



Dave Pettigrove, Bill Dixon, Larry Lawrence,
 and Don Thomas



Joe Collins and Bob Knight

Reward Yourself—Help Restore a Headstone

Join the team of men and women who have decided to restore the dignity in Brighton's Old Village Cemetery. This peaceful cemetery adjacent to Brighton's Millpond received its first burial in 1838. Tucked under the oaks and evergreens you will find the graves of the settlers that established this community known in its earliest years as Ore Creek.

The Brighton Area Historical Society is refurbishing this beautiful burial ground in the heart of the downtown. A professional headstone conservator was hired by the Society in 2012 and taught over 20 people the proper techniques in restoration of broken headstones. Work days are the 4th Monday of each month through October from 9am—2pm.

Your volunteer help is most important! Most volunteers are retired and join forces when their schedule permits. We are very informal, have fun and feel wonderful at the end of the work day. No prior knowledge is necessary. We will train as we progress in the repair work.

This project is estimated to last 12-15 years due to the extensive amount of repair work that is needed. Volunteer workers will come and go as we progress to this goal. If you have some time in your schedule and want to contribute to restoring dignity to our early founders' grave sites then please call me for information. This is truly a civic pride program. I look forward to hearing from you!

THANK YOU
 Jim Vichich President, BAHS
 10-250-7276

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Help Restore a Headstone
 See Page 1
- From the Wilderness—Brighton
 See Page 4

Images of America: The Brighton Area

Available at
 Lawrence Autobody,
 CoBACH Center
 Green Oak Township Hall
 or
 Calling 810-250-7276

Like us on Facebook at

Brighton Area Historical Society

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

BUS/PROF:

McCririe & Associates, P.C.*

FAMILY/INDIV:

INDIV: Dale Borst, Tim Hurst, (2014), Rosemarie Oldford and Genal Pratt.

The board and chairman of a non profit organization are heartened that their guidance is supported by new and renewing members.

Thanks:

- Bert and Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, Jeanette Johnson, Pat Nelson, Gary Reutter and Jim Vichich who prepared the June issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Green Oak Charter Township offices, 10001 Silver Lake Road for stocking "From Settlement to City—Brighton—1832-1945" and "Images of America—Brighton, Michigan" for the Society.
- CoBACH volunteers for June: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Hank Winegar, Sheryl Vigmostad, and Jim Vichich.
- Judith Coebly for presenting her special Civil War program called "When A Rose is Not A Rose" at the CoBACH Center.
- Tom and Mindy Kinsey for donating two different chain falls to be used for lifting column monuments as they are repaired and reinstalled at Old Village Cemetery.
- Judith Coebly and Sue Skwarski for opening and closing Lyon School for the visiting teachers and children from Cornerstone School during their two days of rural education.

Society Life Members:

Tom Archer
Shirley Barton
Marilyn Campbell (IN)
Nancy Fredenburg
William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst
Larry & Kate Lawrence
Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Carol McMacken
Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick
Robert & Pauline Schaffer
Anne Stratigos

2013 Business / Professional Members:

Acorn Deck Accessories, Inc.
Advance Craft Builders
Fred Bonine, DDS, MSPC
Brighton Bar and Grill
Robert Clark Eye Center, MD., P.C.
Caretel Inns of Brighton
Champ's Pub
Davis Multimedia, Inc.
Susan Doyle, realtor
Grace Pointe Church
Mancuso and Cameron P.C.
Schoolhouse Family Dentistry
SOS Livingston
Synergy Environmental, Inc.
Yum Yum Tree
Lawrence Autobody **
McCririe & Associates, P.C.
Masonic Lodge No. 247 **
Patrick Financial Group, LLC**
Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research **
Archer Huntley Financial Services **
** Life Members

Our efforts are not possible without the support of our Business/Professional members.

Thanks: continued form column one this page.

- Don Thomas, Bob Knight, Joe Collins, Dave Pettigrove, Larry Lawrence, Bill Dixon and Jim Vichich for the volunteer work at Old Village Cemetery on June 24 for the Headstone Preservation Project. Headstone bases were installed and broken headstones were epoxied together for insertion into the bases. Next work date is the 4th Monday of July, July 22 from 9am -2pm. Call Jim for information.
- Thursday morning archiving crew whose humor and dedication make this three hour activity fly by include: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Larry Lawrence, Jim Vichich, Sue Garcia, Sue Zimmermann, Marieanna Bair, Caren Bierman and Linda Millar



Thanks to Don Boyer for displaying his Civil War collection at CoBACH Center on Memorial Day. Over 200 people visited and signed the guest book.

Dates to Remember

July 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun & Wed.

July 4: 10am

Independence Day Parade in downtown Brighton.

Competitive Duck Race on the Millpond by Kiwanis following the parade.

July 11, 18, 25: 9am-12nn

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School.

CLOSED July 4

Visitors are welcome. Please share your early life Brighton experiences.

July 22: 9am-2pm

Old Village Cemetery Headstone Project Workday.

Join us the 4th Monday of the month as headstone repair work continues in 2013. Future dates are August 26, September 23 and October 28. Questions call Jim Vichich, 517-304-7722

July 24: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

Brighton Historical Society has items for sale

Carol McMacken's book
"From Settlement to City"

Tiles 6x6 of Brighton landmarks

Afghans of Brighton landmarks

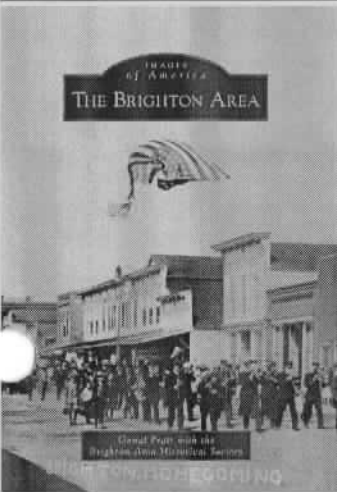
Images of America— The Brighton
Area

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 mail to the address provided on 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"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		<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 these jobs?"

Treasurer

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

Volunteers at CoBACH

Welcome desk, help set up displays, loan of personal items for displays of the early days of Brighton.

Contact Jim Vichich at 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

Joe Collins

Jerry Damon

Nancy Fredenburg

Larry Lawrence

Thomas Reinke

Tammy Sexton

Phil Szanto

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
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FROM THE WILDERNESS—BRIGHTON Part 4

The blacksmiths, masons, carpenters and physician living in Benjamin Cushing's hotel in Brighton, c. 1850, were all dependent on passable roads to engage in their livelihoods. However, within ten years the wood planks, of which the Grand River Trail was built, were rotting and travelers found the going difficult. By 1870, plank road companies could not keep up with the warped and deteriorated condition of the plank roads. Gravel road companies came into being.

Native Bill Pless writes "...Not a very good gravel road, but just good enough for an excuse to charge toll. The stagecoaches had been discontinued when the railroad was built (1871), and farmers no longer had to haul their products a great distance to markets in Detroit and Lansing, so the road (Grand River Trail) was now used for local travel. The people soon put up a strong objection to paying toll, and when the gravel road franchise ran out, it was not renewed."

This main cross-state road became a local responsibility for maintenance in addition to the local rural roads. This was accomplished by dividing the townships into 'road districts' under the direction of an elected pathmaster. In early spring the pathmaster 'called-out' the local farmers with their wagons, graders, teams, plows, drags, shovels, picks, etc. Gravel or dirt was hauled into low places, ditches were plowed along the road side and drains for water were shoveled. Farmers were also 'called-out' after severe storms washed out the roadbed or if trees were blown down. Non tax paying men over twenty-one had to give a day's work or pay a dollar. Tax payers who couldn't supply labor or equipment also paid their road tax with cash.

Right-of-way for roads was not provided for in the initial federal government surveys. Roads were usually laid out along property lines. A road three rods wide (49-1/2 feet) took half the width from each farmer's line. If detours were necessary because of terrain or water, the farmer gave the full three rods. Real estate taxes still include property to the middle of the road. Many farmers took personal pride in

keeping his share of the road looking good by fencing, removing obnoxious weeds and brush, and planting shade trees to shade travelers.

Not only were graded rural roads necessary for travel and commerce, Brighton Village also faced the dilemma of providing village residents accessible routes. All streets, business and residential, were the responsibility of the Village, i.e. dirt streets.

The dam on Ore Creek, built by Orson Quackenbush to power his grist mill, resulted in the formation of the Millpond. Streams usually run through wet, swampy areas — Ore Creek was no exception.

Prior to the construction of the railroad and the platting of the Smith-McPherson Addition (land west of Ore Creek to Seventh Street), farmers, peddlers, drovers, etc., from the Genoa Township area forded the stream in wagons or buggies to reach the commercial and business portion of Brighton at Grand River and Fitch Street (Main Street). To amend this difficulty, a bridge was necessary. A trestle bridge was erected, c. 1873, and land west of the stream and north of Main Street was soon filled in. The possibility exists that the Smith-McPherson Addition developers helped with this in order to make their lots more desirable.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless writings; "From Settlement to City" by Carol McMacken ; Sanborn Maps and Census records.)

Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402