



BEFORE



AFTER

Rebirth of Pleasant Valley Cemetery

Pleasant Valley Cemetery is a pleasant, historic burial ground in Brighton township that is approaching 200 years of age. The members of the Brighton Area Historical Society and Daughters of the American Revolution along with community members and Hartland HS Honor Society started working on its rebirth in the fall of 2024. In its earlier years the burial ground was called Beach Cemetery.

Vandalism of vintage headstones in its earlier days necessitated organized help by the members of the Brighton Area Historical Society and community volunteers to restore the dignity to the grounds and to the families with loved ones resting there. In 2024 the focus was to cleanup the grounds and perform a survey of restoration needs. The 2025 focus was restoration of broken headstones.

The Headstone Preservation Team of the Brighton Area Historical Society meets at PVC on the 4th Monday of the summer months to perform restoration work. This past summer smaller teams also met offsite three times to perform preliminary work to accelerate the 4th Monday work within the cemetery. Offsite, concrete bases were made to hold the previously snapped headstones. At Pleasant Valley Cemetery, bases and headstones were assembled together. Many headstones were broken into multiple segments that required special stone epoxy to reassemble the pieces into a permanent bond. Some headstones were missing broken sections that required additional work. Stainless steel threaded rod, concrete, epoxy and special mortar were used to recreate the missing pieces.

Number of headstones restored: 26
Number of headstones reset/plumb: 15
BAHS Volunteer hours: 456

PVC Volunteers 2024—2025: Sue Ellen Andrews, Pam Bell, Anna/Kerry Bennett, Rick/Margaret Bigham, Howard Bisoski, Steve/Denise Black, Don Boyer, Tom Brennan, Emily Brown, Jerry Damon, Colleen Donehue, Tony/Beth Ferreyra, Hartland HS Honor Society, Bob/Betsy Herbst, Deb Huntzinger, Jim Ireton, Dale Karolak, Mindy Kinsey, Andrea Kosla, Shelly Kuula, Emma Kuckyt, Lou Ann Lathrop, Katy Neifert, Dave Pettigrove, Kathy Presecan, John Rawcliffe, Scott Selesky, Pat Smith, Jim Stevenson, Cindy Ventimiglia, Joe Ventimiglia (no relation), Jim Vichich and Ed Vitez.

Can you help support this important historical preservation program? Your contribution as a 2026 BAHS member or donations to the Society will help to continue this critical effort! You can become a member or donate using the attached page 3 form or online at BrightonAreaHistorical.com.

Thank you for your help!

Jim Vichich
Restoration Program Chairman
Past BAHS President 2008-2024

FREE CoBACH Exhibit
Nov 20 — Dec 21
"Christmas"

CoBACH Winter Hours
December thru March

Thurs. — Friday 5—8pm
Saturday 11am—5pm
Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Mon, Tues, Wed

CLOSED CHRISTMAS
Dec 22nd — Jan 1st

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

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK
Frequent postings regard-
ing Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
Society**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**
To all those celebrating
in DECEMBER!

Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: (Reflect dues paid for year 2026 unless otherwise noted.)

IND/FAMILY: Brad Beal (2027), Joanne Bellmard, Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter, James Bruhn, James Lauridsen, Pam Proctor,* Dave Schoewe, Bill/Hilary Sproule, Robert /Jennifer Triffo, Ed Vitez

PATRON: Evelyn Gallegos, Joyce Hubbs, Charlene Kull, Dianne Taeckens, Richard/Lucille Weaire

MILITARY: Dave Rebiger

SPONSORSHIPS: Silver: Kathy Lueker Pearson, Pauline Schaffer;

Gold: Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

WELCOME New Member*: Pam Proctor

REMINDER: Our membership renewal continues this month. Please see the insert to renew your membership or become a member. 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 2026 and beyond.
- Dr. John Cameron, Jerry & Carole Damon and Lake Trust Credit Union for their 2025 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Wallflower Mercantile for the 2025 Platinum Plus Sponsorship and their donation to the Society.
- Pauline Schaffer for her 2026 Silver Sponsorship along with donations to Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration, Larry Lawrence Scholarship, Friend of Lyon school, CoBACH Events and Friend of Old Village Cemetery.
- Kathy Lueker Pearson for her 2026 Silver Sponsorship and donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship.
- Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter for their 2026 Gold Sponsorship along with their dues.
- Nancy Fredenburg for her donation from Bank of America.
- Steve Black/Bob Triffo for taking down silhouettes for storage.
- Lindhout & Associates for their donation of making a copy of our aerial photo of Brighton.
- Diana Kimble Beaudoin for her donation of the Brighton State Bank annual reports for our collection.
- Cheryl Hartland for the donation of a book entitled "Grand River Road" dated 1966.
- Caitlyn Heffnan for a photo of CoBACH during the Gilmore Girls event.
- Michelle Chaka for a donation to the Society from "GM Giving."
- James Bruhn, Jim Lauridsen, Dave Rebiger and Dianne Taeckens for donations to Friend of Old Village Cemetery along with their dues.
- Joanne Bellmard and Pam Proctor for their donation to Friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Dave Schoewe for his donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration along with his dues.
- Joyce Hubbs for her donation to Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Larry Lawrence Scholarship, Friend of Lyon School, CoBACH Events and Friend of Old Village Cemetery along with her dues.
- Dick/Lucille Weaire for their donation to the Society along with their dues.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR WINTER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH Center: FREE Exhibit: Nov. 20 — Dec. 22: "Christmas Display."

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE: Dec 22 through January 1, 2026.

Every Thursday during December; 9am—12nn: Lyon Schoolhouse Open

for archiving & tours. **CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS:** Dec 25 until Jan 8, 2026.

December 14, Sunday, 1—4pm: Santa and Mrs. Claus at Lyon One-room Schoolhouse. Make and take crafts and bring your camera for that special holiday photo. **FREE EVENT**

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Tom Archer — John & Deb Armstrong — Paul & Kathryn Bair (MI) — Tim & Kerry Bennett — Sharrell (Munce) Blakeley (CA) — Janice Beach Donald & Shari Black (FL) — Steve & Denise Black — Marilyn Campbell (IN) — Jack Collett — John & Jenny Conely — Kelsey Corrigan Timothy & Giannine Corrigan — Jerry & Carole Damon — Patricia LewAllen DeFoor (GA) — 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 — Jason Conrad Huntley, CFP — Kathy Jacoby (OR) — Claire & Aaron Jusino — Kate Lawrence Jim Leith (IN) — Stephen Leith — 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 Lueker Pearson — David & Marilyn Pettigrove — Bob & Donna Phillips — Douglas & Carole Rearick — Brigitte Ritsema Tom & Bonnie Riutta — Pauline Schaffer — Bruce & Betty Schuman — Anne Stratigos — Lynn Brady Strong — Jim & Vicki Vichich Michael & Jennifer Vichich — Karen Wirth — Alice Wyland

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

Brewery Becker** — Brighton Area Women's History Roll of Honor** — Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce (2025) — Brighton District Library ** Brighton Lions Club (2025) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2025) Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Masonic Lodge No. 247 ** — MI Concrete Lifting (2025) Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Power House Electric, Inc. (2025) — Premier Financial Planning (2025) — Preview Properties (2025) Promess, Inc.** — Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Brighton Automotive (2025) — Tee-Bone'z Tavern (2025) — Wallflower Mercantile** Wealth & Wellness Group (2025)

2025 Sponsorships:

Platinum: John Cameron, MD, Jerry & Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, **Platinum Plus:** Wallflower Mercantile

Silver: Steve & Denise Black — Kathy Lueker Pearson — **Gold:** Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter — **Bronze:** Tony & Beth Ferreyra

2026 Sponsorships: Silver: Kathy Lueker Pearson, Pauline Schaffer — **Gold:** Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

Support BAHS: Become a Sponsor, 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, become a member or a sponsor, please mail your check to the address provided on the form below.

Mail check payable to:

Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would like to receive Trail Tales via: E-Mail _____ US Mail _____

Type of Membership Plan: ___ New ___ Renew

___ \$5 Student ___ \$15 Military/Veteran ___ \$20 Individual

___ \$30 Family ___ \$50 Patron or More

___ \$75 Business/Professional ___ \$500 Life

BAHS Sponsorship Program:

The BAHS sponsorship program has the following levels with the associated annual funding gifts. Sponsors will receive recognition through the Trail Tales newsletter and through the sponsorship placard located at the City of Brighton Arts, Culture and History (CoBACH) Center (aka Old Town Hall).

___ Platinum — \$1,000+ ___ Gold — \$500+

___ Silver — \$250+ ___ Bronze — \$100+

Additional Donation to — Check as Desired:

___ Pleasant Valley Cemetery Restoration

___ Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund

___ Friend of Lyon School

___ BAHS CoBACH Events

___ Friend of Old Village Cemetery

Amount of Additional Donation:

___ \$10 ___ \$100

___ \$25 ___ \$250

___ \$50 ___ Other \$ _____

Donation in memory /honor of: _____

We are looking for volunteers: If you would like more information, please contact **Nancy Fredenburg at 517-304-5044.**

For Membership, donation, or sponsorship via PayPal, scan the QR code which will take you to the BAHS website.



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.

Current BAHS Leadership

President

Nancy Fredenburg

Vice President

Lynn Strong

Secretary

Thomas Reinke

Treasurer

Steve Black

Webmaster

Debbie Armstrong

Directors

Ron Cyr

Tony Ferreyra

Mindy Kinsey

Jim Vichich

Trail Tales Editor

Jerry Damon

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:

(517) 304-5044

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



Our Membership Drive continues. A membership application insert is included with this issue. The photos below are some of the projects that your Memberships, Donations and Sponsorships enabled us to do throughout the past year. Thank you.



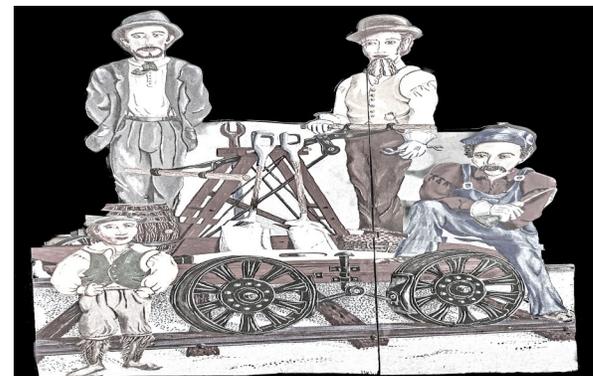
Bonnie Corrigan Fence Matching Donation Fundraiser



Lyon Schoolroom Naming Dedication



Eagle Scout Project at Campbell Town Cemetery



Silhouette Displays Throughout Downtown Brighton

REMINDER.... Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Lyon One-Room Schoolhouse located at 11455 Buno Road in Brighton Township on **Sunday, December 14th from 1—4pm**. This is a **FREE** event open to all. The schoolroom will be transformed into a delightful setting, having a tree with decorations from the turn of the 20th century until about the 1950's. After a visit with Santa, kids will head into the archival room where they will be able to make and take an ornament that they design. There will be cookies, beverages and candy canes. Bring your camera to capture that special holiday photo.