

ELECTION OF 2013 BAHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On November 18, the BAHS held our 31st annual membership meeting at Lyon School. In attendance were our current board, plus members and guests.

The meeting started with a potluck lunch which allowed many pleasing smells to circulate around the old school. This group luncheon allowed old friends and some new ones to converse on the issues of the day.

At the conclusion of the potluck, the business meeting took place. Reports by the 2012 Board of Directors were presented. Election of the 2013 Board of Directors was followed by a new business motion to approve updating of the Bylaws as proposed by the Board of Directors.

This past year was a very positive one for the BAHS. Significant community-based projects continue to grow. The dedication of the directors and members are the reason for the successes. Thanks are given to all the dedicated workers! Their donation of personal time and energy is greatly appreciated. The Brighton community is very fortunate to have such a cadre of active workers trying to preserve the past!

We are grateful to all the board members who dedicated their next year of service to preserving and improving the historical resources within the Brighton community.



Brighton Area Historical Society directors L to R: Jim Vichich, Joe Collins, Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, Tom Reinke, Larry Lawrence and Jerry Damon.

Not available for this photo were, Tammy Sexton, Mindy Kinsey and Nancy Fredenburg

2013 Board of Directors:

President: Jim Vichich
Vice Pres.: Marieanna Bair
Treasurer: Mindy Kinsey
Secretary: Judith Coebly
Director: Joe Collins
Director: Jerry Damon
Director: Nancy Fredenburg
Director: Larry Lawrence
Director: Tom Reinke
Director: Tammy Sexton

Thank you to our new secretary Judith Coebly!

Jim Vichich
President, BAHS

CHRISTMAS 1844

Mrs. S.A. Cook who as a child lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dykes, a short distance from the Baetcke School house in Genoa, recalled that in the very early

period following settlement, there was not any Christmas exercises at school or in church. However, she remembers that it was the custom for neighbors to gather at some home and have a tree and a "jolly good time on Christmas eve." The doings of December 24, 1844, happened to be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Baetcke and Mr. Baetcke took cookies cut in the shape of animals and handed them to the children present. (taken from Carol McMacken's book "From Settlement to City. Brighton Michigan" 1832-1945")

Settlement to City is available from the Brighton Historical Society for \$65.00 call 810-250-7276

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from your
Brighton Area Historical Society

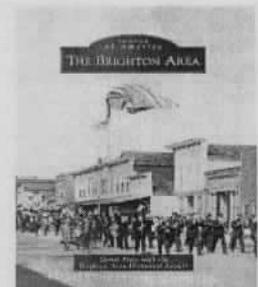
POINTS OF INTEREST:

2013 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

SEE PAGE 1

THE STORY OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS BURIED IN OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY CONTINUES.

SEE PAGE 4



Great Stocking stuffer: IMAGES OF AMERICA: THE BRIGHTON AREA

Available at Lawrence Autobody, Parent Teacher Tech Center, CoBACH Center or call 810-250-7276

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

Family/Individual: Pat Anderson, Carole Scott and Alice Wyland.

Thanks to faithful renewing members, the Society's Treasury remains in the black.

Thanks to:

—Jerry Damon for preparing Trail Tales for printing and Bert and Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, June and Whitney Kimble, Pat Nelson and Jim Vichich for preparing the newsletter for distribution.

—Carol Scott for her donation to Society projects with her dues.

—The many volunteers who tend to the collection, preservation and dissemination of the history of the area. Annual dues cover the cost of the newsletter, Lyon School maintenance, utilities' expense (heat, light, domain name, telephone) etc.

—Members who notify the Society with address changes or when they will be out of town. The non-profit classification at the Post Office doesn't forward Trail Tales. The Society is charged .49 cents for each undeliverable address. Your issue can be held or forwarded to the alternate address.

—Phil Szanto for volunteering to fill the open website administrator position. Phil has an IT Company and a love of history. We look forward to his talent as he reenergizes the website: Brighton Area Historical.com.

—The Headstone Preservation Project Team has made significant improvements in Old Village Cemetery. Stop by and notice the headstones that have been fixed and are now standing upright. The working area is straight in from the entrance gate. Thanks to Don Thomas, Bob Knight, Gary Reutter, Bill Dixon, Dave Pettigrove, Joe Collins, Larry Lawrence, Jerry Damon, Dick Weaire, Tammy Sexton, Kevin Roach and Jim Vichich.

— Sue Garcia for her important and excellent work in maintaining and augmenting the Historic Resource Survey. This is a listing by address number of businesses in Brighton going back through time. Sue's excellent organizational skills has the HRS in fine shape and easily used.

**Sympathies from the Society
To the family of
IRENE ZIZKA**

2012 Business / Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC
Brighton Bar and Grill
Robert Clark Eye Center, M.C., P.C.
Davis Multimedia, Inc.
Susan Doyle, realtor
Grace Pointe Church
Frank Mancuso, attorney
Schoolhouse Family Dentistry
SOS Livingston
Synergy Environmental, Inc.
Yum Yum Tree
Lawrence Autobody **
Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Patrick Financial Group, LLS**
Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research **
Archer Huntley Financial Services **
** Life Members

Great Stocking Stuffer: New "Brighton Area" softcover photo-history book. See information on page 3

Dates to Remember

December 2, 5, 9, 12 16, 19, 23: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun and Wed during December.

CoBACH is closed December 24 through January 1 for the holidays.

December at CoBACH:

Get your stocking stuffer:

For those who like history and photos from Brighton 100 years ago. The new 2012 paperback "Brighton Area" photo-history book is the perfect gift. Great pictures and easy readings! Details on page 3.

Experience the Christmas family setting with the one-room setup that includes an early looking Christmas tree, decorated with old time ornaments. See unwrapped presents under the tree that show the many typical games that kids received from Santa years ago. Children are very surprised about the absence of

electronic games and phones from the past. It is comical to hear children's comments about how boring those early presents must have been! This is a great time to share stories about your Christmas experiences and the types of presents that you received in years past.

Note: CoBACH Center is closed December 24-January 1 for the holidays.

December 6, 13, 20: 9am-12noon

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School
Visitors are welcome and your Brighton experiences of the past need to be shared.

December 9: 1pm-4pm

Old Time Christmas Program at Lyon School.

The 1885 Lyon One-room Schoolhouse will be decorated with an early 1900's theme for the Christmas holidays This is a wonderful time of the year for families to visit and tour the school that instruct-

ed children in Brighton Township from the 1880s through the 1950s. Allow your children to experience history as the one-room schoolhouse was the rural education standard for lower elementary from our country's earliest days up through the 1940s and 50s.

-Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus

-Take your Family Holiday Photos

-Fresh made Cookies and Hot Chocolate

-Enjoy many Old fashioned Christmas

-Decorations

-Supervised Make and Take Projects for your children

-Great day for kids—Bring your Camera!

-Set Your Calendar!

"FREE-NO CHARGE"

AREA ORGANIZATIONS:

December 7: Grant Writing for Special Projects. Historical Society of Michigan workshop.

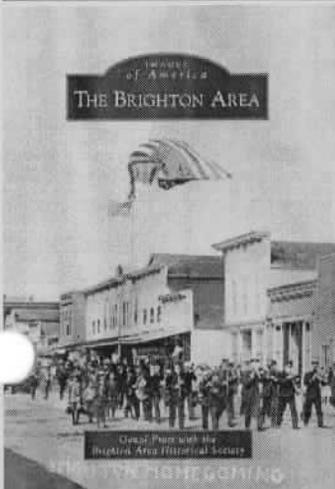
www.hsmichigan.org

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 mail to the address provided the 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: _____	
		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 released

Images of America: The Brighton Area

by Genal Pratt with the Brighton Area Historical Society

128 pages, and includes 199 pictures

\$20.00 Plus \$5.00 if shipping is required

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.

We Need Your Help

We are asking our members to step up and get involved. "Can you fill this this job?"

Treasurer

Bookkeeping experience needed, knowledge of Quick-books a plus: Current Treasurer willing to advise.

The New book is a **Great Stocking stuffer:** Available at Lawrence Autobody, Parent Teacher Tech Center, CoBACH Center or call 810-250-7276.

BAHS Leadership

President

Jim Vichich

Vice President

Marieanna Bair

Secretary

Judith Coebly

Interim Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey

Trail Tales Editor

Jerry Damon

Directors

Jerry Damon

Joe Collins

Nancy Fredenburg

Larry Lawrence

Thomas Reinke

Tammy Sexton

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

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.

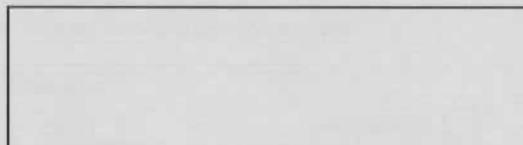
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #303

Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Civil War Veterans Resting At Old Village Cemetery (Part 20)

Nelson C. Thomas enlisted at age 19 as Private in Co. B. Michigan 6th Cavalry August 14, 1862. Of the 1200 members of the 6th Cavalry organized in Grand Rapids, over 50 were from Livingston County. Bill Pless records, "Farm boys were needed by cavalry units because they were accustomed to handling horses, and Nelson was soon made Sergeant."

Early in 1863, the 6th was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, fighting in Virginia, Maryland, and at Gettysburg, PA. July 14, 1863, Nelson was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Other battles ensued before going into winter camp. May 6, 1864, found them at Chancellorsville. They were engaged in battle almost every day the rest of the year. January 1, 1865, Nelson was promoted to Captain taking part in the final battles of the war. Following the surrender of the Confederates, the 6th was ordered to the west for duty in Indian country. November 24, 1865 the men were mustered out to return home.

Nelson had been born in Michigan in 1843: however in the 1870 census he's recorded as living in Brighton Village with wife Emma Birge and his occupation is noted as sawyer. Two boys Roy (b.1876) and L.L. are born to them. Nelson C. Thomas participated in village government in 1869-70 as trustee and 1872 as street commissioner. He was also a member of the 1870 Brighton Band. When Emma died in 1885, they are living in Webberville. After Emma's death, Nelson remarried Emma Pierce. At some time he moved to Detroit. He died during the winter Of 1925-26. His widow Emma Pierce, and his son Dr. L.L. Thomas, were in Brighton in April 1926, to move Nelson's remains from the vault, where they had been placed for the winter, to be placed next to Emma (Birge) in the Village Cemetery. Emma Pierce died in 1938 and rests now also with three babies who didn't live past their first birthday, in the same plot.

Horace (b. 1811) and Harriet Filmore (b.1813) Rogers moved to Michigan from their birth state, New York, around 1850 with five children: Cynthia (b.1833), Henry (b.1836), Francis D. (b. 1839), Newell (b.1842), and George W. (b.1844).

Francis D. , at 14 years of age, enlisted as a Private in Co. I. 9th Michigan Infantry January 1864. A month later found the 9th 500 miles from home at the front, battling in Chattanooga, Tennessee. As part of the Army of the Cumberland, the 9th fought on to Atlanta, Georgia. March 26, 1865, they returned to Chattanooga and then moved to Nashville for duty at the Military prison until September 15, 1865. Four days later the men were "...Paid off and disbanded,... they returned to their homes and to the vocations of peace" arriving in Jackson, Michigan, September 19, 1865.

The 1870 census finds Francis married to Emma Prout (b. 1849 PA), living in Brighton Village. In 1880 his occupation is listed as carpenter and living in the area of Grand River and Beaver Streets. Francis died May 12, 1888. One finds his parents and brothers George and Henry resting with him in the Old Village Cemetery.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: censuses: 1880 History of Livingston County: Old Village Cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field: Bill Pless' Supplement; Obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonau.)

Corrections/additions requested. 810-229-6402

Great Stocking Stuffer:
New "Brighton Area" softcover photo-history book.
See information on page 3