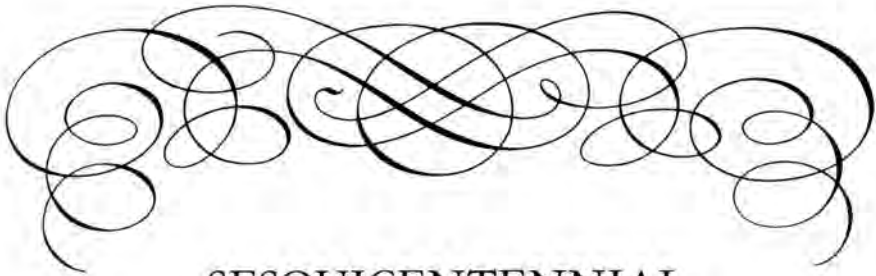


SESQUICENTENNIAL
HISTORY OF

The Town of Brighton

WILSON'S COUNTY, NEW YORK

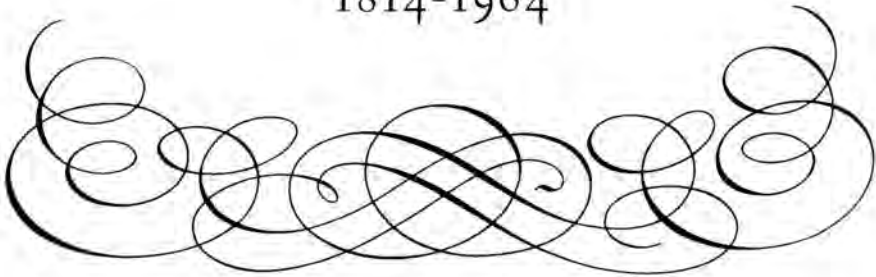
1814-1964



SESQUICENTENNIAL
HISTORY OF
The Town of Brighton

MONROE COUNTY • NEW YORK

1814-1964



Published by The Sesquicentennial Committee
Planned and edited by Helen Reynolds Williams
Illustrations • Douglas Howland
History • William S. Akin
Designed and printed by The Case-Hoyt Corporation

BRIGHTON SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

GENERAL CHAIRMAN:	Mr. Andrew D. Wolfe
VICE CHAIRMAN:	Mrs. Frank Gannett
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:	Mrs. Gordon L. Bangs
SCHOOLS:	Mrs. Frank Gannett
ORGANIZATIONS:	Mrs. Saul Frankel
TEMPLES AND CHURCHES:	Mrs. Morton Baum
STORES:	Mr. Theodore J. Altier
PIONEERS-LANDMARKS:	Miss Cora Warrant Mrs. Grover W. Strong
FINANCE:	Mr. Philip Liebschutz
PUBLICITY:	Mr. Harry Watts
NEWSLETTER:	Mrs. David B. Jennison
STONE-TOLAN HOUSE:	Mrs. Edward H. Cumpston
OPENING MEETING:	Mr. Edward P. Curtis Mrs. William Warren
RECEPTION FOLLOWING MEETING:	Mrs. F. Ritter Shumway
TOURS:	Mrs. Ernest C. Whitbeck, Jr. Mrs. David Fulton
YOUNG PEOPLE:	Mrs. Schuyler Townson
GRAND BALL:	Mrs. Rudolph Angell Mrs. Wilmot V. Castle, Jr.
OUTDOOR DISPLAYS:	Mr. Donald Hershey
INFORMATION BOOTH:	Mrs. John Shirley
BOOKLET:	Mrs. George R. Williams
SOUVENIRS:	Mr. William Harper Mrs. Russell Sibley
PARADE:	Mr. Carl N. Guldenschuh, <i>Chairman</i> Mr. Samuel A. Cooper, Jr., <i>Vice Chairman</i>
BARBECUE:	Mr. Lee McCanne
EVENING PROGRAM:	Mr. and Mrs. John Kitchen Mr. and Mrs. James Duffus
EXHIBIT:	Mrs. Grover Strong
HISTORICAL ADVISOR:	Mrs. Claude Schmitt
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Mr. Leonard Boniface Mr. Joseph W. Adams Miss Jean C. McCurdy

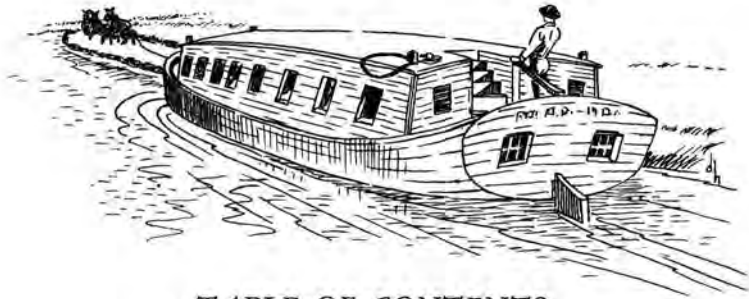


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
THE PURPOSE OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL	6
CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	7
A HISTORY OF BRIGHTON	8-23
DATELINE OF THE HISTORY OF BRIGHTON	24
HISTORICAL HOUSE TOUR INFORMATION	25
1964 TOUR OF HOUSES WITH MAP	26-27
STONE-TOLAN HOUSE	28
MR. AND MRS. MITCHELL JOSSEM	29
CLOVER STREET SEMINARY	30
AMASA DRAKE HOUSE	31
MR. AND MRS. BERNARD SCHILLING	32
THE CRITTENDEN HOUSE	33
MR. AND MRS. HARRY RICE, JR.	34
NUMBER NINE SCHOOLHOUSE	35
MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND QUICK	36
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. ROBY, JR.	37
MR. AND MRS. MARO S. HUNTING	38
MANOR HOUSE	39
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. LITTLE	40

(continued)

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 64-23372

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(continued)

MR. AND MRS. ARNOLD B. SWIFT	41
WARRANT HOMESTEAD	42
MR. AND MRS. MAURICE L. GILLESPIE	43
MR. AND MRS. RICHARD E. VAN DE CARR	44
LANDMARKS OF EARLY BRIGHTON	45-46
BRIGHTON TOWN OFFICIALS	47
BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	48
BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	49-50
WORLD WAR II VETERANS	51
BRIGHTON SCHOOLS	52
CHURCHES AND TEMPLES	53
POPULATION GROWTH	54
BRIGHTON OFFICIALS	55-56

INTRODUCTION



It is a special and cherished privilege to be supervisor of the Town of Brighton during this Sesquicentennial year.

Ours is a wonderful community, and the Sesquicentennial is bringing out many of its unusual aspects, many of which may not have been as readily apparent as they are now.

Our town is the fruit of the labors of many devoted individuals over 150 years of history. For many years it was largely rural in character. In the past generation it has become one of America's most beautiful suburban towns.

But always it has had a special character.

The success of these Sesquicentennial celebrations is proving that.

As one long concerned with the government of our community, I would like to pay special tribute to all of the hundreds of persons who over the years have participated in our town government. Certainly the success of the community is owed in large measure to their devoted efforts.

Also, I would like to pay tribute to all of you who have devoted so much time and energy to this Sesquicentennial celebration. You have done a wonderful job, and the town government, as well as all Brighton residents, are most grateful to you.

Sincerely,

LEONARD A. BONIFACE
Supervisor



THE PURPOSE OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

BY ANDREW D. WOLFE, *General Chairman*

A sesquicentennial should be a time of looking forward as much as it is a time for looking at the past.

This is especially so in Brighton. Our past is so colorful and so full of notable personalities and notable accomplishments that an anniversary of this sort could turn into many months of self-congratulation.

This has not been the aim of the Sesquicentennial committee.

Our objective has been to prepare our citizens, especially our younger citizens, for the challenges of the present and the future by giving them insight into the great challenges met and overcome by Brighton residents of other eras.

Brighton is an unusual community. Surely its homes, its streets, its churches, and its schools make it one of the most favored communities in the United States. Its citizens, who have come from literally every country and every culture in the world, have rich resources of mind and spirit.

These great gifts of Providence have carried with them great responsibilities — responsibilities which have been met by Brightonians in each generation. From the earliest years — through the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, and the challenges of the 20th century — Brighton townspeople have been distinguished by an unusual sense of civic responsibility.

Our Sesquicentennial should be fun for all town residents. And it should give us an opportunity to know our neighbors better by working with them and enjoying ourselves with them.

But it should also give all of us a heightened sense of courage and responsibility for the civic and national tasks of the years ahead.

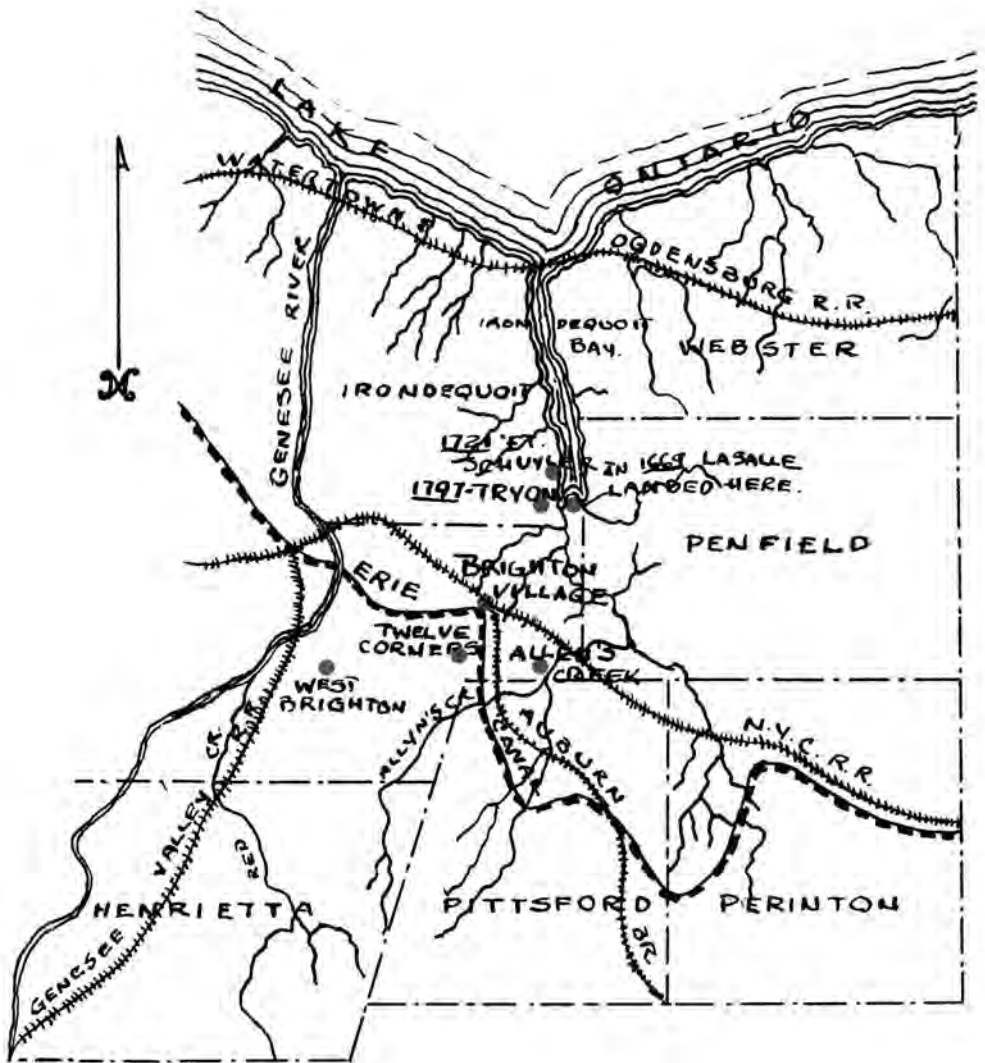
If the Sesquicentennial can do this, all the hundreds of people who have worked to make it a success will be well repaid.

*



CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- April 5 Rally and pageant entitled "A Town Is Born"
Sunday at 4:00 p.m.
Brighton High School Auditorium
A reception in honor of the descendants of
early Brighton settlers immediately
following
- June 27 and June 28 Historic House Tour (See Page 25)
Saturday and Sunday • 12:30-5:30 p.m.
Tickets on sale at the Sesquicentennial Booth
in Howard Johnson's Parking Lot,
Twelve Corners
- July 1 Young People's Party
Wednesday evening from 8 p.m.-11 p.m.
Brighton High School Athletic Field (in case
of rain it will be held in Brighton High
School Gym)
No charge • Prizes • Refreshments, 5¢ per glass
All High School Students cordially invited
The Chessmen — Joe Dean as M.C.
Other bands
- July 2 Grand Ball
Thursday Evening from nine 'til one p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh on Elmwood Ave.
opposite Town Hall • Tickets \$1.00
Ray McKinley's Glen Miller Orchestra
- July 4 Saturday 2:30—Parade starting at Home
Acres; Reviewing Stand, Twelve Corners;
Band and Drum Corps Concert immediately
following on High School Field
5:30—Barbecue—High School Field
7:00—Fire Dept. Demonstration
7:30—Band Concert
8:00—Helicopter Demonstration
8:45—Greetings
9:00—Band and Fireworks



*An Historical Map
of the Town of Brighton*



A HISTORY OF *Brighton*

The modern Brighton, one of America's most beautiful suburban residential communities, has blossomed in the past 50 years from a small, semi-rural town with scattered farms and a few large suburban homes, into a diversified, complex community with 30,000 residents.

The history of this community stretches back more than 300 years, and in 1964 it is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its organization as a town.

Similar in many ways to other well-established suburban communities throughout the United States, it nevertheless is unusual in two major respects — its unusual physical beauty and its long tradition of civic responsibility and social concern.

For generations the area occupied by the town has been admired for the beauty of its gently rolling countryside, its gardens, and its orchards. And from its earliest days Brighton people, despite a normal preoccupation with making their livelihood, have turned outward with an awareness of problems of regional and national scope. With continuing, deep-seated idealism, they have sought to come to grips with the larger problems of the nation.

If, in later years, many of its residents have been persons of station and substance, the community's leaders have shown consistent social awareness and civic responsibility. From the days of the Abolition movement down to the present era, its residents have been consistently identified with progressive leadership in business and industry, in education, in social service, and in the arts. The history of the town, in a formal sense, began in the 17th century when Europeans started to explore the southern shores of Lake Ontario and

the Irondequoit Valley which were in the domain of the Senecas, most powerful of the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederation. Algonquin tribes had roamed the woods and waterways in earlier times, but had been no match for the toughest fighters in North America, the Senecas. The Senecas lived sociably, cultivating beans, pumpkins and maize, hunting deer, and trapping beavers.

The Irondequoit Valley served as a transportation hub for the Iroquois. One of the most important overland routes from the East to the Ohio Valley ran through the area. Present-day Rich's Dugway and the corner of Highland and Monroe Avenues today recall the East-West trail. Another network of trails ran north and south, converging at the Indian Landing on Irondequoit Creek. The Landing was the seaport for the Seneca nation. From the Landing, Indian parties bent on war or trade made their way to and from the center of the Seneca nation near Honeoye Falls.

Another landmark of the Senecas was the Council Rock, located at what is now the corner of Council Rock Avenue and East Avenue, where, according to tradition, they gathered for councils. It was dedicated in 1919 to the memory of the Nun-da-wa-o-no, the Great Senecas' Keeper of the Western Door.

At the coming of the first white settler to the town, the rock stood under a great elm tree beside the old Indian trail leading from Canandaigua Lake to



Council Rock

the Genesee Falls. When the Indians met at their council rock, pioneer inn-keeper Orring Stone took their weapons from them so that no one would be injured while they were under the influence of "fire water."

In the 17th century the white man came in fair numbers to the Irondequoit Valley. While English and Dutch colonists busily cleared land for settlement along the Eastern seaboard, French explorers, trappers, and missionaries carried the Cross and the flag along the Western Waters. In the second decade of

the century Samuel de Champlain sent Etienne Brulé to explore Lake Ontario. Whether he viewed the Irondequoit remains questionable, but his map, nevertheless, showed the bay. As early as 1626 French missionaries were here. They maintained missions in the area almost continuously for over half a century. In the Fall of 1669 the Sieur de La Salle, greatest of French explorers, came into Irondequoit Bay with nine canoes and thirty-four men. Leaving his canoes on the bank of the creek, in what is now Ellison Park, he tramped to the Seneca Village in search of a treaty to protect the beaver trade of his Huron allies from Iroquois assaults.

The Senecas remained impervious to the efforts of La Salle and French missionaries to woo them into an alliance against the English. In 1687 the French resorted to force to crush the power of the Senecas. The leader of a punitive expedition was René de Brisay, the Marquis de Denonville, one of the wealthiest men in France and experienced in fighting Turkish barbarians on the European frontier. His invasion force moved up the bay to the Seneca stronghold at Totiakton. He inflicted widespread damage, but failed to destroy the town or the power of the Indians. He did, however, antagonize them to the point where they turned to the English.

Not until 1721, when Peter Schuyler, Jr. established a fort, did the English take positive steps to counter French economic and military threats in the



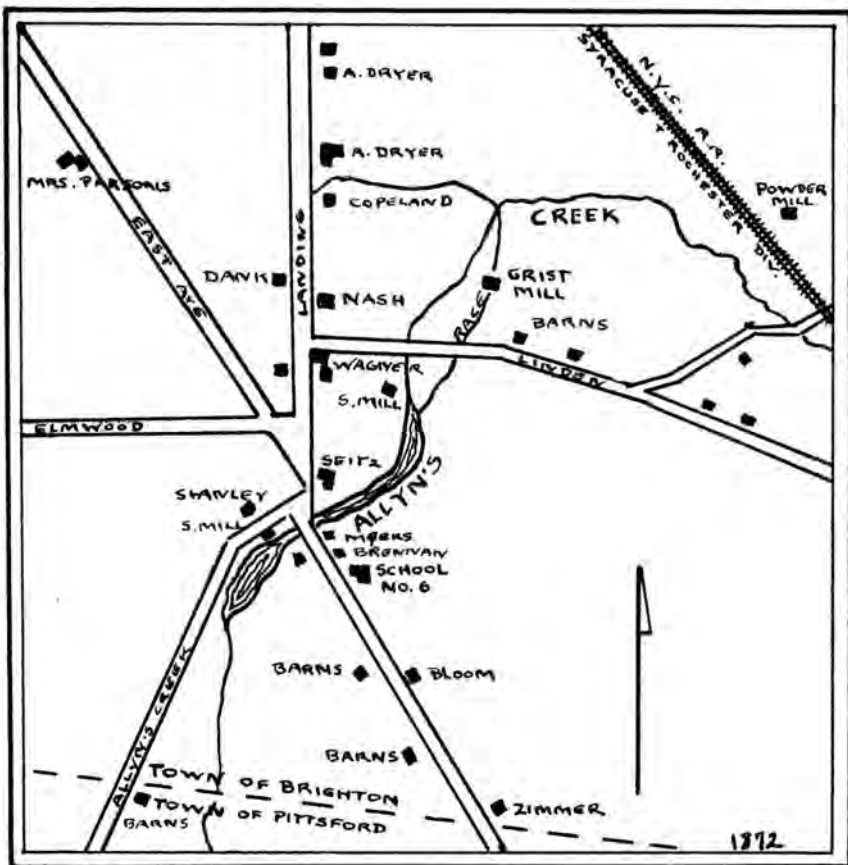
Fort Schuyler

Irondequoit Bay area. A small English exploration party had been to the area in 1667, but made no settlement. Robert Livingston, Secretary of Indian Affairs for New York, suggested in 1700 that the English build a fort at Irondequoit, but his proposal fell on deaf ears. Only when the French built a trading post on Lake Ontario, near present-day Sea Breeze, did the English show concern for the area. In 1720 New York Governor William Burnett instructed Peter Schuyler, Jr. to: "Make a settlement or trading house either

at Jerundequat, or any other place this side of Cederahqui Lake (Ontario), upon land belonging to the Sinnekes."

Schuyler arrived at Irondequoit Creek in the Fall of 1721 with nine other men. A picturesque vista unfolded before them. A French missionary there the same year described the valley: "a pretty river winds between two fine meadows, bordered with little hills, between which we discovered valleys which extend a great way. The whole forms the finest prospect in the world, bounded by a great forest of high trees." Schuyler selected a spot at the Indian Landing for the fort. He occupied the log fort, a replica of which stands there today, for less than a year, abandoning it when he realized that the French outpost on the lake was only an insignificant trading post.

Until after the American Revolution the Genesee-Irondequoit territory



Allyn's Creek 1872

remained free of white settlers. But in 1779 General John Sullivan's expedition broke the power of the once proud Senecas and made settlement safe. Two New England land speculators, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, secured title to the Genesee Country in 1788. Hard pressed financially, they rapidly opened the territory to settlement.

Hardy New Englanders, imbued with the Puritan ethic of hard work and frugality, poured into the Genesee Country to carve out a new life on the frontier. John Lusk, an energetic son of Massachusetts, was in the vanguard. He arrived with his son Stephen and Seely Peet, a hired man, in 1789. They came from Schenectady: the elder Lusk took an ox sled while the other two drove cattle, following an Indian trail via Onondaga Hollow, Skaneateles, Cayuga Lake, and Canandaigua, the jumping off point. The first year they built a cabin near Irondequoit Bay, cleared twelve acres of land, planted a crop of wheat, and trapped. In the Spring they returned East to bring their families and guide other settlers to the new lands.

Not all those who came found the wilderness to their liking. Captain Timothy Allyn of Groton, Connecticut, was such a man. He purchased 500 acres of land along the stream bearing his name, and then built a log cabin at the corner of Allyn Creek Road and East Avenue. After one Summer he moved to the more civilized town of Geneva.

Those who stayed began rapidly to mold a civilized community similar to the ones from which they had come. In 1796 the widely scattered settlers east of the Genesee River organized the town of Northfield. Renamed Boyle in 1808, it included the present towns of Brighton, Pittsford, Henrietta, Perinton, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Webster, and Rochester east of the Genesee River.

The most promising section of Northfield appeared to be the Indian Landing, apparently the most favorable spot for a commercial town. Salmon Tryon, a land speculator from Ballston, saw the possibilities of the site. He divided the area into town lots and sold it to John Tryon for \$3,500 in 1797. The new proprietor arrived the following year. He built a store and opened it for business when Augustus Griswold arrived with five sleigh loads of goods from Schenectady. Among the goods sold in his store were furs, farm products, liquor, and such commodities as potash, salt, and flour. This was a general store and was operated under the name of Tryon and Adams. Barter for furs, and bear and deerskins was the principle means of exchange, particularly with the Indians. Stephen Lusk started a tanning and shoemaking business. Asa Dayton, who had settled before John Tryon arrived, opened the first tavern in Tryon. John Lusk and Oliver Culver, who arrived in 1800, were also among the early settlers. Tryon took on the aspect of a rough and tumble frontier town. As a shipping center it rivalled the lower Genesee.

Oliver Culver, who in 1811 built the schooner "Clarissa" on the Roswell

Hart farm (corner of East Avenue and Clover Street) and towed it to the Landing, described the early trade: "They received and shipped to Canada a large quantity of ashes, pot and pearl, and other products from Bloomfield, Lima, and other sections of the country that was being cleared up." In 1804 a grist mill was built by Noah Smith for Tryon and Adams on Allyn's Creek (west bank about 20 rods from the New York Central embankment) using the mill stones from the Ebenezer Allen mill at the Genesee Falls.

In 1825 Isaac Barnes either took over this same mill or built a new one, again using the Allen mill stones. These stones were later placed in the wall of the west corridor on the second floor of the Monroe County Court House.

John Tryon died in 1808, and in spite of his resourceful efforts along with those of Culver and the others, Tryon declined until it ceased being a shipping center.

As the town of Tryon faded from the scene, the economic and political center of the Irondequoit region shifted slightly westward to the main road from Canandaigua to the Genesee Falls. The old political unit of Boyle, minus Penfield and Perinton, its name changed to Smallwood, had outlived its usefulness. In late March, 1814, the town of Smallwood was divided into two sections: Brighton and Pittsford (including Henrietta). Thus these sister towns were organized at the same time. As originally organized, Brighton, named for an English beach resort, contained 66 square miles (42,240 acres), and stretched from Irondequoit Bay to the Genesee River, and from Lake Ontario to the township of Henrietta.

On April 5, 1814, the residents of Brighton held the first town meeting at Orringh Stone's Tavern. Built in 1790* the tavern was located on the portage trail from Irondequoit to the Genesee River, close to the Senecas' Council Rock. Later its choice location on the Canandaigua-Rochester Road made it a well known stopping point for travelers. The town's founding fathers who gathered there met in the 25 by 30-foot main room of the rough hewn post and plank building.

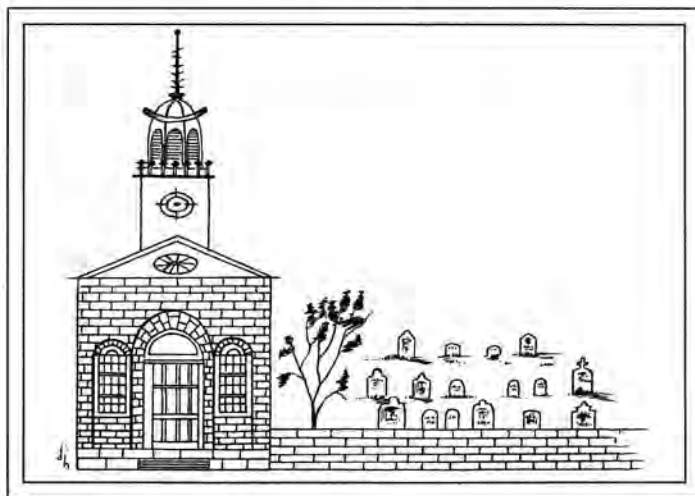
The business at hand was the election of the first town officials. For Supervisor they chose the former explorer turned farmer and entrepreneur, Oliver Culver. Other officers were: Town Clerk, Nehemiah Hopkins; Assessors, Orringh Stone, Ezekiel Morse, Solomon Gould; Commissioners of Highways, Sylvester Cowles, John Hatch, Jesse Taintor; Overseers of the Poor, Ezra Rogers, Rufus Messinger; Constables, Enos Blossom, David Buck; Inspectors of School Districts, Enos Stone, Jobe C. Smith; Pathmasters, Rufus Messinger, Philip Moore, William Moore, Robert M. Girdon, Solomon Gould, Isrel Salter, James Scofield, Orringh Stone, John B. Lee, and Joseph Coldwell.

The first supervisor, Oliver Culver, probably epitomized the values and

*Peck History of Rochester p. 78.

ideals of the early settlers. Like most of the settlers he had a New England background. Born in East Windsor, Connecticut, he moved to Orwell, Vermont, before migrating to New York. A venturesome youth, he set out on his own at the age of 18, joining a party which stopped at Irondequoit Bay. Culver returned to the bay area in 1800 and went to work in John Tryon's store. After four years with Tryon, the young Culver had saved enough money to go into business for himself. After a profitable trading venture to the outpost at Cleveland, Ohio, he returned to Brighton, married Alice Ray of Pittsford, built a superb home that stands today on East Boulevard, and settled down to farming. An uneducated man, Culver respected learning and strove to improve his educational shortcomings. In 1802 he helped build a log schoolhouse near the Landing, and then, although 24 years old, he attended the school taught by a clerk in Tryon's store. Culver could not be content with farming. His youthful spirit and business acumen dictated otherwise. Always close to the water, his interest turned to boats. He launched his first boat at the Landing in 1811, and with the opening of the Erie Canal he built the first packet boat on this section of the waterway and soon expanded his enterprise to a fleet of boats. In politics he remained active, serving as supervisor again in 1838-1841 and in 1844.

From their New England heritage the Brighton settlers maintained a devotion to religion and education which left an indelible mark on the community. In 1816 the Reverend Solomon Allen formed a Sunday school upon his arrival in Brighton. The following year a Congregational Church was organ-



Original Drawing of Brighton Presbyterian Church located in the Brighton Cemetery in 1820.

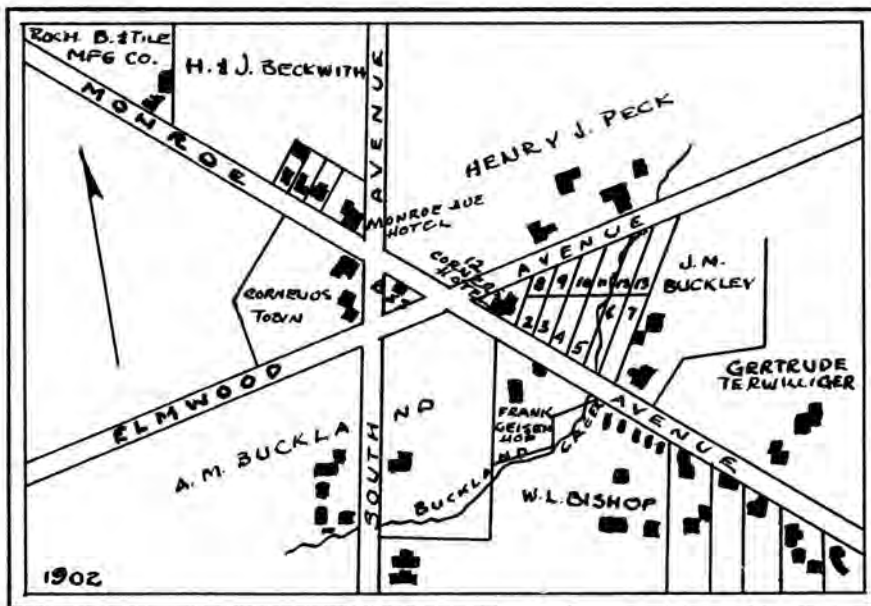
ized in the Orringh Stone house with Allen as pastor. After meeting in both the schoolhouse (corner of East and Winton) and the Stone house for the next four years, in 1820 the congregation constructed a church at what is now the end of Hoyt Place, next to the Brighton Cemetery. The building cost \$4,000 and was of red brick, painted brown. In 1872, the original building having burned down six years previously, the church moved to a new home on its present site in East Avenue and became the Brighton Presbyterian Church. The Baptists, equally popular on the frontier, organized the First Baptist Church of Brighton in 1817, with their first meeting place in Deacon Graves' barn. This became the First Baptist Church of Rochester. More than a century later, the church, following the trend to the suburbs, moved back to Brighton!

Brighton could not disregard the growing community at the Falls of the Genesee. Beginning in 1823 when the village of Rochesterville crossed to the east side of the river, annexing 357 acres, Brighton's territory shrank continuously. In 1834 and 1874 the bulk of Rochester east of the Genesee was taken from Brighton. And in 1839 the town of Irondequoit was separated from Brighton.

With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the town's economic center of activity, as well as the population, moved to Brighton Village. For three decades the Village, around the intersection of Winton Road and East Avenue, was a roaring canal town. A post office opened in 1817 with James Holden postmaster. William Perrin and Justus Yale opened stores; Louis Wilcox and William C. Bloss ran taverns, and Israel Blossom opened a public house there in the 1820's. In 1842 Thomas Caley opened a blacksmith shop destined to remain there until 1948. A description is found in the Monroe County Directory (1869-70): "The Village of Brighton situated in the north-east part of the town, contains a church, a hotel, and 30 houses. It is a station on the canal and the N.Y.C.R.R., where the two branches of the east unite."

Listed in the Rochester Public Library Newspaper Index are records of three powder mill explosions so we conclude that there were at least three powder mills operating before 1850. The three listed are Marshfield Parsons, Fairbanks and Conley, and Brighton Powder Mill.

Aside from Brighton Village, most of the township remained rural. Again from the Monroe County Directory (1869-70): "It is an interior town, lying upon the east bank of the Genesee, a little east of the county. Its surface is gently rolling and inclines gradually toward the north. The deep valley of Irondequoit Bay is on the north-east border. Its streams are small brooks flowing into the Genesee and Irondequoit. The soil is sandy loam in the east and a clay loam upon the river. Near the center are extensive beds of gypsum, formerly yielding a large amount of this article. Gardening is extensively carried on, and vegetables, to a large amount, are furnished for the Rochester



Twelve Corners 1902

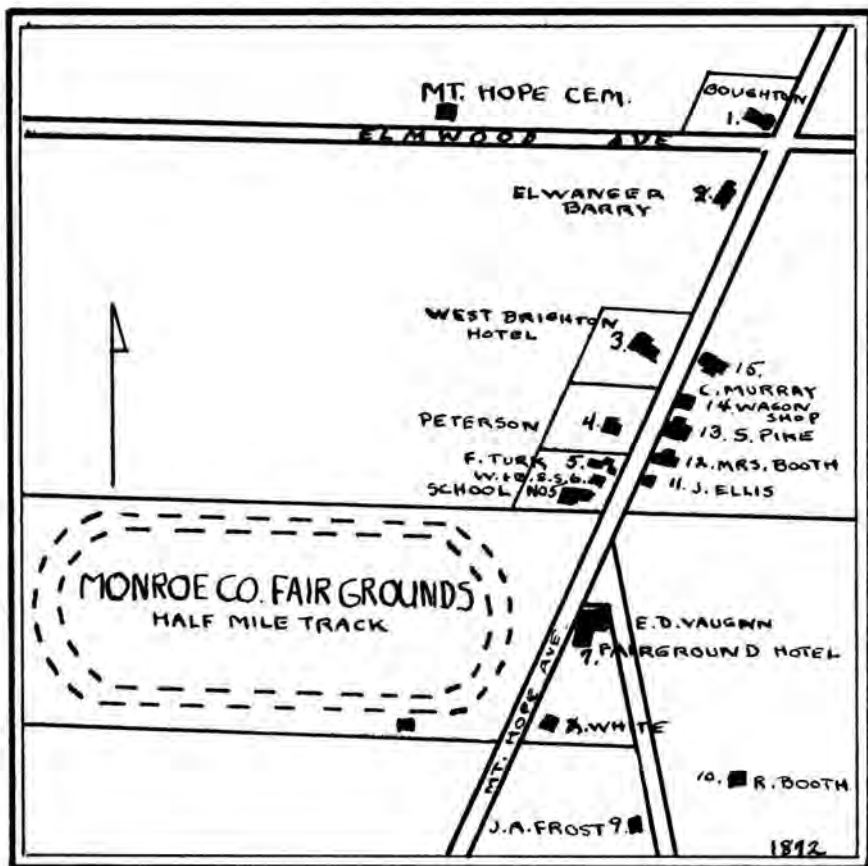
market. Several extensive nurseries are located in this town, these being mostly fruit, notably, apple nurseries." Those listed or shown on maps were the Hooker, Gould, Babcock, Yale, Norris, Ellwanger and Barry, Dage, Wilson, Mooney, Vick, and H. J. Peck & Sons. These records go back at least as far as 1872 and probably earlier than that.

In the search for a stable economy, and in the roaring heyday of the Erie Canal, the Brightonians retained a strong social consciousness. In the years from 1828 to the Civil War a series of reform movements "burnt over" western New York. Religious revivals, temperance and penal reforms, the abolition of slavery, and the expansion of education found a friendly atmosphere in Brighton. By 1865 there were nine established school districts employing eleven teachers. In 1814 at the first town meeting three school commissioners and two school inspectors were elected.

The Clover Street Seminary provided educational opportunities of the highest caliber to youngsters from far and near. In 1838, Isaac Moore, dissatisfied with the district school, engaged his sister-in-law, Celestia Bloss, to tutor his children. The school soon outgrew the Moore house (now the Edward Harris Jr. house on Clover Street). In 1845 Moore gave five acres at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Clover Street to Miss Bloss for a school. Center of its activities was what is now the Joseph C. Wilson home. Under

Miss Bloss's guidance the school flourished, serving not only the boys and girls of the best Rochester families, but students from as far away as Michigan, Tennessee, and Canada. In 1868, after her death, the Seminary became St. Mark's School for Boys.

Celestia Bloss's brother, William, was in the forefront of the reform movements. He ran a thriving and lively tavern in Brighton Village until he turned to temperance. In the spirit of his new-found cause, he dumped all the tavern's liquor into the Erie Canal and sold the building. The deep humanitarian feelings of Bloss caused him to lash out at evil where he saw it. The denial of women's rights and slavery he detested the most. An uncompromising abolitionist, he edited an abolitionist newspaper in Rochester, the second in the country. Deeply religious, Bloss was responsible for the conversion of



West Brighton 1872

his friend, Zebulon Brockway, warden of the Monroe County Penitentiary.

As warden of the county workhouse located in Brighton, Brockway had a host of sinners under his charge. He and his friend Bloss conducted Sunday School for the inmates. When they had served their time he blessed them and sent them on their way. In 1858, after four years of this, Brockway realized that his Sunday Schoolers often landed back in prison.

He began to develop a program which would prevent second and third offenses. He recommended indeterminate sentences to allow time for reforming prisoners, instead of mere punishment: this was to be accomplished through a work program designed to teach skilled trades to the inmates. Thus Brockway began penal reform in America, and for that matter, in the world. The penitentiary building in which he worked still serves as the county penitentiary.

The great struggle over abolition, culminating in the Civil War, remains, after a century, a transcendent event in the history of Brighton. In the person of William Clough Bloss, the town had a resident who became nationally known for his work in behalf of abolition. Many residents, including the Warrant family, participated in the work of the Underground Railroad in helping escaped slaves to safety in Canada. And when war came, Brighton men were quick to join Father Abraham's legions. During the course of the war, about two hundred Brighton men joined the Union Army, and at least fourteen made the supreme sacrifice.

After the Civil War the country, tired of reform, shifted its interest to the economic sphere. Industrialization created a new society. Like the town of Tryon earlier, the new economic developments left Brighton Village in their wake. The Village became an incorporated municipality in 1885, but with the decline of the Erie Canal, the little community had long since lost its primary economic reason for existence. Brighton Village was annexed by the city in 1905.

From the Civil War until the turn of the century Brighton to a degree seemed out of place in the new industrial order. Aside from the nurseries heretofore mentioned and from a few brick plants, most notably the Rochester Brick and Tile Co., and the Rochester German Brick and Tile Co., which located in Brighton to use a vein of clay near the Twelve Corners, the town lacked any industry which could support a large population. The Rochester metropolis on its Eastern and Southern borders almost totally eclipsed the Brighton Village.

In this quiescent period for Brighton the town maintained its links with Rochester. Transportation lines, beginning in 1862 with the establishment of the Rochester City and Brighton Railroad, made the connection possible. Brighton also offered entertainment and diversion for Rochesterians. Crittenden Park, in West Brighton near the Genesee River, was at various times

the site of the Monroe County Agricultural Fair, the location for early air shows, and the site of the Rochester Driving Club's harness races. In 1895 the Rochester Country Club opened on the other side of town at Elmwood and East Avenues. It established itself as the pioneer golf club in the metropolitan area, and one of the earliest in the United States.

After 1900 the city began to change the character of Brighton. The first effect of the suburban movement on Brighton was the loss of its most populous area, Brighton Village. Because of the loss, Brighton's population in 1920 was less than it had been at any time since 1840.

Through the late years of the 19th century, Brighton had been the home of farmers and a few leading families who lived in handsome homes and played a role in city and county affairs as well as those of the Town of Brighton. As the century ended and the 20th century began, they were joined by families from Rochester seeking "country homes" similar to those being built in communities outside of New York, Boston, and other large cities. Much of this growth followed Rochester's East Avenue eastward development, the street in the 1870's and 1880's having won recognition as the city's most fashionable thoroughfare. Clover Street, noted from the early days of the town for its fine homes, also was the scene of much building, as were other streets intersecting East Avenue, some of them new, others dating to earlier days. These included Landing Road, Penfield Road, and Elmwood Avenue.

The first suburban homes were spacious, their architecture Georgian, Tudor, or even Spanish, as their owners' taste might dictate. Most of these homes had extensive flower gardens, and many also had large vegetable gardens, orchards, and stables. However, these large establishments soon were followed by less pretentious, but nonetheless highly attractive homes. As the guns of World War I sounded in Europe, carefully-planned suburban developments were making their appearance. From the beginning, much effort was lavished on the design and planting of these developments, establishing a trend which has made Brighton one of the most beautiful suburban towns in America. The fact that many of the homes were to be built on what had been nurserymen's land, plus the town's long "green thumb" tradition, helped make it a gardener's Mecca.

But it was not until after World War I that Brighton's rapid growth as a suburban town began. From 1920 until the "real estate depression" of 1926, building developments multiplied. Areas of growth included Monroe Avenue from the city line to the Twelve Corners and the Browncroft neighborhood. The Home Acres development with its attractive homes and curving streets is perhaps typical of the era. Off East Avenue one of the most ambitious and elaborate developments in the East was envisioned by the developers of the Barnard Tract, including such notable streets as Sandringham Road, Esplanade Drive, and Ambassador Drive. Still the fact that many great mansions were

built in the area did not save this venture from becoming one of the town's famous financial failures. Expensive roadways of the Barnard Tract, complete with sidewalks and street lamps, but bare of homes, were to be a bizarre feature of Brighton until the post World War II building boom finally brought homes to these streets.

Another unusual development was Meadowbrook, near the Twelve Corners, inspired by the Eastman Kodak Company's desire to provide attractive housing for rising executives. Although Kodak never played a direct role in the development, Meadowbrook to this day has a strong Kodak feeling. The growth of this tract and others in the 1930's brought into the community many new business executives, scientists, physicians, lawyers, and other professional men. As these newcomers moved into the community, the old rural quality of Brighton gradually was lost. By the mid-30's Brighton was a "bedroom" community, and in many ways essentially a satellite of Rochester.

As the old identity was lost, however, a new identity began to develop. When World War II brought special stresses and strains, a new sense of community was born as townspeople of diversified backgrounds joined to aid the Red Cross, the USO, and other patriotic enterprises. The increasing size of the community through the 1920's and 1930's was mirrored by the growth of the school systems, and the appearance of new school buildings.

But the physical growth of the period before World War II was to be only a slender forerunner of the explosive increases in population after 1945. As rapidly as building restrictions eased after the war, new homes flooded through all sections of Brighton. A zoning code modernized and tightened in the early 1940's guided the growth of the town.

Paralleling this rapid growth, there developed a new sense of community identity. A major step was the construction of a town hall in Elmwood Avenue. Completed in 1951, this attractive brick and limestone structure provided not only modern housing for the town's offices, but also a true community meeting place and quarters for a town library. Brighton Memorial Library, the product of the interest and devotion of many citizens, has become one of the most unusual and effective institutions of its kind in New York State.

Religious needs of the growing population were met by the organization and construction of new churches, as well as by the transfer of religious organizations long located in Rochester, among them First Baptist Church, Temple B'rith Kodesh and Second Reformed Church.

Community organizations proliferated. The long-active Brighton Kiwanis Club was joined by a Rotary Club and a Lions Club. The town Red Cross branch took on increasingly widespread chores, and a town organization was set up to handle Community Chest solicitation—which it did with notable success.

The town's new community strength was sorely tested on the warm afternoon of September 21, 1951, when gas explosions destroyed or damaged more than 40 homes. Loss of life miraculously was only three persons. The community's police and fire departments, with aid from neighboring communities, and with wide citizen support, functioned with great effectiveness in the emergency.

Noteworthy also was the increasing importance of the role played by many residents on the national scene. Brighton residents in science, medicine, and other professions, as well as in business, brought the town increasing recognition. In Marion B. Folsom the community gained its first U. S. cabinet member and in Kenneth B. Keating, the town had first a Congressman and then a U. S. Senator. Frank E. Gannett, the noted publisher, was backed for the Republican nomination for President of the United States. He also distinguished himself as a philanthropist.

Throughout its history and despite the town's affluent reputation, its citizens have been characterized by an awareness of civic and social responsibility. The traditions established by Oliver Culver, William Clough Bloss, and so many others have been carried on.

Brightonians of 1964, living in one of America's most beautiful suburban communities, have not lost sight of the needs and hopes of other Americans less fortunately situated.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

There are several spellings of Allen's Creek in the book. The original settler of that section was Capt. Timothy Allyn from Groton, Conn. (see pages 12 and 13). Over the years a number of variations have appeared. We have used the spelling as it was on the maps and documents we found.

DATELINE OF THE HISTORY OF BRIGHTON

- 1610 • Etienne Brulé came into area.
- 1612 • Champlain map showed Irondequoit Bay.
- 1669 • La Salle landed on the shores of Irondequoit Bay.
- 1721 • Peter Schuyler established Fort Schuyler.
- 1788 • Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham secured title to the Genesee Country.
- 1789 • John Lusk arrived from Schenectady and built a log cabin on Irondequoit Bay.
- 1790 • Orringh Stone arrived here and built a log cabin on the site of the Stone-Tolan House.
- 1796 • Town of Northfield, Ontario County.
- 1797 • Village of Tryon at Indian Landing.
- 1800 • Oliver Culver arrived.
- 1808 • Northfield became Boyle, Ontario County.
- 1813 • Boyle changed to Smallwood, Ontario County.
- 1814 • Town of Brighton was set up to include Rochester east of the river to Irondequoit Bay, and from Lake Ontario to the township of Henrietta. This new town came into being at the first town meeting held at Orringh Stone's Tavern on April 5, 1814.
- 1820 • Congregational Church built on site next to what is now the Brighton Cemetery.
- 1823 • Rochester made its first annexation, 357 acres, from Brighton.
- 1825 • Opening of the Erie Canal, full length.
- 1839 • Town of Irondequoit set off from Brighton.
- 1885 • Brighton village of 640 acres incorporated.
- 1905 • Brighton village annexed to City of Rochester.
- 1918 • Opening of the Rochester section of the Barge Canal.
- 1925 • Brighton Fire Department was reorganized into the organization which it is today.
- 1926 • West Brighton Fire Department organized.
- 1927 • Ellison Park opened as the first county park.
- 1932 • The Brighton Police Department was organized.
- 1951 • September 21 — a very warm afternoon when Brighton was rocked by gas explosions originating from Twelve Corners. Many homes were destroyed in the vicinity of Twelve Corners, Bel Air, Home Acres and Meadowbrook.
- 1953 • March 22 — The new Town Hall of Brighton was dedicated.
- 1964 • One hundred fifty years of the Town of Brighton celebrated.

HISTORICAL HOUSE TOUR INFORMATION

MRS. ERNEST WHITBECK, JR., *Chairman*; MRS. DAVID FULTON, *Co-chairman*

DATES: Saturday, June 27th • Sunday, June 28th—12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

TICKETS: On sale at Brighton Sesquicentennial Information Center.

There will be a bus tour for a small extra charge.

Refreshments will be served in the Barn of the Stone-Tolan House on East Avenue.

It is requested that visitors abide by the following rules, for the protection of the property so kindly lent by the owners:

Please park cars outside all driveways.

Please do not smoke.

Please do not ask the use of facilities.

Children under 14 years are *NOT* invited to make the tour.

Houses may be visited in any order. To avoid traffic congestion, it is suggested that you follow a route of your own choosing.

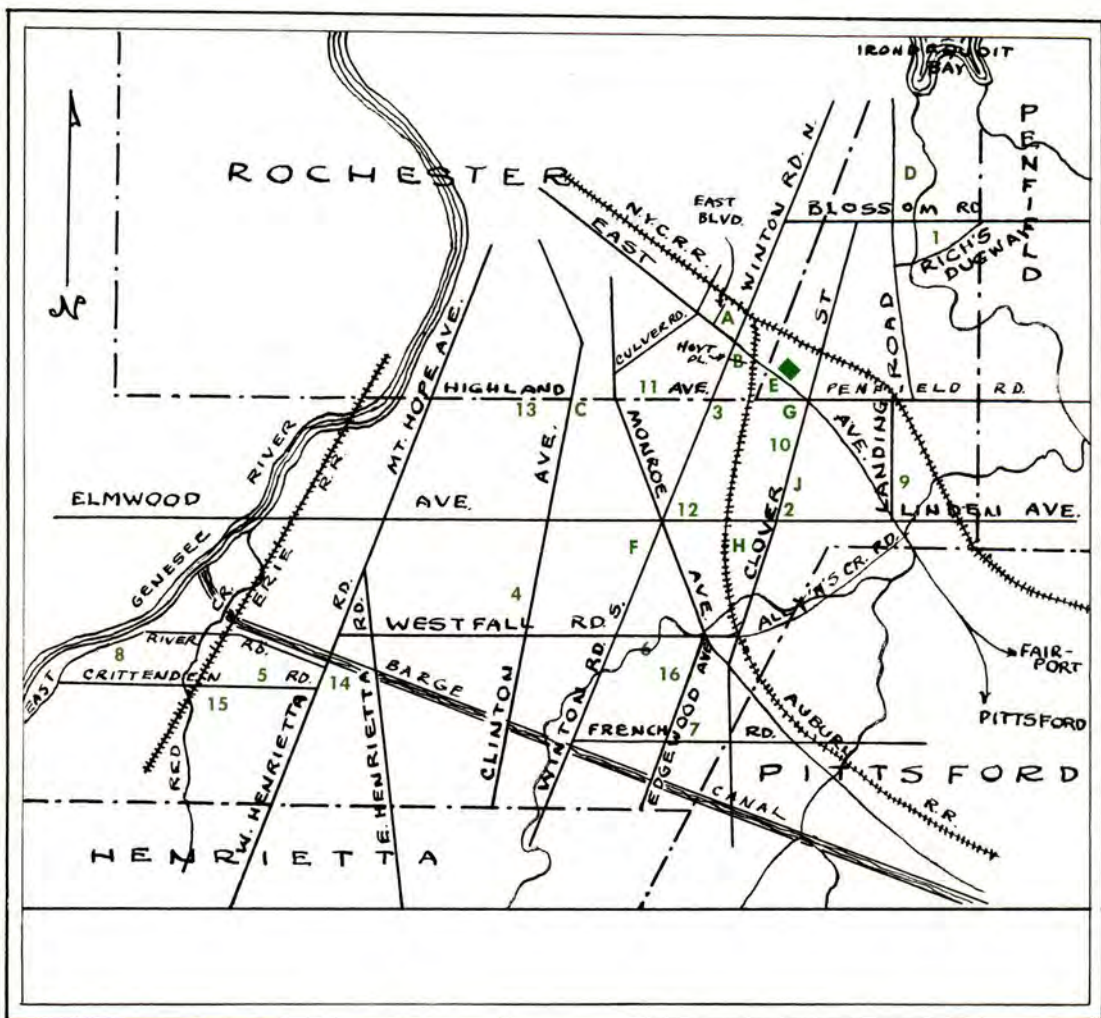
The Brighton Sesquicentennial Committee and the owners assume *NO* responsibility for injury or loss of property to persons on this tour.

High heels prohibited. Please wear flat heeled shoes. Spike heels damage fine old floors beyond repair.

The Brighton Sesquicentennial Committee wishes to acknowledge the gratifying response of the owners of historic property in the area.

The early pioneers who cleared this land from the Genesee River to Irondequoit Bay left well-built farmhouses and country estates still cherished as landmarks today. All still standing are evidence of the fine craftsmanship of the early settlers.

Many houses of architectural interest cannot be opened at this time. Approximately sixteen houses may be visited on Saturday, June 27th, and Sunday, June 28th. Different houses may be seen each day, together with the Stone-Tolan House on East Avenue, Brighton's oldest landmark, where a special exhibit of early farm tools and artifacts will be on view in the barn. Refreshments will be served here. A number of churches are also open to tour visitors. Those churches which are open have a sign in front of them and are listed with the churches on page 53.



Map Showing Historic House and Landmark Tour

Green Numbers / Homes Open

Green Letters / Landmarks

BRIGHTON SESQUICENTENNIAL
1964 TOUR OF HOUSES

Saturday, June 27th

1. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Jossem
190 Rich's Dugway Road
2. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson
1550 Clover Street
3. Dr. and Mrs. William Sullivan
474 Winton Road South
4. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schilling
2169 Clinton Avenue South
5. Mr. and Mrs. Grover Strong
1600 Crittenden Road
6. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rice, Jr.
2005 Westfall Road
7. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Pickles
490 French Road
8. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Quick
1564 East River Road

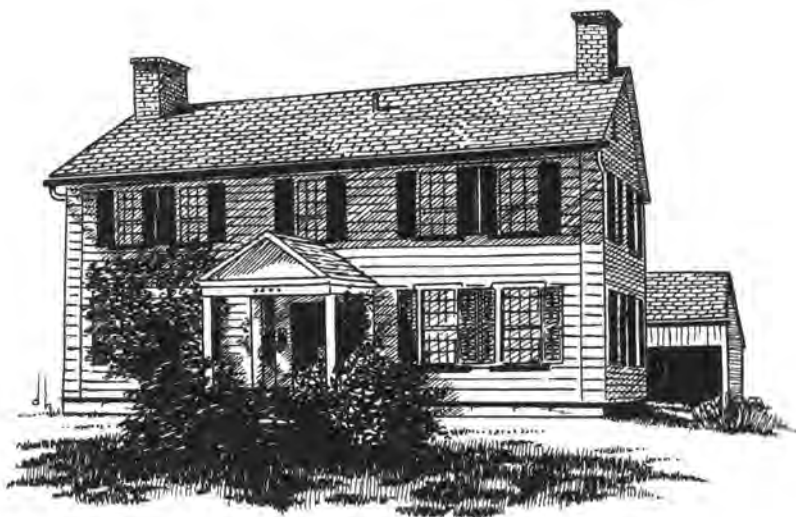
Sunday, June 28th

9. Mr. and Mrs. William Roby, Jr.
248 Landing Road South
10. Mr. and Mrs. Maro Hunting
1237 Clover Street
11. Mr. Robert G. Hobstetter
1600 Highland Avenue
12. Mr. and Mrs. William Little
2762 Elmwood Avenue
13. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Swift
661 Highland Avenue
14. Miss C. F. Warrant
1956 West Henrietta Road
15. Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Gillespie
1415 Crittenden Road
16. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Van de Carr
281 Edgewood Avenue

■ *Open Both Days* • Stone-Tolan House • 2370 East Avenue

NOT OPEN / LANDMARKS

- A. Miss Elizabeth Holahan, East Boulevard
- B. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Williams, Hoyt Place
- C. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams, 895 Highland Avenue
- D. Ft. Schuyler, Ellison Park
- E. Council Rock, Opposite Stone-Tolan House
- F. Abner Buckland House, 1037 Winton Road
- G. Hooker House, 1075 Clover Street
- H. Samuel Hall III, 1675 Clover Street
- J. Isaac Moore, 1496 Clover Street



STONE-TOLAN HOUSE

Miss Ellen Tolan • 2370 East Avenue

This is the oldest house in Brighton. Built in 1790,* by Orring Stone, it was the first tavern in the Genesee Country. Located on main transportation lines, it was a well known stopping point for travelers. Here in 1814, the early settlers held the first town meeting and organized the town government. John P. Tolan purchased the property and the frame building in 1860. The house is now owned by the Landmarks Society, and Miss Ellen Tolan, who lives in the house now, is to remain there for her lifetime. The grounds are being replanted and restored by the Allyn's Creek Garden Club. This organization has put much time and money into this project and should be proud of its efforts.

The original Stone Tavern was the one-story attic rear section of the present building. It was 25 by 30 feet, constructed of post and plank with clapboards on the outside. A large fireplace, 9 feet wide and 4 feet deep, dominated the west wall opposite the door. Off the north end, a plank wall divided a smaller room from the main room; there were a door and two windows in this room. Under this was a five-foot cellar.

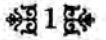
Though a relatively simple wilderness building, the house shows considerable architectural refinements in such things as the wooden quoins at the corners.

*Peck History of Rochester p. 78.



MR. AND MRS. MITCHELL JOSSEM
190 Rich's Dugway

This charming little house overlooking Ellison Park on Rich's Dugway is the home of an artist. Mr. and Mrs. Jossem completely remodeled it in 1958 to meet their needs and interests.



It must be presumed that this is one of the houses originally built during the early days of Brighton.

The early settlers in this area were predominately Dutch and were small plot gardeners. Some are still "gardening" this area today.



CLOVER STREET SEMINARY

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Wilson • 1550 Clover Street



This stately house was originally built as the Clover Street Seminary, which provided exceptional educational opportunities to students from near and far. In 1838, Isaac Moore, dissatisfied with the district school, engaged his sister-in-law, Celestia Bloss, to tutor his children. Realizing that his children would benefit from the presence of companions, Mr. Moore invited neighbors' children to attend the classes. The school soon outgrew the Moore house (now the Edward Harris, Jr. house on Clover Street). In 1845, Moore gave five acres of land at the corner of Clover Street and Elmwood Avenue to Miss Bloss for a school. She strongly believed in a liberal education for both sexes, and her school was one of the early attempts at co-education. Under her able guidance, the school was transformed from a family tutelage to a well known and high standing seminary, serving not only the daughters of prominent Rochester families, but also students from as far away as Michigan, Tennessee and Canada. In 1868, the Seminary became the St. Mark's School for Boys.

This house is one of the finest examples of early Brighton architecture, a superb example of craftsmanship in the Greek Revival Style. The brickwork is particularly notable. The garden, grounds and swimming pool have been developed under the guidance of Katherine W. Rahn. Note the woodwork and fireplaces in the double parlor, and the library.



AMASA DRAKE HOUSE

Dr. and Mrs. William Sullivan • 474 Winton Road South

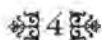
This lovely old farmhouse looks much the same on the exterior as it did when it was built in 1834 by Amasa Drake. This property adjoined the land of the Hooker Nursery on Clover Street. One interesting feature of this house is the carving around the moldings. Dr. and Mrs. Sullivan have remodeled the interior some, mainly building a beautiful modern kitchen in the wing of the house.



Amasa Drake was an engineer and a farmer. Before coming to Rochester he worked on the Erie Canal. He was made Supervisor of the building of the Rochester Aqueduct. Tradition has it that he was descended from Sir Francis Drake. He had six children.



MR. AND MRS. BERNARD SCHILLING
2169 Clinton Avenue South



Timothy Wallace, a farmer, came to Monroe County at the age of thirty-one from Massachusetts and purchased the property in Brighton which is now 2169 Clinton Avenue South. He and his wife, Olive, owned the property until 1867. According to newspaper accounts he was elected in 1842 to the Monroe County Agricultural Society, in 1855 as Supervisor of Brighton and Inspector of the Work House. In 1865 he was appointed warden of the Monroe County Insane Asylum.

The brick house in Greek Revival style was probably begun in the late 1830's and consisted of the center block and north wing. A preliminary sketch for this suggests the initial idea, which was changed in the final execution. A matching south wing was added perhaps in the 1840's. Builders' guides and carpenters' manuals, such as those written by Minard Lafever and Asher Benjamin, often furnished the models for houses and designs for mouldings, doors, portals and balustrades.

From 1867 to 1887 the house was owned by Henry Harrison Hickox and William Hickox, when it became a two-family house. Ownership passed in 1887 to Albert Michel, in 1911 to George A. Michel, and in 1913 to Solomon Berman.

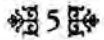
After a few more owners and a change back to a single-family structure, Bernard and Susan Schilling acquired the house. They have made no structural changes and have modified the interior only slightly to accommodate a collection of books and paintings.



THE CRITTENDEN HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Grover W. Strong • 1600 Crittenden Road

The Crittenden family originally owned land from Methodist Hill to Mt. Hope Cemetery. Chauncey Crittenden built the original homestead, which still stands back of the present house, in 1815. In 1830, the large frame house was built by Chauncey's son, Austin, for his bride, Sarah Warrant.



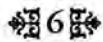
Austin Crittenden was the town supervisor from 1871-1872 and was also the first trustee of No. 4 School in Brighton, which is now named for him. He gave the land for this school. The first school board meeting was held in his home.

Only three families have resided in this house, namely the Crittendens for 57 years, the Hills for 42 years, and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Strong, for 35 years. This house is one of the early homesteads in West Brighton.

This home is noted for its fine carpentry, and the delicacy and balance of its design, an exceptional reflection of Federal Period grace in what was then recently-settled territory.



MR. AND MRS. HARRY RICE, JR.
2005 Westfall Road



The history of this house goes back to 1804, the date when it was built. In 1867 the property was purchased by Robert Polen for his family and in 1882 John Evershed became the owner. For many years the land here was known as the "Evershed Farm." The Westfall Road section was the scene of many farms, of which there are a few still operating. The Evans family acquired this land in 1924 and after World War II the property was developed as the Evans Farm Tract.

There is an interesting architectural feature in the basement of the house. The ceiling is supported by cross beams made from seven trees. The house has been completely remodeled recently into a most livable, Colonial home with a terrace and a pine kitchen. The present owners, who purchased the house in 1961, have done nothing to it but enjoy the fruits of the former owners' labors.



NUMBER NINE SCHOOLHOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Pickles • 490 French Road

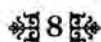
Here is a 60-year-old schoolhouse that has been converted into a charming home. The first owners, Mr. and Mrs. Dowdy, acquired the schoolhouse in 1949. It had not been used in 10 years, and the "remains" of education were just as they were. The desks were still nailed to the floor and the pot-bellied stove was in the rear of the 15-foot-high single room.



Mr. and Mrs. Pickles have remodeled the building, adding a bedroom upstairs, replacing and leveling the original first floor, and they are at present making a dining room out of the downstairs bedroom.



MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND QUICK
1564 East River Road



In 1842 this house was built with its cobblestone foundation, an architectural trait of this area of that period. Generally the cobblestones were picked up from fields nearby.

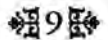
Its site on the banks of the Genesee gave it an interesting outlook in the days of early Brighton.

Interesting details on the exterior are the beautiful iron grills in the "lie on your stomach windows."



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. ROBY, JR.
248 Landing Road South

History records that the Roby house was built in 1800 by one Abel Eaton and then was purchased by Mathew Dyer in 1817. Thus it was handed down for five generations to become eventually the property of Theodore Benedict, Jr., until 1933.



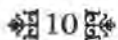
The original farm of 100 acres was full of springs, all of which were tributaries of the historic Rattlesnake Creek. The property is located two miles south of old Tryon Town.

This house is one of the most charming homesteads still standing as a tribute to early Brighton craftsmanship. Its beams and walls are held together with hand-wrought nails, and the doors all have hand-wrought latches. The floors are of oak and pine.

Mr. and Mrs. Roby have filled the rooms with many fine old antiques and have retained much of the original charm and feeling.



MR. AND MRS. MARO S. HUNTING
1237 Clover Street



The property on which this house was originally built was deeded in 1812 to Andrew Kingsbury, Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, and passed on through several hands until 1856, when Roswell and Belvidere Hart purchased it and resold it to Joseph Farley, Sr. He then sold to Charles Hooker in 1857.

The original part of this house was owned by the parents of Miss Kate Hooker, who still resides in the family home at the corner of Highland Avenue and Clover Street. It is said that the two older Hookers were born in this house, which later was used as the office for the Hooker Nursery.

In 1926, Mr. and Mrs. Hunting purchased and remodeled the house extensively, retaining much of the old, but adding the brick wing and garage. There is an intriguing stairway with a low rail around the second floor landing. Here one will see the original window into which a young Hooker lass carved her initials.

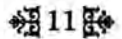
In 1948, the wooden wing to the north was added. This addition was almost a complete five-room house. This is a beautifully landscaped and gracious home.



MANOR HOUSE

Mr. Robert G. Hobstetter • 1600 Highland Avenue

Mr. Hobstetter purchased this house in 1959 and has decorated it in soft blues and golds, which makes an elegant background for his fine sculpture and furniture collection. The house was built in or about 1845. Architectural evidence reveals that the house grew like "Topsy" from a small beginning to its present stately appearance.



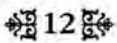
Legend has it that the house was the summer residence of Philander Davis. The earliest resident was Jason Baker, Esq., Brighton supervisor in 1849. Augusta Barnum Taylor, descendant of Dr. Ebenezer Bowen, Town Clerk of Brighton from 1854 to 1856, lived in this house from 1861 until about 1875 when she moved elsewhere, at the age of fourteen. The original property went from Culver Road, then a toll plank road, to Harvard Street, Winton Road and back to Highland Avenue.

An interesting architectural detail is that each room is seventeen feet square with the exception of the drawing room which is 17 feet by 34 feet.

With its outstanding site, commanding a view for miles to the south, this was one of the most striking mansions of the 19th century in Monroe County.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM S. LITTLE
2762 Elmwood Avenue



12

The Little house was originally a tenant house on the 100-acre farm belonging to Henry Donnelly, Mrs. Little's great-great-grandfather. The property was deeded to them by Andrew Kingsbury, Treasurer of Connecticut, on March 13, 1812. Later 50 acres of this property was deeded to Hiram Peck, Mrs. Little's great-grandfather, in 1826.

The original farmhouse stood near the corner of Elmwood and Monroe Avenues.

The tenant house probably was built around 1870. The original part of the house is the main part of the present house and was remodeled in 1936. Additions were made in 1948 and 1959.



MR. AND MRS. ARNOLD B. SWIFT
661 Highland Avenue

This charming brick residence was built about 1830 by David Hagaman, son of John Hagaman, who built the brick house which stands on the corner of Highland and Clinton Avenues. The property on which this house stands was once part of the Hagaman farm, the whole property having been divided equally among the Hagaman children.

❖ 13 ❖

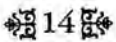
The bricks for this house were made from clay from the farm and were fired in Gideon Cobb's kiln. An interesting architectural feature of the house is that it was built with no ridge pole. Other unique and lovely features are the moldings around the windows and the basement floor, which is bricked in a herringbone pattern.

Truly because of the early history of Brighton, of which the family was an important part, this house, which its present owners have furnished so beautifully, should not be missed.



WARRANT HOMESTEAD

Miss Cora Warrant • 1956 West Henrietta Road



14

The Warrant Homestead was built by Thomas White Warrant when he settled in Brighton in 1819. The family first built a log cabin at the present site. The house was completed in 1821.

The house was originally L-shaped and was lined with brick. Before the Civil War a room was added to the first and second floors to make it square. The house was covered with wood, and a cupola placed on top.

The interior was remodeled about 1908 to make one room across the front. In the early days, an iron fireplace in the "sitting room" was used for cooking. This was replaced by a wooden one, followed by a marble one to match the one in the parlor when the house was enlarged. The boards are hand-hewn and the beams in the cellar are still carrying the bark of the local beech trees.

This house was a station on the Underground Railroad which helped to smuggle escaped slaves to freedom in Canada.



MR. AND MRS. MAURICE L. GILLESPIE
1415 Crittenden Road

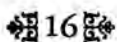
Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie have owned this charming farmhouse for three years, and they are the third owners. It was originally on Crittenden property which was deeded from Chauncey Crittenden to Aaron Greene on January 10, 1832.

15

Mrs. Gillespie, in restoring the house, has made braided rugs and has collected and refinished pieces of furniture in keeping with this charming landmark.



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD VAN DE CARR
281 Edgewood Avenue



16 In 1845, Joseph E. Evans, Sr. brought his bride to live in this little house. Shortly thereafter, the house, being too small, was moved from its original location — now 333 Edgewood Avenue — to its present site and a new house was built on the old foundation.

In 1945, William Evans, a descendant of Joseph Evans, acquired the house. It has been remodeled from time to time and has a quality of the simple charm of an early Brighton house.

LANDMARKS OF EARLY BRIGHTON

See Map, Page 26

MR. AND MRS. MITCHELL WILLIAMS

Hoyt Place

This beautiful house on its imposing elevation held a place of great importance to the early history of Brighton. Its location on the Erie Canal and adjacent to the Brighton cemetery and the old Congregational Church made it one of the most conspicuous homes of early days. It has been carefully repaired and restored.



OLIVER CULVER HOUSE

Miss Elizabeth G. Holahan

70 East Boulevard

Oliver Culver, Brighton's first supervisor, built this elegant Federal mansion. It was originally built on the northwest corner of East Avenue and Culver Road, then part of Brighton, in 1815. For 129 years it housed Culver descendants. It was moved to its present site in 1906.

Miss Holahan acquired the house in 1945 and has completely and beautifully restored it. It is filled with antiques and many of the hangings and upholstery materials were woven especially for the house by Frances Scalamandre. Oliver Culver's portrait hangs in the front hall.

So exquisite is the architecture of this house that measured drawings of various parts of the house were made by the Department of Interior to be kept in the Library of Congress.





THE JOHN HAGAMAN HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Adams
895 Highland Avenue

In 1814, John Hagaman brought his wife to a log cabin near the place where in 1826 he built the beautiful brick house which is being so carefully restored today by Mr. and Mrs. Adams.

John Hagaman owned most of the property along Highland Avenue and Clinton Avenue. This land was known as Hagaman's Corners. Several of his children had homes on the property, among them, David, whose house is being seen on this tour.

When the restoration of this home is completed, Brighton will have a museum piece to treasure. The details which are being carefully watched over and thought out by Mrs. Adams include such things as original glass of this period in all the windows, wrought iron latches, and old doors from similar old houses and buildings. Already restored are two complete baking ovens and two fireplaces.



BRIGHTON TOWN OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR	Leonard A. Boniface
TOWN CLERK	Lawrence Mooney
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK	Rose Hallock
JUSTICES OF PEACE	John J. Darcy Thomas F. Hanna
TOWN ATTORNEY	Harold S. Coyle
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS	John H. Shirley
DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	Warren Mack
TOWN ENGINEER	John W. Fisher
CHIEF OF POLICE	Carlton L. Fitch
ASSESSOR	Richard C. Wiles
TOWN BOARD	Oswald J. Gendreau Robert T. Headley John C. McNab William C. Warren
TOWN HISTORIAN	Mrs. Claude Schmitt
PLANNING BOARD	Allen Macomber, <i>Chairman</i> John A. Baker George B. Gardner Harold F. Grunert Barnet Levy
YOUTH AGENCY	Mrs. Burton Kaplan
LIBRARIAN	Mrs. Charles Vaughn



BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

There is little early history of the Police Department, but at the first town meeting on April 14th, 1814, Enos Blossom was appointed constable. Thus began our first police protection. Four years later four constables were appointed. They were Enos Blossom, Collector; David Bush, Daniel Hibbard, and Richard Cornwall.

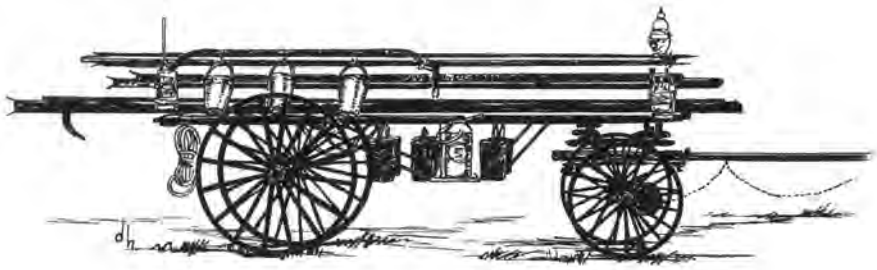
A. E. Babcock was appointed first police commissioner and supervisor. His police force was trained at Convention Hall in Rochester by the city's force.

In 1932, under the guidance of Chief Vincent Conklin, the Brighton Police Department was reorganized and headquarters established at the old Town Hall on Monroe Avenue near Hollywood Avenue.

Today the Brighton Police Department has its headquarters in the Town Hall on Elmwood Avenue. Its chief is Carlton L. Fitch. Serving under him are two lieutenants, four sergeants, one detective and nineteen patrolmen — making a force of twenty-five men, plus twelve school guards, and four desk clerks. The police force has seven squad cars and two motorcycles.

Under the guidance of the late Gordon Snyder, the Brighton Youth Group was organized. The department has long had an interest in the young people in Brighton.





BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Brighton has had fire protection since 1896 when the Village of Brighton organized two companies. One was called the Actives No. 1, and the other was the Citizens Hose Company. There were thirty-three members in the Actives. The Brighton Fire Department was reorganized in 1925. The newly formed department, wanting to name themselves the Brighton Fire Department, went to the old Brighton Actives, who were incorporated under that name, at East Avenue and Winton Road, and persuaded them to surrender their charter. Their territory was now part of Rochester and protected by Rochester Fire Department Hose #19. Thus the three present-day companies were formed. They are No. 1 Company at Landing Road and East Avenue, No. 2 Company at Winton Road and Elmwood Avenue, and No. 3 Company at Blossom Road and Clover Street.

In 1925, three commissioners were elected and a bond issue for \$90,000 to build and equip three fire houses was approved. The three men who were elected were Fred K. Townsend, Chairman; Amos Cobb, and William Farley. Howard Converse was named chief.

The only opposition to this necessary group was from Home Acres, Bel Air and Roselawn. The Rochester Fire Department had been answering calls there for \$50. Shortly thereafter, Rochester refused, and these districts were glad to come into our department.

Much of the early education and training was done by Glen Ewell, who was chief from 1928 to 1940. Today the Brighton Fire Department is directed by the Brighton Fire Commission, a five-man committee chaired by Martin Hendrikson. The fire chief is Donald DeHollander. There are three houses, six fire trucks, thirty-one paid firemen, and one hundred and five volunteers.

WEST BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The West Brighton Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was founded in 1926 by a group of men living in what was known as West Brighton. This section was bounded by Genesee Valley Park, East River Road, Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road and Clinton Avenue.

Before No. 1 Firehouse was built, the organization met at the River Park Hotel which still stands on East River Road. These volunteers proudly answered calls in a 1924 Ford Model T, the body of which was obtained from the City of Rochester. Their helmets were "hand-me-downs" — as was their hose box. They used a hand siren, owned one axe and a 60-gallon chemical tank and a booster line.

The money for this first truck was contributed by the Town Board out of their own pockets. The members of this board were Byron Howard, Supervisor; Karl Marcus, Town Clerk; Clarence Miller, George M. Keller, Glen Ewell and William Rodell.

As the years progressed No. 2 Firehouse was built on West Henrietta Road. This could house two trucks and had a small room in the rear. A 1927 GMC and a 350-gallon front end pump were acquired. Four more trucks have been added between 1941 and 1961, giving the department four pumpers and one emergency truck.

The Department's future plans are for another truck in 1965 and a building on West Henrietta Road containing a meeting hall and a recreation room.

Wayne Clapp is President of the organization and George M. Uhl is Fire Chief. Their purpose is "Prevention of fire, preservation of life and property and to make the Town of Brighton a better place in which to live."





WORLD WAR II VETERANS



(Died in Service)

Thomas Abel	Neil Dear	Joseph Morton
James Albright	Robert Decker	Joseph Myler, Jr.
Varian Austin	Sherill Dengler	Robert Relyea
Paul Baker	George Eike	Donald Rice
Bernard Barney	Richard Eike	Harry Rosenberg
Paul Beaman	Leo Gertin, Jr.	Peter Rosenberg
Robert Behnke	Lyman Hart	John Sanderson, Jr.
Gustave Braun, Sr.	Allen Hasbrouck	Robert Seelye
Donald Briggs	Herbert Hastings	Gerald Smith
Richard Brigham	Joseph Honsinger	Gerard Smith
Baron Brodine	Richard Hulburt	Lee Streeter
Monroe Billings	Donald Lerch	Walter Taylor
Robert Coleman	William T. Lewis	Lewis Uhl
James Conheady, Jr.	James Matteson	Frank Van Morrelgem
John S. Costello	Fay Maxion	Ronald Watt
Edward Crone, Jr.	Margaret McMahon	Joseph Weider
Ross Danford	Albert Miller	Herbert Wooden
	Paul Zaenglein, Jr.	



CIVIL WAR VETERANS WHO DIED IN SERVICE

Justus Eisenberg—Co. D., 140th	Isaac Klein—17th Inf.
William Gregor—Co. G., 140th	Cassius C. Bowen—Co. L., 21st Cav.
Franklin Evans—Co. D., 140th	Herschel Coby—Co. L., 21st Cav.
George Pullen—Co. G., 108th	Michael Flynn—Co. L., 21st Cav.
Robert S. Ambrose—Co. G., 108th	Eldridge F. Taylor—Co. L., 21st Cav.
Frederick Schaman—27th Inf.	Martin J. Taylor—Co. B., 8th Cav.
John H. Van Antwerp—	John Bloss—Co. L., 8th Cav.
Co. E., 27th Inf.	Isaac Ellwood—Co. B., 8th Cav.
James Dack, Jr.—Co. D. 100th Inf.	Joseph Schraeder—3rd Cav.

BRIGHTON SCHOOLS

ALLEN CREEK SCHOOL

East Avenue • (Pittsford Central District)

AUSTIN CRITTENDEN SCHOOL

1534 Crittenden Road • (Rush-Henrietta Central District)

BRIGHTON DISTRICT NO. 1

Monroe and Elmwood Avenues

BRIGHTON DISTRICT NO. 2

220 Idlewood Road

COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL

Grosvenor Road

HARLEY SCHOOL

1981 Clover Street

INDIAN LANDING SCHOOL

702 Landing Road North • (Penfield Central District)

MCQUAID JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

1800 Clinton Avenue South

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

165 Rhinecliff Drive

OUR LADY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

1437 Blossom Road

ST. AGNES HIGH SCHOOL

300 East River Road

ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

2317 East Avenue

ALLENDALE SCHOOL

Allen's Creek Road (Just over Border of Pittsford)



LIST OF CHURCHES AND TEMPLES

- * ATONEMENT LUTHERAN • 1900 Westfall Rd. 14618—*Rev. Frederick H. Reissig*
BETH HAKENES HACHODOSH • Monroe at St. Regis Dr. N.
Abraham Nusbaum, President
 - * BRIGHTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 1775 East Ave. 14610—*Rev. George E. Ulp*
BRIGHTON REFORMED CHURCH • Blossom Rd. at Arbordale Ave.
Rev. Gordon Curtis
 - * B'RITH KODESH • 2131 Elmwood Ave. 14618 — *Rabbi Philip Bernstein*
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • 175 Allens Creek Road 14618—*Rev. Lee J. Beynon, Jr.*
INDIAN LANDING LUTHERAN • 626 Landing Rd. N. 14625
Rev. George Schweikert
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • Rhinecliff and Imperial Dr. 14618
Msgr. Leslie Whalen
 - * OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE • 95 Warren Ave. 14618 — *Rev. James Slattery*
 - * ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL • 2000 Highland Ave. 14618 — *Rev. Arthur R. Cowdery*
 - * ST. THOMAS MORE • 2617 East Ave. 14610 — *Rev. Francis Pegnam*
 - * SECOND REFORMED CHURCH • Landing Rd. N. at Penhurst Rd.
Rev. Richard Pruiksma
TEMPLE BETH EL • 139 Winton Rd. S. — *Rabbi Abraham J. Karp*
TEMPLE SINAI • 519 Allens Creek Road — *Rabbi Leonard Schoolman*
 - * TWELVE CORNERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 1200 Winton Rd. S. 14618
Rev. Carlton Allen
UNITARIAN FIRST CHURCH • 220 Winton Rd. S. — *Rev. Robert West*
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN • 1969 South Clinton Ave.
 - * FIRST FREE METHODIST • 250 Edgewood Ave.
RIDGELAND BAPTIST CHURCH • 1230 East Henrietta Road
- *Have indicated that they will open the buildings for visitors from 1 to 5 P.M. on Sunday, June 28.*



POPULATION GROWTH OF BRIGHTON

1800	414*
1810	2,800**
1814	673
1820	1,972
1825	4,375
1830	3,128
1840	2,336
1850	3,117
1860	3,138
1865	3,590
1875	3,455
1890	4,533
1900	3,815
1905	3,125***
1925	4,584
1930	9,065
1940	13,132
1950	18,036
1960	27,849
1963	29,331

*Northfield, after 1808 Boyle.

**Boyle and Penfield.

***Brighton Village made part
of Rochester in that year.

PERTINENT INFORMATION • 1964

Acreage: 8,649.13

Equalized value real and franchise: \$81,315,398

Miles of Highways — 114.33

State — 16.28

County — 20.43

Town — 77.62

Number of election districts — 31

BRIGHTON OFFICIALS

Supervisors

1814-1816	Oliver Culver	1867	Caleb Moore
1817-1818	Elisha Ely	1868-1870	Ira Todd
1819-1825	Ezekiel Morse	1871-1872	Austin Crittenden
1826	Elisha B. Strong	1873-1874	Henry E. Beardman
1827	Thomas Blossom	1874	Harrison A. Leon
1828	Ezekiel Morse	1875-1876	Ira Todd
1829-1831	Samuel G. Andrews	1877-1879	Thomas C. Wilson
1832-1834	William B. Alexander	1880-1884	David K. Bell
1835-1836	David S. Bates	1885	S. Hatch Gould
1837	Samuel Beckwith	1886-1887	K. A. Hughson
1838-1841	Oliver Culver	1888	David K. Bell
1842-1843	Samuel P. Gould	1889	K. A. Hughson
1844	Oliver Culver	1890	Edwin C. Remington
1845-1847	Stephen Otis	1891-1892	William H. Rowerdink
1848	Lorenzo D. Ely	1893-1896	A. Emerson Babcock
1849	Jason Baker	1897	William Manning
1850	Elisha Miller	1898-1901	A. Emerson Babcock
1851	Benjamin Remington	1902-1903	Cornelius F. Warrant
1852	Abel Dryer	1904-1907	A. Emerson Babcock
1853	Justus Yale	1908-1909	Stanley Todd
1854	Seth Weed II	1910-1911	A. Emerson Babcock
1855	Timothy Wallace	1912-1915	Hiram C. Shaw
1856	Luther Eaton	1915-1927	Bion H. Howard
1857-1858	Benjamin Huntington	1928-1931	A. Emerson Babcock
1859-1860	Henry H. Holton	1932-1942	Samuel Cooper
1861	Edwin T. Otis	1943-1945	Charles O. Green
1862-1864	Lorenzo D. Ely	1946-1951	Roy C. Draper
1865	Samuel P. Gould	1951-	Leonard A. Boniface
1866	Ira Todd		<i>(continued)</i>

BRIGHTON OFFICIALS

(continued)

Town Clerks

1814-1815	Nehemiah Hopkins	1854-1856	Ebenezer Bowen
1816-1820	Enos Stone	1857-1859	Benjamin B. Blossom
1821	Anson House	1860-1862	Ebenezer Bowen
1822-1824	Enos Stone	1863-1866	Benjamin B. Blossom
1825	Thomas Blossom	1867-1870	Amasa C. Cook
1826-1830	William B. Alexander	1871-1873	Ezra Bosenbough
1831	Harvey Humphrey	1874-1875	Charles C. Houlton
1832-1833	Henry L. Achilles	1875-1891	Charles Keitzler
1834	William Colby	1892-1895	Daniel F. Sheehan
1835	Benjamin B. Blossom	1896-1904	Andrew W. Miller
1836	Elisha Miller	1905-1919	W. P. Surgenor
1837-1838	Benjamin B. Blossom	1920-1921	Raymond A. Wood
1839-1840	John Boardman	1922-1927	E. Karl Marcus
1841	John Hagaman	1928-1934	F. Porter Surgenor
1842-1843	Benjamin B. Blossom	1934-1961	George C. Gordon
1844-1852	Ebenezer Bowen	1961-	Lawrence Mooney
1853	Henry H. Houlton		

