

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Did you know the Society has a Facebook page? Stories about Brighton’s rich history are regularly posted on this site, along with many photos. Below are two recent stories. We invite you to check out our Facebook page. Brighton Area Historical Society.

**Island Lake, 125 Years Ago**

The Michigan National Guard trained many summers at Island Lake in the late 1800s. Their training grounds were south of the railroad where Academy Drive crossed the RR tracks.

This winter photo from New Years Day, 1899 shows the 31st Infantry that was mobilized at Island Lake in preparation for battle in the Spanish American War. The 31st was sent to Cuba January 25, 1899 and returned on April 25, 1899.

Island Lake has a lot of history from around its shores. Visit the CoBACH Center through March to see many old photos and learn about its rich history. The Brighton Area Historical Society’s FREE exhibit is the “Memories of Island Lake.”

CoBACH winter hours are: Thursday through Friday, 5-8pm; Saturday, 11-5 pm; Sunday 5-8 pm. The City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center is located in the Old Town Hall at 202 W Main St.



**Preservation of History By A Scout**

The rebirth of Campbell Town Cemetery in Hamburg Township was the focus of a local scout in the summer of 2024.

Mr. Will Lutz is a junior at Brighton High School and a life scout. His Eagle Scout Project focused on restoring headstones thus helping in preserving the cemetery and memories of our early settlers who established and lived in a small community known as Campbell Town.

This project required most of headstones that were leaning to be removed and reset vertically. Some headstones required new bases to hold them since they were snapped at ground level. Other headstones were broken in pieces and required restoration. Will and his dad, Mark, took a special training class in the proper techniques for restoring headstones. This community was located between Ore Creek and Hamburg Road about 1/4 mile south of today’s Hamburg Road bridge that crosses Ore Creek. (The 1875 map shows the location of the early bridge that was 1/4 mile south of the today’s crossing.)

Kudos to Hamburg Township government for allowing Will Lutz to proceed with this vital restoration project! Most of the people buried here were just good, common citizens. They raised their families, paid their taxes and helped their community. These headstones are likely their sole documentation of having lived on the planet. Thank you Will Lutz for helping to preserve their name in local history through your restoration of Campbell Town Cemetery! A job well done!

