

30th Anniversary: History of the Society



2012 BAHS Board of Directors

Standing L-R: Tom Reinke, Joe Collins, Jim Vichich (Pres), Jerry Damon, Larry Lawrence
 Seated L-R: Tammy Sexton (Sec), Marieanna Bair (VP), Mindy Kinsey (Interim Treasurer)
 Absent: Dick Weaire, Nancy Fredenburg

In the fall of 1981, about a dozen Brighton area residents determined that the history of the area was neither acknowledged nor appreciated. The value of the knowledge of this local history was not recognized and was being lost.

Under the guidance of Mary Messerschmidt, the group proceeded to organize in a proper manner. They created a charter, appointed the first board of directors, and incorporated the organization with the State of Michigan.

With the support of Brighton Area Schools, the Brighton Chamber of Commerce and the Brighton City Council, monthly meetings were scheduled with programs of interest to the public. A newsletter was created (with support of the Brighton State Bank) and a mailing list compiled. Local residents responded positively to the mission of the BAHS:

preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

To generate publicity, the BAHS entered floats in July 4th parades and hosted booths at local events such as the Art Fair, the Farmers' Market, etc.

In October 1984, Federal non-profit tax status was acquired. Fund raising could now begin in earnest. The first of many fund raising events were held: spaghetti dinners, raffles of hand made and donated items, antiques and collectibles sales, trash and treasure sales, bake sales, and historic tours... all helped raise funds for the projects deemed important.

Through the various events and activities, awareness was raised of our local history and the need of its preservation.

In 1983, the BAHS made a successful application to the State Historic Preservation Office, resulting in the erection of a

historic site marker for St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A year later, another marker was erected, this time for the Old Town Hall.

The Old Town Hall was no longer the seat of city government at this time, and the BAHS made the preservation of the 1879 building a priority. As such, a restoration committee was formed.

The committee held many events to raise funds to safely remove the building's lead paint, including a breakfast at the fire department, several benefit dinners, etc. Research assured the historically accurate paint color for door, window and balcony trim, after the balcony was replaced (not the color it presently is). Also, a new bell tower was built and installed. The city council granted the BAHS use of the second floor for office and membership meeting space.

The BAHS undertook many historic preservation activities, including microfilming early Brighton Argus newspapers, recording oral histories of long time residents, collecting paper ephemera and compiling a historic resource survey.

Weekly compiling and filing of an archive was conducted to document local school, city, merchant, resident, organization, obituary, cemetery, and church information, as was the history of the BAHS.

In 1984, the Brighton Town-

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

"A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."

First Inaugural Address
 (4 March 1801)

Thomas Jefferson
 (1743-1826)

Inside this issue:

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Date to Remember

Jan 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29: 5pm-8pm

Jan 21, 28: 12nn-3pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center

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

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School

Jan 9-16:

Setup of Farm Implement and Tool Exhibit at CoBACH

Jan 18: 6pm

Special Meeting at CoBACH: By-Laws and Mission Statement Review Meeting

Jan 25: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

This Month at CoBACH

Jan 17 – Feb 29

Tue-Fri, Sun: 5pm-8pm / Sat: 9am-3pm

Now through February 29th, experience *Brighton Area Historical Society's Beans, Bales and Bovine Exhibit*. You will see classic farm equipment with livestock and crop displays from decades ago.

Every Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon, special presentations will be given. Videos will be shown featuring all aspects of farming. Old time Brighton area farm photos have been enlarged and hang on the walls. Check the Sunday and Wednesday Brighton Argus to learn about more. Admission is free.

30th Anniversary (from page 1)

ship board gifted the ownership of its former board offices, the 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse on Buno Road. In addition, the board donated funds and waived building permit fees to help with the building's restoration.

Many volunteers came forward to help rehab the structure, make mechanical repairs, clean up the surrounding landscape, and assist with the site's historic site designation. The high school building trades class provided excellent labor in stabilizing the structure. The bell tower came later.

The BAHS's finance committee conducted various fund raising projects, including the sale of ceramic tiles and afghans depicting local historic sites, and printing post cards and note paper, which were stocked and sold by local merchants. During the Michigan Sesquicentennial, flags were sold. *(To be cont'd next month)*

Thanks and Recognition

Member Renewals / New Members

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

Patron

- Gerald Damon
- Emil & Joan Engel
- Tom & Kelly Raskauskas*
- Richard & Mary Ray
- Bruce & Betty Schuman

Family / Individual

- John & Debby Armstrong*
- Bert & Marieanna Bair
- Mathilda Bitten
- Joe Collins
- Denise Daddino
- Gerald & Ann Dilloway
- Evelyn Dothager
- Marlene Fonseca (AZ)
- Lawrence Johnson (Lansing 2013)
- Whitney & June Kimble
- Steve & Kate Lowry
- Renee' Obert*
- Rosemarie Oldford
- Genal Pratt*
- Ralph & Elizabeth Romano
- Wallyne Smail
- Rev. Don & Pat Thomas
- Dick & Lucille Weaire

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. Bonine Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- Susan Doyle, Realtor
- 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 **
- Yum Yum Tree

* Welcome to these new members

** Special thanks to these Life Members

Thanks to...

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time.

- John & Debby Armstrong and Mathilda Bitten for their donation to the BAHS Projects fund.
- Marlene Fonseca and Tom & Mindy Kinsey for their donation to the Friends of Lyon School fund.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Sue Garcia, Larry Lawrence, Jim Vichich, Norma Jean Pless and Tammy Sexton for help with the December issue of Trail Tales.
- Parent-Teacher Tech (117 E. Grand River) for stocking the BAHS history book: *From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan 1832-1945*.
- Mindy Kinsey for her usual great organizing for Santa's visit at Lyon School.
- Dennis Dimoff for the use of his Steinbach nutcrackers for the X-mas display at COBACH.
- Mindy Kinsey, Shirley Knight and Nancy Fredenburg for their help in setting up the CoBACH Christmas display.

Current Happenings

Archives

Each Thursday, 9am-12nn at Lyon School, we conduct our weekly archive workshop, and your help is needed. The BAHS has collected a large volume of ephemera over the past 30 years, which needs to be organized and digitized. The Historic Resource Survey is a documented historical record of local locations, which complements the area's physical history.

Photographic Survey

In addition to the written survey, we are in the process of creating photographic record of local buildings, streets and landscapes through the years. As these are continually changing, it is good to capture what they were in the past, what they are today and what they will be tomorrow.

You Can Help

Contact us today if you would like to volunteer to help with any of the above opportunities.

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: 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 (PLEASE CHECK ONE)			
Membership Plan:		Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		

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.

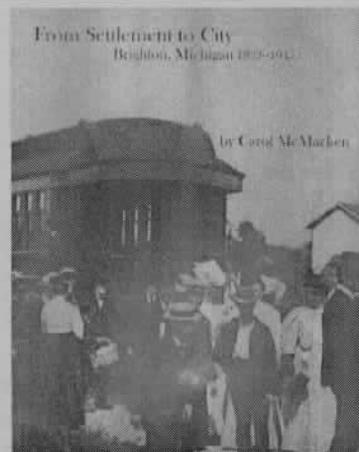
To see our full gift shop offering, please contact us, visit CoBACH Center or the Lyon School, or see our web site.

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 Jerry Damon
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Joe Collins
Secretary Tammy Sexton	Nancy Fredenburg
Interim Treasurer Mindy Kinsey	Larry Lawrence
Trail Tales Editor Dave Ball	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.

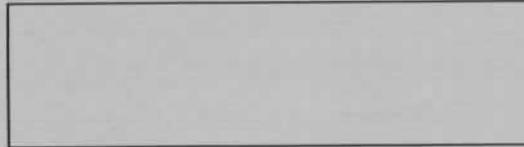
The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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 9)

A grave marker was placed in the Old Village Cemetery in the 1880s in memory of Hiram Dennison by the newly formed Brighton GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) chapter. Hiram, one of the sons of Isaac and Chloe Dennison (also spelled Denisan and Denison), enlisted in the Michigan 5th Infantry Regiment, Co. G on January 26, 1864.

Co. G endured many harsh conditions during the early months of 1864: wind, cold rain and snow. Many of the new recruits had not been fully equipped for winter with blankets or overcoats before leaving Detroit for Washington D.C. It was several days before they were able to construct huts for shelter. By the end of March, after experiencing severe winter weather, they were in the vicinity of Brandy Station and attached to the Army of the Potomac.

On May 3, 1864, the Michigan 5th had reached the old Chancellorsville battle field on the way to Orange Court House. "The enemy was met and a desperate battle ensued." It was during this engagement that it is assumed Hiram was captured by the rebels. He was imprisoned at infamous Andersonville Prison known for its very poor humanitarian conditions. He died June 30, 1864, and is buried there. Hiram left a widow, Eliza, whom he had married in 1859. He was farming the property his parents purchased in 1855.

Charles H. Dennison was probably an older brother of Hiram. He was among the first to volunteer in the 5th Michigan, Co. I, commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on August 27, 1861. He was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant on September 4, 1861. Dennison has the dubious distinction of being the first casualty of Co. I, being shot in the face while on scouting expedition at Pohick Church, Virginia in January, 1862. He resigned his commission March 6, 1862.

The Dennisons arrived in Michigan, settling in Oakland County, around 1838. Per the 1850 census, Isaac (born 1794) and Chloe

(born 1803) had come with sons Henry (and wife, Phebe), Luther and Hiram, all born in New York. Mary Elizabeth, Harvey and Martin were each born in Michigan. They lived on their 40 acre farm in Brighton Township (south side of McClements Road, just west of Hunter Road). The land was purchased from Samuel T. Williams of New York who bought it from the Federal government in 1835.

After Isaac's death on April 12, 1857, this property was purchased by daughter Mary Elizabeth from her siblings in 1863. Isaac, Chloe, William and Charles are each buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Mary married William Goucher, brother of Charles and Homer Goucher (also Civil War veterans) of whom have been written earlier. Both Mary and William are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; Census records; the writings of Bill Pless; the cemetery transcription by John & Janice Field, and the Fairview Cemetery by Milton Charboneau. Corrections/additions, requested. 810-229-6402.

Lyon School Open House

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus had dozens of visitors at Lyon School December 18, 2011. Children gave Santa their requests and Mrs. Santa's helpers had cocoa, cookies and candy. Many Christmas decorations were made with the help of one of Santa's elves.

Help Wanted

Are you interested in getting involkved with the BAHS? We are currently seeking a new editor for our monthly newsletter, Trail Tales, and also a web master for the BAHS web site. Do you have skills in either area? If so, please contact us if you are interested in either position. Your help is needed!