

Fourth Annual Old Village Cemetery Cleanup



Old Village Cemetery Clean-Up: Saturday, May 5: 9am-1pm

Headstones of Brighton's past residents sit quietly in the Old Village Cemetery, peering down over their city observing change through the years. Please join us for a civic pride event as we work to preserve this historic site.

You will find the names of prominent and ordinary folks from Brighton's earliest days who endured hardships which can only be imagined as they settled these frontier villages.

One main goal for this clean up is to have Old Village Cemetery in respectful condition for Memorial Day, May 28 in honor of the veterans buried there. Veterans of the many US military conflicts are part of the rich Brighton history.

The BAHS recognizes the contributions that our service men and women have made to preserve the freedoms we experience. Please join us as we revitalize these grounds

and provide a respectful setting due this cemetery.

We are going to be raking, collecting fallen debris, pruning small trees and shrubs, and cleaning around the edges tombstones so they can be easily read. Some tools will be provided. Bring your leaf rake, lopping shears, gloves and small garden tools.

This annual event always proves to be day of fellowship and community service for all while experiencing the beauty of Old Village Cemetery. Everyone will leave with a good feeling, knowing their donation of four hours is a small thank you to our veterans for serving our great nation!

Please contact us to sign up so that work can be planned accordingly. Everyone is needed for this community event!

Thank you in advance.

Jim Vichich, BAHS President

POINTS OF INTEREST:

READ ABOUT THE 30-YEAR HISTORY OF THE BAHS.

SEE PAGE 1

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

SEE PAGE 4

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

*Thomas Jefferson
(1743-1826)*

*Letter to Dr. James Currie -
1786*

30 Year Anniversary for BAHS

In June 1998, the BAHS, in unity with the Green Oak Township Historical Society, the Great Lakes Living History Society, and the Michigan 5th Regimental Band conducted a two-day commemoration of the centennial of the Spanish-American War.

This event was held at Island Lake on the original site of the 1880-90s National Guard Training Camp. Hundreds enjoyed the reenactments. A new Michigan Historical Mark-

er was dedicated, replacing the original, which was badly damaged.

Also in 1998, transcription of the Old Village Cemetery was begun with emphasis on identifying and properly marking veteran graves. The transcription of several other area cemeteries was also undertaken, providing valuable aids to archival research.

The City of Brighton supported these efforts by improving care, increasing security and

installing a fence. In 2002, the Michigan Historical Marker was dedicated.

Rededication of the rural Lyon School, as an example of historic structure reuse, took place in August 2001. The day was celebrated with a formal program, dedication of the historical marker, music provided by local high school students, and dozens of alumni who sat in restored desks with all enjoying refreshments on a day of perfect (*cont'd page 3*)

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Thanks and Recognition

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for their contributions.

- Larry Lawrence for donating the scanned reproduction 1875 maps of area Townships and Brighton Village.
- Bert & Marieanna Bair, Jackie Damm, Jeanette Johnson, Tammy Sexton, Jane Tomlinson, Jim Vichich for help with Trail Tales mailing.
- Ed Gomez for historical tiles.
- Keith Collins and Margo Metzger for donations to the BAHS Projects Fund.
- Don Black, Will & Jackie Damm and Margo Metzger For donations to the Friends of Lyon School Fund.
- Shannon Lemke (TX) for donating in honor of Bert & Marieanna Bair.
- Les & Robert for donating in memory of Shirley Jenks.
- Tammy Sexton for her important role in the CoBACH Exhibit *Beans, Bales and Bovines*. Tammy portrayed farm girl Tammy Jo Swineberg and provided funny farm animal videos that kept visitors laughing. Her enthusiastic performance in front of CoBACH caused many a curious person to stop and visit the exhibit.
- Ray Moses of Shine-A Bit Farm for providing the farm tractor that graced the front of CoBACH on a Saturday afternoon drawing many visitors.
- Kathie and Tim Bennett of Turtlebee Farms for providing a bee keeping display with unique products for sale.
- Dan Meier and Kathy Aksten from Triple Diamond Alpaca Farms. Their two friendly and cute alpacas were popular attractions on Saturday afternoons. Their display of alpaca fleece products was enjoyed by many visitors.
- Bert and Marieanna Bair for loan of their corn shucker and cream separator allowing guests to experience how to shuck an ear of corn and separate cream from whole milk.
- Dick Weaire, Jim Vichich, Marieanna & Bert Bair, Jerry & Ann Dilloway, Jerry Damon, Bob Knight, Joe Collins, Gary Ruetter & Judy Coebly, Tammy Sexton, Tom & Mindy Kinsey for breakdown and cleanup of agricultural display.

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. Fred Bonine, DDS
- Dr. Robert Clark*
- Susan Doyle, Realtor
- Frank Mancusso, Attorney at Law
- 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 **
- SOS Livingston*
- Synergy Environmental Inc.
- Yum Yum Tree

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Patron

- Bonnie Cirisan
- Tom Leiith
- Margo Metzger
- David & Janice Schoewe

Family / Individual

- Tim Bennett (Clio)
- Don Black (N.J.)*
- Tim Clausnitzer
- Bill & Jackie Damm
- Laura Kern (Howell)*
- Caroline Martin
- Rudolph & Doreen Meffert
- Mr./Mrs. F. Ninteman
- Bob Palowski*
- Dietrick & Mary Jean Richter (Fraser)
- Tammy Sexton
- Paul Zurawski

* Welcome to these new members

** Special thanks to these Life Members

Dates to Remember

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

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun, Wed and Thurs during April

April 5, 12, 19, 26 : 9am-12nn

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

April 19: 6 pm

Spring Cluster Meeting Sponsored by Green Oak Historical Society. Location to be the "1856 Hall", 10789 Silver Lake Road, South Lyon. Local historical societies and libraries are invited.

April 25: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

May 5: 9am-1pm

Old Village Cemetery Fourth Annual Spring Cleanup. Reserve this date for a rewarding opportunity. Your help and hard work is needed! (Details on page 1)

May 28: 9am-2pm

Civil War Memorabilia Display at CoBACH Center. See authentic uniforms, pistols, long guns, cannon balls and other artifacts. Great family activity during the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

May 28: 10am

Brighton Memorial Day Parade.

**This Month at CoBACH through April 28
Tues-Sun, 5-8 pm also Sat 9am-12nn**

Native American Exhibit: See classic old photos with scenes that focus on the talents of the Native Americans.

Learn about the Hopi and Zuni tribes through an extensive display of Kachina Dolls. These dolls represent the actual Kachinas believed to be actual spirits.

Local stone artifacts will be displayed that have been found in Livingston County fields during the farming process.

In Memorium

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends sympathies to the families of:

**Rose Warner
and
Bill Armstrong**

Rose was the grandmother of BAHS member, Tim Bennett. Bill was an area native, Brighton High School grad, and a long time BAHS member.

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: _____	
		How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> US mail <small>(PLEASE CHECK ONE)</small>	
Membership Plan:	Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<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.



New book release June 2012

Images of America: The Brighton Area

by Genal Pratt with the Brighton Area Historical Society

128 pages, and includes 199 pictures

\$20.00

Description: This new book contains a treasured collection of photographs and provides a fascinating historical record of the people, farms, and businesses that drove the growth of Brighton through the 19th and 20th centuries. The architecture, landscape, and cherished character of Brighton tell the stories that embody the foundation of our community today.

30th Anniversary (from page 1)

weather. The community had determined to not allow this evidence of its past be lost.

The period curriculum program for elementary students began in 2003, conducted by local teachers. Regular open house events also began that year, as did a renewed focus on the historical archives.

The restoration prompted the organization of the Friends of Lyon School Fund, enabling donations directly related to the continued maintenance of the property. *(To be continued)*

Marieanna Bair, BAHS Vice President

BAHS Leadership

President

Jim Vichich

Vice President

Marieanna Bair

Secretary

Tammy Sexton

Interim Treasurer

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Trail Tales Editor

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Directors

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Thomas Reinke

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.

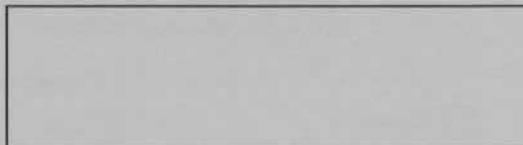
BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 12)

In 1833, before Michigan became a state, Kinsley Scott Bingham, a native of New York, and his brother-in-law Robert Warden, purchasing 320 acres in Section 12 of Green Oak Township. Bingham and Warden (who emigrated from Scotland only a year earlier) were both law students.

Bingham married Margaret Warden and Warden married Caroline Bingham. The two couples, along with other family members, built a log house on Silver Lake Road. Stables and barns were built, fences erected, and virgin soil planted. Margaret died in 1834, only four days after giving birth to Kinsley Warden Bingham. About a year later sister Mary became Kinsley's wife. In 1840 James Warden Bingham was born. Although several other children were born to Mary, all died in infancy.

Kinsley Warden Bingham married Frances Woodruff, a nearby neighbor, and made the family farm a successful enterprise. His younger half brother, James, helped with chores in the often long absences of their father, Kinsley Scott Bingham, who served in township, state and national government positions.

James was educated to be a teacher, attending a Seminary in Ypsilanti. He had taught in Plymouth a short while. Evidence indicates he was also enrolled at Michigan Normal School (today known as Eastern Michigan University).

With the onset of the Civil War, James enlisted May 14, 1861, shortly before his father's death, October 5, 1861. James, a lieutenant in Co. H, 16th Infantry Regiment, was stationed in Peoria, Illinois, serving as a recruiter.

Letters between mother (Mary) and son, detail his movements, and her continual concerns about his well-being. In one letter she encourages him to get his coat 'wadded' for extra warmth.

James's duties included defense against "...despicable guerilla parties" and "...pursuit of the rebel Morgan". His unit would also be "...present at county elections at Busby Mills and see

that no violence was offered Union citizens exercising their right of free suffrage."

James's continual movements often delayed letters and caused much concern for each other's well-being. His mother Mary's grief over the death of her husband (Kinsley Scott Bingham) evokes much sympathy in today's reader. Controlling her feelings, she also writes of Kinsley Warden Bingham selling wool and grain, and of a good potato and apple crop.

As often occurs when conditions are poor, lonely, tired and hungry, ragged troops may consider mutiny. While in Tennessee, James writes of the necessity of "...keeping small mutinies down." The death toll from disease was astronomical.

On November 9, 1862, at 22, Lt. James W. Bingham died of typhoid dysentery at Bardstown, Kentucky. His mother brought him home to be buried with his father, his brother's twin baby boys, her own babies and her sister, in the family cemetery on a knoll south of the house.

At the time of Mary's death in 1872, and the sale of the farm, Kinsley Warden Bingham transferred all those interred in the family cemetery to the Old Village Cemetery.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Old Village Cemetery Supplement by Bill Pless; 1880 History of Livingston County; Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field; "Yesteryears of Green Oak, 1830-1930"; and Marilyn Harrington of Green Oak Township Historical Society archives. Corrections 810.229.6402.

Help Needed

Can you volunteer a few hours a month to serve in some capacity within the BAHS? We are in need people with professional skills willing to pitch and do their part in order to shoulder to burden of running our organization. We currently are seeking a treasurer, web site administrator, and editor for this newsletter. Please contact us for more details.