

HAPPY 250th TO AMERICA!

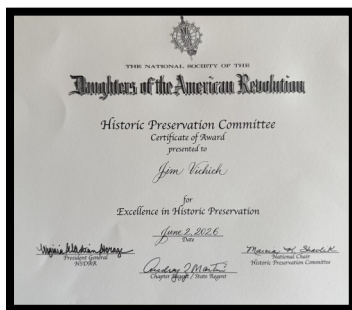
As the USA celebrates 250 years we reflect on the people, traditions and milestones that have shaped our community. This special anniversary is a time to honor the past, appreciate the present and look forward to the future. Families and friends can gather to share stories, (please record these for the next generation) create new memories and celebrate the values that unite us. Celebrate your local community, local history and recognize the generations that built Brighton into the place it is today. May this celebration inspire pride, gratitude and a renewed commitment to preserving Brighton's rich heritage for current and future generations.

Things to do in Brighton: Visit CoBACH (located next to the Millpond in downtown Brighton) and see the historic America flags, signing of the Declaration of Independence and wonderful embroidery samples by our local club. Enjoy fireworks **July 11th in Brighton** (no matter your age), plan a picnic at one of our many parks throughout Livingston County and see a parade (**July 4th downtown Brighton beginning at 10AM**). Get out and see our wonderful community and all it has to offer.

In Other News:



Jim Vichich & Sue Ellen Andrews



Jim Vichich, past president of BAHS and current board member was recognized by the DAR Philip Livingston Chapter on June 2nd 2026 at Lakeland Golf Club. They recognized his many years of cemetery headstone restoration and our current project at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery repairing headstones. Pleasant Valley Cemetery, also known as Beach Cemetery, is located on Pleasant Valley Road north of Jacoby Road in Section 22 of Livingston County. The DAR became involved with BAHS in 2024 when we began the Pleasant Valley Cemetery restoration. Some of the earliest families were interned in this cemetery including a Revolutionary Patriot Elijah Goodspeed. Congratulations Jim!

Nancy Fredenburg
President — BAHS
517-304-5044

FREE CoBACH Exhibit

July
“250th Salute to Flags”

CoBACH Summer Hours

July — October

Wed. — Friday 5—8pm

Saturday 11am—5pm

Sunday 2—5pm

Closed Mon and Tues

Closed July 4th & 5th for
Independence Day

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

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK
Frequent postings regard-
ing Brighton History.

Brighton Area Historical
Society

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
To all those celebrating
in JULY!

Thanks and Recognition

MEMBERSHIPS: Thank you to all of our members who have renewed their membership for 2026 and beyond. We appreciate your support.

IND/FAMILY: David & Terrie (Leith) Fisher, Phyllis Jose, Ralph Steinberger, Laura “Gayle” Trego*, John & Anne Zemke

PATRON: Steve & Kate Lowry

WELCOME New Member*: Laura “Gayle” Trego

Want to join BAHS or renew your dues? —You can still renew your 2026 dues or become a new member. Please use 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. Thank you again for your support of BAHS.

THANKS:

- Wallflower Mercantile for their 2026 Platinum Plus Sponsorship.
- Jerry/Carole Damon, Lake Trust Credit Union, Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau for their 2026 Platinum Sponsorship.
- Bill & Peggy Dixon for their generous donation to the Society.
- Phyllis Jose for her donation to Friend of Lyon School along with her dues.
- Steve & Kate Lowry for their donation to the Larry Lawrence Scholarship Fund along with their dues.
- Jerry & Carole Damon for their donation to CoBACH in memory of Marieanna Bair.
- Hal Zweng and Jeff Haggerty, Brighton scoutmasters, for assisting with the Flag Day exhibit at CoBACH along with Board members Nancy Fredenburg, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong.
- Ed and Joyce Vitez for their knowledge of flags shared at the Flag Day exhibit at CoBACH.
- Dennis Bidwell for the donation of Bennie Bidwell’s WW1 Veterans Cap and a 35-star flag.
- Steve & Denise Black, Ron Cyr, Mindy Kinsey and Lynn Strong for volunteering at the Brighton Farmer’s Market.
- Embroidery’s Guild of America (EGA) Livingston Lakes Chapter for lending us beautiful samples of red, white and blue embroidery that celebrates the 4th of July on display at the CoBACH Center.
- Thank you to people who call on a weekly basis with items representing Brighton history and mail them to us. Recent calls were from West Virginia, Spring Lake Michigan and California to name a few. Kay Rotatius recently supplied us with history of her store the Rotatius Ole Cracker Barrel along with her special fudge topping recipe. She purchased the DeLuca’s Sweet Shoppe on Main Street in the 70’s.

Dates to Remember

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SUMMER CoBACH HOURS

CoBACH Center: FREE Exhibit: **July: “250th Salute to Flags”**

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

Note: CoBACH will be Closed July 4th & 5th.

July 11; Brighton Farmer’s Market: BAHS will be at the market the 2nd Saturday of each month through October. Drop by and say hello!

July 22; Wednesday; 6pm; CoBACH: BAHS Board Meeting.

Life — Business — Professional Members

Life Members:

Kathleen Alrubaiy (CO) — 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 — 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 ** — Call Mike (2026) Griffith Realty (2027) — Kimble Appraisal Group, Inc.** — Lindhout Associates** — Lawrence Auto Body ** Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau (2026) — Masonic Lodge No. 247** — Patrick Financial Group, LLC ** — Promess, Inc.** Refrigeration Research ** — Serra Brighton Automotive (2026) — Tee-Bone’z Tavern (2026) — Wallflower Mercantile**

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.

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



If your child were to ask, “What Brighton, Michigan was like 250 Year Ago”, you might explain...

250 years ago, Brighton, Michigan was a beautiful area with forests, rivers, and wildlife. The land was home to Native American tribes like the Potawatomi, who lived off the land and had their own traditions and way of life. The Potawatomi people respected nature and lived in harmony with the environment.

There were no buildings or roads like we see today in Brighton. Instead, the land was mostly untouched and filled with trees, plants, and animals. The Potawatomi people lived in villages along the rivers and lakes, where they fished, hunted, and gathered food to survive.

As time passed, European settlers began to arrive in the area and eventually established towns and communities like the Brighton we know today. The landscape changed as more people settled in the area, but the natural beauty and history of Brighton's past are still a part of the community's heritage."

You could also encourage the child to explore further by visiting local historical sites, museums, or libraries to learn more about the history of Brighton, Michigan 250 years ago. This can help foster a sense of curiosity and appreciation for the rich history and cultural heritage of the community.

The photos on this page are from the current display by the Brighton Area Historical Society at the CoBACH Center in downtown Brighton on Main Street, which celebrates America's 250 years. **Please plan on visiting with your family.**

(Thanks to Jerry Damon for the story and photos)

