

Buried Treasure

Some of the most interesting artifacts come from underground. Recently, a couple on Nunda Boulevard, once part of Brighton, watched while city of Rochester sewer workers unearthed the top half of a 1799 headstone. The inscription reads: "In memory of Chloe Lusk, wife of Stephen Lusk who died..." According to the book *Northfield on the Genessee*, Chloe Boardman Lusk died in 1799 at the age of twenty-two in the new community of Tryon on Irondequoit Creek in what is now Ellison Park. Later, Stephen moved to Pittsford where he married Sara Hinchey, widow of Franklin Davis. Where was Chloe buried? According to oral tradition, there was a burying ground on the northwest corner of what is now Landing Road North and Park Road. The village of Tryon was gradually abandoned by 1820 and over the course of the 19th century became farmland. The burying ground with its wooden markers was left behind and eventually became part of the residential neighborhood.

Chloe's headstone is not made of wood. It was carved and inscribed on a slab of Medina sandstone, although only about half the stone remains, and it implies that care and expense went into its creation. Its rounded top and flat "shoulders" suggests an eighteenth-century design. Because the town of Pittsford has a sizeable Lusk collection, Chloe's stone is now at the Pittsford historian's office on Lincoln Avenue.

Another artifact from underground is a hitching post discovered by Brighton Sewer Department workers in 2018 near the intersection of Warrington and Oakdale Drives. It probably dates from the time of the Rochester Brick & Tile Company that used wagons pulled by horses and mules to move clay and finished brick. The accompanying photos show the Warrington Drive post on its side and a stock photo of how it would have looked in place.

Because of its long occupancy (circa 1830-1984), the Buckland house on Westfall Road has been an interesting source of buried artifacts. An archaeological dig in 2005 turned up pottery shards, cut nails, pieces of transfer ware, bottles, and toys, many of which are on display in the house.

With its connection to Brighton's brickmaking history, the Rose Lawn neighborhood is still a source of many 19th century artifacts. Residents know about the spring "gifts" of whole and partial bricks brought to the surface by frost heave.

The Brighton High School football field is another area of town that's been plagued by stuff coming to the surface. Attributed to the Buckland Brick works on Winton Road, apparently the area was once used for dumping less than perfect bricks and other pieces associated with brickmaking.

Thanks to alert residents and careful town workers, Brighton's history is enhanced by these underground treasures.

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