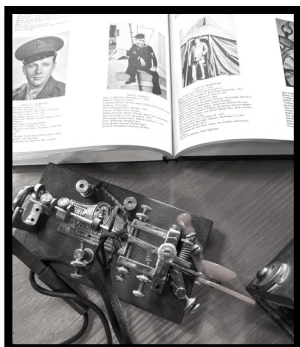




Morse Code Radio Key



BAHS Annual Meeting

Welcome Spring and a Look at Upcoming Events!

As spring arrives, I'm happy to share news and upcoming activities from the Brighton Area Historical Society.

Our Annual Meeting brought together about 15 members for a lovely lunch and a much-enjoyed "show-and-tell" program. Participants shared a wonderful variety of historical items, including a 1968 Detroit Tigers straw hat, Civil War memorabilia (this was purchased at an auction, a box that held many treasures), an original patent piece, a treasured knife bought at History Town and other personal treasures. The enthusiasm and stories made for a memorable gathering and we look forward to offering this program again.

One of our seasonal highlights is the upcoming **Vintage Jewelry Sale, running May 1 through May 9, 2026 at CoBACH, 202 W. Main Street.** This fundraiser features a beautiful collection of vintage jewelry and directly supports the Society's preservation efforts and programming. We hope you'll stop by, volunteer if you are able, and invite friends to join us in making this event a success.

We also invite you to visit our **Memorial Day display on May 25, 2026** showcasing an impressive collection of Civil War memorabilia. **The display will be open from 9am to 1pm at CoBACH.** The Brighton Memorial Day parade begins at 10am at 4th Street and concludes at the Millpond. We welcome you to come and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms today.

A final note, thank you to David Thomas who met with us in Bowling Green, Ohio to donate his father, Jack G. Thomas' WWII naval uniform and Morse code radio key. Preserving Brighton's history is a shared effort and we are always grateful for the trust and generosity of our community. Please keep us in mind as you downsize or discover items with local historical significance.

Nancy Fredenburg
 President, BAHS
 517-304-5044

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of
Joanne Ellis Bellmard

Joanne was a long-time member of the Society. Our
 condolences to her family and friends.

FREE CoBACH Exhibit

April

**"Map Your Way Thru
 Brighton"**

**(Variety of Vintage
 Brighton Maps)**

CoBACH Summer Hours

April — October

Closed April 3—5 for Easter

Wed. — Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11am—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Mon and Tues

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

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK

Frequent postings regarding
 Brighton History.

**Brighton Area Historical
 Society**

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

Thanks and Recognition

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

IND/FAMILY: Margaret Bowland, Tim Clausnitzer*, Richard/Letitia Smith, Susan Tucker-Judd, Sheryl Vigmostad, Paul Weber

PATRON: Mary Jo Comiskey/Val Hancock

BUS/ORG: Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Lions Club, Serra Brighton

SPONSORSHIPS: **Platinum Plus:** Wallflower Mercantile; **Silver:** Patti LewAllen DeFoor; **Bronze:** Margaret Bowland

WELCOME New Member*: Tim Clausnitzer

REMINDER: You can still renew your 2026 dues or become a new member. Please see the form on Page 3 or click on the QR code. 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.
- Wallflower Mercantile for their 2026 Platinum Plus Sponsorship from the sale of vintage Brighton tee shirts.
- Jerry/Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau for their 2026 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Patti LewAllen DeFoor for her 2026 Silver Sponsorship in honor of her

parents Ralph D. and Marilyn J. LewAllen who turned 100 this May and April respectively.

- Margaret Bowland for her Bronze Sponsorship and donation to CoBACH along with her dues.
- Mary Jo Comiskey/Val Hancock for their donation to Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and friend of Lyon School along with their dues.
- Richard/Letitia Smith for their donation to Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund and CoBACH along with their dues.
- Diana Kimble Beaudoin and Lynne Azzopardi for their donation to the Society.
- Brighton Lions Club for their donation to the Society along with their dues.
- Madeline Kingston-Park and Sandy Pauldan for jewelry donations.
- To everyone who attended the Annual Meeting and helped with set-up.
- David Thomas for donating his father's WWII naval uniform and Morse code decoder.
- Mindy/Tom Kinsey for making the trip to Bowling Green, Ohio to meet with David.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH Center: **FREE Exhibit:** April: "Map Your Way Through Brighton." (Variety of vintage Brighton maps.)

April 3—5: CoBACH Closed for Easter.

Every Thursday; 9am—12nn: Lyon Schoolhouse Open for archiving & tours.

April 22; 6pm CoBACH Center: BAHs Board Meeting.

May 1—9; CoBACH Center: Vintage Jewelry Sale. This is our annual fundraiser. If you have jewelry you would like to donate, please contact Nancy Fredenburg at 517-304-5044.

May 25; 9am—1pm; CoBACH: Special Memorial Day display of Civil War memorabilia.

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 — Michael Craine — Jerry & Carole Damon — Patricia LewAllen DeFoor (GA) — Frank & Jo Del Vero Bill & Margaret Dixon — Nancy LewAllen Dresden — Joan Engel — Rebecca LewAllen English — 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) — David LewAllen — Ray & Bessie Maltby — Jere & Kay Michaels — James & Janis Miller Randy & Linda Veno Needham — Roland Owens — 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 (2026) — Brighton District Library ** Brighton Lions Club (2026) — Brighton Veterans Memorial Comm.** — Buckley-Jolley Group ** — Clark/Tait Eye Center (2025) Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body ** — Livingston Cty Convention & Visitors Bureau (2026) 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 (2026) Tee-Bone's Tavern (2026) — Wallflower Mercantile** — Wealth & Wellness Group (2025)

2026 Sponsorships:

Platinum: Jerry/Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, Livingston Cty. Convention & Visitors Bureau, **Platinum Plus:** Wallflower Mercantile

Gold: Judith Coebly/Gary Reutter

Silver: Patti LewAllen DeFoor, Kathy Lueker Pearson, Pauline Schaffer

Bronze: Pamela Bell, Margaret Bowland, Tony/Beth Ferreyra, Caitlyn Perry-Dial, Norma Pless, John/Linda Rawcliffe

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+

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

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: _____

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
Tony Ferreyra
Mindy Kinsey
Jim Vichich

Trail Tales Editor
Jerry Damon

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.

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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



What Happened to the Charles Howell Scout Reservation?

Before the Charles Howell Scout Reservation, and now Pine Creek Ridge was a farm owned by the Herbst family. In 1926 the Herbst Family owned nearly all of Section 36 in Genoa Township. The 1895 Platt map does not have Brighton Lake, but Lime Lake is very present.

In 1926, 280 acres of the Herbst property was purchased by Charles Howell for \$28,000 dollars. Mr. Howell was a land developer and investor, who after building a dam on Ore Creek created a new lake which he called Brighton Lake, with the plan of selling lots for cottages. Sadly, the depression hit and his plan faded.

In 1937 Mr. Howell's property (about 320 acres by then) was deeded to the Detroit Area Scout Council of the Boy Scouts of America for \$1.00, with the idea that it would always be used as a recreation area. The scouts acquired, in small parcels, another 320 plus acres which brought the total to nearly 640 acres. In the early years of the scout's ownership, they and the Civil Conservation Corp planted 150,000 pine trees on the property.

The Stroh family, owners of Stroh Brewing Company, purchased the property from the Detroit Boy Scout Council. In the early 1980's the Council felt that the cost of repairing the dam along with a declining number of campers, that selling this property and putting the money into a trust to support their other camp made the most sense.

The Stroh family along with Burton-Katzman, a Detroit -based real estate development company, began looking into what to do with the property. Ken Cheyne a consultant to and partner with Abby Homes of Michigan, also the Grandson of Janet Howell of the Charles Howell family, started the development of Pine Creek.

One of Ken Cheyne's dreams was to preserve and save the large log cabin/lodge that served the scouts for years. After a great deal of investigation, it was determined that the conditions of the cabin/lodge were too poor to be saved. It was then decided that a new Log Lodge/Club House/Sales office would be built. It offers a beautiful view across Brighton Lake and retains much of the good feelings many youngsters and others associated with the Charles Howell Scout Reservation remember.

Pine Creek Ridge is a three-community development. Lake Villas at Pine Creek is a community of approximately 100 attached and detached condominiums. Pine Creek Bluffs is a community of 90 site condominiums. The remainder of Pine Creek Ridge is a community of 254 single family homes.

The story of Brighton Lake can be found in the January 2020 issue of Trail Tales located on the Society's website:

BrightonAreaHistorical.com

(Thanks to Jerry Damon for researching this story.)

