



**Collin Faeth and his project**

### **Thank You Eagle Scouts of Troop 347!**

The Brighton Area Historical Society is very grateful to the young men, parents and scout leaders of Troop 347. Over the past three years there have been three Boy Scouts whose Eagle Scout Projects have focused on the improvement of the 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse and grounds.

An Eagle Scout is the highest rank a person can receive as a Boy Scout. To earn this rank, the scout must complete an additional (13) merit badges and complete a service project that requires the scout to create or restore something significant in the community before their 18th birthday. An average of 4% of scouts attain this rigorous rank.

Over the past few issues of the Trail Tales newsletter, there have been two front page photos showing scouts Ryan Eaton and Eddie Haggerty and their wonderful and most appreciated projects at the Lyon Schoolhouse. Ryan and Eddie completed their Eagle Scout requirements upon completion of these projects.

The third project to showcase reveals the work of scout Collin Faeth. Collin designed and installed the white wooden security fence that screens the two condenser units of the air conditioning system located behind the school. The attractive appearance of the gated enclosure enhanced the aesthetics of the building's exterior while sheltering these valuable assets from damage.

I must also specifically thank the parents for providing this avenue to success for these boys! It is apparent that these well balanced scouts will be future leaders within their communities.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276  
BAHS President  
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com

The Brighton Area Historical Society extends its sympathy to the family of

### **Hank Winegar**

Hank was a long-time member of the society and a regular volunteer for many of our activities. He will be missed by all.

### **NEW CoBACH Hours**

Friday 5—8pm  
Saturday 11am—2pm  
Sunday 2—5pm

Closed all other times

### **Current Display Through Mid-November “Petticoat Patriots”**

### **Archiving at Lyon School on Buno Road is CLOSED**

**Check our Facebook  
Page for the Opening of  
Lyon School.**

### **CHECK OUT FACEBOOK**

Frequent postings regard-  
ing Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical  
Society**

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

DATES TO REMEMBER	<b>2</b>
THANKS AND RECOGNITION	<b>2</b>
SPONSORSHIP FORM	<b>3</b>
BAHS LEADERSHIP	<b>3</b>
CONTACT BAHS	<b>3</b>
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE	<b>4</b>

---

## Thanks and Recognition

**MEMBERSHIPS:** (Are for year 2021 unless otherwise noted.)

**IND/FAMILY:** Elaine Blight, Jeanette Johnson, Richard & Kathleen McKinnie, Rosemarie Oldford, Spencer Schubbe/Evelyn Malloy\*, Barbara Smith, Ed Vitez, Susan Weyburn\*

**PATRON:** Margaret Bowland

**\*Welcome New Members:** Spencer Schubbe/Evelyn Malloy, Susan Weyburn

**Renewing and new memberships keep the Society vital.** Our Membership Drive begins this month. Please see the insert.

### THANKS:

- Brighton Masonic Lodge, #247, City of Brighton and Dan & Anna Oginsky for their 2020 Platinum sponsorship.
- Bob & Betsy Herbst for their donation to the Lyon School in honor of Jim Vichich who helped reset the cemetery headstone of Earle A. Crawford who was Betsy's father and is buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery.
- Steve & Kate Lowry for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- Carole & Jerry Damon for their donation to CoBACH Events.
- Jeanette Johnson for her donation to Friend of Lyon School along with her dues.
- Margaret Bowland and Richard & Kathleen McKinnie for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Tom Reinke and Lynn Strong for their volunteer work at the Brighton Farmers Market.
- Mary Lou and Laurie Winegar for the farm and grainery artifacts donated to the society.
- Joe Collins, Carole Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich for their work at Lyon School, organizing historical items prior to storing them in the new storage shed, located behind the school.
- Jerry & Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the October Trail Tales.
- Dan Oginsky for providing a tour of the nearly completed, greatly expanded and repurposed home at 142 Brighton Lake Road to the Board of Directors.

---

## Dates to Remember

**CoBACH Operations / CoBACH Center:** Has reopened since its mid-March COVID-19 closure. Centennial of Women's Suffrage is being celebrated. Exhibit is called "Petticoat Patriots" and runs until mid-November. Current Hours: Friday 5—8pm; Saturday 11am—2pm; Sunday 2pm—5pm.

**Lyon Schoolhouse:** Lyon School has been closed for archival work during March—October. Follow the BAHS Facebook page for updated opening information.

**Veterans' Day** celebration in Brighton is Saturday, November 7. Regretfully, there will be no programming from the BAHS that day. Veterans' Day Parade on Main Street is cancelled. The Old

Village Cemetery, conveniently located on the millpond behind the AMP and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, is always open during the day to visit the (47) veteran gravesites.

**BAHS Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, November 15, 1pm at Lyon School.** Business meeting and election of 2021 officers and board of directors. Pot luck is cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Properly worn face mask and social distancing are required to attend.

**Christmas Program** with Santa at Lyon School scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2020 has regretfully been cancelled due to COVID-19.

---

## 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 — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Timothy & Giannine Corrigan Jerry & Carole Damon — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Nancy Fredenburg — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris Betsy & Bob Herbst — Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) — 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) — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — 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 (2020) — Archer Huntley Financial Services \*\* — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor\*\* — Brighton District Library \*\* Brighton Lions Club (2020) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.\*\* — Buckley-Jolley Group \*\* — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2020) Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2020) — Golfview Painting (2020) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.\*\* — Lindhout Associates\*\* — Lawrence Auto Body \*\* Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 \*\* — Neighbors Magazine (2020) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC \*\* Power House Electric, Inc. (2020) — Preview Properties (2020) — Promess, Inc.\*\* — Refrigeration Research \*\* — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2020) Weld Mold Company (2019)

### 2020 Sponsorships

**Platinum Level:** Brighton Masonic Lodge #247, City of Brighton, Dan & Anna Oginsky

**Bronze Level:** Carolina DeLuca, Frank & Josephine Del Vero, Bob Hill, Neighbors Magazine/M. Lenninger

## 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.

<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>Additional Donation to—Check One:</b>		<b>Amount of Donation:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund	<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"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Life				

The 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](mailto:jvichich@comcast.net)

### BAHS Leadership 2020

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

### 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](mailto: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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #303  
Brighton, MI

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**In Honor of Veterans’ Day**

During WWI while our boys were serving in the armed forces, the Brighton Argus would publish “letters home” from the service men. The following was taken from the Brighton Argus on July 17, 1918:

**“Peter Leitz, Jr. writes of remarkable experience in Front Line Trenches.”**

*“Somewhere in France, May 30, 1918:*

*My Dear Parents:*

*I wrote you a letter a little while ago and as it had a little too much news in it, it was returned to me so I will write you another one and see if it will pass.*

*How are all the folks at home? I am as well as can be expected; have just come out of the hospital. I was there for a few days getting over the effects of shell shock. You see we had a little excitement in our trench one day—we started to bombard the Huns at 11p.m. and it lasted until 6:30 a.m. We sure gave them hell; they also sent some back to us. A shell landed in our trench and killed a fellow who was standing next to me, also a lieutenant, sergeant and three other privates, wounding a number of others but I was in luck then and did not get a scratch. Our trench was partly destroyed and my lieutenant gave me a message to deliver a little ways back, when a 6-inch shell landed near me and exploded. The only thing that saved me was because it was so near to me that the force of the explosion threw me into the air. I bet I turned over a half a dozen times before I fell; that’s how I got my trip to the hospital. After I get my eats I will be on duty guarding an ammunition depot.*

*There sure are some dandy fellows in my company, and we all have got lots of nerve because that’s what you need here.*

*I started to write this letter on my gas mask but one of the boys just finished writing so I got the little box that he was using as a desk. I have been in a few gas attacks and if there is anything more like hell on earth I would like to know what it is, but it did not get any of us. I wish you could of seen me a few minutes ago, you would of laughed yourself sick. I was “reading my shirt.” You no doubt do not understand*

*what I mean; well I will tell you. I have a few pets and they stay on my shirt next to my body. We call them “cooties;” it is hard to keep them off of your body even if we bathe and change our clothes often as they are in the billets and dug-outs. We use some powder that keeps them off but when you run out of it you get cooties instead.*

*I am sending you a little paper called the “Wild Rose;” it is the Mother’s Day edition; it is printed by our chaplain.*

*I have received only one letter from you and that one was forwarded from New Jersey. I tell you a letter from home helps a fellow a lot over here as we have lots to think of but our minds go back home most of the time. Tell all the kids to write. Don’t worry about me as that won’t help a bit. Hope you are all in the best of health as it leaves me. Will close now with love.*

*From your son,  
Pvt. Peter J. Leitz  
Co. M. 168 Inf.,  
American Ex. Forces”*

Peter was part of the “Rainbow Division” and saw much action in the trenches in France. In service for approximately 1-1/2 years, he returned home in April 1919, after being “gassed” and in the hospital for 10 weeks and near death for some time. The gas had wrought havoc with his heart and lungs.

Peter went on and married and began a wonderful life here in Brighton and raised a great family. One of whom is our own Norma Jean Leitz Pless.

The above was submitted by Mindy Kinsey.

In reviewing this story with Norm Jean Leitz Pless, she gave us the following update regarding her father. “He was a hero to me, not just for serving his country but devoting his life to do for others and give back to his community all his life. He was finally acknowledged by his country by receiving a Purple Heart in the early 1940s.”