

## Old Village Cemetery Clean Up - October 10



The cleanup process continues as Old Village Cemetery sheds the years of over-growth of brush and weed trees. Headstones flush with the ground reveal the scenes that were sculpted 150 years ago as layers of dirt and encroaching sod are gently removed from the edges. The beauty of this burial ground is shared with all, as volunteers step up the hillside to

this high ground and experience the stunning array of autumn colors reflecting off the millpond.

Please join us and share your civic pride as volunteers in this important revitalization effort. Bring your chain saw, safety goggles and gloves and join the effort to remove weed trees. Grab your wheelbarrow, shovel, steel rake, trowel, and kneeling

pads to carefully remove the sod that has been hiding parts of those headstones for decades.

Old Village Cemetery will be rededicated on Memorial Day weekend of 2010. Showing your civic pride as a community volunteer is important. The dignity of this site must be enhanced and preserved for the future.

New white marble, military headstones will be placed on the gravesites of ten recently identified veterans this coming spring.

The historical society is doing the planning and scheduling of this cleanup activity. The City of Brighton will assist by providing labor and topsoil for smoothing the low, uneven walking areas and by removing the brush and tree debris.

Please contact me if you are able to join the civic pride work crew for Saturday, October 10 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Thank you for volunteering!

- Jim Vichich

### 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

MANY HALLOWEEN RELATED EVENTS ARE BEING HELD BY THE BAHS AND OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.

SEE PAGE 2

*"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity."*

*Cicero, Pro Publio Sestio Roman author, orator, & politician (106 BC - 43 BC)*

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## Key Dates to Remember for October 2009

### Scanning and Archiving

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

9am - 12nn

Your help is needed with this archival project! No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help out and get involved.

### Old Village Cemetery

#### Fall Clean Up

Oct 10: 9am - 2pm

### Halloween Open House

#### at Lyon School

Oct 18: 1pm - 4pm

### BAHS Board Meeting

Oct 28: 6:30 pm

Open to all that are interested. If you would like to get involved, please attend.

### General Membership Mtg

Nov 15: 1pm - 4pm

## Recent and Future Happenings

### Halloween Open House at Lyon School

October 18, 1pm - 4pm

Come join us and paint a pumpkin at Lyon School. This day's events are especially geared to children of all ages. Your pumpkin can be taken home. Cider and donuts will be served.

In addition, there will be early period games and an opportunity to tour the historical Lyon school, a one-room school house. Also, you can come dressed up for Halloween. This is another chance to show off your Halloween costume.

In addition, information on the work of LACASA will be available to help build awareness of what constitutes abuse and how this organization makes a difference. If you would like to support LACASA, personal care items for men and women can be donated on site.

### Area Organizations

- **Oct. 4:** 2 p.m. Saline Area Historical Society, "Ghost Hunters of Southern Michigan" and tour of Lodi Cemetery. [www.salinehistory.org](http://www.salinehistory.org)
- **Oct. 11:** 12-4 p.m. Cobblestone Farm. Hallo-Harvest Celebrations. [www.cobblestonefarm.org](http://www.cobblestonefarm.org)
- **Oct. 18:** 1-4 p.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society annual meeting and potluck. 1856 Town Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road. [www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://www.greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.com)
- **Oct. 28:** 7:30 p.m. Salem Area Historical Society. The Great Salem Train Wreck. [www.salemhistory.org](http://www.salemhistory.org)
- **Nov. 4:** 7:30 p.m. Saline Historical Society. History of the Grand Hotel. [www.salinehistory.org](http://www.salinehistory.org)

### 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. Servicing 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.

## Thanks and Recognition

### THANKS TO....

We would like to recognize the following people for volunteering the time to support BAHS.

- Judith Coebly, Jackie Damm, June Kimble, and Sue Skwarski for help in mailing the September issue of Trail Tales.
- John Cord, Carolina DeLuca, Esther Jarvis, Phyllis Kerlake and Sandra Willhide for a donation with their dues.
- Robert Henry for a copy of the 125th anniversary of the Livingston County Press, 2-28-68, and short essays on the Life of Mariette Rumsey Crittenden and of Ephriam Jennings Hardy.
- Joan Pinney Rice (CA) for a 1967 Brighton Centennial issue of the Brighton Argus, seven 1940s issues of the Argus, etc., and a folder of clippings from her mother's (Louise) collection.
- Linda Skeman Wintermute for photos and genealogical information on the Skeman family.

- William Zink for extensive genealogical records compiled by Charmaine Zink in regard to the Bidwell family.
- These several items of local history received as noted above assure a more complete record of the Brighton Area's past. Our readers are encouraged to consider allowing the reproduction of their collection or its donation.

### 2009 Business / Professional Members

The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

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

\*Special thanks to Life Members

### Memberships

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

- Doug Bidwell
- Cheryl Chidester
- Jack & Shirley Jarvis

### Membership Renewal

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

If your issue of Trail Tales is stamped as a 'Complimentary Copy' then we still have not received your 2009 dues.

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

## 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](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com) or mail in the following form below.

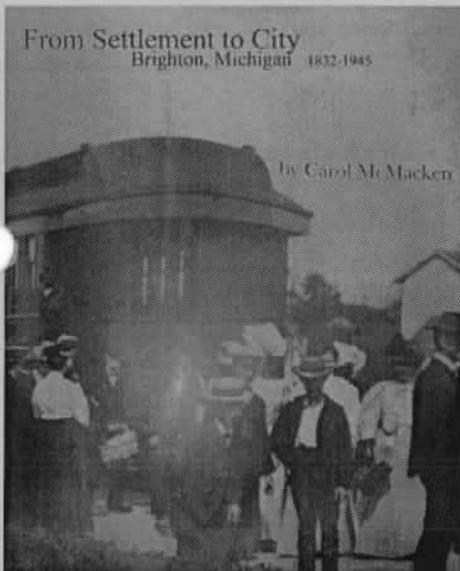
<b>Mail check or money order payable to:</b> Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481	<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Phone:</b> ( ) - _____
	<b>Address:</b> _____	
	<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____ <b>Zip Code:</b> _____
	<b>E-Mail:</b> _____	

<b>Membership Plan:</b>	<b>Friend of Lyon School:</b>	<b>BAHS Projects Fund:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> 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

**Mindy 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.

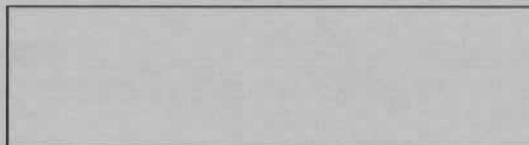
The BAHS is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization. Help out the BAHS and yourself with a contribution.

We accept monetary support and donations of historical artifacts.

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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## **Historical Perspective: Brighton's Altruistic Fire Department (Part 4)**

1938 proved to be a year of 'firsts'. Besides officially being chartered as the Brighton Fire Department in February, the first annual Firemen's Ball was held.

Due to the Great Depression and attendant tight money, it had been some time since the Brighton Fire Department could afford to continue with the annual "... aerial pyrotechnic display" to celebrate Independence Day. Somehow or other, funds were acquired and the show went on, over the millpond, as in previous years. Donation boxes were distributed around town encouraging support. In addition, arrangements were made for a carnival show, which took place on West Main between the city hall and the Brighton State Bank, with a Merry-go-round in front of the city hall. It was also promised the High School band would "... assist in giving everyone a good time." Spirits of the local population needed boosting.

At the annual meeting, January 1941, Harold Jarvis, Sr. was re-elected as chief for the year, the constitution and bylaws were reviewed and updated along with the department's incorporation as a non-profit organization. Jarvis served through 1954 as chief. A Chevrolet fire apparatus with a John Bean high-pressure pump was purchased in 1941. At the end of WW II this was traded in for a new, improved version also with a John Bean pump.

That October the town's first Halloween celebration was organized by the fire department, the Brighton Business Men's Association and the School District. A bucket brigade c. 1836, an exhibit including the hand pumper of the 1890s, the first motorized fire engine and those of 1926 and 1937, helped provide entertainment. A parade of costumed youngsters began the

party, followed by games, a movie, races, cider and donuts, and prizes given for costumes. This event is an entity that continues still.

December 22, 1941, the Brighton Argus reported, "Brighton experienced one of its largest and most hardly 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." The wood structures, about 70 years old, that had 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.

December 8, 1941, the U.S. declared war on Japan. It was a scary time. Throughout the war years the firemen on the home front did not neglect the responsibility they had assumed in regards to assuring local children that Santa's visits would continue. To bring some semblance of normalcy to the many children of families in serious financial situations, the fire department proceeded with its plans for Christmas. Funds were solicited for toys, a Christmas tree, candy and peanuts for distribution. To those children too ill to come to the party, Santa made personal deliveries via the fire truck. War or not, July 4, was annually celebrated with the parade, prizes to the best floats, vaudeville acts, ball games, concerts and fire works. The Feather Party, in time for Thanksgiving, also was held, as was the annual Ball in February.

*To be continued. Compiled by Marieanna Bair from newspaper clippings; Ned Seger's 1944 History of the fire department and the 1997 City of Brighton Fire Department History by Mike Kennedy. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.*