



FRANCES CLAYTON



JACK WILLIAMS

**SPECIAL CIVIL WAR PRESENTATION
 AT CoBACH CENTER
 202 WEST MAIN STREET, BRIGHTON
 SPONSORED BY THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**"WHEN A ROSE IS NOT A ROSE"
 BY JUDITH COEBLY
 SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013
 1:00pm—2:30 pm**

In the photos above, Frances Clayton, a female from Missouri, wanted to fight in the Civil War. She impersonated a male, and became known as Jack Williams and joined the Missouri Artillery and Cavalry Unit. Learn how she and other females passed the "rigorous" male enlistment standards of the day.

Ms. Judith Coebly a retired public educator in the Dearborn Schools for 39 years presents the unknown stories of the many women who impersonated men to fight in the Civil War. Her love of American History drove her to study about the women who behaved outside the cultural norms and thus were absent in history books.

Not many people know or will believe that almost 900 women served as soldiers in the Civil War. The Union and Confederate armies would not allow women to serve in their ranks. When their true identities were discovered, these patriots in disguise were sometimes punished, always removed, and told to return home. Most reenlisted in other units-sometimes seven or eight times. They fought like demons and would not quit. This must see PowerPoint presentation includes vignettes of their experiences, photographs and etchings. Their stories must be told and included in the history of our nation.

ADMISSION IS FREE

POINTS OF INTEREST:

"When a Rose is not a Rose" -
 June 8, 2013 at CoBACH
 See Page 1

From the Wilderness—Brighton
 See Page 4

**Images of America:
 The Brighton Area**
 Available at
 Lawrence Autobody,
 CoBACH Center
 or
 Calling 810-250-7276

**Like us on Facebook
 at
 Brighton Area Historical Society**

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

BUS/PROF:

McCrie & Associates, P.C.*

FAMILY/INDIV:

Clark & Linda Millar*, Mildred A. Quinn, and Paul W. Weber.

* A warm welcome to new members McCrie and Associates, P.C. and Clark and Linda Millar.

Those able to commit time and energy to the administration of the Society are encouraged by the support of membership.

Thanks:

- Bert and Marieanna Bair, Judith Coebly, Jackie Damm, Pat Nelson and Jim Vichich who prepared the May issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Pat Cole for eyeglasses for the society's collection.
- Duncan and Kathy Lawrence for a donation in memory of Mathilda Bitten.
- Corrigan Oil Company for the scanning and copy for the Society Archives of an over-head view of Brighton, taken in May of 1992.
- Those who notify the Society with address corrections.
- CoBACH volunteers for May: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Larry Lawrence, Hank Winegar, Sheryl Vigmostad, Ralph Steinberger and Jim Vichich.
- All the volunteers that made the Old Village Cemetery 5th Spring Restoration a huge success!

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
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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 from column one this page.

- Vicki Vichich for preparing the foods and luncheon during the Old Village Cemetery Restoration Project. Soup, salad, cake and cookies were all homemade and were enjoyed by all.
- Tammy Sexton for preparing her special program on the Prosser Family during the Old Village Cemetery Headstone Dedication Program where the rebuilt Lydia Prosser headstone was featured. This was part of the OVC Spring Restoration Project.
- Don Thomas, Bob Knight, Joe Collins and Jim Vichich for the preparation and installation work of the Lydia Prosser headstone at OVC. Special thanks to Don for his special talents in making the repair and fabrication for new parts for this headstone.
- Father Deon and Jenny Ritter from St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the use of their restrooms and community room during the OVC Spring Restoration project.
- City of Brighton for picking up and disposing of the 70 plus yard bags of debris that was collected at OVC.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD HEALTH
To Steve and Marcie Aller of the Parent Teacher Technical Center for their support of the BAHS by selling BAHS history books over the years. They are embarking on their new career of full retirement!

Dates to Remember

June 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun & Wed.

June 6, 13, 20, 27: 9am-12nn

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School.

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

June 8: 1pm-2:30pm

Special Civil War Presentation at CoBACH Center

"When A Rose Is Not A Rose" —This unique presentation focuses on women that disguised themselves as men to fight during the Civil War. Photos and personal stories of

these courageous women will be highlighted during this one hour PowerPoint presentation. Any person interested in the Civil War will truly enjoy this presentation!

Admission is FREE!

June 24: 9am-2pm

Old Village Cemetery Headstone Project Workday, and continue to join us the 4th Monday of each month through October.

June 26: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH

July 4: 10am

Independence Day Parade in downtown Brighton. Kiwanis Duck Race follows.

Dates for other organizations

June 9, 1pm-4pm

Ice Cream Social

Wixom Historical Society

wixomhistory@yahoo.com

June 20:

Program on Train Depots

Milford Historical Society

www.milfordhistory.org

June 22, 23:

Blacksmith, soldiers log cabin weekend.

Waterloo Area Historical Society.

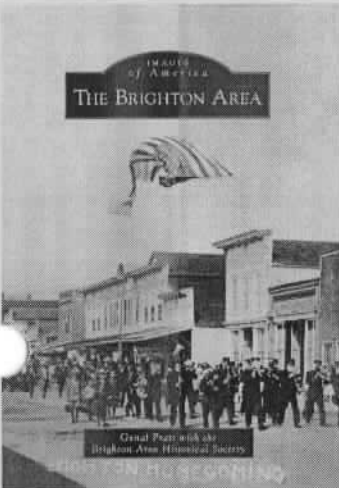
www.waterloofarmuseum.org

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 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"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<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.



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.

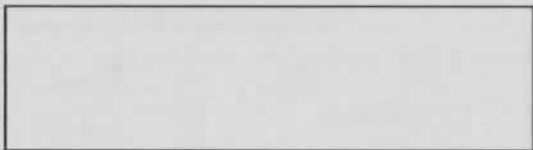
The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts. Please consider supporting us with your generosity.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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FROM THE WILDERNESS—BRIGHTON Part 3

Stagecoach companies operating on the Grand River Trail in the late 1830s drove their horses over rutted paths through the wilderness. Following statehood in 1837, Federal funds for road building were reduced. Michigan had to assume the task of opening the interior to settlers. Contracts were given to cut paths through the timber with the stipulation stumps had to be removed or cut short enough to allow passage of wagons and coaches.

Taking the path of least resistance, the Trail often circumnavigated hills and avoided swamps while following surveyed section lines as closely as possible.

In 1847, Detroit was the Capitol of Michigan. To provide a more representative government to the population developing to the west, it was determined the seat of state business should be moved to a more central site. Despite the promotion of several cities as the best location, especially beneficial to their own growth as the Capitol, a wilderness site in Ingham County was selected.

Many congressmen lived in Detroit. To attend to government affairs it was obvious a better highway had to be constructed for the 80 mile route. A better roads program was imperative. The Detroit—Lansing Plank Road Company was one of several given the task of improving this vital link. Sensing an investment opportunity many plank road companies were formed. The Detroit/Howell Plank Road Company was contracted to lay planks three inches thick and eight feet long across stringers which paralleled the road. The cost of construction was ameliorated by the lumber from clearing the road used as the planks. Their investment would be paid off by toll gates sited at strategic locations. An 1859 map locates one south of Ore Creek on the Grand River Trail (south of Cross Street). To avoid the toll some travelers went by the way of Cross Street and followed the path which reached West Main. To alter this practice the gate keeper moved the gate north of Cross Street. Another toll gate was located east of Pleas-

ant Valley Road on Grand River managed by Elihu Russell. (An 1875 map indicates a toll gate on the west side of Academy Drive at East Grand River, perhaps kept by property owner, James Albro, a veteran of the Civil War. Research indicates this to be a very late date for a toll gate.)

Improvement of local trails benefited the several taverns—Dutcher, Bigham, Euler, Dorr, Dean, etc.—serving settlers in the area; who would also benefit with improved transportation of their agricultural products to eastern markets. Their produce and stock would be fresher and could be shipped in larger quantities.

However, rotting planks needed frequent repair, not always in a sufficiently satisfactory manner for the toll payers. Before long gravel was filling in the gaps in the plank roads. Not much later gravel roads were the norm. Railroad construction was the final nail in the demise of toll roads.

Half way between Detroit and the Capitol, with dozens of wagons passing each day, Brighton citizens sensed an improved opportunity for commerce. One of these, Benjamin Cushing, built a two story hotel at the northeast corner of Grand River and Main Street. Food, shelter, beverage and respite for horses made it a very popular stopping site. Commercial and professional borders assured Cushing his hostelry was fully occupied. Among them were a blacksmith, mason, physician and carpenter.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless writings; census records; A Brief History of Michigan by John Kern; 1880 Livingston County History by Ellis.)

Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402