Did you know that Michigan women were unable to vote in state elections until 1919? They could not vote for a President of the United States until 1920. White male landowners have been electing governors and presidents since the earliest days of our young country.

Don’t believe it was due to lack of effort in gaining that basic right. Before the War of Rebellion was fought between the north and south, Michigan women started their fight for equality in voting rights.

Next year’s recognition and celebration of the Centennial of Michigan Women’s Suffrage is a significant event. The state ballot proposal in 1918 passed by 25,000 votes. Women rejoiced and performed their civic obligation in Michigan during the 1919 local and state elections. In 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution enfranchised women across the country. Presidential elections that year finally recognized equal voting rights of women and men.

The Brighton Area Historical Society is planning a major exhibit for June through August 2019 to celebrate and recognize the Michigan women who led the charge for equality. The exhibit and program will be called “Petticoat Patriots.” The CoBACH Center (aka Old Town Hall) will be the focal point for this exhibit. Materials will be developed for local educators to share with their students. Scouting organizations along with many local groups will receive pertinent educational materials to share with their young leaders.

If you or your business would like to be one of the sponsors for this significant Brighton exhibit, please contact me. Sponsorship details are currently being developed.

Jim Vichich 810.250.7276
President, Brighton Area Historical Society
Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:
IND/FAMILY:
PATRON: Caitlyn Perry Dial* (2019)
*Welcome to new member: Caitlyn Perry Dial

THANKS:
• Advance Craft Builders for their donation along with their dues.
• Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong and Peggy Van Sickle for their assistance in preparing the July issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
• Anna and Dan Oginsky, City of Brighton and the Brighton Masonic Lodge for their generous Platinum Level sponsorships.

Membership dues and donations contribute to the viability of the Society.

Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Center Exhibit — FREE!! August:** The exhibit of “Wedding Dresses” (1930s—1950s), called “I Do!”.

**August 1,5,8,12,15,19,22,26,29; Sunday & Wednesday, 5pm—8pm:** BAHS Volunteers at CoBACH Center

**August 2,9,16,23,30; 9am—12nn:** Archiving/Open House at Lyon Schoolhouse. Speak with archivists and visit the 1900s classroom. Closes promptly at 12nn.

**August 22; 6pm, CoBACH Center:** Historical Society monthly board meeting.

**August 27; 9am—2pm:** Headstone Preservation Team meets on the 4th Monday for Work Sessions. Additional Summer dates: Sept 24 and Oct. 22.

Life — Business — Professional Members

**Life Members:**
John & Deb Armstrong — Muriel (Jacque) Armstrong — Tom Archer — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton
Charles & Janice Beach — Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack & Heide Clausnitzer — John & Jenny Conely
Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Emil Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — William & Lenore Harris
Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Larry & Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Carol McMacken
Anne Stratigos — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

**Business/Professional Members:** (** Indicates Life Members**)

**2018 Sponsorships**
**Platinum Level:** Brighton Masonic Lodge No. 247 — City of Brighton — Dan & Anna Oginsky
**Bronze Level:** Frank & Jo Del Vero
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 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: _________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
City: ___________________________ E-Mail: ________________________

How would you prefer to receive Trail Tales: ☐ Email ☐ US mail

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The BAHS Sponsorship Program

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tales newsletter and through sponsorship placards located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall) and the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse.

Annual Sponsor levels are:
- Platinum — $1,000+
- Gold — $500+
- Silver — $250+
- Bronze — $100+

If you would like to become a sponsor or have a question, please contact:
Jim Vichich, President
Brighton Area Historical Society
810-250-7276 or jvichich@comcast.net

BAHS Leadership 2018

President
Jim Vichich
Vice President
Marieanna Bair
Secretary
Carole Damon
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon
Webmaster
Debbie Armstrong

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.
The Library in Brighton (Part 3)

In 1976, the Brighton City government and the Brighton Library were growing beyond the capacity of the Old Town Hall to properly continue to conduct affairs in an orderly, responsible manner. Both would soon be in need of (again) space.

The long and short term needs of both the Library and the City government were to be included in a study commissioned by the City Council in 1976.

The Library, with 60,000 circulated items, serving 32,000 residents and as a member of the Huron Valley Library system, additional room for material and services would be needed.

The possibility of construction, adding to the Old Town Hall was considered by the Commission. However, the historical structure would be architecturally compromised. Another solution had to be found.

In 1981, the city offices moved into the new Municipal Building located across the mill pond at 200 N. First Street. Adequate space in the new building, with large windows, was incorporated for the library.

Under Dorothy Demorest’s leadership a Friends of the Library group organized in 1983, to supplement the library’s budget. A laminator for the library was their first purchase. Technology was making some library materials obsolete, i.e. its 16mm film and film strip collection. VHS recordings were becoming available, a welcome addition.

Shelagh Klein Davis became library director in 1984. Development continued: 27,405 books, 125 Periodical subscriptions, six newspapers and 400 audio recordings, marked continued expansion under her direction by the time she retired in 1989.

Mimicking the Library’s growth during the 1990s was that of the area. A clipping dated April 3, 1991, is headlined “Brighton Library is Bursting at the Seams”. A “…long-range planning commission is looking into the possibility of obtaining district status.” Status funding “…would be shared among all the residents of the district — which would include the City of Brighton, Brighton Area Schools, Brighton, Genoa and Green Oak Townships.” District status was acquired August 10, 1992. Supported by residents, it was now the Brighton District Library! The commission’s report continued: the library was “…too small to service the needs of the greater Brighton area and the existing site is limiting…” at 330 square feet instead of the desired 25,000 to 30,000 feet. Also that its collection of items should be at least 49,000. A new structure for the growing Brighton District Library seemed to be the only answer.

Now the major question becomes — where to build the Brighton District Library?

To be continued...

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Newspaper clippings, Society Archives and material compiled by Mark Mullinax, Genealogy and Local History Librarian, Brighton District Library. Additions/corrections requested: 810-229-6402.)