

Welcome 2021

The Excitement Grows!

The board of the Brighton Area Historical Society is excited for summer! We are looking forward to sharing new stories of Brighton's past history.

Your support through memberships and donations allows the board of directors to plan new exhibits for the CoBACH Center. Exhibits focus on people and businesses in Brighton's past. New important headstone restoration is being planned for the Old Village Cemetery. The preservation work focuses on rebuilding headstones of Brighton's earliest settlers including those that served in the Civil War. The flagship building of the historical society is the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse. Extensive maintenance was completed in the past summer with significant improvements being made to the grounds and building appearance. We anxiously await the sounds of visiting children and their teachers to the schoolhouse.

Thank you to the many dedicated supporters of the society! Your generosity shows that you value the many stories of our past and that you encourage the sharing of our valued history. Please contact me if you have questions or have time to volunteer this year.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276
BAHS President
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com

January Continues Our 2021 Membership Drive.

Your support through memberships and donations are vital for programming and operating our two historic buildings, the 1879 CoBACH Center (aka Old Town Hall) and the 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse. Examine the membership form on Page 3 and find a membership category that works for your family.

You will also find on the membership renewal insert that we are offering a Friends and Family Membership Recruitment Program. Check it out and pass it on to someone you would like to see become a member of the BAHS.

CoBACH CLOSED

Due to increased COVID numbers, CoBACH is closed until further notice. Check our Facebook Page for Reopening.

Archiving at Lyon School on Buno Road is CLOSED

Check our Facebook Page for the Opening of Lyon School.

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Frequent postings regarding Brighton History.

Brighton Area Historical Society

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: (Reflect dues paid for year 2021 unless otherwise noted.)

IND/FAMILY: Sally Baldwin, Joanne Bellmard, Caren Biermann, Howard & Syndy Bisoski (2022), Richard & Barbara Briggs, Sharron Cantarini*, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter, Denise Daddino, Patrick Darga*, Jim DeJohn, Frank & Jo Del Vero, Joanne Harte, Lynnette Hawkins (2022), John Kluck*, Susan Lanning, John & Ruth LePatourel, Nora Miller, Ralph Miller, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Bob & Cathy Padget, Judy Parsons, Stephanie Popoff, Ray & Linda Potter, John Rawcliffe, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, Scott Selesky, Patrick Smith, Philip & Jeanne Smith, Richard & Letitia Smith, Joyce Terry, Jane Tomlinson, Bob & Jenny Triffo, Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt, Richard & Lucille Weaire (2022), Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Sue Zimmermann

PATRON: Don Boyer, Carolina DeLuca, Nicholas & Oksana Deychakiwsky, Caitlyn Perry Dial, Mindy & Tom Kinsey, Bob & Shirley Knight, Margo Metzger, Brenda Ochodnicki, Roland & Jane Owens, Kathy Pearson, Lois Tobias, Mike Wilczynski, Mary Lou Winegar

LIFE: Alice Wyland

BUS/PROF: Golfview Painting Co., Power House Electric, Preview Properties.

***Welcome New Members:** Sharron Cantarini, Patrick Darga, John Kluck

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

THANKS:

- Ruth Kreinbring Connelly for the photos of the Hollister Schoolhouse in Green Oak Township.
- Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for taking down the display at CoBACH and setting up the holiday display.
- Jerry & Carole Damon, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich for preparing and mailing the December Trail Tales.
- Charles & Marcy Joy, Jason Kennedy, and Kelli Schaberg for their donations

to Lyon School in memory of Doris Case Singer.

- Joanne Bellmard, Howard & Syndy Bisoski, Jim DeJohn, Ray & Linda Potter for their donations to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- John & Jenny Conely and Shannon & Seth Lemke for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund.
- John & Jenny Conely for their donation to Old Village Cemetery for restoration work done on a family headstone.
- Carolina DeLuca, Frank & Jo Del Vero, Mindy & Tom Kinsey, Judy Parsons for their donations to CoBACH Events along with their dues.
- John Rawcliffe, Patrick Smith, Mary Lou Winegar for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Judith Coebly & Gary Reutter for their donations to Friend of Lyon School and Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Kathy Pearson for her donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Jane Tomlinson for her donation to Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Caren Biermann, Bob & Shirley Knight, Margo Metzger, Mike Wilczynski, Alice Wyland for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship fund along with their dues.
- Roland & Jane Owens for their donation to the Society along with their dues.
- Richard & Letitia Smith for their donation to CoBACH Events and the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- David & Judith Bair for their donation to the Society in honor of Marieanna Bair.
- Jerry Damon for the purchase of memberships for Sharron Cantarini, Patrick Darga, and John Kluck.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH Operations: The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History Center has been forced to close again due to the large increase of Covid spread for the holiday season. Check our Facebook page for reopening information.

Lyon Schoolhouse: Lyon School has been closed for archival work during Christmas holiday season due to the pandemic. Follow the BAHS Facebook page for updated opening information..

BAHS Annual Membership & Elections Meeting: Since the November Annual Membership and Elections Meeting was cancelled, the [new planned meeting with elections will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021](#). The anticipated site is not determined at this time.

This is also the first board meeting of the year, since the January board meeting was cancelled due to health concerns. Face masks and social distancing are required for the safety of all.

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 — Randy & Linda Veno Needham — 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 (2021) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body **
Make Believe Manor, LLC (2020) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Michigan Consulting & Environmental (2021) — Neighbors Magazine (2020)
Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2021) — Preview Properties (2021) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research **
Tee-Bone's Tavern (2020)

2021 Sponsorships

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: _____	
		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
		E-Mail: _____	

Membership Plan:		Additional Donation to—Check One:		Amount of Donation:	
<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

BAHS Leadership 2020

President Jim Vichich	Directors Marieanna Bair—Emeritus Joe Collins John Rawcliffe Thomas Reinke Lynn Strong Peggy Van Sickle
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg — Interim	
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	Education Liaison Judith Coebly
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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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“Brighton’s Pitkin Family”

Brighton was founded in 1832 by Maynard Maltby. It was incorporated into a village March 25, 1867.

The first cemetery in Brighton known as the “Old Village Cemetery” was plotted in 1853 and recorded at the County Register of Deeds.

In 1868, the third schoolhouse in Brighton was constructed of brick and familiarly known as the “Old Union School.” It was built at a cost just over \$10,000. St. Patrick’s Church now owns that property located on the site of their former elementary school.

The population of Brighton in 1870 numbered 454. Prior to 1870, the west side of the village was entirely farmland, but in that year and 1871, the Smith McPherson plot was completed and ready for the boom, which was expected with the entry of the long awaited new railroad. With the completion of the railroad, the first train out of Brighton was July 4, 1871. Residents of the village received a free ride to Plymouth and back on that day. The first train was a strictly air conditioned one consisting of a string of flat cars with plank benches for seats.

In 1875, my great grandfather, David Pitkin purchased lots in the newly opened Smith McPherson plot and built six homes, one being his own family home located on the south east corner of Fourth and Main Streets. That home still stands at 725 W. Main Street.

The population of Brighton in 1880 was 803.

David and Lucy Pitkin had four sons and two daughters. Son George owned a drug store in the village. William owned a livery stable, and later Pitkin Garage. Ernest Pitkin owned the Pitkin Furniture Store, and the funeral business until his death in 1921. The business was later sold to Emil Keehn.

David Pitkin and members of his family are buried in St. Patrick Cemetery. It was once divided into two sections. One side for

Catholics, the other side for Protestants.

In May of 1896, the village purchased and plotted what is now the beautiful Fairview Cemetery located on Flint Road.

(The above information was taken from the book, “A Victory Homecoming” dated 1946. This story was submitted by Janice (Pitkin) Beach who is a Charter member and first membership chairman of the Brighton Area Historical Society. We thank Janice for submitting this story.)



Pitkin Family Photo, Year taken not known. Top Row, L-R: William, Clarence, Ernest. Middle Row, L-R: George, David (Father), Lucy (LaRue) Mother. Bottom Row, L-R: Sarah Ann, Genevive

TO OUR READERS:

If you or your family have been residents of Brighton for a long time, we would like you to consider submitting a story for publication on Page 4 of our newsletter. Please send your story to BAHS, P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116. Thank you.