



HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

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SUMMER 2007

NUMBER 3

GIDEON COBB DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

JUNE 29 AND JUNE 30

AUCTION!

The undersigned will sell at Auction, on the
Amos Buckland Farm, in the town of Brighton, near the Twelve Corners.

ON TUESDAY, March 12, 1867,
Commencing at 10 o'clock A. M. the following property, viz:

5 Work Horses, 13 Milch Cows, 1 year old Bull, 8 Shoats,
1 Mower and Reaper, 1 good Cast Iron Roller,
1 Democrat Family Buggy, 1 Milk Wagon,
3 Lumber Wagons, 3 Double Harness, 1 light,
1 Single Harness, 1 pair Bobs, 1 Cutter, 1 Fanning Mill,
300 bushels Oats, 50 bush. Corn and 1 Corn Sheller,
50 bush. Potatoes, a quantity of Pork, 12 Hams &
Shoulders, a quantity of Chickens, 1 Cauldron
Kettle, 2 Stoves, Plows, Drags, Rakes,
1 Horse Pitch Fork, Hay, Straw, and a great variety of other articles.

Terms.--All sums of \$5 and under, cash;
all sums over \$5, eight months credit with approved endorsed notes on interest.

A. C. HOBBIÉ, Salesman.
Brighton, March 1, 1867.

GEO. ENGERT.

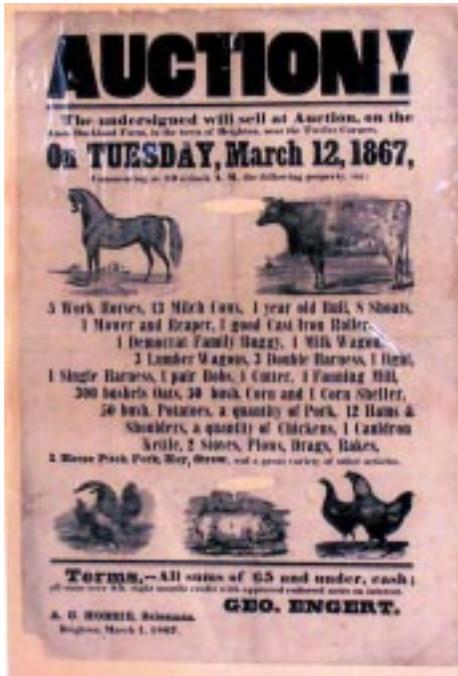
Buckland Farm auction poster courtesy of Debbie Taub

DETAILS ON PAGES 2 TO 8

THE AUCTION POSTER

WHAT A GREAT FIND!

By Leo Dodd



Milk wagon

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An 1867 Poster, advertising an auction on the Amos Buckland Farm in the Town of Brighton. We are indebted to Beth Keigher who knew of its existence in the home of Debbie Taub on Commonwealth Rd. What a great find! Debbie was kind enough to share a photograph of the auction poster.

In the year of the auction, 1867, A. B. was 63 years old, his children, Mary Ann 24, Elizabeth 21, Julia 18, Alma 15, Amos B. Jr. was 12, but Sally his wife had died nine years before, and at that time his home address was on Pearl St. in the City of Rochester. This paper document gives us an insight into the farm items we would have found on the 200-acre farm of Amos Buckland. Items that would not be listed in New York State Farm Census that describes the farm animals and land crops yet help us gain a deeper understanding of farm life.

One item, the Democrat Family Buggy, (no it's not a political statement), was a forerunner to the modern van or station wagon. It was a light wagon with seats on it and room for cargo behind, for most families a buggy did not hold enough people. Can't you picture Amos and Sally with their five children driving down Westfall Road to the Twelve Corners to

visit his brother Abner? Had to be fun for all.

We have only one other record of the Buckland Farm details and that was the 1855 New York State Farm Census. This is a very detailed accounting of acreage, plantings, harvest and farm animals. Amos had the most acreage of the four Buckland brothers with 185 acres and a farm value of \$18,500, a considerable sum. His brother Warren had 35 acres across the street at 1400 Westfall Rd., Leonard had 128 at the corner of Winton and Westfall and the oldest, Abner, had 160 acres at the Twelve Corners farm. The auction poster also lists three lumber wagons.

I have no details as to why A. B. had three wagons of this type, which is certainly beyond the needs of one farm, unless he operated a lumber transport business along with operating the farm. Fun question.

Two other items of note are the milk wagon and the fanning mill. The milk wagon indicates that A. B. made his own delivery and did not rely on other farmers to transport his milk. Was he also in the milk transport business? (The 1855 farm census record shows he had ownership of only five milk cows, but our auction poster shows thirteen being sold.)



Democrat Family Buggy



Lumber wagon



Fanning mill or winnowing machine

The fanning mill or winnowing machine was a device to clean grain from chaff, dirt and other light impurities. The sieves are vibrated by means of a hand crank and the grain fed at the top and passes through the sieves. The sieves vary in size so that the coarser impurities pass out between the upper and the finer ones between the lower sieves. This machine cut the farmer's labor time from the hand winnowing process that was performed in the barn when the grain was collected. So A. B. was an investor in the latest of farm machinery, and automation had arrived to the farms in Brighton. So this poster helps to put some flesh on the bones of the Buckland Farm on Westfall Rd., the farm of A. B. Buckland.

Our thanks again to Beth and Debbie

THE GONSENHAUSER YEARS, 1948-1997, IN A NUTSHELL



This photo appeared in *The Times Union* in 1967 under the headline **“600 Acres Up for Sale.”** The article stated that “Brighton cattle baron Max Gonsenhauser, who owns the largest single block of property in Brighton, today declared he was ‘cutting down’ on his cattle business and indicated 600 acres of property is for sale. Gonsenhauser, who began farming in Brighton on borrowed money and on a rented farm after fleeing Nazi Germany in 1938, sold 228 of his finest milk cows from a Victor farm in 1964 after he suffered a heart attack.”

A. B. BUCKLAND

BY LEO DODD



The visage of Amos B. Buckland has been imagined for us by Leo Dodd in this watercolor rendering.



The Buckland farm before restoration, Ça. 2001, Photo by Leo Dodd.

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THE RECENTLY restored brick house on Westfall Road was occupied by Amos B. Buckland in the time period of 1835-1865. A. B. was ten years old when he arrived in Brighton. The Bucklands were the 7th family to settle in Brighton. It was 1814, and A. B.'s father constructed a log house at the corner of Main St. and Culver Rd. A. B. recounts that as a teenager he "frequently went from farm to the Village of Rochester," to observe activities. He had a high interest in these. Amos B. was called A. B. and referred to as such in most of the land documents and newspaper articles.

A. B. was a nickname—a nickname that in my experience denotes a fun loving, jolly guy. To take one's given name away and substitute another is something that needs acceptance on all sides. You must have a strong personality to carry a nickname into adulthood. A sign of a man secure in his own skin, a confidence that his actions will carry respect when needed and produce openness and immediate friendship. We have no recorded nicknames for his five brothers: Abner, James, Curtis, Warren and Leonard. I believe A. B. would have been a welcome member to the Brighton Rotary had it existed in his day. The house the Brighton Rotary has invested so much time, energy and money is the brick home of a Brighton farmer born in 1804. Their choice for the Rotary investment was a wise one, helping to recall the history of a Brighton pioneer.

A. B. describes how in 1828 at the age 24 he traveled on Erie Canal to Albany and by steam boat made

by Robert Fulton and captained by Commodore Vanderbilt on the Hudson River to New York City,. There, he marveled at the sights of the great city. A. B. also claimed many occupations as follows: a Clerk in a Rochester Store, Operated a Dry Goods Store on Main Street, Farmer, School Inspector, Ward 5, Real Estate Investor, Brickyard Operator, Inspector of Elections, 5th Ward, newspaper editor, a man invested in business and community, a Rotarian State of Mind.

A. B. may also have been a gambler. He purchased the celebrated race horse "Saint Lawrence" that raced at the Vick Park race track off East Avenue and probably also at the West Brighton Fair Grounds. The investment in St. Lawrence was large in money and time and only a successful business manager could make that investment.

A. B. may also have been a card-carrying member of the National Rifle Association. History notes that he was involved in two hunting accidents. So he was comfortable with guns but needed education in gun safety, or was very unlucky in selecting hunting partners.

So when you enter this brick home, which seems isolated from the active city of thousands, and remote from any central business area, think of A. B. as a man with a nickname, a man that could relate many a fireside tale, with great humor and energy, of life in the city.

A fun guy to be with
A great gift to Brighton life

McGREGOR'S FARM?

BY LEO DODD

Occupants of the Buckland House were numerous during the past two hundred years. Mary Jo Lamphear, Brighton Town Historian, has traced the land records and delivers a very detailed account of the ownership of the 210 acres of lot #39 in her Buckland House lecture. Mary Jo states “we cannot assign an exact year for the Buckland House construction, nor do we know exactly who built the first part of the house.” She goes on to say, “We do know that Amos B. Buckland owned the house in 1835 and probably added the west wing.”

This first ownership was followed by the Samuel Wilder farm, 1865-1910; the Matthew Wilson farm, 1885-1910; ownership by the Rochester Orphan Asylum/Hillside Children's Center, 1911-1939; McGregor's Horse Farm, 1941-1948; and Max Gonsenhauser's Cattle Farm, 1948-1997. The Town of Brighton purchased the property in 1997.

What was “McGregor's Horse Farm”? you ask well! A Daniel McGregor operated a Livery Stable in the City of Rochester from the early 1900's with his son Milton Roy McGregor. Roy purchased the Buckland Farm property after the Orphan Asylum moved out in 1941 and named the property “McGregor's Farm.” He must have used the property and adjoining barns to stable his horses that he sold. The term “McGregor's Farm” brings up the children's tale written by Beatrix Potter in 1893, and it was on McGregor's Farm that you would have found four little rabbits whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. The Story of Peter Rabbit has become a legendary tale and the drawings and activities are well remembered by all.



But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate! First he ate some lettuces and some French beans, and then he ate some radishes.



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Well I can't tell you the rest of the story you will have to research it yourself...or just stop by the Buckland Farm that was once known as “McGregor's Farm” and relive the *Tale of Peter Rabbit*.



The Rochester Orphan Asylum acquired the Buckland farm in 1911 to use for boys who were studying farming. The ROA changed its name to Hillside Children's Center in 1917. The farm remained its property until 1941. The cows pictured here in 1923 date from that period.

SAM WILDER PURCHASES THE BUCKLAND FARM IN 1865

By Leo Dodd

Samuel Wilder, prominent Rochester business man, merchant, banker, investor, former candidate for mayor of Rochester and person who constructed the famous Wilder Building at the corner of Main and State streets, purchased the Amos Buckland farm from Amos in 1865. This seems like an unlikely act for a man so involved in the City of Rochester, with a home on East Avenue, to purchase farm property in the Town of Brighton. But the biographies of the two men show some similarities and possible meetings. Review the two following accounts, the first from: *The Biographical Record*, pp. 96-97:

Samuel Wilder was a native of Massachusetts, his birth having occurred near Worcester, in October, 1824. His father, Dr. Abel Wilder, was a physician of considerable prominence and believed in giving his children good educational privileges as a preparation for life's work. Accordingly, Mr. Wilder enjoyed the advantages afforded by the excellent public schools of New England. His residency in Rochester covered more than sixty years. About 1840, several years before he attained his majority, he came to this city, which was a flourishing town famed for its flour industry. He was accompanied by his brother, Charles, and both secured clerkships in the Britton dry goods store, and then located on the north side of Main Street Bridge. Our subject did not sever his connection with that enterprise until he had for many years been the senior partner of the firm which owned and conducted the store. They gained a through knowledge of the business and had saved considerable money, so that in 1857 when Mr. Britton died, they purchased an interest in the store which then became the property of the firm of Wilder, Gorton & Company.

The other source is the obituary of Amos Buckland on June 24, 1884 as printed in the *Democrat & Chronicle*.

Yesterday afternoon occurred the death of another of the pioneer settlers of Monroe County in the decease of A. B. Buckland at the advanced age of 80 years. Mr. Buckland came to Rochester a mere boy, in 1814, when nearly all the territory east of the river was covered with primeval forest. He as-

sisted in clearing away the timber and helped construct the corduroy road along what is now Main Street. While still a young man, he went into business as a merchant and opened a store on the present site of Burke, Fitzsimons, Hone & Co. (located at 53 Main Street and faced North Saint Paul Street) and continued in business there until 1845.

Three additional records describe the merchant background of Amos:

1834 *Rochester Directory*: "Amos B. Buckland Clerk Merchant, boards: 69 Main St."

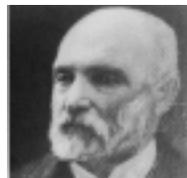
1835 *Sketches of Rochester* by Henry O'Reilly: "Amos B. Buckland Dry Goods Store"

1877 *History of Monroe County*: "Amos B. Buckland retired Merchant"

So these accounts discuss two men, both dry-goods merchants, both doing business on the north side of Main St. within a few steps of one another, during the same time period. Of course they knew one another, of course they were friends. Of course Sam would have been aware that Amos was leaving the farm.

Now why did Sam buy the property and still live on East Avenue? I know not why. But the historical connection of property ownership by two merchants with a deep affection for the City of Rochester is a fascinating mystery. Another question would be: Did Sam use Buckland bricks from the brick yard of his old friend for the Wilder Building?

Stay tuned as the research continues.



Sam Wilder and his East Avenue home (now demolished)



A pioneering structure, the Wilder Building is significant as a forerunner of the modern skyscraper that emerged in the late 19th century. The building is one of Rochester's foremost examples of Richardsonian Romanesque office architecture, a style named for noted American architect, Henry H. Richardson. The rusticated stonework on the first floor, pressed brickwork decorated with terra cotta on the upper floors, the multiple arched windows, and the decorative turrets provide the characteristic Richardsonian effect. For a short time (until Daniel Powers added his third mansard roof catty-corner across the Four Corners), it was the tallest building in the city. Designed by local architects Andrew Jackson Warner and William Brockett, the building was constructed by Samuel Wilder, a prominent banker and real estate developer, in 1888.



A newel post in the Wilder Building

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Call Betsy Brayer at 244-0402 to contribute articles or letters

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HISTORIC BRIGHTON

GIDEON COBB DAYS 2007

FRIDAY, JUNE 29TH

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH

*A CELEBRATION OF THE HISTORIC BUCKLAND HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION
1341 WESTFALL ROAD, BRIGHTON, NEW YORK (BETWEEN WINTON AND
CLINTON)*

FRIDAY JUNE 29TH 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

HISTORIAN'S LUNCHEON & LECTURE:

A box lunch will be served at the New Buckland Lodge.

*The "Lodge at Buckland" is located within the Park complex
1341 Westfall Road.*

SPEAKER: GARY LEHMANN

Historian, Local Activist, Poet, Teacher, Penfield resident.

Gary Lehmann teaches writing and poetry at the Rochester Institute of Technology and was past president the Penfield Heritage Association. Gary is equipping the shoemakers' shop at the Genesee Country Museum with period equipment. He owned and completely renovated, 1980-1997, the historic mud house at 992 Whalen Road. This 1,824-square-foot, two-story house of 1835 is the only mud house in New York State with its original exterior intact.

*Gary Lehmann will discuss the importance of local history as illustrated by
the artifacts found at the Buckland Farmstead (1820-2007)*

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH 10 AM - 4 PM

*Explore newly refurbished Buckland Farm House, Buckland Farm Land, and West
Brighton area*

Amos Buckland Farmstead 1341 Westfall Road

*Several events will be in progress during the day on the property: tours of the newly renovated historic farm house will proceed all day; found artifacts will be displayed and explained. Walks to view and explain the farmstead operation and barn structures will be held. An archeological dig will be in progress and participation will be encouraged. *The Fever Pitch* barbershop quartet will fill the air with song! History is to be found in house, barns and land.*

*A 45-minute bus tour of the Westfall neighborhood will operate
during the day*

YOUR GREAT CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE BUCKLAND FARMSTEAD!