

## **Education in Brighton: the Twelve Corners Schools**

At the turn of the twentieth century, the town of Brighton had ten public school buildings. Most were one-room schools where children from five to fifteen progressed through the grades all together in the same room. Each of these schools had a board of trustees that hired the teacher, maintained the building, and directed the curriculum. A typical school year ran from November through March at which point the young people were released to help their parents on the family farm. Upon completion of eighth grade, one's education was considered finished. It was the rare rural student who went on to high school. These conventions did not apply to students at private schools, academies, or seminaries, however, where the school year was longer and education continued after grade school.

The forerunner of the Brighton Central School District was District #1 school on Clover Street and Elmwood Avenue. Originally a one-room school constructed in 1815 from brick made by Isaac Moore on Clover Street, it was replaced by a larger frame building in 1884. After Districts #1 and #8 consolidated to form the Brighton Union Free School District in 1925, the frame school house was torn down. The site remained vacant until the construction of the Alcoa Aluminum house in 1957.

Brighton's housing boom and its increased number of school-age children began with the establishment of Home Acres in 1912, Rose Lawn in 1919, and Meadowbrook in 1926. For families that didn't purchase single houses, new apartment buildings and commercial buildings with apartments on the second floor along Monroe Avenue offered housing accessible to the city by public transportation.

To meet this increased need for school rooms, the Brighton Free School District constructed a grade school at the Twelve Corners in 1926 on land purchased from the Buckland family on the site of the latter's brick yard. Shortly thereafter Brighton established a high school in the same elementary building but by 1930 overcrowding required the addition of a wing to the original building to house the high school only. At that time Brighton High School was open to pupils from all the school districts in town, from #1 to #9, from west Brighton to east Brighton.

When the Twelve Corners building became overcrowded with 400 high school students occupying the elementary school wing, the Brighton School district purchased land south of the elementary/high school complex and completed in 1938 a junior-senior high school facing Winton Road.

In 1952 Brighton Central School District added a wing to the high school and made the decision to accept only those students from the former districts #3 and #9 into Brighton High School, leaving the rest of the school districts in Brighton to find other ways to educate their high school-age children. Unable to build high schools, District #6, Allens Creek School, annexed itself to the Pittsford Central School District and District #7, Indian Landing School, joined the Penfield Central School District.

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