



CoBACH in August — Petticoat Patriots

August 23 is the last day to visit CoBACH and study the **FREE** exhibit called Petticoat Patriots. You will learn about the struggle that women endured just to get equality in the basic right of representation. This lengthy process of fighting for equality is documented and wonderfully presented within CoBACH Center on many professional banners that are on loan from the Michigan Women's Historical Resource Center in Lansing.

This **FREE** exhibit needs to be shared with all. Bring the kids, your spouse and get a special free commemorative button that reads "Votes for Women 1919".

Today, it is difficult to understand that women could not vote until after World War One. Stop by and learn about the people that fought for this change and the struggles they encountered for women to get this basic right!



CoBACH in September — Centennial of Brighton Gardens Subdivision

Did you know that Brighton has had an African American community off Old 23 north of Spencer Road since 1919? Check out the early photos that show the cottages that came first and learn the early history of these families desiring a quiet remote location on a lake.

These Detroiters purchased property on Lyons Lake located about 1/4 mile north of Spencer Road on the west side of today's Old 23. At first these cottages were summer homes, but in later years many were converted to year-round homes. New construction is found here as in all areas of Brighton.

This informative exhibit will provide you with yet another story of the desirability of Brighton lake living.

Jim Vichich — 810-250-7276
President of BAHS
jvichich@comcast.net

CoBACH Hours

Sunday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Closed Monday

August CoBACH Display

**Petticoat Patriots
Centennial of Women's
Suffrage in Michigan.**

September CoBACH Display

**Centennial of Brighton
Gardens Subdivision**

Free Exhibits

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Daily postings regarding
Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
Society**

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Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS:

We thank our members for their membership dues and donations that contribute to the viability of the Society. If your company matches charitable donations, please consider the BAHS for these matching funds.

THANKS:

- City of Brighton and Val & Kathy Jacoby for their generous 2019 Platinum Sponsorships.
- Marieanna Bair, Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich who prepared the July issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- To the following people who helped make our parade entry depicting Women's Suffrage and "How Michigan Women Won the Vote" a special event.
- Jon Greene who picked up the trailer that was used as the float for the July 4th parade and Jenny Fredenburg who donate the cost of renting the trailer.
- Jill and Jerry Bolognone who participated in the parade. Jill is the grand niece of Charlotte Mellus.
- Lynn and Sarah Strong who made the banners for the sides of the float.
- Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Lin Millar and Lynn Strong who decorated the float.
- Becca Kurta who graciously drove the float in the parade.
- Those who participated by walking or riding in the float were: Joann Bellmard, Jerry & Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Lin Millar, Mary Posuniak, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Peg White.
- Judith Coebly and Gary Reutter for driving their Model T car with decorations of suffrage signs and participating in the parade with passengers Marieanna Bair and Norma Pless.
- Doug and Linda Hartman for donating a ledger from an unknown Brighton blacksmith business from 1878/79/80.
- Members of the Old Village Cemetery Headstone Preservation Team on making and setting concrete forms for new sub bases at the June workday: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Dave Fuller, Bob Knight, Jack Longberry, Ernie Nagy, Bob Pettengill, Dave Pettigrove, John Rawcliffe, Dave Rebiger, Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.

Dates to Remember

August 1—August 23; CoBACH Center: FREE—Centennial of Women's Suffrage in Michigan

September; CoBACH Center: Centennial of Brighton Gardens Subdivision.

August 1,8,15,22,29; 9am—11:59am: Every Thursday morning during the year you can visit with archivists and tour the 1885 refurbished (barrier-free) Schoolhouse. Bring an old family photo and share.

August 18; 3pm: CoBACH Center — FREE

"Equal Rights Amendment" Celebration; Presentation by Dr. Caitlyn Perry-Dial.

August 23; 5—8pm: Last day for Petticoat Patriot Exhibit at CoBACH.

August 26; 9am—2:30pm: OVC Headstone Team workday. Additional 2019 dates: Sept. 23, Oct 28.

August 28; 6pm: BAHS Board Meeting at CoBACH Center.

August 30—September 2: CoBACH CLOSED for Labor Day Holiday.

September 29; 1pm CoBACH Center: FREE Presentation on Camp Dibrova located on Maltby Road by Mira Stefaniuk. Learn about the quiet campgrounds under the canopy of oak trees that has been a summer retreat for many metro area families of Ukrainian descent for over 60 years.

October 24; 6—9pm: Cluster meeting of Historical and Genealogical Societies and Libraries at Hartland's Cromaie Library. Presentation by Glen Fisher on using new technologies at the libraries.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Marieanna Bair — Shirley Barton — Charles & Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (N.J.) — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan Jerry & Carole Damon — Joan Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Carol McMacken Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) — John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute

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

Advance Craft Builders (2019) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Real Estate Team (2019) — Clark Eye Center (2019) Concord Mortgage (2018) — Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2019) — Golfview Painting (2019) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** Lawrence Autobody ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — MI Backyard (2018) — Neighbors Magazine (2019) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** Precision Vinyl Group (2018) — Power House Electric, Inc. (2019) — Preview Properties (2019) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2019) — Weld Mold Company (2019)

2019 Sponsorships

Platinum Level: City of Brighton, Val & Kathy Jacoby

Bronze Level: Carolina DeLuca, Frank & Jo (DeLuca) Del Vero, Bob Hill

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: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () _____
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Membership Plan:	Additional Donation to—Check One:	Amount of Donation:			
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	<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"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.

BAHS Sponsorship Program

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tails 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 2019

President Jim Vichich	Directors Joe Collins
Vice President Marieanna Bair	Nancy Fredenburg
Secretary Carole Damon	Mindy Kinsey
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	John Rawcliffe
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	Thomas Reinke
	Lynn Strong
	Peggy Van Sickle
	Education Liaison Judith Coebly

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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Brighton Gardens — A Community within a Community — Part 1
Submitted by: Suzanne (Campbell) Conerway

In 1919 my godfather, realtor Birney Walker Smith, had a dream of finding land in the country, not far from Detroit where African-Americans could leave the city and enjoy the old-fashioned country fun of picnicking, swimming, dancing and just enjoying a peaceful environment. Birney Smith was what we would call today, a **visionary!** He founded what is known today as Brighton Gardens, located west of Old US 23 and north of Spencer Road. Next year Brighton Gardens will celebrate not only 100 years as a part of the Brighton community, but we will also celebrate “Uncle Birney” as I call him.

Driving west was not easy in 1919 in his Model T, since there weren’t any expressways. The drive averaged over an hour on gravel and dirt. When Uncle Birney turned off Old Grand River, onto Pleasant Valley Road and then to Spencer Road, he came upon the eighty-acre Gould farm. A part of the property was on Spencer Road, and led to a beautiful field filled with many trees, small hills and what is now known as Lyons Lake. It was a perfect place for Uncle Birney’s dream, a place he would call his “Promise Land!”

Birney Smith did not encounter resistance from the local residents and was welcomed as he started to make changes to the eighty acres. The old cow trails would become gravel roads off US 23 leading to the pavilion where those who came from Detroit would gather. The lake would host boat rides, swimming and fishing. Some of the families that welcomed Uncle Birney and his plans included the George Ratz family, the Leith family and the Hynes, the Pitkins, the Bidwells, the Rolison and Folands, all families that are a part of Brighton’s proud history.

Mr. Ratz was the township clerk, and he helped Uncle Birney in the planning of the subdivision. Soon, many of the families that enjoyed Brighton Gardens began to buy property in the 1920’s, among them my dad, Charles Campbell. These homes become their summer homes.

In 1940, Uncle Birney’s son Carter Smith would purchase his home on the Spencer Road property and move his wife Billye and their children Ruth Ellen and Brian to Brighton to become year-round residents. Carter’s sister, Ina Jane would live with them, and in 1943, she became Brighton High School’s first African American graduate. In 1944, I became the first and only African American born in Brighton’s Mellus Hospital, and my parents decided to turn their summer home into a year-round home. About five other couples, averaging age of fifty, would follow in the late ‘40s and thus, Brighton became an integrated community.

St. Paul’s minister, Rev. Ross Wellwood visited the Gardens in 1947 and invited all families to church. In those days, St. Paul’s was the only church that invited African Americans. Eventually we would all join St. Paul’s, even those who were Baptist!

To be continued...