donation: Tom Leith
- Trail Tales mailing: Bert Bair, Jim Vichich
- Archives: Brenda Moline
- CoBACH volunteers in April and May: Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Nancy Frenenburg, Bonnie Gaugler, Mindy Kinsey, Bob Knight, Larry Lawrence, Ralph Steinberger, Jim Vichich, Hank Winegar, and Dick Weaire

Dates to Remember

May 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

May 5, 12, 19, 26: 9am-4pm

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

May 25: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center

May 28, Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 27: 11 am

Old Village Cemetery Tour. Meet on walkway at new entrance gate above the millpond gazebo. Approximately 60 minutes.

May 30: 10am

Memorial Day Parade, Downtown Brighton. Parade runs along Main St from High School to Millpond; ceremony to follow.

However, Decoration Day was not completely ignored in the South. In Charleston, South Carolina, a group of black freedmen exhumed Union soldiers from a mass grave at a Confederate prison. They were reburied individually and the place declared a Union graveyard. The first southern observance took place on May 1st, 1865. A group of up to 10,000 black residents held a festive gathering at this cemetery to honor the Union dead.

Another notable southern observance took place in 1868 in Columbus, Mississippi. Women visiting a cemetery to decorate Confederate graves, were disturbed by the neglected graves of Union soldiers and decorated them as well.

Decoration Day had gradually become referred to as Memorial Day during the early to the mid 20th century, the first reference to the alternate name was found in 1882. It officially became Memorial Day in 1968, with a federal law designating it the last Monday in May to honor the American dead of all wars.

By 1880, the holiday assumed a nationalistic tone based on *American Exceptionalism*. Patriotism replaced enmity as the dead from both sides were remembered.

Interesting Note: May 30th was chosen to remember our war dead as it was *not* the anniversary of any battle.

Article by Dave Ball; sources include GAR General Order No.11, Veterans Admin., Wikipedia and History.com.

The History of Memorial Day

The Civil War, the most bloody chapter in American history, left virtually no community within our growing country untouched. Most if not all Americans, on both sides of the conflict, served or knew someone who served.

After the war, many veterans groups were formed by the veterans themselves. These were fraternal organizations whose main purpose was networking and camaraderie. Some would later form into political and advocacy groups.

Arguably, the most influential of these organizations was the Grand Army of the Republic, or "GAR". The GAR was founded in April 6, 1866 based on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

Following the war, the practice of decorating soldiers' graves was quite common throughout the north. Waterloo, New

York, is generally considered to have held the first official observance. A local citizen of Waterloo, General John Murray, mentioned the event to a friend, General John A. Logan, who also happened to be the Commander-in-Chief of the GAR. Logan, liking the idea, designated May 30 as Decoration Day.

Decoration Day quickly spread in the years that followed. 183 observances were held in cemeteries in 1868, followed by 336 in 1869. Decoration Day became an official holiday in Michigan in 1871 and in every northern state by 1890.

In the South, things were different. For obvious reasons, the southern states refused to observe Decoration Day. Instead, they chose June 3rd, the birthdate of Jefferson Davis, the former president of the Confederacy.

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: _____		

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"/> 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 Family		<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

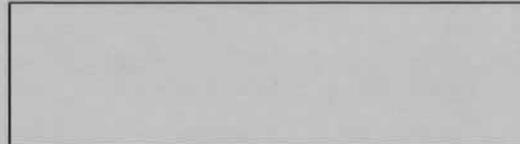
Lyon School
11455 Buno Road, west of Pleasant Valley Road. The 1885 Lyon School is a fully restored one-room schoolhouse and serves as our organization headquarters.

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery

As today's American Legion, formed in 1918, is composed of American veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. By 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the GAR, designated May 30 as Decoration Day (now known as Memorial Day).

After the rebel southern states fired on Fort Sumter (opening the Civil War) on April 12th, 1861, President Lincoln called for troops from the northern states to preserve the Union.

On January 1st, 1861, John Gilluly, a teacher of Brighton schools, an attorney at law in Brighton, and member of the 20th Michigan State Legislature which convened January 5, 1859, was commissioned a Captain in the U.S. Army.

Answering the national call, he immediately began recruiting men to form what became known as the "Livingston Volunteers", Company I, the 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment. Among them and interred in the Old Village Cemetery were William H. Bigham, *Charles H. Dennison, *John Gilbert, John Jones, Aaron L. Newman, *George W. Rose and *DeWitt Clinton Russell.

Records compiled by William Pless (a history of Co. I, 5th Michigan) reveal during the first year of battles: "The Regiment arrived in Washington in September 1861 and was greeted by Senator Kinsley S. Bingham of Green Oak Township and by President Lincoln. In April 1862, they were engaged in battles at Yorktown and Williamsburg, VA, and following that at Fair Oaks, Seven Day's Battle, Charles City, Malvern Hill, 2nd Manassas, Chentilly, and in the battle at Fredericksburg, VA. Here, Lt. Col. John Gilluly was killed in action while leading troops in his command, December 13, 1862, at 38 years of age."

Another 30 Civil War veterans are interred, or memorialized, in the Old Village Cemetery. They are Nathaniel Allison, George A. Bidwell, *James Warden Bingham, Peter Butler, Wallace H. Case, B.T.O. Clark, Ernest M. and Millard Fillmore Crippen,

Charles E. Cushing, *Hiram Dennison, A.P. Dickinson, George P. Dudley, Ransom E. Fillmore, *Charles and *Homer Goucher, Josiah Hayner, Benjamin Hogan, John W. Hutchings, August F. Miller, *Henry C. Norton, *Charles H. Pease, J.E. Placeway, *John A. Platt, E. A. Pratt, Francis D. and George W. Rogers, W. H. H. Russell, *J.G. Spencer, and Nelson Clark Thomas.

These men served in various companies, throughout many infantry and cavalry regiments. As original companies were depleted, the remaining members were reassigned to other companies. A majority of these young men were descendants of early area settlers.

The families of all these veterans also served. Their support gave the men the courage to fulfill their enlistment promise. The widows and fatherless children determined they would continue in a manner the husband and father would wish. Widows who were teachers went back to teaching. Farmers' and shopkeepers' widows depended on their families to keep the various enterprises flourishing. These, along with the veterans, are examples of sacrifice to be emulated today.

*Killed in battle

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from records assembled by George Allen, John and Janice Field, William Pless, 1880 History of Livingston County. Corrections requested. 810/229-6402.



In Memoriam

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

Merrill Herbst

and

Joe Mike

Merrill Herbst was a Brighton native and Joe Mike was a long time area resident. Both were loyal supporters of the BAHS.