



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

As the calendar approaches the last month of 2023, several themes come to my mind. One is the feeling of gratitude for a wonderful year filled with many blessings of success. The many positive outcomes of the historical society are the result of the diligent work of our board of directors and the many members and lovers of Brighton history that support our initiatives. The society's many volunteers employ their talents within the bounds of the Millpond Park namely at the classic CoBACH Center, and the beautiful Old Village Cemetery. Another main venue of volunteerism that generates gratitude is found at our headquarters, the Lyon One-room Schoolhouse. Here dedicated volunteers employ organizational and computer skills every Thursday and beyond to update and preserve historical records of the Brighton area.

The other year-end theme is one of optimism. We look forward to developing new historical programming in 2024 and to enjoying the new vistas of the downtown Streetscape. Upgraded Main Street and Millpond Park will be busy with a flurry of visitors as the new, easy-to-transit walkways are enjoyed by the Christmas shoppers. The vitality of spring will be enjoyed by all as fresh growth of new landscape welcomes visitors and community members to our important asset, the beautiful Millpond.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Good Health in 2024!

Jim Vichich
BAHS President
info@BrightonAreaHistorical.com
810.250.7276

December is our second month of our membership drive for 2024. If you have not renewed your dues, please see the insert or use the membership donate button on our website (brightonareahistorical.com) to pay your dues via PayPal.

We would like to thank all those who have renewed their dues for 2024 or beyond and who have made a donation to the Society.

CoBACH Exhibit:

December
"A Santa Bear
Christmas"
CoBACH Hours

Tuesday—Friday 11—4pm
and 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—2pm
Sunday 2—5pm
Closed Monday

Closed December 23—
January 3 for Christmas

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

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 2024 unless otherwise noted)

IND/FAMILY: Joanne Bellmard, Bob Brantley, Richard Hyne, Bob & Shirley Knight, James Lauridsen, Jim Leith*, Brenda McCarty, Pamela McConeghy*, Larry & Edie Millen, Nora Miller, Ralph Ted Miller, Pat Mrozek, Mark Mullinax*, Denise Murray*, Tom Niemeyer, Gary Norfleet, Rose Marie Oldford, Robert & Cathy Padget, Paul & Cindy Sawallich, Wallyne Smail, Jim & Judy Tavarozzi, Sheryl Vigmostad, Mike & Sherri Wisser

PATRON: Ken & Kathy Anderer, Jacqueline Damm, Caitlyn Perry-Dial, Charlene & Dave Kull, Marsha Luetjen, Charles McConnell, Rich & Mary K. Ray, Dave & Karen Rebigier, Dave Schoewe, Diane Taeckens

BUS/PROF: Advance Craft Builders, Liberty Title Agency*

SPONSORSHIP: **GOLD:** Paul & Kathy Bair; **BRONZE:** Brighton Light House, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

Welcome to new members*: Jim Leith, Liberty Title Agency, Pamela McConeghy, Mark Mullinax, Denise Murray

2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES THIS MONTH. THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES. Please see the insert or 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:

- To our members who have renewed their dues for 2024 and beyond.

- Lake Trust Credit Union and Wallflower Mercantile for their 2023 Platinum Sponsorships.
- Paul & Kathy Bair for their 2024 Gold Sponsorship.
- Brighton Light House & Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter for their 2024 Bronze Sponsorships.
- Joanne Bellmard for her donation to Friend of Lyon School along with her dues.
- Stephen Davis/Advance Craft Builders, Jacqueline Damm, Larry & Edie Millen for their donations to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship fund along with their dues.
- Bob & Shirley Knight, Jim Leith, Marsha Luetjen, Dave Schoewe, Diane Taeckens for their donations to Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Judith Coebly/Gary Reuter, James Lauridsen, Brenda McCarty, Caitlyn Perry-Dial, Rich & Mary K. Ray, Tom & Bonnie Riutta, Paul & Cindy Sawallich for their donations to the Society along with their dues.
- Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey, Lynn Strong for setting up the current CoBACH display.
- Nancy Fredenburg for sharing her collection of Santa Bears currently displayed at CoBACH.
- Debbie Armstrong for her assistance in setting up PayPal on our website so dues and donations can be electronically paid.

Dates to Remember

CoBACH: **CURRENT EXHIBIT:** December: "A Santa Bear Christmas. Special Open Hours: Tues—Fri 11—4pm, and 5—8pm Sat 11—2pm; Sun 2—5pm. CLOSED EVERY MONDAY Closed for Christmas: December 23—January 3

December 3,6,10,13,17,20: Society volunteers at CoBACH Center.

December 7,14,21; Lyon School; 9—Noon: Historical archiving and school visitors welcome. Closed Dec 22-Jan 2 for Christmas.

December 10; 1—4pm at Lyon School: Christmas for kids with Santa and Mrs. Claus (FREE).

No December Board Meeting.

NOTE: CoBACH Winter Hours — January — March 2024

Thursday—Friday 5-8 pm

Saturday 11-5pm

Sunday 2-5pm

Monday—Wednesday—CLOSED

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (MI) — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Shirley Barton — Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (FL) — Steve Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — John & Jenny Conely — Edgar L Cord, Ph.D. — Bonnie Corrigan — Kelsey Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Frank & Jo Del Vero — Bill & Margaret Dixon — Joan Engel — Tony & Beth Ferreyra Nancy Fredenburg — Dave & Jacque Fuller — Lee & Deb Gough — Stephen & Marilyn Harrington — William & Lenore Harris — Betsy & Bob Herbst Dr. John & Barbara Jacoby (MN) — Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence — Seth & Shannon Lemke (TX) Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller — Randy & Linda Veno Needham — Greg & Pamela Park (OH) John G. Park & Madeline Kingston-Park — Richard Park (IL) — Kathy Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigette Ritsema — Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Robert & Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — 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 (2024) — Archer Huntley Financial Services ** — Brewery Becker** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** Brighton District Library ** — Brighton Lions Club (2023) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** Clark/Tait Eye Center (2023) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Liberty Title Agency (2024) — Lindhout Associates** Liv. County Convention & Visitors Center (2023) — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** Power House Electric, Inc. (2023) — Preview Properties (2023) — Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Honda Brighton (2023) Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2023) — Wallflower Mercantile (2023)

2023 Sponsorships: Platinum: Lake Trust Credit Union, Wallflower Mercantile

Bronze: Margaret Bowland, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter, Carolina DeLuca, Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial, Liv. County Convention & Visitors Center

2024 Sponsorships: Gold: Paul & Kathy Bair

Bronze: Brighton Light House, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter, Carolina DeLuca

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"/> \$5 Student <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Patron or More <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life	Additional Donation to—Check as Desired: <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 AND a 509(a)2 Public Charity 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).

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 James.Vichich@gmail.com

Current BAHS Leadership

President Jim Vichich	Directors Tony Ferreyra Dr. Caitlyn Perry Dial Mindy Kinsey John Rawcliffe Thomas Reinke Lynn Strong
Vice President Nancy Fredenburg	Trail Tales Editor Jerry Damon
Secretary—Interim Jerry Damon	
Treasurer Steve Black	
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 AND a 509(a)2 public charity 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



Stephanie Popoff submitted the following story. Stephanie is a descendant of Esther Fisher Briggs and Collins Morgan whose families settled in Brighton in the 1830s. She is a long-time member of the BAHS and resides in Grand Blanc. She has nearly 25 years in ancestry research of both her own family and in local history. Stephanie devotes some of her free time to the cleaning and preservation of headstones in Brighton, as well as Oakland and Genesee Counties. She has hosted nationally known cemetery restorationist, Jonathan Appel for his annual Cemetery Restoration Class for the last 4 years, inspiring others to get involved in the preservation of local family history.

Esther Fisher Story

A hello future Brighton resident, my name is Esther Fisher, Briggs, Morgan. My marriage to Joseph L. Briggs was the first recorded in Brighton Township in 1834. Briggs may sound familiar, as my home/farm was located on the site of Briggs Lake. My husband, Joseph Briggs, purchased the land from the government in 1833 in sections 3 and 4 of Green Oak. This was the place we chose to raise our children Mariah, born 1838, George in 1839 and Emily in 1841.

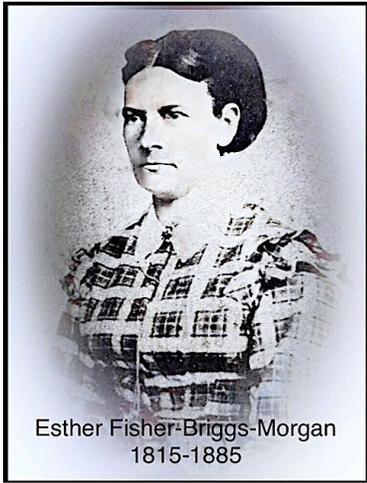
We had some great neighbors, who we thought of as family, Lewis B. Fonda, who lived just down the plank road, you know of as Grand River Avenue today. Lewis built the first framed house in our area! You'll probably recognize the Fonda name as well, as his farm is located on the site of Fonda Lake. Collins Morgan had 200 acres about where the toll road started. The Woodruffs, Abrams and Toncrays all had property in our little area. Colonel Claudius Buchanan Grant bought about 240 acres before the war in section 33 of Brighton Township and was also part of our neighborhood family.

In July of 1841, I buried Joseph. He died in an unfortunate accident from a tree falling on him while clearing some land. He was only 33 years of age. Our Emily was just 3 months old when Joseph died. Joseph is buried in the New Hudson Cemetery with my mother Phoebe, father John and my Fisher family. Joseph left me with 3 children under the age of 3 and a farm to run.

Collins Morgan lost his wife Electa (Toncray) after the birth of their son William in 1843. I married Collins in 1844 and raised his son William Collins as my own. Together, we had 4 children, Elizabeth in 1845, John in 1846, Cyrenius in 1850 and Amelia in 1852. Once again tragedy strikes my family when my second husband, Collins, died one month prior to the birth of our Amelia. He was killed while he was working in the field and was found lying on the ground with his coat over his head with a deep gash in his forehead, presumably from the plow. I buried Collins on the Woodruff property not too far from our home.

I now had 7 children under the age of 14 to feed, cloth, and raise as good Baptist. As a family, we attend the Kensington Baptist Church regularly. I sold Collins land. Lewis Fonda took some of it and the rest was divided between others. Mariah married Peter (Mount), Abrams and they moved on to her 80 acres of the Briggs farm. As a family farm, we did well, using the frozen lake to cut ice for summer cooling, a root cellar dug past the freeze line to keep our vegetables fresh through the winter and trading goods with our neighbors for the things we needed. The next time you drive past our lakes, I hope you will reflect on the families who saw this area as home.

(Thank you to Stephanie for her story. If you are a long-time Brighton resident with a story about your family, please consider submitting it for publication in Trail Tales.)



Esther Fisher-Briggs-Morgan
1815-1885