

## Successful Saturday Cleanup At Old Village Cemetery



October 10th was a gorgeous Saturday to be working on improving the appearance of Old Village Cemetery. Approximately 35 people enjoyed the cool air while working under the blue skies as they traversed all areas of the cemetery. Weed trees were removed on both the

millpond and alley sides. Headstones reappeared as sumac was chopped down. Many horizontal headstones were freed from encroaching sod. Several hidden headstones reappeared near the edge of the millpond bank as sod had totally covered them for several decades.

Thanks needs to be given to volunteers from Rolling Thunder, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton Area Historical Society and community members. Volunteers were treated to a wonderful lunch consisting of rollup sandwiches and chili, compliments of Sharon and Bert Kisak of the Yum Yum Tree. Saint Paul's opened up their restrooms and community room for warming and lunch.

May 1, 2010 is the final cleanup before the rededication of Old Village Cemetery. This ceremony will occur four weeks later during the Memorial Day weekend. Please reserve these dates so that you can participate in these important civic activities.

*Pictured at left: Mercedes Ferreyra works at uncovering overgrown grave markers.*

### Special points of interest:

LEARN ABOUT THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE MANY WAYS THEY HELPED THEIR COMMUNITY.

SEE PAGE 4

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR BAHS MEMBERSHIP. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

SEE PAGE 2

*"I said there was but one solitary thing about the past worth remembering and that was the fact that it is past (and) can't be restored."*

*Mark Twain in a letter to Mr. Burrough, 1 Nov 1876*

## Key Dates to Remember for November 2009

### Scanning and Archiving

Nov 5, 12, 19

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Your help is needed with this ongoing archival project! We are in the process of digitizing the BAHS physical archives. This is a big project and volunteers are needed.

We will train you, so no experience is necessary. All you need is a willingness to help out and get involved.

### General Membership Mtg

Nov 15

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The annual election of 2010 officers will take place at this 1:00-4:00 PM meeting. Potluck lunch will take place from 1:00-1:45 PM. The formal meeting will start at 2:00 PM. All members that are current in their dues may vote at this meeting.

### BAHS Board Meeting

Nov 25

6:30 pm

This monthly meeting is open to all that are interested. If you would like to get involved in the BAHS, please attend. We need more of our members to get involved.

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## Recent and Future Happenings

### Annual Membership Meeting

#### Elections And Reports Of Officers

November 15, 1pm - 4pm, Lyon School

To assure BAHS continues to meet its objective of preserving and disseminating our local history, it is necessary for our members to step up and help out. Serving on the Board of Directors or as committee chair is a great way to help.

Also, you can help with administration and Lyon School maintenance, volunteer at the Old Town Hall as host and/or setting up displays, schedule Oral History interviews with long-time area residents, scan photos and documents, help at the BAHS Farmers' Market booth, etc.

It is critical that those most actively involved receive sufficient support to not 'burn out'. Any of our readers can determine what they can do to assist. Contact a board member to learn more.

### Membership Renewal

Its that time of year again to renew your BAHS annual membership. Your dues are an important contribution to the BAHS and are a primary source of our funding. Your ongoing support is appreciated. Please take a moment and send in your check for your 2010 membership renewal. Thank you!

To find out what year your dues are paid through, check the address label on your newsletter. The two-digit number in the upper right corner is the year you are paid for. In the example below, this

John Doe 123 Main Street Brighton, MI 48116	09
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member's dues are paid through Dec 31, 2009 and should be renewed at this time.

If your issue of Trail Tales is stamped as a *Complimentary Copy*, then your 2009 dues have not been received. Please take this opportunity to bring your dues current and renew for 2010.

BAHS cannot exist without members. If you value what the BAHS does, what it stands for, and the role we play in preserving our local history, then please consider supporting us.

### In Memorial

The BAHS would like to extend sympathies to the families of :

**Barbara Cameron Folkman**

and

**Ial Keefer Fuller**

Both were long-time residents of the area and supportive members of the Brighton Area Historical Society.

## Thanks and Recognition

### THANKS TO....

The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time and energy to support the BAHS.

- Ida Bair and Suzanne Skwarski for their help with mailing the October issue of Trail Tales.
- Carole Scott for her donation to BAHS projects with her dues.
- Jackie Bennett, Heidi Clausnitzer and Jackie Damm for giving the Lyon School a good fall cleaning. They are members of the Plank Road Questers who've taken on this job.
- Don McDiarmid for using his computer skills in enhancing early photos of the Brighton area.
- Brenda Moline for her dedication to the scanning of BAHS archives.
- The 30+ people who participated in the Old Village Cemetery fall cleanup, the Yum Yum Tree for their hearty lunch, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for use of the hall.

- Mindy Kinsey and Sue Walters-Steinacker for hosting the BAHS Halloween Open House at the Lyon School last month.

### 2009 Business / Professional Members

The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. We encourage our members to patronize these local, independent businesses who are sustainers of the BAHS.

- Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc.
- Archer-Huntley Financial Services\*
- Jagielky Bookkeeping
- Lawrence Autobody\*
- Masonic Lodge #247\*
- Patrick Financial Group, LLS\*
- Promess\*

\*Special thanks to these Life Members

### Memberships

We would like to thank the following members for their annual memberships:

#### Patron:

- Yvonne Taylor
- Marilyn Bonner (*New Member!*)

#### Individual

- Pat Anderson
- Don & Ricci Bandkau
- Bev Barton (*New Member!*)
- Lee & Sue Garcia
- Jeanette Johnson
- Harold Leitz
- R. Ted Miller
- Dietrick & Mary Jean Richter
- Dan Schmidt
- Carole Scott
- Joyce Terry
- Rosemary Ulmer

## 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 visit our web site at [www.brightonareahistorical.com](http://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:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Plan:

New     Business     \$500 Life     \$15 Individual

Renewal     Personal     \$50 Patron     \$2 Student

\$25 Family

### Friend of Lyon School:

\$10     \$100

\$25     \$250

\$50     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### BAHS Projects Fund:

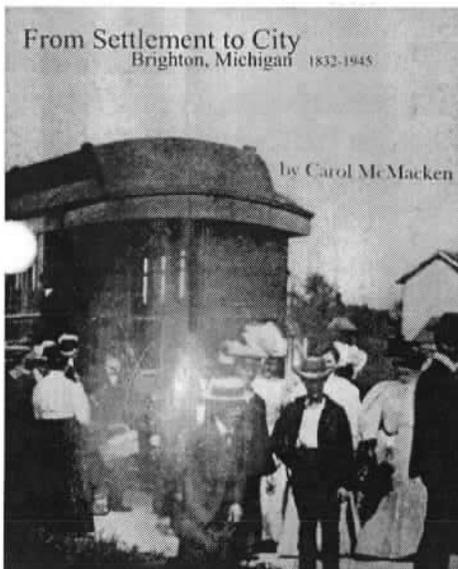
\$10     \$100

\$25     \$250

\$50     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3 Tax Deductible Organization

## BAHS Gift Shop



The Brighton Area Historical Society maintains an inventory of commemorative and Brighton history memorabilia for sale as society fund raisers. 100% of all sales proceeds go to fund ongoing organization budget needs of BAHS, including local history projects and Lyon School maintenance.

Our product offering includes BAHS apparel (shirts, hats, etc.), home décor (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like. To see in detail our full offering, please visit our online gift shop on our web site at [www.brightonareahistorical.com](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com).

### Product Spotlight

**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 until the mid-1940s. It also contains over 300 pictures and illustrations. This item is a must for any book collection on Michigan and its rich history.

## BAHS Leadership

### Executive Board

President

**Jim Vichich**

Vice President

**Susan Walters-Steinacker**

Secretary

**Thomas Reinke**

Treasurer

**Jindy Kinsey**

Director

**Dave Ball**

Director

**Jim Miller**

Past President

**Marieanna Bair**

Education Liaison

**Judith Coebly**

Education Liaison

**Sue Skwarski**

## More About BAHS

If you would like to contact us, please use the following options:

**E-Mail:**

[info@brightonareahistorical.com](mailto:info@brightonareahistorical.com)

**Phone:**

(810) 250-7276

**US Mail:**

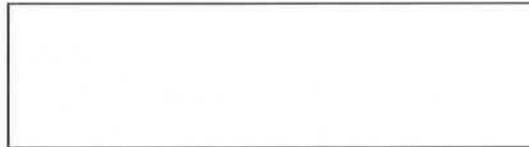
Brighton Area Historical Society  
P. O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

The Lyon School is located at 11455 Buno Road west of Pleasant Valley Road.

The BAHS is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization. Help out the BAHS and yourself with a contribution.

The BAHS accepts monetary support and donations of historical artifacts.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



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## Historical Perspective: Brighton's Altruistic Fire Department (Part 5)

December 22, 1941, the Brighton Argus reported, "Brighton experienced one of its largest and most hardy fought fires here Monday evening when fire, caused by an overheated stove pipe, broke out in the Karus Electric Shop on West Main Street, shortly after nine o'clock" (north side, 400 block). The approximately 70-year old wood structures, which housed the businesses of E.J. Keehn, Gus Karus, Harold Jarvis and A.C. Stewart & Son, were destroyed. Hartland and Howell fire departments were called to assist. Within a week plans were underway by Keehn to rebuild. The other businesses found alternate sites.

With the onset of WW II, many firemen were called to service. An auxiliary fire department was organized for local youths age 17 and older who were anxious to help. Erwin R. Hyne was in charge. Rigorous training, similar to that of the firemen, assured they'd be ready in an emergency. This group disbanded in the late 1940s to be revived in 1951. It is known as the earliest Junior Department in the state.

Several major fires occurred during the war. October 15, 1942: "Despite the best efforts of the Brighton Fire Department, fire completely destroyed the 43 room Island Lake Hotel." The 20-year old structure had long been a landmark in the area. In November 1944, a fire in the Hyne woods north of Brighton resulted in the loss of about 400 cords of wood. Even during a war, local fire emergencies continued.

In 1943, members of the department were involved in the construction of an Honor Roll listing all local members of the armed services. Constructed of seven white 4x8 Masonite panels, it was installed on the vacant lot located at the southwest corner of Grand River and Main.

In 1946, with the end of WW II, there was an enthusiastic desire for a real celebration. A four-day Brighton Victory Homecoming was spearheaded by the fire department. This welcome home event properly commemorated the return of the area's service members.

Fire department veterans immediately resumed the many tasks awaiting them: the July 4th fire works and carnivals, Thanksgiving feather parties, Halloween and Christmas celebrations, and fire fighting duties.

By that September, remembering their high school football days, these firemen raised \$8,000 for a lighting system which was installed at Sloan Field (east of the school at 125 S. Church Street). This brought an end to daytime football. The quality of the system was compared to that of Wrigley Field and other major league parks. As if that wasn't enough, they installed a public address system for \$500 and took the lead in building new bleachers and stands.

The purchase of new fire fighting equipment emphasized the desperate need for a new fire hall. The question remained as to how to afford it and where to build it. The wherewithal was again provided by the firemen themselves with a wide variety of community-supported fund raisers. In 1948, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graham donated property, a 60-foot by 132-foot lot, on the south side of Main Street at 209 W. Main.

*Compiled by Marieanna Bair from newspaper clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.*