



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Fifth Annual Old Village Cemetery Restoration

**Saturday, May 4 from 9:00am
 1:00 pm
 Free Volunteer Luncheon at 1 pm**

In the 1838 Old Village Cemetery, headstones of Brighton early leaders and residents peer down over their city as if to observe the changes through the years. Please join community members for a civic pride event working inside the beautiful ornamental fence under the canopy of mature trees honoring those buried there. You will find the names of prominent and ordinary folks from Brighton's earliest days that endured hardships that can only be imagined as they settled these frontier villages.

One of the goals of this spring clean up is to have the Old Village Cemetery in respectful condition for the veterans buried there by Memorial Day, May 27. Veterans of the Blackhawk, Civil, Spanish-American Wars, WWI and WWII are part of the rich Brighton History.

The Brighton Area Historical Society recognizes the contributions that our service men and women have made to preserve the freedoms we experience. Please join the working teams as we revitalize these grounds and provide a respectful setting. Workers with grass/leave rakes, shovels, branch/brush shears and work gloves are needed.

We are guaranteed a spring day that will provide fellowship to all participants while

experiencing the beauty of Old Village Cemetery. Everyone will leave with a feeling, emanating deep from within their hearts that their donation of four hours is one small thank you to our veterans that have served this great country!

Please call me to sign up so that I can plan work accordingly. Everyone is needed!

Thank you in advance.

Jim Vichich
 517-304-7722

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

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Old Village Cemetery Restoration and Project Dedications

See Page 1

From the Wilderness—Brighton

See Page 4

Images of America: The Brighton Area

Available at
 Lawrence Autobody
 Parent Teachers Tech Center
 CoBACH Center
 or
 Calling 810-250-7276

Sympathies from the Society To the Families of June Kimble & 'Tillie' Bitten

These ladies were long-time residents and contributors to the Society

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Thanks and Recognition

Memberships:

PATRON:

Jack & Heidi Clausnitzer

FAMILY/INDIV:

Mary Ann Catrell, Jan Fairbanks, Dwight & Joyce Matteson, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Frank & Monica Ninteman, Bruce & Betty Schuman.

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

Thanks to our caring readers:

February issue page 4—George W. and France D. Rogers are Civil War veterans. Brother Henry, also interred in the Village Cemetery, is not a veteran.

April issue—The Battle of Fallen Timbers took place in August 1794, not 1894, and the Maltby Brothers had their saw mill in operation by 1833,

Dates for other organizations:

May 2: Annual meeting, Livingston County Genealogical Society, Milcgs@hotmail.com

June 22/23: Blacksmiths, Soldiers, Log Cabin Weekend with Waterloo Area Historical Society. www.waterloofarmmuseum.com

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 **
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:

- Livingston County Newcomers Club for a donation for a presentation about BHAS.
- Marieanna Bair, Larry Lawrence and Jim Vichich for making this presentation.
- Bernie Corrigan for the loan of a World War I book of veterans for scanning.
- Bert & Marieanna Bair, Larry Lawrence, Pat Nelson, Jane Tomlinson and Jim Vichich for preparing the April issue of Trail Tails for distribution.
- Joyce Powers and Diane Beaudoin for donations in memory of 'Tillie' Bitten.
- Mary Ann Catrell for donations to Friends of Lyon School and Society Projects with her dues.
- CoBACH volunteers: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Jean Pless, Jane Tomlinson, Larry Lawrence, Hank Winegar, Sheryl Vigmostad, Ralph Steinberger and Jim Vichich
- Mindy Kinsey for gathering the exhibit materials and setting up the Mother's Day Exhibit at the CoBACH Center. This exhibit runs through May 24. If you would like to display a photo of your mother, there is wall space where you can tack a photo. Please put your name and contact information on the back of the photo. Also thank you to Marieanna Bair for loaning items for the Mother's Day Exhibit display.
- Sue Garcia for the continuous work required to enhance and update the society's Historic Resource Survey.
- Joe Collins for his time and expertise in providing additional space as he organizes the archive room.
- Jerry Damon for his extensive work in researching homes within Brighton.

Dates to Remember

May 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29: 5pm-8pm

BAHS hosts at CoBACH Center on Sun & Wed.

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 9am-12nn

Archiving/Open House at Lyon School.

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

May 4: 9am-1pm

5th Annual Spring Cleanup of Old Village Cemetery and OVC Headstone Preservation Dedication

Join your community members to help clean-up the grounds from the fall and winter debris of branches and leaves. This is a won-

derful civic opportunity to bring respect to the many veterans buried here for Memorial Day 2013. Lunch provided at 1pm. Your help is needed-call Jim to participate. (810-250-7276)

May 4: 11am—11:15 am

Headstone Preservation Project Dedication
Examine the former broken headstones that have been rebuilt and reinstalled in the vertical position. Headstones were previously broken into pieces and lying flat in the sod. This dedication is for the 15 year Headstone Repair Program being sponsored by the Brighton Area Historical Society. Following the dedication, preservation and repair work

will continue. Great chance to learn and participate in the process!

May 22: 6pm

BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH.

May 27: 10am

Memorial Day Parade

May 27: 9am-1pm

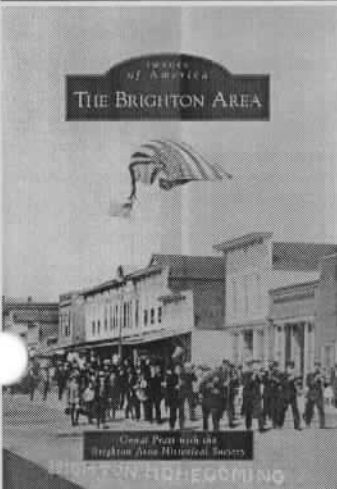
CoBACH Center: Special Civil War Memorable Exhibit, Several collectors will display common and rare artifacts from the War of Rebellion. Great chance for young gun and military enthusiasts to see museum quality artifacts.

Exhibit is FREE!

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: 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 \$ _____
<small>The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. All donations are tax deductible.</small>			



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.

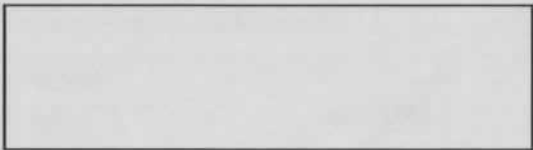
The BAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please help us fund our mission while also helping yourself with a tax-deductible contribution.

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 2

Of the early 1834 risk takers in what would become Brighton City, Anthony Gale, William Noble, William Dutcher and James B. Lee, only Lee remains in the Village area after 1840. By 1839 Gale is in Canada, Dutcher is in Oakland County and Noble heads back east to Massachusetts.

They, and others, came by way of the Indian Trail— the Grand River Trail. Leaving families in Detroit they headed west fording the Rouge River, the Huron River and innumerable swamps and streams. The Trail was barely travelable on horseback, much less a wagon of farming tools and household goods. Usually the men did the initial scouting for their future farm, mill, inn, store, etc., noting the surveyors' marks. They then returned to the land office in Detroit to establish ownership, a return trip of several days.

Farmington, Novi, New Hudson, Kensington and Ore Creek (Brighton) were all rest stops on the way to the interior. To encourage settlement, the Federal government ordered a trail, wide enough to allow a cart or covered wagon, to be hewn out of the encompassing forest, including three to four feet wide stumps to be removed. The abundance of swamps with ruts, mud and mosquitoes resulted in slow-paced construction. Horses had extreme difficulty going under these conditions. The most successful at dragging settlers' conveyances were teams of slow moving oxen. Following statehood, January 26, 1837, Michigan became responsible for road construction.

Among the first needs of those traveling the Trail was that of food and shelter for themselves and their horses. William Dutcher built a log tavern on his 'Addition' beneath the crest of

the hill where the Trail turns northward. By 1834, Ben Cushing is running the business for Dutcher. Robert Bigham built his "Call and C", c. 1834, past Ore Creek north of town; in the Chalis Road area. A few miles further, in Genoa Township, Lawrence Euler, a German immigrant, built a log store and tavern on the Trail at about 7300 W. Grand River, in 1835, and a frame barn for horses. The "Dutch Grocery" conducted business on that location until burning February 19, 1947. About a mile further west Lewis Dorr, in 1840, built a large frame house and operated a tavern, with shelter for horses used for stage coaches and freight wagons, in his large barn.

Not on the Trail but on Flint Road, John Dean, in 1836, built a substantial house on the east side (north of the I-96 overpass). This location became known as the Dean Settlement, where travelers heading north could count on assistance. All of these businesses were welcome sights to a weary family hoping to begin a new life.

By 1838, at least two stage coaches, run by Allan C. Weston and Benjamin J. Spring, traversed the 50 miles between Detroit and Howell in 12 hours. Teams of four to six horses, changed every 12-15 miles at these inns and horse barns, were driven at breakneck speed over a rutted trail. Today one isn't even aware of the filled-in swamps, that cuts through hills and bridges on the Grand River Trail.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; Bill Pless writings; Early Landowners and Settlers by Milt Charboneau; From Settlement to City by Carol McMacken. Additions/corrections requested: 810-229-6402.)