



Old Village Cemetery Restoration Work 2022

The restoration work will start once again this summer at the end of June. This is the 9th year for headstone restoration in what was estimated to be a 10-year process. The number of broken headstones that have been put back together and are standing tall once again is 162. Headstone restoration ranged from stones broken in half to one broken in 13 pieces.

Broken pieces are joined together with a special epoxy for stone. These repaired joints bonded with epoxy in prior years will be the focus of restoration work this summer and in 2023. Workers will use Dremel grinders with diamond bits to prepare those epoxy joints for the final round of special mortar. The mortar work when completed should give the headstones an almost original appearance.

The trained team members from the first year in 2012 has grown from 8 to about 24. Typically 12-16 retired volunteers show up for each workday once per month during the summer. We have lost 2 original volunteers to 'Father Time,' namely Don Thomas and Larry Lawrence. These men contributed great work ethic and performed quality work and their presence with the restoration team is missed. The team has donated 2929 hours in the restoration of headstones since 2012.

Stop by the Old Village Cemetery, next to the Millpond, and visit Brighton's Outdoor Museum of History. You will find the founding families of the community and 45 Civil War and 2 WWII Veterans. This is Brighton's oldest cemetery where the first burial was in 1838.

Jim Vichich, President
810.250.7276
Info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com

Current CoBACH

Exhibit:
Mills of
Brighton Area

CoBACH HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11—5pm
Sunday 2—5pm
Closed Monday

Archiving at Lyon School
on Buno Road
Every Thursday
9 to 12nn

See Page 2 for
Additional details

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Frequent postings regard-
ing Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
Society**

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Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: (Reflect dues paid for year 2022 unless otherwise noted.)

IND/FAMILY: Marcia Guetschow*, Tim Hurst, Vivian Reichwald (2023), Bill & Gigi Vaillencourt

BUS/PROF: Clark/Tait Eye Center

Welcome to new member*: Marcia Guetschow

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES.

Please see the form on Page 3 if you would like to join, or renew your dues. Through your dues and donations we are able to continue the work of preserving Brighton's history.

THANKS:

- City of Brighton for their donation to the Old Village Restoration Project.
- Rita Hansen, Mindy Kinsey, Mary Posuniak, Mavis Shanks and Lynn Strong for taking down the quilt display at CoBACH.
- Carole Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for setting up the current Mills of Brighton display at CoBACH.
- To all who attended the Membership Dinner and for their donations to the Society. Your support allows us to continue our work at Lyon School, Old Village Cemetery and CoBACH. Thank you again!
- Judith Coebly and Vicki Vichich for preparing and repairing donated jewelry over the last year and John Rawcliffe for fixing broken watches for the Vintage Jewelry Sale.
- Judith Coebly, Jerry & Carole Damon, Tony Ferreyra, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, John Rawcliffe, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle, Vicki, Jim & Sara Vichich and Sue Zimmermann for setup/takedown and volunteering during the successful Vintage Jewelry Sale Fundraiser.
- CoBACH volunteers for May: Joe Collins, Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong, Peggy Van Sickle and Jim Vichich.
- Weekly volunteers that help in the archive room organizing and storing historic records of Brighton: Joe Collins, Jerry Damon, Mindy Kinsey, Norma Pless, Lynn Strong and Jim Vichich.
- Paul and son Ryan Sawallich of Power House Electric for the nice and neat work in updating the lighting with LEDs and increasing the number of outlets in the archive room.
- Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund Team for meeting to assess 2022 scholarships and enhancements to the program for 2023. The team consists of Jerry Damon, Nancy Fredenburg, Kate & Mike Lawrence and Lynn Strong. Thanks to Jerry for meeting with school officials regarding the program.
- Jim Miller for his CoBACH PowerPoint presentation and great discussion on the Mills of Livingston County. Michael Berendt for detailing his year-long work of making the awesome scale model of both the interior and exterior of the 1838 downtown Brighton Mill. Michael also shared the needed topographical changes for the mill and its necessary dam to store water for its operation.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH: Days and hours of operation:

Tuesday—Friday 5—8 pm, Saturday 11—5 pm and Sunday 2—5pm.
Closed Monday.

CURRENT EXHIBIT: May—June: Mills of Brighton Area

FUTURE EXHIBITS: July—Mid-September: Recreational Camps of the Area

Special FREE Presentation

Saturday, June 4 at 2pm: Grain and Saw Mills of the Brighton Area presented by Charlene Kull.

Lyon School Archiving June 2,9,16,23,30; Thursdays: Archiving work from 9—11:59am.

June 19; Sunday, 1—4pm: Marieanna Bair's Celebration of Life at the 1885 Lyon Schoolhouse Grounds. Friends and family invited.

June 22; Wednesday, 6—7:30pm: BAHS Board Meeting.

Note: The July 27th BAHS Board Meeting will be held at Brighton Lighthouse, 142 Brighton Lake Road beginning at 6PM.

June 27; Monday, 9—2:30pm: OVC Headstone Restoration Day and Silhouette Installation. Additional restoration days: July 25, Aug 22, Sept 26 and Oct 24.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (Allen) — Shirley Barton — 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) — Kathy Jacoby (FL) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX)
Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Venio Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH)
John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Kathy Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Joyce Powers
Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigette Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Carole Scott
Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich — Linda (Skeman) Wintermute — Al & Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Advance Craft Builders (2022) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton District Library **
Brighton Lions Club (2021) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2022)
Davis Multimedia, Inc. (2021) — Golfview Painting (2022) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body **
Livingston County Convention Visitors Bureau (2021) — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Michigan Consulting & Environmental (2021)
Neighbors Magazine (2022) — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2022) — Preview Properties (2022) — Promess, Inc.**
Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Honda Brighton (2022) — Tee-Bone's Tavern (2022)

2022 Sponsorships

Bronze: Carolina DeLuca

Silver: Frank & Josephine 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: _____	
		City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
		E-Mail: _____	

Membership Plan:		Additional Donation to—Check One:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund	Amount of Donation:
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Lyon School	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> BAHS CoBACH Events	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Business/Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Village Cemetery Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life		

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 2022

President Jim Vichich	Directors Joe Collins
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial
Secretary Mindy Kinsey	John Rawcliffe
Treasurer & Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon	Thomas Reinke
Webmaster Debbie Armstrong	Lynn Strong
	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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



G. (George) Eric Singer

G. (George) Eric Singer was born in Freeport, Pennsylvania on October 29, 1893, the youngest of three children, to Dr. J.D. and Carrie Singer. The family moved to Wyandotte, MI for the doctor's practice, then settled in Brighton in 1909. Their first home was at 210 E. Main St., which is now the McGivney law offices (Mike McGivney says the original log walls of that home still stand behind the current siding fascia). The doctor had an office between approximately 111 and 139 W. Main St. (just East of today's The Pound eatery).

Eric attended Brighton High School and had a keen interest in art and music. He earned pocket money making pillow tops and felt pennants, for which he cut out the letters. He worked for a time for The Brighton Argus, then founded The Singer Press in 1914 with a small hand-fed tabletop press and wood type he personally carved from "furniture" he likely obtained from The Argus ("furniture" refers to pieces of wood used to tighten the blocks of type in their case). He eventually obtained some used foundry type, also possible from The Argus. When his father's office moved to Fourth St., Eric set up his printing business in the old doctor's office.

He married in 1915, lost two infants, then his wife in 1921. He enlisted in the army in 1917, but was given a medical discharge due to poor hearing; this physical difficulty as well as emphysema plagued him all of his life. In 1919, Eric and a small group of other young men banded together to form a local chapter of the American Legion. By the 1940s, they wanted to raise funds to construct a building for their meetings. Eric hand cut small maple wood blocks, set up his press, and ran the blocks through twice for a 2-color finished product. Each block sold equaled one building block; eventually the Jesse B. Cooley Post No. 235 Memorial Building was erected. He remained an active lifelong member. He served on the volunteer fire department in 1919-1920.

Eric remarried in 1922, to Elva Anderson; they had 5 children. Eric sang in the musical group that his father founded, The Brighton Singers. He never learned to read music, but could play the piano and organ "by ear." All 5 of his children participated in the Brighton High School band.

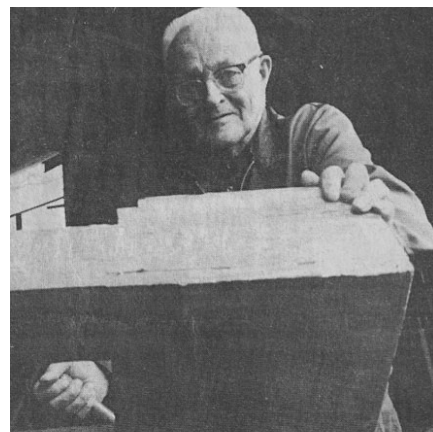
In (about) 1930, he was elected Justice of the Peace in Brighton. Without college education or a law degree, he nonetheless became a very trusted figure as a fair Justice of the Peace, earning the honorary title of Judge Singer. His first office was in the old City Hall (now the COBACH building at 202 W. Main Street). There were nights when he

would receive a knock on his home door: a young couple asking him to perform a marriage ceremony. He would invite them into his dining room, counsel them, and if they were determined to be married, he might wake one of his children to act as a witness. By the 1940s, his Justice of the Peace work was taking more and more of his time.

In 1948, daughter Priscilla (Pat) married Don Lueker, who took an interest in the printing trade; Eric taught him what he knew, and eventually Don took over the business. In 1953, Don built a new cement block building at 139 W. Main St. (currently the site of The Pound Eatery). The bulk of the building held the printing business, while Eric kept an office in the front quarter for his Justice of the Peace practice. Serving 34 years, he was one of the last active Justices of the Peace in Michigan. He actually won re-election by a landslide in 1966, but a new law passed by the Michigan Legislature limited the age of a Justice of the Peace not to exceed 71.

His artistic creativity never waned. He built Elva a wooden fishing boat, and disassembled more than one old piano, using the wood and other parts to construct unique pieces. He built hostess trays, custom furniture and crafted miniature sleds out of popsicle sticks as Christmas tree ornaments.

Eric passed away on April 8, 1983, and is buried in Fairview Cemetery.



(Thanks to Kathy Lueker Pearson for this story along with input from her cousin, Bob Singer.)