

Good Friends At The Country School!

Some of our readers attended the country one-room schoolhouse as children. They all shared the invigorating march on those cold snowy days or those hot days that bordered the months of summer recess. These schools were K-8 so many kids were forced to be in the same room with their siblings in addition to enduring the walk to and from school with them. Since the schools taught children that lived within a mile radius, many became friends with kids that lived on adjacent farms.

The Lyon One-Room School on Buno Road in Brighton Township is the setting for two girls who met in about 1936-37 and started their friendship which would last a lifetime. Both of these girls had an older brother that made the long trek with them. Their families lived in opposite directions from the school. The Armstrong's lived on Buno at Pleasant Valley Road and the Leitz home was on Buno Road about a quarter mile west of Van Amburg Road.

Through the years they played baseball together with neighborhood boys and fished in the nearby streams. Their friendship grew as they spent much time together while attending Lyon School. Both attended high school in Brighton and graduated in 1950. When you see them today, you are reminded that they could be sisters because they are so comfortable with each other. It is hard to imagine having a life-long friend of about 85 years! Congratulations to Norma Jean Leitz Pless and to Bonnie Armstrong Corrigan. Both are wonderful women and community leaders with a friendly sense of humor. They are active members of the Brighton Area Historical Society and I am proud to call them friends.

Jim Vichich — 810.250.7276
 BAHS President
 jvichich@comcast.net

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

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Thanks and Recognition

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

IND/FAMILY: George Allen, Joe & Tena Anderson, Mary Ann Catrell, Gerald & Ann Dilloway, Mike & Helen Ewing, Phil Gage, Pamela Hicks, Jim Lauridsen, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Margaret Mitschelen, Frank & Monica Ninteman, Edwin & Sherry Nyhus, Vivian Reichwald, Sheryl Vigmostad, Paul Weber

PATRON: Joe Bruhn*, James Franklin, Karen Goss, Margaret Siford.

LIFE: Tony & Beth Ferreyra

BUS/PROF: Neighbors Magazine

***Welcome New Member:** Joe Bruhn

Renewing and new memberships keep the Society vital. Please see the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues.

THANKS:

- All new and existing members that have paid dues for 2021. Your pride in preserving the history of Brighton through annual memberships and donations show that you value our local history and appreciate the efforts of the BAHS to share and preserve that history.
- Pleasant Valley Social Club for their donations in memory of Clark Millar and Samuel Marrole.

- Joe Bruhn for his donation to Friend of Lyon School along with his dues.
- Karen Goss for her donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Mary Ann Catrell, Jim Lauridsen and Sheryl Vigmostad for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Nick Defenthaler and Margaret Mitschelen for their donations to the Society.
- Joe and Tena Anderson for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Jerry & Carole Damon and Jim Vichich for the preparation and mailing of the February newsletter.

Thank You to the businesses and organizations listed below who have been members of BAHS for many years. We appreciate your continued support.

If you would like a written receipt for a donation you made to the Society in 2020, please let us know.
Contact: Jerry Damon, Treasurer, 248-345-4080.

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. We anticipate a reopening in early summer.

Lyon Schoolhouse: Lyon School is closed for archive work due to the pandemic spread. Follow the BAHS Facebook page for updated opening information.

Spring & Summer programming dates are being set in anticipation of the successful upcoming Covid Vaccination Program. Please set your calendars for these tentative dates.

May 1, Saturday, 9am—12nn: Old Village Cemetery Spring Clean-up.

May 31, Monday, 11am—12:15pm, Downtown Brighton Memorial Day Program at the Veterans' Memorial at the Millpond and Old Village Cemetery.

June—October Headstone Restoration Days at Old Village Cemetery always on the 4th Monday of the month from 9am—2pm. June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25.

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 — Tony & Beth Ferreyra — 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 Venio 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 — Alice Wyland

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

Advance Craft Builders (2021) — 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 (2021)
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: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-Mail: _____	Phone: () _____
Membership Plan: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	Additional Donation to—Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School <input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events <input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	Amount of Donation: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
<small>The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization . All donations are tax deductible.</small>		

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 2021

President Jim Vichich	Directors Marieanna Bair—Emeritus Joe Collins John Rawcliffe Thomas Reinke Lynn Strong Peggy Van Sickle
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Education Liaison Judith Coebly
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	
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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“Dr. J. D. Singer — 1858—1943”

Jacob Daniel Singer was born near Portsmouth, Ohio in April 1858. The family moved to Freeport, Pennsylvania where he received his initial education.

At age 13 he took a job in an iron foundry; at age 17 he apprenticed as a stone cutter. When he was 21, he enrolled in a 3-year program at Baxter Academy of Music in New York. Music became a passionate hobby which followed him throughout his life.

He moved to North Dakota to teach music; while there he became very ill (with typhoid fever, it is believed) and nearly died. As a result of that illness and the friendship he developed with a doctor there, he decided to go to medical school. He studied one year at Hahnemann College then entered the School of Medicine at Pittsburgh, graduating in 1896. Post-graduate work was done in New York City, Massachusetts General Hospital and the Detroit School of Medicine.

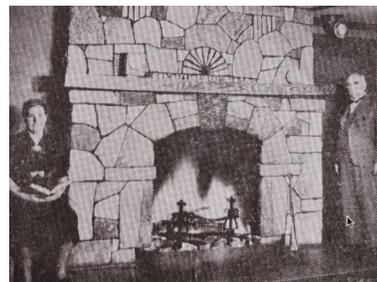
While in medical school, he worked as a stone cutter to support his growing family and pay for his tuition. His first practice was in Wyandotte, Michigan. After practicing for 13 years there, in 1909, he moved his family (wife Carrie, daughter Fedora, and sons David and G. Eric) to Brighton where he built his own home (which included a stunning hand-cut stone fireplace) near the southeast bank of what is now known as Warden Lake, and served the Brighton community with his medical practice for 33 years.

Dr. Singer had an office on Main Street, a small wooden building just East of what is now The Pound. This building later became son G. Eric’s original printing shop: The Singer Press. Not all of his patients came to his downtown office; he also performed house calls and secretly carried a small derringer in his medical bag “just in case.” Some patients were able to pay cash for his services; sometimes he would come home with bartered items such as chickens.

In addition to practicing medicine, Dr. Singer wrote music and organized and sponsored a number of musical groups in Brighton, one of which was “The Brighton Singers” who performed throughout the area. He enjoyed farming and the land around his home, tending a vegetable garden and a fruit orchard.

In the summer, he would go to the boys and girls camps at Whitmore Lake and give the children physicals. Dr. Singer passed away in 1943 and was interred in Fairview Cemetery. At 85 years old, he left a well-respected legacy throughout the Brighton community.

(Dr. J. D. Singer was my maternal great grandfather. This story was compiled from information shared in an on-line national ancestry site and from 2 old newspaper articles published in the Brighton Argus: one celebrating his 80th birthday party, the other was his obituary. Submitted by: Kathy Lueker Pearson)



Hand hewn stone fireplace laid by Dr. Singer



Dr. J. D. Singer, Farming



G. Eric Singer & Dr. J. D. Singer