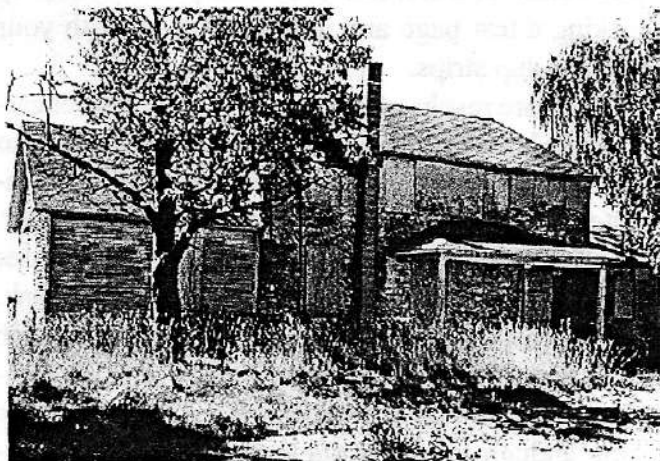


# HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

VOLUME 1

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*The Buckland-Gonsenhauser house on Westfall Road is one of 17 surviving "Bricks of Brighton" houses. For details about three other "Bricks of Brighton," see pages 6, 7, and 8.*

## HISTORIC BRIGHTON MEETS JANUARY 21

Historic Brighton will meet at 2 P.M. on Sunday afternoon, January 21, 2001 in the auditorium of the new Brighton Library, 2300 Elmwood Ave. The program features a slide presentation by David Howard Day, professor of Anthropology at Monroe Community College. Day is the author of "The Life and Death of a Family Farm," that tells the story of the archaeological excavation of a 19th century Brighton farm when the MCC campus was being built. This dig is similar to the dig expected to take place on the Buckland-Gonsenhauser property on Westfall Road. Professor Day's talk explores yet another episode in Brighton's past.

## DOING HISTORY WITH A TROWEL AND A WHISKBROOM

By Mary Jo Lanphear

Members of Historic Brighton and town staff have been meeting with the Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association to plan an archaeological dig at the Buckland-Gonsenhauser house on Westfall Road. Under the direction of trained archaeologists, the dig will offer opportunities for children and adults to participate in the uncovering of Brighton history.

In September the combined groups conducted a "walkover" on the site, looking for unusual formations that might indicate disturbed soil. Irregularities were noted for future investigation. Other preliminary activities include aerial photography in the spring before trees leaf out, to identify surface anomalies. In other early 19th century sites such as this, diggers found the remains of wells, fencing, outbuildings, and shards of domestic crockery and glassware.

Farmed for more than 150 years, the Buckland-Gonsenhauser property was purchased in 1997 by the Town of Brighton for parkland. It includes an early 19th century brick residence, an early 20th cen-

tury cinder block barn, a frame office and stable building, a cement block silo, and several corrugated metal barns. In the process of determining the best way to care for the old house, John Bero and Steve Jordan of Bero Associates prepared a condition report with recommendations for maintenance and repair. Evidence such as log beams in part of the basement, an iron fireplace crane, fenestration, and brick work fix the date of construction of the earliest part of the building between 1815 and 1830. Thus, an archaeological dig on a site as old as this may yield interesting artifacts.

Because the site contains petroleum residue, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requires that the contamination be removed before any excavations can occur. This means that the dig will be scheduled for 2002.

Watch the Historic Brighton newsletter for further information about this exciting project.

*Mary Jo Lanphear is Town of Brighton Historian*

# THE AMATEUR ARCHIVIST: INKS

By Monica Gilligan

It's tempting to think the thousands of years that went into modern ink development have rendered them superior to ancient inks.

For archival purposes, what would superior ink be like? It would be lightfast (fadeproof), ph-neutral, and come in hundreds of attractive colors. That's a lot to ask. Colors, we can have and fortunately most inks are not acidic. As for waterproof, let's ask only that ink not run if humidity attacks the paper. No ink is completely waterproof in a flood.

2 Are there inks like that? Partly, yes, and for all practical purposes, there always have been. If you would like to use your own penmanship to document archived material, you can test the ink you plan to use very easily. Use a scrap of acid-free, lignin-free paper, such as that discussed in our previous columns, and write a short message in the ink to be tested. Take a wooden clothespin and string this up in a sunny window in your kitchen for several days. If the ink does not fade or run, give it the ultimate test and hang it in a bathroom when someone is showering. No fair putting it right in the shower, though.

Permanent, archival inks available in art and craft stores, usually black or sepia, will survive these awful tests. They must be used with a dip pen, however. They are much too thick to pass through fountain pens.

Suppose that you are not accustomed to a dip pen, or that your own handwriting does not please you, or you have a great deal of commentary to store with the historical material, what then? Most of us would use the computer. We pick an attractive font and type the information. It sounds so straightforward.

It's not.

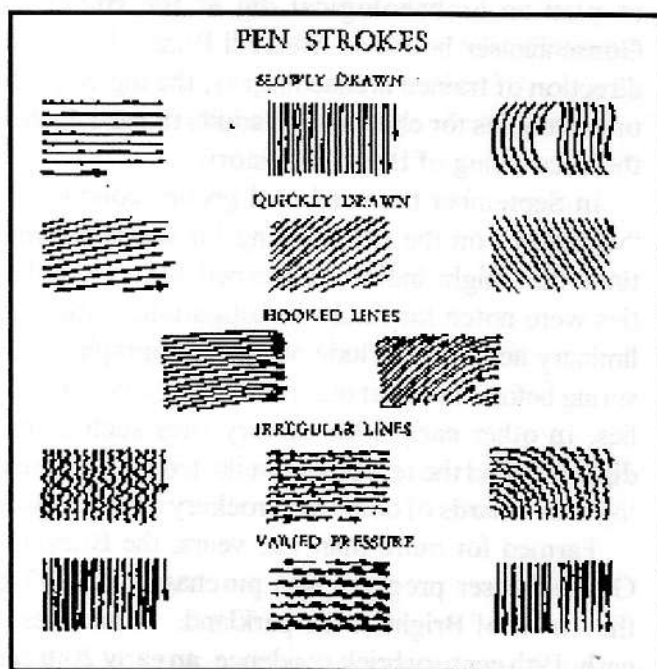
Basically, there are two types of computer inks, those that are liquid sprayed onto the paper by inkjet printers, and those that are little particles "heat bonded" to the paper by laser printers. The jury is still out on how long the inks used in these methods will last on acid-free papers. There is considerable research being done, mostly via variations of the torture tests I just proposed. There's no final word; the data are incomplete. We are on our own, amateur

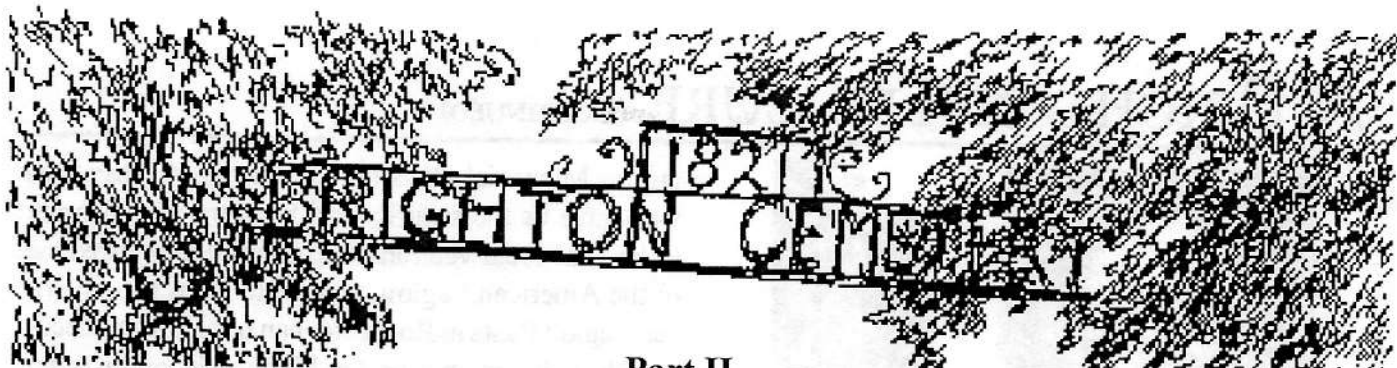


historians! You can test your own printer's inks by making a test page and hanging that up with your penmanship strips.

Here are results of home tests of HP DeskJet cartridges. Your columnist suggests the fashion motto "black goes with everything" should apply to computer ink. The fancy colors faded more and ran faster. Yellow was the worst. With inkjet printers or laser printers, use high quality paper and choose black ink. If you then maintain a dry, dark atmosphere with little temperature fluctuation, your computer-generated words will last well into the future, maybe long enough for scientists to finish the ink experiments and tell our descendants what to do. An archivally safe box on a closet shelf, on an inside wall, with your words in a sheet protector, should do it. Unless you have some bored children to amuse by repeating the experiment, keep anything inked out of the cellar, the kitchen, the bath, and the sunlight.

And remember, 'tis better to label and explain everything with the imperfect materials we have today, than to let future historians wonder, "What the heck is that old thing in the box, anyway?"





## Part II

By Ruth Kingston Porter  
*Continued from the Fall issue of  
Historic Brighton News*

Walking directly down the slope from Deacon Benjamin's grave one will see a granite stone with an open book atop it. This is the grave of Celestia A. Bloss Brewster, a remarkable 19th century woman. Celestia began her career by tutoring the children of her brother-in-law, Isaac Moore (also buried here). Isaac then financed a school, the Clover Street Seminary, with Celestia as its headmistress. [More on the Clover Street Seminary, one of the "Bricks of Brighton," can be found on page 6.]

Three men who died on the same July day in 1909 are buried here. Abraham DeBrine, John DeBrine and John DeWinde were all Brighton residents, all family men, and all of Dutch descent. I called Harold DeBrine who knows so much about the Dutch families in the area and asked if he knew anything about this. He recalled the incident immediately and sent me a copy of the Sodus, New York newspaper relating the tragic deaths of these men. The three had taken the trolley to Sodus, rented a boat, and had gone fishing at night in Sodus Bay. The men were drowned when their boat overturned in deep water as they apparently tried to climb out of the boat onto the western pier. One man was found the next morning under the overturned boat near the pier with the anchor rope wound around one arm. The other two were found later that day.

Veterans from every war from the Revolutionary War to World War II are buried here. Sergeant Joseph Bloss and Captain Ezra Blossom both served in the Continental Army in New England during the Revolution, and both emigrated to Brighton after their discharges. It is believed that Captain John Morse and Job Northrup and possibly others who are also buried here are veterans of

that war. Mr. Alexander Williams of the Sons of the American Revolution is researching the records to find the men who contributed so much to our country's freedom—so that their graves could be so marked.

Captain Thomas Wild fought with the New York Volunteers in the War of 1812 and lies at rest in the Wild family lot. Also in that lot an inscription reads: "William H. Wild Drummer U.S. Army Died Jan. 10, 1839 at the age of twenty-six." The relationship of these two family members is unknown.

At least five Civil War soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice are buried here: Cassius C. Bowen, 21st Cavalry, age 20; J. Martin Taylor, 8th New York Cavalry, age 21; Major Caleb E. Moore, 8th New York Cavalry, age 29; Samuel Cogswell, New York Infantry, age 42; and Justus Wheeler, New York Infantry, age 28. Many Brighton men who survived that brutal war are at rest here: Henry J. Adams, William J. Armstrong, William R. Brown, Robert Bullock, Joseph H. Cogswell, William B. Cline, Quincy J. Drake, Intus B. Dryer, Philetus S. Fuller, George E. Howes, Walter V. Jump, William L. Manning, John McMann, Valentine Natt, George Norris, David Onderdonk (surgeon), William Patchen, Winfield S. Richards, William S. Shelmire, and Jared P. Wheeler (surgeon). All have gravestone inscriptions giving their units and dates of service.

Two Brighton soldiers, Theodore E. Camp, 3rd New York Volunteers, and Clarence F. Wombell, 56 Co. Coast Artillery, served in the Spanish-American War and rest here.

The 1840s and 50s saw a constant influx of immigrants arriving in America, many of whom were Hollanders. They came westward on the canal or later by railroad, and many of them disembarked in Brighton. Over three hundred of these Hollanders and their descendants are buried here. Two of these young Dutch

*continued on page 4*

# A BRIGHTON TREASURE (CONTINUED)



*Left: The notable pre-Civil War reformer, William Clough Bloss, is buried in the Brighton Cemetery. Right: A cavalry monument in Brighton Cemetery.*

4

men gave their lives in World War I for this country. Isaac Tierson of the 108th U.S. Infantry was killed in action on September 30, 1918 in the drive on the Hindenburg Line, and Edward Bowman of the 310th U.S. Infantry was killed just four weeks before the Armistice was signed in November, 1918. These two inseparable boyhood friends, who grew up in Brighton, now lie side by side in the Tierson family lot. Two other Brighton men lost their lives in World War I: Charles Sipple of the 109th Field Artillery died in France in 1919 and Herman Scholtens, U.S. Army Medical Department died 1916 in France. He was just nineteen.

Several Brighton men who survived World War I rest here: Hartwell Almy, John DeVries, Abram DeWitt, Frederick L. England, Ceron E. Hebner, William Herman, Charles Kelly, George Kleiner, Raymond Menne, Harold MacMillan, William Mutch, and Porter Surgenor.

Five veterans from World War II also rest here: William H. Almy, 872nd Ord. Ham Co.; Elmer A. Myers, 692nd Tank Destroyers, Clyde H. Porter, Lt. U.S. Navy, Arch Merrill, U.S. Army—the beloved author of many books on Rochester and its environs—and Frank W. Irving who has the distinction of serving in the U.S. Army Air Force in both World War I and World War II.

For over one hundred and fifty years burial services for veterans have been conducted in the Brighton Cemetery. Yet there are never any flags fly-

ing on Memorial Days on the graves of these men who gave us the security and freedom we celebrate today. The local Veterans Administration referred me to the American Legion, who stated that the American Legion Posts in Rochester can not afford to decorate the soldiers' graves. On Memorial Days in other cities I have seen cemeteries ablaze with American flags honoring their veterans. These Brighton men deserve our gratitude, respect, and remembrance. What a sight it would be to see flags flying on these fifty-eight or more graves on the next Memorial Day!

On Memorial Day 2000, red and white Brighton Fire Department flags graced the graves of several men who had served as volunteer firemen for the Town of Brighton. I was moved to see such a flag flying on the grave of my father, Harry H. Kingston who had helped found the Brighton Fire Department and had fought fires with them for over forty years. My father died over fifty years ago and yet the Brighton Fire Department had not forgotten him nor the other volunteer firemen buried here.

The cemetery is kept in reasonable condition, The grass is cut regularly, trees are trimmed, and repairs are done slowly, but it is difficult and costly to keep pace with the vandalism that takes place there. Beautiful old stones have been broken; some lie face down in the grass; and some have disappeared. It has been suggested that the seclusion of the cemetery may encourage the vandals because their contemptible actions can not easily be observed. Even the most prominent and tallest monument in the cemetery was attacked by vandals this past winter. This memorial to the Watson family is constructed of zinc, a most unusual material to be used for a burial marker. On each side is a large bronze plaque embossed with Biblical quotations and family names. One plaque had been yanked off with great force and left hanging on one bolt. Fortunately this has been repaired and the memorial is handsome once again. Some of the stone markers are beyond repair.

Many of the inscriptions on the stones are becoming illegible. In 1985 Richard T. Halsey did a compilation of names and dates on stones in the cemetery for the Rochester Genealogical Society. When I re-

*Continued on page 5*

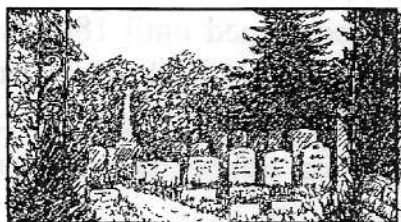
# A BRIGHTON TREASURE (CONTINUED)

corded the same data just fourteen years later I found that many inscriptions which had been legible in 1985 were no longer legible in 1999. Acid rain, air pollution, and exhaust from the thousands of vehicles passing by have been suggested as causes for this rapid deterioration. (on a recent trip to England I learned that the British Government plans to move a highway which passes close to Stonehenge because the great stones are deteriorating. I understood this completely!)

Large trees, maples, evergreens, and even ginkgos, shade the old stones. Honeysuckle, lilacs, and euonymus bushes hide the expressways from view and some completely cover old, old graves. Even though the cemetery is noisy, it still is a peaceful and beautiful spot.

For one hundred and eight years the Brighton Cemetery Association with its membership of nine trustees has been responsible for the maintenance of the grounds, the sale of the plots, and the annual reports to the State of New York. Mitchell T. Williams who lives on Hoyt Place and is the attorney for the Association has guided the Association for many years. The current membership is down to four members due to deaths of members and a lack of interest by younger Brightonians. Who or what will oversee this historic burying ground in the future? It is a problem that should be addressed, but by whom?

In 1907 a large portion of the Town of Brighton, centering around East Avenue and Winton Road, was annexed by the City of Rochester, and the cemetery became part of Rochester. However the history of the Town of Brighton and the Brighton Cemetery are tightly interwoven for most of the early pioneers to this area, the mill owners, innkeepers, farmers, canal superintendents, people who made Brighton what it is today, are buried here. A few of their stories are related here, but many more could be searched out.



A pen-and-ink drawing of the Brighton Cemetery by Ruth Kingston Porter, author of this article, is featured on the cover of the Brighton Cemetery Report. **5** The report, written by Mrs. Porter, is a compilation of all 2080 known burials, gleaned from records and inscriptions on stones. Since the records were destroyed by fire in 1867, the names of those buried in unmarked graves earlier than 1867 are probably lost forever. Mrs. Porter estimates that there are about 600 such names.

## Historic Brighton

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At the January 21, 2001 meeting of Historic Brighton, the slate of officers listed above will stand for re-election.

# THE CLOVER STREET SEMINARY

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Isaac Moore, born in New Jersey in 1787, settled in Brighton in 1824. He married Amy K. Bloss of a prominent Brighton family and built a brick house on Clover St.

- 6 In 1838, Moore bought a school library from C. C. Pratt, traveling salesman, and hired Pratt to teach in the district school. Moore paid Pratt \$26 a month and gave him free room and board. The high salary enraged other Brightonians, so Moore started a private school in his home, engaged his sister-in-law, Celestia Bloss, age 23, to tutor his children. Realizing that his children would benefit from the presence of companions, Moore invited neighbors' children to attend classes.

The school soon outgrew the Moore house. In 1845, Moore provided Miss Bloss with a small building—later enlarged—and five acres at the corner of Elmwood Ave. and Clover St. An advocate of a liberal education for both sexes, Celestia Bloss soon transformed her family tutelage into a well known and high standing seminary, serving not only the children of the Rochester area but students from as far away as Michigan, Tennessee, and Canada. In 1848, the school was incorporated and became the property of Miss Bloss, who

married Isaac W. Brewster in 1849. She continued to be Miss Bloss to her students, however.

Rochester students arrived at the school Sunday morning by omnibus drawn by two Indian Ponies and returned to their homes Friday afternoon. Some students came by packet boat drawn by three horses. Students from Auburn, Oswego, and Syracuse came by the Auburn Road train. Boys from the school met the trains and packet boats with wheelbarrows to bring back the girls' trunks. Lawn parties and festivals were held often on the spacious grounds to raise money for the library.

Faculty was assembled to teach Latin, French, Italian, botany, bookkeeping, penmanship, music, piano music, school music, painting, astronomy, and language. Boys were taught "gallantry" by being "pages." They would be seated with three or four girls and "did the girl's errands at their bidding!"

Judgment nights were held monthly. Pupils passed in review and were alternately praised or condemned. "Tears of repentance and chagrin were often shed." Most estimates combined the positive and negative: "Punctual, improves in everything but neatness, but given rise to hope," one pupil was judged. "Studious and ambitious, tries to be good, but tardy," was said of another. And of another: "Original, loud speaking, impulsive and good natured."

In 1855, Celestia Bloss Brewster died. The Seminary continued until 1868 when it became the St. Mark's School for Boys.

This house is one of the finest examples of early Brighton architecture, a superb example

*Continued on page 7*

# THE WALLACE/SCHILLING HOUSE



Timothy Wallace, a farmer, came to Monroe County at age 31 from Massachusetts and purchased property in 1833 that includes 2169 Clinton Avenue South. Until 1867, Timothy Wallace and his wife, Olive, owned 100 acres planted to oats, corn and potatoes. According to newspaper accounts, Wallace became a member of the Monroe County Agricultural Society in 1842 and supervisor of Brighton and inspector of the Work House in 1855. In 1865 he was appointed warden of the Monroe County Insane Asylum.

The Greek Revival brick house was probably begun in the 1830s with the center block and north wing. A preliminary sketch suggests the initial idea for the house, which was changed in the final execution. A matching south wing was added in the 1840s. The deep frieze on the wings indicates the probability of matching porches in front of the two wings.

In areas such as western New York that had a large population growth from 1830 to 1850, Greek Revival became the dominant style of domestic architecture.

Houses in rural areas such as Brighton were rarely designed by architects. But builders' guides and carpenters' manuals furnished models for houses and designs for moldings, doors, portals and balustrades. Brighton brick-

yards along Monroe Street (now Avenue) furnished the materials for many of these early 19<sup>th</sup> century Brighton houses. These brick plants, notably the Rochester Brick and Tile Co. and the Rochester German Brick and Tile Co., which used a vein of clay near the Twelve Corners, were the only industries in Brighton outside of a dozen or so fruit nurseries.

After 1867, the Wallace house changed hands many times and for a period was a two-family house. By 1913, its farming days had ended, and most of the land was sold to a speculator for subdivision. The farmhouse was changed back to a single-family dwelling in 1947, and acquired by its present occupants, Bernard and Susan Schilling, in 1954.

The Wallace-Schilling house was the first structure to be designated a Brighton landmark under the Brighton Historic Preservation Law of 1995.

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## THE CLOVER STREET SEMINARY

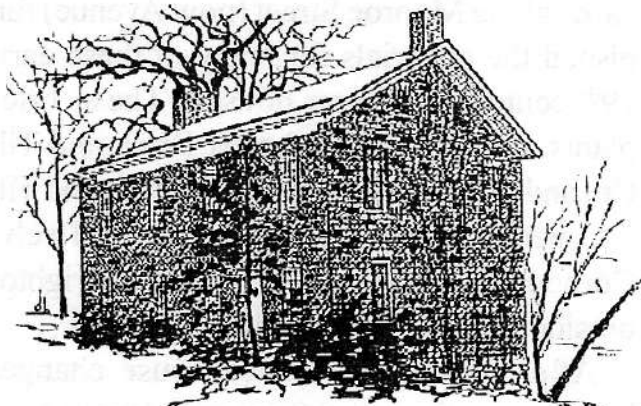
*Continued from page 6*

of craftsmanship in the Greek Revival style. The brickwork is particularly notable, as is the woodwork and fireplaces in the double parlor, and in the library.

In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, 1550 Clover St. was owned by Joseph C. Wilson, one of the founders of Xerox Corp., and his wife Marie Curran Wilson. During that period, garden and grounds were developed by the noted landscape architect, Katherine W. Rahn.

*This article was compiled by Betsy Brayer from information in a paper prepared by Grace Light Clark in 1950.*

# THE JOHN HAGAMAN HOUSE



8

Brighton's principal 19th century industry—brick making—resulted in many brick homes, seventeen of which are still standing in Brighton. Two are the John Haganman house, southeast corner of Highland Ave. and Clinton Ave. S. and the David Haganman house, near to the southwest corner of the same intersection—once known as Haganman Corners. Precise construction dates are unknown, but deeds, wills, and family history point to circa 1827-1837.

John's ancestor, Adrian Haganman, emigrated to Flatbush, N.Y. from Holland in 1651. The John Haganman house would be based on a typical Dutch design, with no entrance hall but two front doors opening into the two principal rooms of the house.

Succeeding generations remained on Long Island until John's grandfather moved to Watervliet and had 17 children. John, one of at least six children, was born in 1776. He moved from Rensselaerville to this area in 1815, age 39, along with his wife Thirza, five sons, one daughter, all under 16. Other Haganman families were already here. Indeed, the 1820 Federal census listed four male slaves under age 14 owned by Haganmans.

In 1821 John began buying small parcels of land in Henrietta. In 1824 he purchased 210 acres—for \$1453.20 or \$6.92 an acre—located along an old Indian trail in Brighton (now Highland Ave.). Fertile, well-drained soil, proximity to water, roads and high land (Mount Lebanon, now Pinnacle Hill, is 740 ft.) made it desirable land.

In early 1826 he built a log cabin on the north side of the road, using wood felled in clearing the land. By April the Haganmans were residents of Brighton. They began selling off parcels of land—at \$10, \$15,

then \$20 an acre—until 99 acres were gone at the average price of \$12.11, twice what they paid for it.

The 111 remaining acres were bisected by Pinnacle Road (now Clinton Ave.). John continued to buy Brighton land until 1832 when his acreage reached 190. His prosperity enabled him to construct a solid brick house with 24-inch thick walls in the cellar, narrowing as the floors went up. The bricks were made of the clay on the farm and baked in Gideon Cobb's kiln. (Cobb's daughter had married one of the Haganman sons.) According to tradition, John supervised the choice of bricks that went in the front wall. John Haganman died in 1837 at age 61.

The eldest son, Abraham, had severely injured his hip skating on the Widewaters and was confined to the house until his death in 1849. His father's will provided for "the use of one room in the east part of my house and his maintenance." Sons Charles, John, Calvin, Howland, and David shared the rest of the estate. Charles married Harriet Stone, daughter of Orringh Stone (whose 1792 tavern is now the Stone-Tolan House). Charles and Harriet Haganman settled into the brick homestead with Abraham in their care.

About 1830, son David built a brick house on his portion of the farm. That house still stands at 661 Highland Ave. An interesting architectural feature is the absence of a ridge pole. Another is the basement floor, which is bricked in a herringbone pattern.

John Haganman Jr. became the Brighton Town Clerk. From the sandy banks of Pinnacle Hill, the family ran a sand and gravel business, and from the clay of the lower, swampy area, a brickyard.

The Haganmans were fairly typical Genesee Country pioneers: they left established eastern homes for the wilderness, started from scratch to clear the land and make it profitable, and added more land and businesses to their primary one of farming. The farming yielded cash crops of wheat, oats, hay, potatoes, hemp, apples and pears.

Both Haganman houses remain significant Brighton landmarks.

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*Information for this article came from a 1988 paper, "The Haganman Family of Brighton," by Mary Jo Lanphear, Brighton Town Historian..*