



HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

VOLUME 8

WINTER 2007

NUMBER 1

Come to the Fair!

A CLOSE-UP OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION OF 1893

Presented by Arlene A. Wright

When: Sunday, January 28 at 2:00 PM

Where: Brighton Memorial Library Media Center

Event: Historic Brighton Annual Meeting

An amazing event occurred during the summer of 1893 that dramatically affected culture in America and the world. Even today, there are reminders of the Chicago World's Fair, also known as the WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION OF 1893 everywhere. When we see a Ferris wheel or stroll the midway of a circus or county fair or enjoy American staples such as the hamburger, Juicy Fruit Gum, carbonated beverages and Cracker Jack, we are experiencing items that were introduced to the world at this event.

Over 27 million people from all over the world left their homes and farms to travel to "the greatest of all the world's fairs." Fifteen thousand Rochesterians attended the Fair, including Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, who spent much of the summer there.

The competition to host the 1893 World's Fair was vigorous. This presentation will examine the forces that shaped this event, the personalities involved and the problems that threatened its completion and success. America had a lot to prove to the world. This was the vehicle that was going to establish America as a tour de force in the decorative arts and manufacturing.

Arlene Wright first delivered this presentation in Chicago at the Traditional Building Conference in April 2006. She presented a similar talk in Washington, DC this past October, this time relating in the 1901 Plan of Washington and how it was influenced by the architecture of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

Using over 150 vintage photos, Arlene will cre-



Photo of George Eastman and ad agent Frank Seaman taken by Walter Hubbell at the fair.

ate a complete picture of this great event and encourage you to further study the myriad of topics that relate to the Fair itself.

Don't miss this fascinating look at one of the most influential events in American history and learn how it still affects us today.

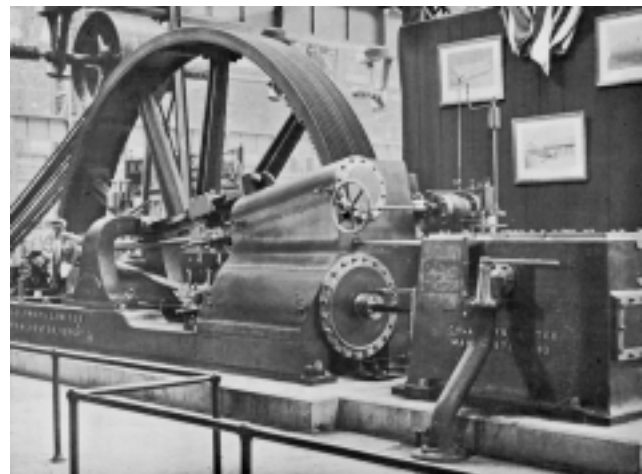


Copies of Historic Brighton's new book, *East Avenue Memories* will be available at the Annual Meeting. Come at 1:15 PM Sunday, January 28 to pick up your copy: See Page3

SOME OF THE PICTURES OF THE CHICAGO FAIR YOU WILL SEE JANUARY 28 AT 2 PM



2



ABOUT OUR ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

Arlene Wright, an award-winning interior designer is no stranger in her hometown. Arlene has been practicing preservation design for over 20 years and is considered to be an authority on 19th and early 20th century American architectural styles. She has lectured widely on historic preservation, adaptive reuse and local history here and beyond.

As an active preservation advocate, Ms. Wright has taught heritage education to thousands of area youngsters and adults and is a past-president of the Landmark Society of Western New York, having served on their Board of Trustees for 24 years be-

fore becoming an honorary lifetime trustee in 2001. She was the founding chairman of the Brighton Historic Preservation Commission and founder of Historic Brighton. She recently retired as its president.

Ms. Wright is the principal designer and owner of Wright Design Associates and has over 30 years experience as an interior designer and educator. She is an active member and past-president of the regional chapter of ASID (American Society of Interior Designers). She is NCIDO and New York State Certified and is currently serving on the New York State Board for the Interior Design Profession.

HISTORIC BRIGHTON'S NEW BOOK

EAST AVENUE MEMORIES

•BY ELIZABETH BRAYER•

AVAILABLE AT ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY • JANUARY 28 • 1:15 PM

Those who pre-ordered copies of *East Avenue Memories*, may pick them up and pay for them on Sunday January 28, beginning at 1:15 PM in the **Brighton Memorial Library Media Center**. Costs are \$55 plus tax (\$59.40) for the Standard Edition and \$85 plus tax (\$91.80) for the Deluxe Edition. Those who have not pre-ordered but would like to obtain copies of Historic Brighton's limited edition publication of 250 copies should come early too.

A brief Annual Meeting to elect trustees will be held at 1:45 PM. The Annual Meeting program featuring the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, presented by Arlene Wright, will begin promptly at 2 PM.

East Avenue Memories is a nostalgic but instructive glimpse into the history of our area's social and symbolic gateway. The lavishly illustrated book relays a charming informal 200-year history of Rochester, Brighton, and Pittsford's important East Avenue. Characters who enter this saga range from Aaron Erickson to George Eastman, from art museum founder Emily Sibley Watson to nurseryman James Vick, from builder Josiah Bissell, who named East Avenue, to William Bloss, who dumped his tavern's liquor into the Erie Canal. 3

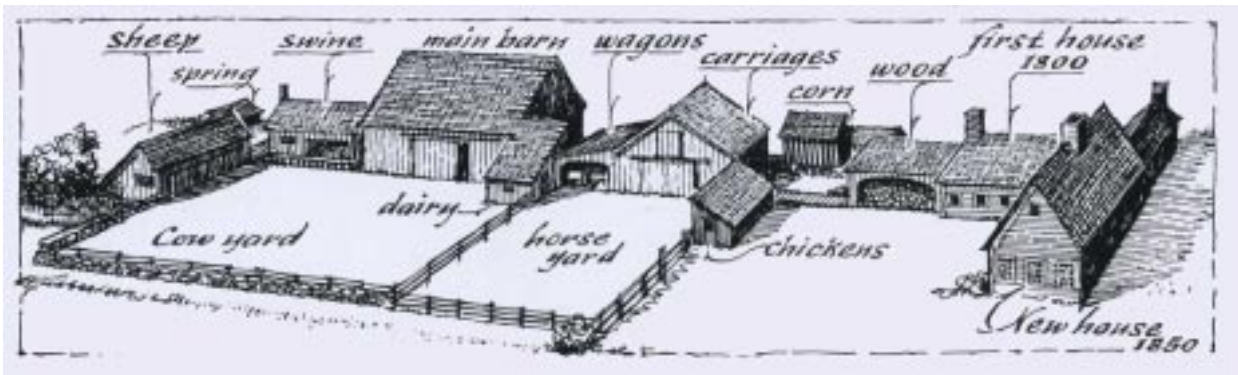


THE BUCKLAND FARMSTEAD

200 Years of Farm History

By Leo Dodd

The term “farmstead” requires some definition. We have been using this term to describe the Buckland house presently being restored to town use at 1431 Westfall Road. The acreage of the original Buckland Farm has now been converted to an athletic complex, containing fields for baseball, tennis, basketball and soccer—a much need recreational facility. The complex of family housing and animal shelters that once populated the land and supported the farmstead is not visible. The Town of Brighton with generous financial help from the Brighton Rotary Club has provided funds to save and restore the farm housing complex and one storage barn. This article will provide some insights as to what we may have viewed during the 1800’s when driving down Westfall Road.



4

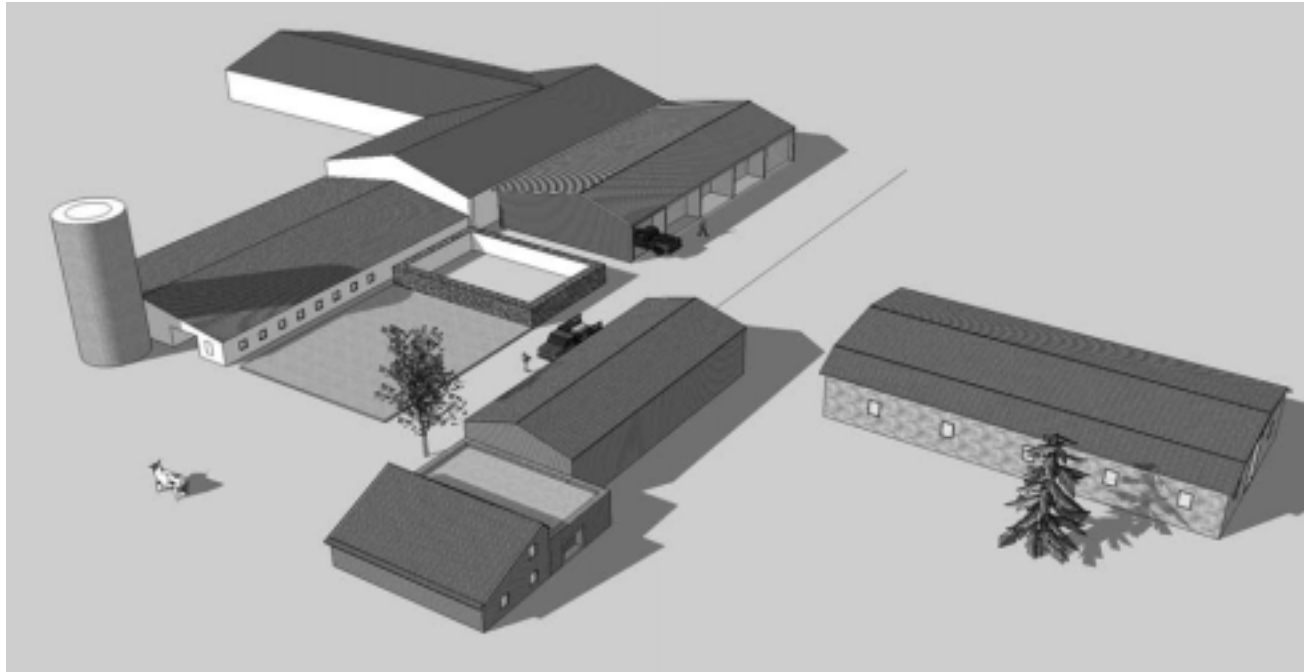
The saved farm house contains the first structure built on 200 acres of farm land. Once farming began, animals were added along with farm equipment, and then produce was collected, all requiring storage and protection from the weather. The farm structures grew gradually in number and size. Eric Sloan illustrated the growth of a farmstead complex such as the Buckland Farm must have presented in the nineteenth century on page 46 of his book, *An Age of Barns*.

We lack historical evidence to support the actual configuration of the Buckland farm buildings or their location on the property but we know that farms in our area looked very similar. We also know the farmstead, consisting of land and buildings, was constantly changing as the economic needs evolved. The farm of the 1800’s with a variety of crops and animals to support a family looked very different from the dairy farm that ended the farm experience on Westfall Road. I believe that Eric Sloan’s illustration could be accepted as a reality view for the 1800’s at Westfall Road.

Local barn history was documented in the publication, *Barns of the Genesee Country 1790-1915* by Daniel Fink. In that book, on page 116, is a photograph of the Nations Road Farm complex in Geneseo, New York. The Sloan illustration and the Fink photograph are similar. The barn complex on the Buckland Farm was probably a like mixture of wooden buildings, with the “English-Threshing Barn” being the prime accepted design in the 1800s. So these two illustrations support a very probable visual description of the farmstead.



There were ten farm structures on the Buckland Farm Westfall property when Brighton purchased the land in the late 1990's. The illustration below outlines an aerial view of those buildings located west of the present farmhouse. These consisted of two large metal barns, a milking barn, a concrete block silo, a storage pole barn, a wooden animal barn, a small concrete storage shed, a small animal and equipment wooden barn, a large concrete block storage barn and the two foot thick stone foundation of an old wooden barn. All these structures were destroyed with the exception of one pole barn (the barn with the truck inside) now used by the town as a storage shed and the brick and frame house that is now being rebuilt.



5

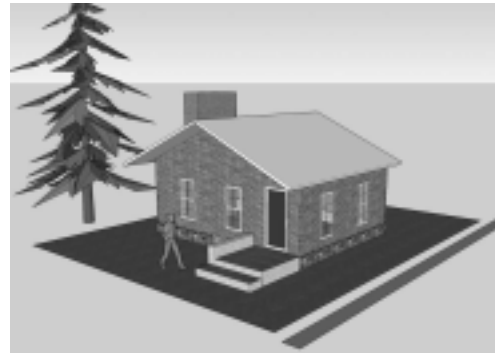
I tell you this illustrated tale of farm buildings past because they defined and justified the term “farmstead.” Having this clustered complex of barns and house in mind helps to visualize the history of 1431 Westfall Road and enjoy the saved farm house. The following excerpts from the book titled *The American Farmhouse* by Henry J. Kauffman, (728.67 KAU Brighton Library) add to our understanding of farmstead.

“Generally speaking, a farm consists of a plot of ground along with a house, a barn, and outbuildings. In 1868, there were 2,033,665 farms with 405,280,851 acres in the United States, averaging 199 acres per farm. At the turn of the 19th century, 95 percent of the population was involved with some aspect of farming....

“Possibly the most important sociological aspect of the farmhouses is the fact that they formed the nuclei of daily family life. Instead of each member of the family ‘taking off’ on his separate way, as is done today, entire families spent much of their time together. During the day family chores were scattered throughout different areas of the house and barn, but at night most of the family activity centered on a fireplace. Children learned many simple household arts, while their parents engaged in more difficult operations, such as tailoring, quilting, and repairing shoes....

“One of the most interesting discoveries made in this survey of the American farmhouse is that many farmhouses, despite their present ample proportions, were initially small. As a family outgrew their original homestead and as financial circumstances permitted, additions of one kind or another were made.”

The original 1820's Buckland farmhouse may have looked as shown in the sketch below. The recent reconstruction of the Buckland farmhouse has revealed previous unknown construction details. The outline of a door on the east side of the original structure and the condition of the brick work on the north face gives support to this illustration for the modest 17 by 21 feet (a 357 square foot area), one room house with fireplace and possibly a sleeping loft to accommodate the farm owners—a brick structure that has endured 200 years. (If the 1800 farm buildings were constructed with brick, provided by the plentiful supply of clay on the land, we would see remains of them today, but none exist. So we can assume that the farm buildings of the 1800's were built with wood, and were destroyed or burned to leave no trace.)



6 In 1855, the year of the New York State Census, the Amos Buckland farm family had five children. Amos Jr. was born that year. He had four sisters: Mary Ann, age 12; Elizabeth, age 9; Julia, age 6; and Alma, age 3. The house had grown. Two brick additions increased the floor space of one room to 16 x 21 feet or 336 square feet and another room to 14 by 21 feet or 294 square feet, for a total of 987 square feet. The upper floor space is difficult to estimate due to construction during the 1900s and the raising of the roof line. This obliterated the floor space history.

The Buckland Farmstead was given factual definition with the following details described in the New York State Farm Census of 1855.

Acres Improved: 179 /Acres Unimproved: 6
 Cash value of farm: \$18,500/Stock: \$1,977 /Tolls and implements: \$932
 Meadow acres: 36.....Meadow tons of hay: 55
 Winter wheat, acres sown: 50/Bushels harvested: 310
 Oats / acres sown: 42 / Bushels harvested: 1520
 Barley / acres sown: 10...../ Bushels harvested: 185
 Corn / Acres Sown: 16..... / Bushels Harvested: 400
 Potatoes / Acres Sown: 3...../ Bushels Harvested: 8
 Apple Orchard / 100 Bushels....Barrels of cider: 2
 Peach Orchard / 300 Bushels
 Cows: 5 / Horses: 8
 Swine / Under 6 months: 16.....Swine / Over 6 months: 4
 Sheep / Number: 60.....Sheep / Number of fleeces: 44
 Poultry / Value sold: \$30.....Value of eggs sold: \$20

As you read the above data revisit Eric Sloan's illustration and see the housing facilities constructed to support a farm as described by this census. Then when you visit the restored Buckland house in the future, give it the historical recognition it deserves, say you visited the "Buckland Farmstead."

Note: Additional information on the Buckland property with maps of the land and photos of the many of the artifacts uncovered during construction may be found on our web site: historicbrighton.org.

The Bricks of Brighton:
CAREY-HARPER HOUSE



1438 Winton Road South

By Arlene Wright

When Paul Malo (Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Syracuse University) reviewed the property at 1438 Winton Road South for the Brighton Cultural Resource Survey in 1997, he remarked that the house wasn't very common because of its longer first-story windows and cut stone lintels. He gave the house a coveted RED MINUS rating. The minus was because he would have preferred to see the house without its twentieth century additions.

The Carey-Harper house was built of local brick and stone c.1863 by John Carey who emigrated to America from Ireland with his wife, Mary, and their children: Edward, age 19, Alice, age 17 and John C., age 14. It is probable that they left Ireland due to the potato famine that caused thousands of Irish to leave their homeland in the mid-nineteenth century. Listed as a laborer in the 1860 federal census, Mr. Carey purchased the property from Daniel Rowland on March 10, 1863 for the sum of \$1,147.50. The 1869-70 county directory lists J. Carey, farmer, as the owner of a thirteen-acre parcel. The 1872 county plat map shows this property with one building.

John Carey died in 1884 at the age of 80 and is buried in Greece, New York. The 1902 county map shows this property as a six-acre parcel with one building and owned by John C. Carey, the youngest child of John and Mary. The road is shown as

“South Avenue.” At this time, to the immediate north of this property is a large, 125-acre parcel owned by the Rowland brothers. The Rowland family owned several parcels throughout the town.

The 1924 county plat map still shows 1438 Winton Road South as a six-acre parcel with the main brick residence. It also shows two small frame outbuildings. The owner is listed as “H. Tuttle.” The adjacent property to the south is a 9.5-acre parcel owned by Mrs. F. Emmerick. A brick house (no longer existing) is shown near the corner of South Winton

and Westfall Roads.

The 1955 suburban directory lists William T. and Margaret Hansen as owners of 1438. Mr. Hansen ran a gas station (location unknown). The 1959 county plat map shows that this parcel was reduced to 1.5-acres and was owned by M.A. Hansen. The brick house and the frame garage (still existing) are both shown on the site. The property is surrounded by post-World War II tract housing (Hollyvale, Cohasset and Linwood neighborhoods). Sally Harper purchased the property in 1973. Mrs. Harper shared that during the 1930s and 40s the house was used as a rental. She believes that there was a serious fire in the house at one time as she found charred bricks in the attic and some charred second-story wood flooring. Mrs. Harper noted that “since the original south fireplace is gone, with only a remnant of the chimney appearing in a second floor bedroom and in the attic, the fire could have been centered in that fireplace. The bay window on the south side is also not original and may have been replaced due to the fire.”

Mrs. Harper further notes that all of the woodwork and windows are original with some of the original wavy glass panes still intact. One amazing fact is that the interior walls of this house have never been painted. Under the wall coverings is the original raw gray plaster. The texture is quite rough and hanging wallpaper has always been a

Continued on page 8

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 28

1:15 PM: Pick up *East Avenue
Memories* books

1:45 PM: Annual Meeting

2:00 PM: "COME TO THE FAIR"
Presentation by
Arlene Wright

3:00 PM: Refreshments



Historic Brighton address

P.O. Box 18525

Website: www.historicbrighton.org

Historic Brighton officers and board

Founded 1999

Sheldon Brayer, President

Janet Hopkin, Secretary

Rome Celli, Treasurer

Arlene A. Wright, Nominating chair

Elizabeth Brayer

Leo Dodd

Richard Dollinger

Suzanne Donahue

Monica Gilligan

Sally Harper

Hannelore Heyer

Beth Keigher

Josie Leyens

Ron Richardson

Dee Dee Teegarden

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

Mary Jo Lanphear, Town of Brighton Historian

8

CAREY-HARPER HOUSE (CONTINUED)

challenge.

The Carey-Harper house is architecturally significant as a distinctive, mid-nineteenth century, vernacular, brick farmhouse. It is also historically significant for its association with the agricultural heritage of Brighton and for its association with brick manufacturing, a prominent early industry in the town. This L-plan, gable-roofed house is a good representation of the typical vernacular farmhouses built in Brighton during this period.

Though the house is vernacular in form (meaning that its design was based on regional forms and materials), its brick construction is notable. The majority of nineteenth century farmhouses built in the town were of wood-frame construction, in spite of the fact that brick making had been an established Brighton industry since the 1820s. This house was built on a foundation of uncoursed fieldstone

with fine local brick exterior walls and cut-stone lintels and water table. This tough and charming old house survives despite a fire, absentee ownership and typically hard family use.

Today, the house is surrounded by Mrs. Harper's perennial gardens, including a wonderful day lily bed, and many mature trees. Among the collection is one very old apple tree, along with several old cherry trees and a fruit-producing quince tree.

The Carey-Harper house is a designated Brighton landmark.

Sources: Sally Harper and the Brighton Cultural Resource Survey

