



HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

VOLUME 6

SUMMER 2005

NUMBER 3



Poster of Brighton Village, 1885-1905 by Leo Dodd

Historic Brighton Presents its 2nd Annual

Gideon Cobb Days

Friday, June 24 - Sunday, June 26

Help Historic Brighton observe the centennial of the annexation of

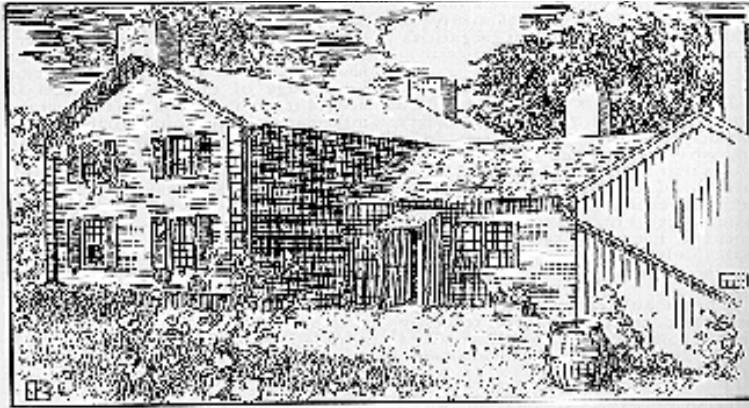
Old Brighton Village

One hundred years ago (1905), the City of Rochester annexed the Brighton Village, which included the town's main business district. Brighton's post office and village hall were no longer within Brighton's boundary. Over the years, many changes have occurred in this area, centered at East Avenue and Winton Road North and South. Historic Brighton will explore these changes as it looks back at the Village's history and then to its future, as plans for new changes unfold.

Historic Brighton continues its celebration of the 200th birthday of East Avenue with a trolley tour of the Avenue focusing on the time before annexation and the many changes that occurred during the 20th century.

Schedule on back page

ORRINGH STONE TAVERN



The Orringh Stone Tavern. The original portion from the 1790s is the one-story rear structure.



Council Rock and Great Elm



Lafayette



Joseph Brandt



Louis Phillipe

On Sunday June 26, trolley tours of East Ave. will begin at the Stone Tolan house and go to the Oliver Culver house.

The Orringh Stone Tavern, now called the Stone Tolan house because the Tolan family also lived there beginning in 1860, is the oldest surviving structure in Monroe County. According to Walter Cassebeer, architect and artist, the tavern was built at two periods with the rear, one-story plus attic portion the original structure begun in the early 1790s. The original glass is "early blown and flattened sheet, and of uneven thickness though very thin." The structure is a designated Brighton Landmark.

Major Orringh Stone, a large man of dark complexion, was the son of Enos Stone whose shack was an early structure at the west end of East Ave. The elder Stone settled his son across the Seneca trail from the big rock known as the Council Rock that stood under an ancient elm. Orringh's title of "Major" was earned as a member of the militia rather than the army.

Orringh Stone and his wife were members of Brighton Pres-

byterian Church and are buried in Brighton Cemetery. The major was a member of the church's board of trustees.

Since it was the only inn and tavern between Canandaigua and the Genesee Falls, most of the celebrities that visited the area stayed with Stone, including Lafayette when he came at the opening of the Erie Canal. Aaron Burr and his daughter, Theodosia, stayed there (presumably before Burr dispatched Alexander Hamilton to the next world in their famous duel). The Indian chieftain Joseph Brandt was a guest. Louis Phillipe and his brother, Count Beaujolais, stopped about 1797 en route to the falls which the count would paint from memory later.

In discussing the "free-spelling condition applied to names" in the 18th century such as Captain Timothy Allyn of Allyn's/Allen's/Allens Creek fame, A. Emerson Babcock noted that Orringh is variously spelled Orran, Orrin, Orin, and Orange. In abstracts as well as church and town records, Orange is the most common spelling, but Major Stone always signed his name "Orringh."

Count Beaujolais: Genesee Falls

OLIVER CULVER (1778-1867)

The Oliver Culver house, now on East Blvd., is the finest example of Federal architecture in the area.

In 1796, at age 18, Oliver Culver started walking westward from Ticonderoga, NY to take on a surveying job in Cleveland. When he was delayed in Schenectady waiting for a lake vessel, he wandered on to Irondequoit Bay, for a month of March 1796, he hunted and fished, finding Only one settled family lived near the Indian Landing—that of Asa Dunbar, whom Culver described as “a giant mungo.”



About 1800 Culver returned to Indian Landing, finding that John and Salmon Tryon had built a store, an ashery, a tavern, as well as tanning, blacksmith, and remaking shops. In 1802, Culver and the Hatch brothers built the first sawmill in nearby Allyn's Creek. He worked in at various jobs including tending John Tryon & Adams store, running the sawmill, operating the ashery, clearing land, hunting and trapping. Culver boarded at Orringh Stone's Tavern and in 1800 bought 105 acres in Northfield (after 1814, Brighton, and after 1905, Rochester) at \$3 an acre along the north side of today's East Avenue, between today's Barrington St. and 1300 East Avenue. He cleared some of the land and planted wheat



near Culver Road, but did not settle there until 1805. Both Culver Rd. and Oliver St. were named for him.

Dense forest filled the land between Orringh Stone's tavern and the Genesee River, traversed only by a narrow Indian trail. Nathaniel Rochester convinced the Northfield town council to clear a road to the river. In 1805 the town appropriated \$50, contracting Oliver Culver, who along with such as Orringh Stone and others to clear that road originally called the Pittsford St., then Main St., and finally East Ave. The base of the road was made of logs and it took about an hour to haul a wagon over them from Stone's tavern four miles west to the river.

In 1812, Culver began building a forty-ton ship on the Roswell Hart farm on the southeast corner of East Avenue and Clover Street. He called it *Clarissa* after the recently deceased daughter of his

friend, Caleb Hopkins. It took 26 yoke of oxen to pull the *Clarissa* to the Indian Landing so that it could be launched into Irondequoit Bay and Lake Ontario.

At the first Brighton town meeting on April 5, 1814 at Orringh Stone's tavern, Culver was elected the first supervisor (and coroner) of Brighton. He served until 1816.

The Culver homestead was built in the dense woods near the northeast corner of East Ave. and Culver Rd., beginning in 1805. The front section was completed 1815 and for a time used as a tavern. Owned by Culver descendants for 129 years, Oliver's granddaughter Cornelia Ely almost sold the property to George Eastman in 1902.

Instead, Eastman bought the nine acre farm of Marvin Culver—“the last farm within city limits,” Eastman said at the time—even though “the Ely property has more magnificent trees.”

OLD BRIGHT



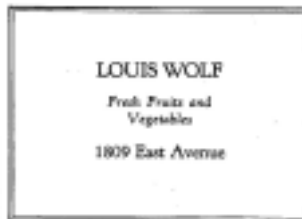
Brighton Village in 1905 and earlier had grown up around the Erie Canal which approached the village from the south and east over what is now Route 590. The canal then turned toward the west over what is now Route 490, passing so close to the Brighton Presbyterian Church that it seemed as if one could leap directly from church into canal.

The Women's Christian Temple leased part of it to the Village Store and LaMay's Drug Store.



4

1849 East Avenue near Winton Road
Rochester, New York



Brighton Village in the 1920s and 30s was an upstart area with fancy food stores such as Wolf's Market and DeWitt's.



East Avenue as it passed through Old Brighton Village in the 1940s was beginning to take on the appearance of a modern street, however. The Caley & Nash carriage and sleigh manufactory at the East Avenue/Winton Road intersection was still there.

TON VILLAGE

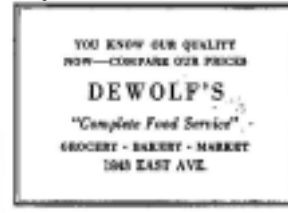
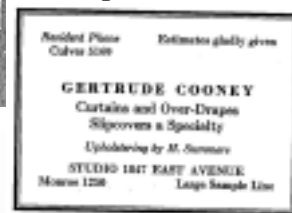


Temperance Union built its home on East Avenue in Old Brighton Village, 1894-95 and leased and used for offices and meeting space until 1905. Later, the building was used as the East Avenue Hardware Store.



5

scale shopping mecca with fancy dress shops such as Helen Whitney Miller's, fancy flower shops, Dewolf's Market, and the Rochester-born Harper Method Salon of Miss Mathilda Harper.



appearance of a strip mall with drive-by shops and gas stations added to the mix. The trees were still and intersection since the mid-19th century was on its last legs.

BRIGHTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



6

The First Church The first pastor of Brighton Church, Solomon Allen, chose the site for the church and cemetery on a hillside thickly covered with underbrush and trees. Soon was raised a 40-by 50-foot building of brick (Brighton Bricks, no doubt). But after the walls and roof were erected, work was stopped for lack of funds. Some three years later, the church was finished and dedicated in 1825. During the long construction period the Erie Canal was built, and it passed within 200 feet of the new church.

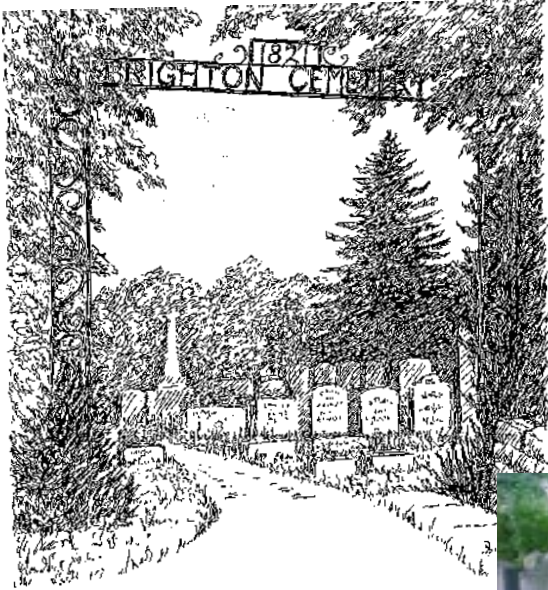
In 1867, the church was destroyed by fire. A burning shingle from an East Ave. tavern fire had been carried by the wind across the canal and lodged in the high steeple.

The Second Church When the first church burned in 1867, the farm and homestead of Deacon Benjamin Blossom were for sale, and the new church was built in 1868 next to his old homestead on East Ave. in Brighton Village. The “elegant” new brick church cost \$15,000, had several rooms, but no plumbing or electricity.

Architect for the present church was the firm of Gordon and Madden. When it was built in 1914, the auditorium of the second church was moved back beside the new church where it served as the parish hall until it was pronounced unsafe for public use in 1953. It was then demolished and replaced by the present Christian Education wing.

SOURCES: *History of the Brighton Church* by Rev. Joseph R. Page, D.D, published in 1877, and *History of Brighton Presbyterian Church 1817-1867*, compiled by Carolyn Lyon Remington. Prints courtesy of Wayne Sheeler..

BRIGHTON CEMETERY



Far right: A cavalry monument and the notable pre-Civil War reformer, William Clough Bloss.

“Where is the Brighton Cemetery?” The answer is: in the City of Rochester—at the end of Hoyt Place, near East Ave. and Winton Rd. As with Brighton Village, the Brighton Cemetery was part of the Town of Brighton until 1905 when it was annexed by the City of Rochester. When the Erie Canal was completed in 1825 it flowed quietly past the cemetery on the eastern and northern sides. Today that quiet flow of water has been replaced by a never-ending flow of thousands of noisy vehicles as they speed through the interchange of Expressways I-490 and I-590 which were built on the bed of the old canal.

Most of the early pioneers to Brighton were pious Congregationalists from New England who soon organized a church which met in members’ homes for several years. In the early 1820s they built a small brick church on the high ground adjacent to the cemetery. In

pleasant weather the members would stroll through the cemetery reading the inscriptions and looking for a shady place to enjoy their picnic lunch. When the canal was completed they often spent the intermission between morning and afternoon church services watching the boats being pulled through the nearby lock. Then back to church they would go for another two-hour session.

A wrought iron gateway at the end of Hoyt Place marks the entrance to the cemetery. Just inside the gateway to the right is a large granite monument to the Bloss Family with a bronze plaque telling of the life of William Clough Bloss, abolitionist..

Down the driveway a bit farther is the burial lot of Enos Blossom, a school commissioner who helped found Allen’s Creek School. Mill owners Marshfield Parsons and Isaac Barnes are buried here, as is the 20th century his-

torian and newspaperman, Arch Merrill.

Graveyards no longer contain rows of little stones, each with the name of a child dead from diphtheria, cholera, scarlet fever or measles, but in an old cemetery like this such stones are evident

The old fashioned first names for women include Temperance, Obedience, Thankful, Charity, Patience, and Wealthy. However, the most common women’s names were much simpler: Jennie, Millie, Minnie, Fannie, Sarah and Anna. The most interesting men’s names were Orringh, Intus, Valentine, and Columbus, but Biblical names, Abram, Abraham, Isaac, Peter, Benjamin, Jacob and John, were most often bestowed on Brighton boys in the 19th Century.

This text has been adapted from an article by Ruth K. Porter in Historic Brighton News, v. 1, nos. 1 and 2, Summer and Fall 2000.



BRIGHTON VILLAGE 1885-1905

8 *Full-color posters of Brighton Village, 1885-1905 by Leo Dodd will be for sale during Gideon Cobb days and beyond*

Join Historic Brighton for this celebration.

For more information and reservations log on to www.historicbrighton.org

Friday, June 24 - History Luncheon

12 noon - 2 PM Mario's Via Abruzzi, Monroe Avenue

\$16.50 per person (by reservation only - space is limited)

Speakers: Mary Jo Lanphear, Brighton Town Historian

Darrell Norris, Professor at SUNY Geneseo

Subject: The History of Old Brighton Village

Saturday, June 25 - Proclamation

Dady Brothers Concert - Songs of the Erie Canal

Tours of Old Brighton Village and the 1821 Brighton Cemetery

Location: Lawn of Brighton Presbyterian Church - East Avenue

Sunday, June 26 - Trolley Tours of East Avenue

12 noon - 5 PM Tours begin at the Stone Tolan House and last 45 minutes

cost: \$4 per person

Trolley limited to 12 persons per tour. (Pre-registration only)