



COMPLIMENTARY
COPY

Brighton Area

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

TRAIL TALES

Volume XXVIII No. 9 | September 2009

Old Town Hall Museum Needs Volunteers

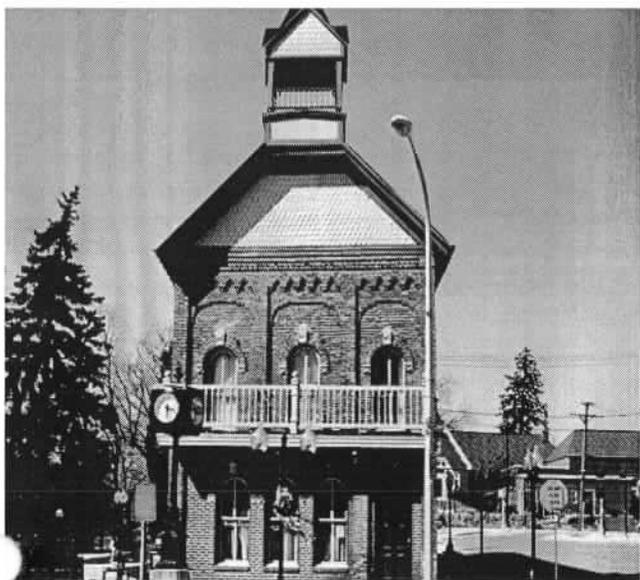


Photo courtesy of Clair Nofs Dickson

Do you recall visiting a museum and thinking that it would be fun to volunteer? Everyone working at the museum is happy. You see the enjoyment in the volunteer's faces as they answer questions and share thoughts while visiting with guests.

I have questioned many museum volunteers through the years about their jobs. All expressed the fun of sharing knowledge and the wonderful social experience of visit-

ing with guests. For many it was a great feeling of giving back to their community. Retirees shared their enjoyment of being with people. There is little doubt that the human spirit enjoys the camaraderie of others.

We have a wonderful opportunity for the Brighton area community to volunteer at the new City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center. The COBACH Center, located within the Old Town

Hall, will open in the near future. Inside you will find historical displays of period items, unique pictures, and stories about topics that relate to the history of the Brighton area. There will also be an adjacent section where local artists will display their work.

The BAHS has received feedback from community members looking to volunteer their time. Can you help out for a two or four hour time slot once or twice a month? We need your help in this important endeavor.

Is mobility an issue for you? Not to worry; everything is on the first floor and you can work from the front desk.

Please share this information about volunteering at the museum with your friends. You do not need to be a BAHS member to volunteer. Please contact us if you would like more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

- Jim Vichich

Brighton Fine Arts Festival - August 8/9

Saturday Aug 08, was a rainy day. However, the BAHS booth on W. Main Street was well staffed.

Sunday Aug 09, was a warm one. Again, the booth had dedicated members greeting visitors and providing infor-

mation regarding the history of the area and the value to everyone of its preservation.

Members helping included: Marieanna Bair, Dr. Harry Davis, Jim DeJohn, Evelyn Dothager, Tony & Mercedes Ferreyra, Nancy Fredenburg,

Lee & Sue Garcia, Mindy Kinsey, Judy Kline, Shirley Knight, Larry Lawrence, Carol McMacken, Jim Miller, Susan Walters Steinacker, Tom Niemeyer, Tom Reinke, Jim Vichich, and Hank Winegar.

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

NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT IN THIS ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES?

SEE PAGE 3

"History is a cyclic poem written by Time upon the memories of man."

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

Inside this issue:

PRESERVING OUR LOCAL HISTORY 2

RECENT AND FUTURE HAPPENINGS 2

RECOGNITION AND THANKS 2

BAHS GIFT SHOP 3

BAHS LEADERSHIP 3

MORE ABOUT BAHS 3

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE 4

Preserving Our Local History

Archive News

Donations such as those by Susan Foster, Carolyn Ayhers, Mike Kelly and Sandra Willhide (FL) help to make the BAHS archive records of local history more complete. We appreciate the opportunity to copy any old photos, documents, maps, etc., that you might have. Please contact us if you have something to share.

Historical Resource Survey

Two shelves are full of the binders of histories of local businesses' and families' locations. Many are diligently recording this information.

You can help! Every Thursday, 9:00am-12:00nn, a dedicated group meets at the Lyon School to compile the history of the area in a manner that preserves

that history and enables research. No matter how long you've lived here, your help is welcome.

No special skills are needed other than a desire to help out. We will train you on everything that needs to be done. All you need to do is show up and be ready to have some fun and help us preserve our local history.

Recent and Future Happenings

Open House at Lyon School

September 20, 1-4 pm
Quilt Show

Come see a multitude of beautiful quilts, old and new. Most made by local quilters. We will be displaying the quilts along the entire fence in the yard of the school (inside the school, should it rain).

Area Organizations

- Sep 11-13: Northville Victorian Festival Clothing Sale 248/348-1845.
- Sep 19-20: Northville Victorian Festival www.millracenorthville.org
- Sep 19-20: Milford Home Tour. Five homes + other sites. 248/685-7308. or www.milfordhistory.org.
- Oct 03: Ghoultime Gathering North-

ville. www.millracenorthville.org.

- Oct 18: 2-5 pm Pittsfield Township Historical Society Fall Festival. www.pittsfieldhistory.org.
- Sep 19: Brighton Area School Alumni Association Meet & Greet at 5:30 pm, dinner at 7 pm in the High School cafeteria, 7878 Brighton Road.

Reservation deadline by Sep 04 - \$25. Bring members of your class and reserve a table.

Contact: suzon3208@yahoo.com or 248/427-0844

Checks to **Brighton Area Schools Alumni Association, P.O. Box 1163, Brighton, MI 48116-2763.**

Something New In The Works

Hopefully, you have all taken the opportunity to visit the new BAHS web site. It has been completely redesigned with new features and content. Our web site shall remain a work in progress as we strive to give you a better online user experience. If you have ideas or comments, please let us know.

Something else that is new is this newsletter. This marks the first edition of the redesigned Trail Tales. Like our web site, we are striving to improve our monthly publication. We are also considering other enhancements in the future, such as more articles and color printing. We hope you like what you see. Please feel free to offer your feedback.

Thanks and Recognition

THANKS TO....

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

- **Archer-Huntley Financial Services** for continuing to schedule volunteers to scan photos.
- **Carolyn Schmadtke Ayers** for photos of her father's gas station and grocery store on Old 23 and Buno Road.
- **Mike Kelly** for a copy of early Brighton Fire Department history and photos to add to the folder in the archives.
- **Mindy Kinsey, Jim Miller, Tom Niemeyer and Jim Vichich** for staffing the Society booth at the Farmers' Market.
- **Parent-Teacher Tech** for stocking the Brighton History book by Carol McMacken.

- **Sandra Willhide (FL)** for her donation and information about her family, the Dr. Clark W. Hill family of Brighton. He was a dentist in Brighton in the 1920s.

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

Life Memberships

Life members are recognized when they join. To demonstrate the Society's appreciation, it is good to regularly note their contribution. Thank you

- Mr. & Mrs. William Harris
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Herbst
- Mr. & Mrs. Seth Lemke
- Carol McMacken
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schaffer

Family/Individual Memberships

D.L. Anthony*, John Cord*, Carolina DeLuca (10), Nicolette Harper*, Esther Jarvis (10), Phyllis Kerlake (Gr. Pte. Farms 10), Wallyne Smail (10), Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt, Sandra Willhide (FL).

*Welcome to these new members. Your support is valued as are our renewing members.

Support BAHS - Become a Member or Donate

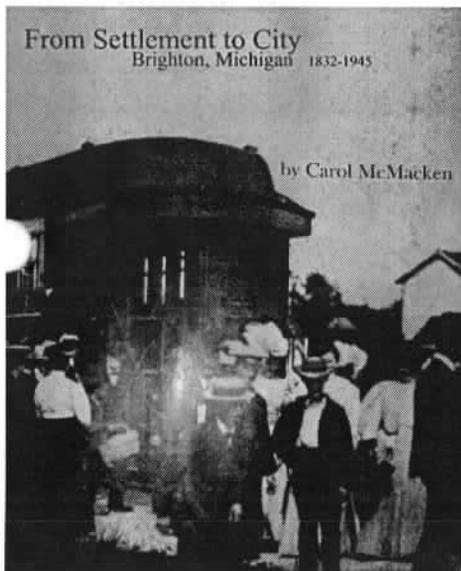
The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become member, please visit our web site at www.brightonareahistorical.com or mail in the following form below.

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:	Friend of Lyon School:	BAHS Projects Fund:
<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.

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

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.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Perspective: Brighton's Altruistic Fire Department (Part 3)

With the purchase of the first motorized fire engine, the Ford in 1920, a plan to pay the fireman was instituted soon after. Fireman received one dollar per alarm and two dollars for calls over an hour. In prior years, most public servants were volunteers. Clippings tell of a fire on November 21 which "considerably damaged" the Odd Fellows Hall at 422 West Main.

Within the next several years the village saw the paving of Grand River Road and Main Street (1924), its organizing into a city (March 9, 1927), and the building of a new school (1928) at 125 S. Church Street. Insurance for the firemen and equipment against traffic and other accidents connected to fire fighting was authorized January 18, 1927.

In July 1926, a partnership of area farmers and resort owners purchased a new REO fire engine for \$5,900. Fifty dollars per call was charged to those not in the partnership. In 1936, the partnership released the worn out REO to the village. The loss of the Wilson farm near Hartland in 1928, another farm three months later near the GM Proving Ground, three cottages at Island Lake in March 1929, and the Nesbitt home on Spencer Road may have influenced their decision. A sense of dissolution on the part of the partners was evident. They wanted no part in purchasing a replacement due to the Depression.

During the 1930s the nation was immersed in a financial crisis. Many were in need as hard times got worse. Members of the Fire Department would place 100 ducklings into the millpond in the spring and feed them during the year. A *feather party* was

held at Thanksgiving and families received a duck for their dinner. Some ducks were raffled to raise funds. On November 1, 1931, Fire Chief Adolph Marten hosted a department chicken dinner at Weiss Barbecue (101 W. Main). Memories of old Brighton school days account for the camaraderie .

In 1936, Harold Jarvis Sr. was Fire Chief. Although the old REC engine was carefully maintained, it was deemed wise to purchase a second. January 7, 1937, bids were let for this equipment. Discussion ensued several years earlier of the need for a better alarm system. The bell which had served since 1883 atop the city hall (202 W. Main) was replaced with a fire siren for \$485 on March 4, 1937. A bell had also hung at the Hyne grain elevator (501 W. Main) in 1883, in response to West Side residents' concerns. On May 6, the new engine, an American LaFrance unit on a GM chassis, (\$4,142) arrived.

In 1938, the department received a charter from the City of Brighton becoming the Brighton Fire Department . At that time a limit of 20 active, able-bodied men was instituted. Other regulations required a minimum age of 20 and a city resident. A *Standing Committee* to inquire into the character of candidates was incorporated. Charter members of the BFD were Harold Jarvis Sr., Al Cole, A.I. O'Dell, Lee Bidwell Sr., Lloyd Pearsall, Gerald Morgan, Mel Skeman, and Fred Hyne as Chief.

To be continued... Compiled by Marieanna Bair from news clippings, Bill Pless' writings, and Ned Seger's 1944 History of the Fire Department. Add./corrections requested. 810/229-6402.