



HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

Volume 11

Summer 2010

Number 3



HISTORIC BRIGHTON

Preserving the History of Brighton, New York

...PRESENTS A LUNCHEON AND LECTURE... “FATHER’S FARM”



***A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF WEST BRIGHTON FARM LIFE
FROM 1871-1902***

***THE EDMUNDS DIARIES - HANDWRITTEN IN 40 BOOKS
BY A FATHER AND SON OVER 31 YEARS***

• PRESENTED BY LEO DODD •

REVEALING NEW INSIGHTS ABOUT A PROMINENT BRIGHTON FAMILY'S EVERYDAY LIFE,
THEIR ACTIVITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL EVENTS OF THE TIME

SATURDAY • JUNE 26TH

AT GRINNELL’S RESTAURANT

1696 MONROE AVENUE - NEAR BRIGHTON’S TWELVE CORNERS

***DOORS OPEN AT NOON - LUNCH AND LECTURE AT 12:30
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED — RESERVATION FORM ENCLOSED
WWW.HISTORICBRIGHTON.ORG***

The Dryer Collection

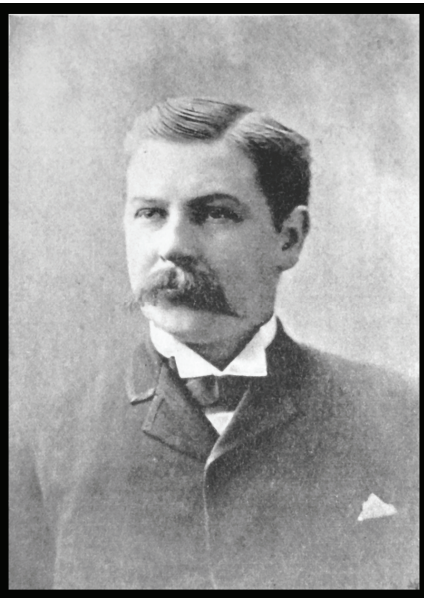
Jay Fay - Otis W. Dryer - Harwood Dryer

by Arlene Wright Vanderlinde

Brighton and Rochester have a rich collection of architect-designed homes that fill many of our finest neighborhoods. In Salon I, we focused on four architects whose work is represented in Brighton, but none of which actually lived in the Town. In Salon II, we are again focusing on four architects who have made their mark on our local built environment, three of whom lived in Brighton at some point during their careers. The salon will focus their lives and not only their locally-executed designs, but also their work throughout the region. These four architects had remarkable careers that contributed measurably to our local aesthetic. The structures they designed have withstood the test of time and continue to stand proudly in our neighborhoods.

2 Throughout our country, in every city, town and village, there are neighborhoods that create the visual identity for each community. They reflect the economic history of each area. The building of well-designed structures, using high quality materials, happens when the economy is thriving. We certainly do see evidence of down-times in our built environment as well. American cities reflect the growth of the middle class in the late nineteenth century. This series continues to focus on the architects who contributed their talents and made a lasting statement about our region from about 1890-1929.

The Architects



Jay Fay

Jay Fay was born in St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada in 1856. His family moved to Rochester when he was four years old. Starting at a young age, he apprenticed in the office of architect, John R. Thomas, at 55 Arcade Building, as a draughtsman, for several years. He briefly worked in St. Paul, MN during a building boom there, but he soon returned and resumed his work with Mr. Thomas. After Mr. Thomas won the Calvary Baptist Church design competition in New York City, Jay Fay went with him to New York to work on the project. After the completion of Calvary Baptist in c.1883, Fay returned to Rochester and opened his own office in the Osburn House Block and boarded at 209 Alexander Street. He married Laura Campbell the same year. In March of 1884 he hired Otis Walter Dryer as a draughtsman. By October of the same year, the firm of Jan Fay & O.W. Dryer was formed and would last until 1912. The date of the formal partnership agreement was September 19, 1885. According to O.W.'s great

grandson, Robert Fitch, the partnership agreement covered all business from outside of Rochester, while Mr. Fay would have the exclusive benefit of all business coming from within the city. It was agreed that Fay would have 1/3 of the profits of the partnership while Dryer would have 2/3, with Dryer being guaranteed at least \$600 annually. Not bad for a 26 year old.

Jay Fay was known as an easy-going and congenial man. He was well-liked because of his

honesty and fairness, but, while a hardworking man, was considered somewhat lax as a businessman, which probably caused him difficulty from time to time. However, he brought up and educated a family of five children. Fay & Dryer records show that they designed remodeling plans for 15 Matthews Street in Rochester' 6th Ward for Fay's own family in 1888. The 1900 US Census indicates that he lived there with his wife, Laura, two sons, three daughters, in-laws and an aunt. The 1910 U S Census shows the family living on Penfield Road in Brighton. This home, no longer extant, was located about where the Penfield Road overpass of Rt. 490 is today. Mr. Fay died August 11, 1913 following a brief illness.

Otis Walter Dryer was born in Rush, NY in 1858. He was educated at the village school and Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, NY. In 1882, he studied architecture under Stuttgart University -architect Eugene C.F. Ernst. In 1883, Dryer began working for Buffalo architect, M.E. Beebe, who designed many court houses and public

3 buildings. During this early period, he worked for a short time in the offices of Warner and Brockett in the Powers Block. A.J. Warner and his nephew, Frederick, designed many of Rochester's most prominent public buildings, including St. Bernard's Seminary and the Powers Building. Dryer also worked for the architectural firm, Otis and Crandall. While there, Dryer entered his sketches in a competition to design the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Leroy. He won the competition, but because of his lack of experience in handling such a large job, he turned his commission over to Otis and Crandall who carried out Dryer's design.

In March, 1884, Dryer began working as a draughtsman for Jay Fay at 28-29 Osburn House Building (located near the present site of the Rundel Library). The two men formed the partnership of **Jay Fay and O.W. Dryer** at 25-27 Osburn House Building in about 1885 (Formal papers were drawn up in September of 1885). During the years of this successful partnership, they designed everything from scores of churches and commercial blocks of storefronts to factories, schools, large city residences, cottages on Lake Ontario, stables, barns, and apartment houses. They were also kept busy with additions and alterations to existing structures. Their residential designs are still gracing the many streets off East Avenue and Park; Argyle Street, Arnold Park, Oxford St. Rutgers, Raines Park, Brunswick, Barrington, Sibley Place, Audubon St., Dartmouth, Park Avenue, Meigs St., as well as University Ave, Culver Road, Wellington Ave, Delevan St, Hudson Ave, Clinton Ave, Court St., Scio St. and Merrimac St. They mostly used the popular design styles of the day; Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival, incorporating details like towers, Palladian windows, pediments, columned porches, fanlights, dormers, balustrades, key-stoned arches and swags. They used fine materials and craftsmen to execute their designs.



Otis Walter Dryer

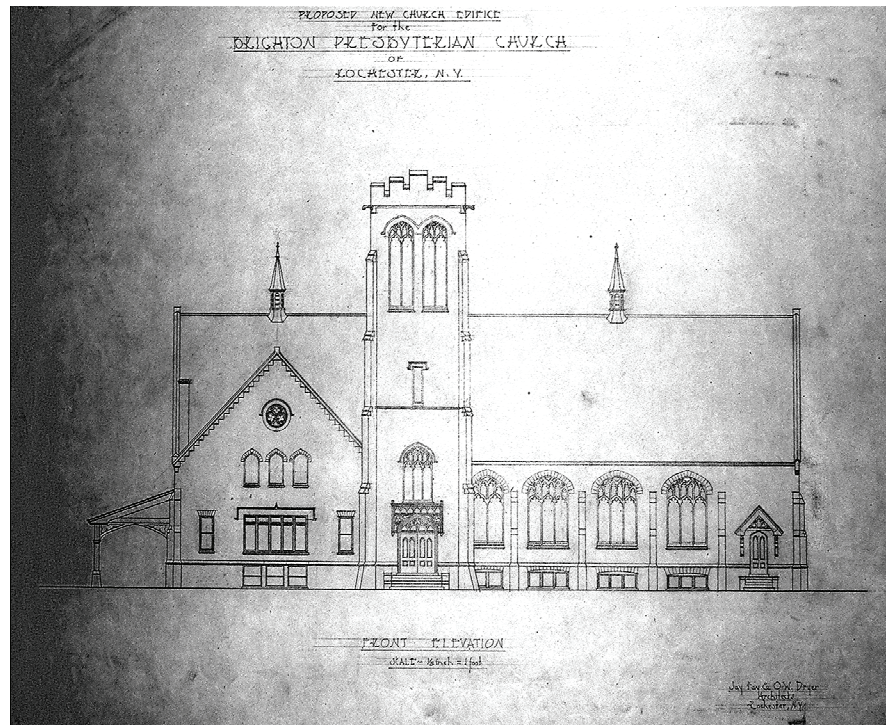


c.1898 - Fay & Dryer-7 Arnold Pk.-Residence of Thomas S. Johnston (Now the Zen Center) (photo from "Souvenir" book).

7 Arnold Park – 2009 photo

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Because his brother, George Herbert Dryer was a Methodist minister and District Superintendent of the Methodist Church during this time, Otis had access to information about where church construction was being considered. This gave the firm a distinct advantage in winning church design commissions. Between 1883 and 1976, more than 75 churches throughout the Genesee region were designed by Fay & Dryer and Dryer & Dryer. (Otis and Harwood were members of Asbury M. E. Church [now Asbury First United Methodist Church]).

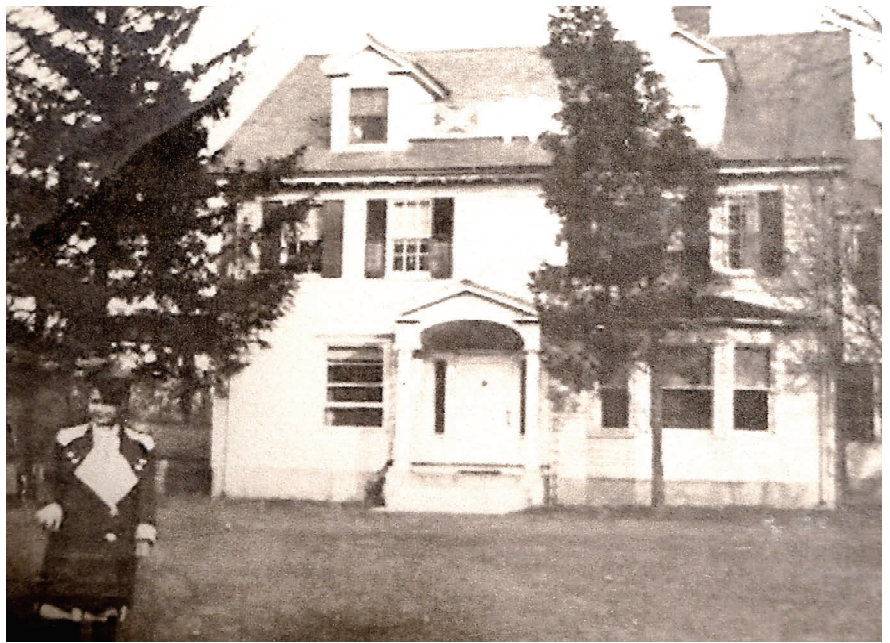


Brighton Presbyterian Church

Otis Dryer taught architecture at Mechanics Institute evening school for two years (1885-86). He followed Jay Fay's brother, U. Grant Fay, the school's first instructor in this field. Otis was married to Flora Brownell and had two children, Harwood, born in 1895 and Eleanor, born in 1899.

In 1889, Dryer had designed a personal residence at 17 Brunswick Street (now #63) in the Shingle Style with strong Bungalow details. It was very fashion-forward for the day; both Shingle and Bungalow styles became popular closer to the turn of the century. This home still exists and was featured in Paul Duchscherer's book, *Beyond the Bungalow*, published in 2005. The 1900 US Census shows the family living at 11 Arnold Park. George Eastman was his neighbor at 9 Arnold Park. They lived here until their move to the Brighton farm at 2550 East

Avenue sometime before 1910. The house at 2550 East Avenue had been moved to its present site in the 1880s from near 1441 East Avenue, across the street from where Valley Manor is located today. After Dryer moved his family into the house, he expanded it to today's size. The Dryer homestead at 2550 East Avenue is a Brighton Town Landmark. It is currently awaiting restoration. The barn which once served as the offices of Dryer and Dryer and housed the Bragdon collection may face demolition in order to save the house.



The Dryer House, 2550 East Avenue in Brighton, NY.

5 Another interesting aside is that Otis had a vast collection of fireplace mantles salvaged from homes throughout the region. One of these, from O.W.'s family home in Rush, NY, is in the Hearth Room of the Stone Tolan House Museum.

The firm of Fay and Dryer moved its offices three times before it was dissolved by mutual consent in 1912. In about 1893 they moved to 927-943 Granite Building (designed and newly constructed by J. Foster Warner). Then in 1903, they moved to 62 East Avenue, 2-4 Studio Building. Finally in 1910, they moved to 309-310 Cutler Building.

O. W. Dryer opened a firm under his own name in their offices at 309-310 Cutler Building, while Jay Fay opened a new office at 343 Cutler Building. Both conducted business separately beginning in January 1913, until Mr. Fay died after a brief illness in August of the same year. Mr. Dryer then took on Mr. Fay's unfinished jobs, such as the First Presbyterian Church in Williamson.

During World War I there was very little building going on, but Otis was kept busy with some churches, church additions or alterations and well as some factories and stores.

The firm of Fay & Dryer not only produced excellent building designs, but also excelled at drawing and rendering these proposed structures. We are lucky to have such a vast archive of their drawings. While the collection is now stored archivally and should not further deteriorate, the slightest handling will damage the delicate papers. Many years of unregulated storage has taken a serious toll on the collection. One can only hope that the entire collection will be digitally archived before it suffers further deterioration. Because of its size, it would be a very costly project.

Harwood Brownell Dryer

O.W. Dryer's son, Harwood Brownell Dryer (1895-1992), received elementary and secondary schooling at Brighton School #1, which was located on Winton Road, just north of East Avenue, and at East High School. He began to study architecture in 1914 at Cornell University's College of Architecture. The younger Dryer worked as a draughtsman in his father's firm during the summers, until he graduated in 1918. He was a draughtsman for a short time in 1919 for the firm of Gordon and Kaelber before returning to his father's firm as an architect. For a number of years Harwood attended evening school at Mechanics Institute and the University of Rochester studying fine and applied art. In 1924, he spent the summer in Europe in further study in art and landscape architecture.

6 In 1923 his father took him into partnership under the name of O.W. Dryer and H.B. Dryer. The firm name was later changed to Dryer and Dryer. They specialized in school and church design. In 1924, the firm moved its offices to 217 East Ave and in 1928, they moved to the Fitch Building at 315 Alexander St. Then, in about 1937, the firm moved into their residence at 2550 East Avenue, corner of Penfield Road and finally into the barn at the rear of that property. In 1951, O. W. Dryer retired. H. B. Dryer kept the firm name of Dryer and Dryer until his father died in 1957.

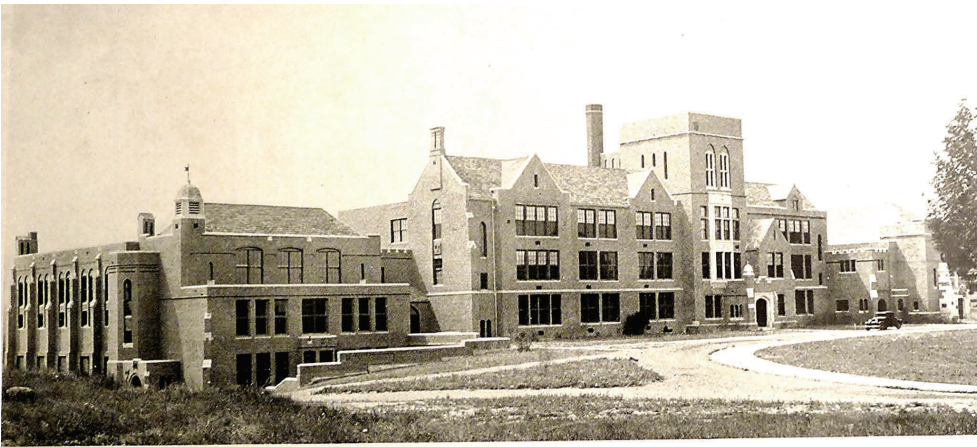


Harwood Brownell Dryer

Commissions executed by the partnership include East Rochester Grade School, Fairport High School, Brockport Central High School, Honeoye Fall High School, Durand Eastman School, Wesley Methodist Church, Unit Parts Rochester Corporation, Whiting Buick Building and residential work. Among the churches they designed were: The First Presbyterian Church of Williamson, NY; The Lutheran Concordia Church; Park Avenue Baptist Church Sunday School addition; Second Reformed Church and the First Dutch Reformed Church. (Partial list)

The firm of H. B. Dryer continued to be fully active until Harwood Dryer retired in 1976. Mr. Dryer was very interested in historic preservation and was a great supporter of the Landmark Society. He continued working on preservation projects after retirement. In 1954, as president of the Rochester Historical Society, Harwood Dryer was responsible for saving the Livingston Park Seminary from destruction, by arranging for the building to be disassembled and stored. He also supervised the reassembly of the structure at the Genesee Country Museum. He also was responsible for the restoration of several other buildings at the Mumford museum, through his designs and advocacy.

Harwood Dryer was an active artist, specializing in watercolors. He was president of the Rochester Art Club (1945-48) and a board member at the Memorial Art Gallery. He was also a charter member of the Rochester Ad Club and a Past President of the Rochester Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects.



GENERAL EXTERIOR VIEW, BROCKPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, BROCKPORT, NEW YORK
Dryer and Dryer, Architects, Rochester, New York.

The Brockport Central High School

Harwood Brownell Dryer

An interesting note is that Claude Bragdon gave Harwood Dryer many of his drawings when Bragdon left Rochester for a new set-design career in New York City. They were stored in the barn for several years. Well before he died in 1992, Mr. Dryer donated the collection of Bragdon architectural drawings to the University of Rochester Library, foreshadowing the placement of his own collection in the Library.

7 Many thanks to the Dryer descendants for their generosity in lending family artifacts and information. The Dryer collection is housed at the University of Rochester's Rush Rhees Rare Book Division and includes architectural drawings. The collection was donated by Virginia Smith Dryer, wife of architect Harwood Brownell Dryer, in May, 1993. The Landmark Society of Western New York assisted in the transmittal of the collection. The collection includes architectural drawings, specifications, correspondence, and business records spanning more than a hundred years.

Thank you also to the wonderful staff in the Rare Book Division of the U of R's Rush Rhees Library, who made it possible to photograph the collection for this presentation. □



109 Dartmouth Street – c. 1897 (left) – Residence of Mr. Edward Prizer - Colonial Revival style, 2009 photo (right).



103 Dartmouth Street - C.M. Harkness Residence in 1896 (left) and in 2009 (right).

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158 Meigs Street – Double Residence built for Mrs. M. A. Jeffrey – 1894 (left), and 2009 (right).
(Colonial Revival with Queen Ann influence) Photo from “Souvenir” book.

Historic Brighton thanks Arlene Wright Vanderlinde for sharing the photographs and article from her presentation given at the Annual Meeting for Historic Brighton held January 31, 2010.

2010 Historic Brighton Board of Directors:

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Elizabeth (Betsy) Brayer, Leo Dodd, Suzanne Donahue, Monica Gilligan, Hannelore (Honey) Heyer, Ron Richardson, Janet Tyler, Nancy Uffindell, Arlene Wright Vanderlinde, David Whitaker, Mary Jo Lanphear, (ex-officio) Town Historian

Corbett's Glen — Event Extraordinaire

By Jean Baric

September 12th, 2010 – *Save the date!*

You do NOT want to miss the spectacular celebration of Historic Corbett's Glen planned for this coming September 12th, noon to 5 pm!

The Allens Creek/Corbett's Glen Preservation Group, Genesee Land Trust, and Historic Brighton are co-sponsoring this extraordinary event, which will offer a most amazing afternoon of unique activities to celebrate the past, present, and future of Corbett's Glen.

Here's what's planned:

- Film Debut of “*Corbett's Glen – Past, Present, Future*,” featuring rare footage from a c. 1928 community celebration in Corbett's Glen (*popcorn provided!*)
- Release of “Corbett's Glen Cookbook – Vol. 2”,
Filled with historic photos & great recipes

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- * Historic Walking Tours
- * Nature Tours
- * Self-Guided Walking Tours with Deluxe Photo Exhibits
- * Corbett's Glen Artwork Display
- * Memento Photo Opportunity in an 1880 buggy
- * Period Attire Encouraged!

This celebration will NOT be publicized to the general public, but rather through the three co-sponsoring organizations. Members and friends are welcome.

The steering committee would greatly appreciate your assistance. If you would like to help plan the event, or volunteer the day of the event, please send an email to: corbetts_glen@yahoo.com.

See you in Corbett's Glen in September!!!



Can't wait to see you in Corbett's Glen!"

(Still taken from 1928 film —
provided by Jean Baric)

The Allens Creek Corbett's Glen Preservation Group (ACCGPG)
is looking for submissions of Glen related artwork for this celebration.

Awards will be given in four categories: youth, high school, amateur and
professional. Up to three submissions per person are allowed.

For more details, please visit www.corbettsglen.org

Prohibitionists Attack Milk Farmers!

By Leo Dodd

'Tis True...just as the headline states. Such was the fate of our farming friend James Polk Edmunds in the 1890 - 1901 diary time period. Seems like an unlikely war...right? One would think that they could have found common ground and avoided conflict. How could milk be seen as an evil to be stomped out?



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The Edmunds diaries do not describe this conflict or even hint at a possible problem. But, the diaries do describe the large work effort and time that James expends daily to feed his milk-cow herd of ten or more on his farm. He availed himself of the waste products of the local Rochester breweries. There were fourteen breweries listed in the 1890 business section of Rochester directory, providing the many milk dealers in the area with "swill." The distilleries disposed of the grain used in fermentation by selling the leftover "slop" to dairy farmers in what became known as "swill dairies." Temperance leaders embraced the attack on 'swill dairies' in their effort to shut down distilleries.

James's diaries read as follows:

Sept.9, 1890... *"Went after feed in the morning.
Had to stay until the noon brewing."*

Sept.27, 1890.. *"Went to the Brewery in the morning and got 30 bushel feed."*

Feb. 16, 1894 *"I went to the Brewery with Jimmy."*

“Went after feed.”...was a diary entry that appeared about three times a week in the 1890 diaries. These entries establish the Edmunds Farm relationship with the local breweries.

The loading of the grain from the brewery was very difficult for one man to control. The work elements included horse team, farm wagon, and the packing of many bushels of feed. Usually two people from the farm were involved in obtaining the grains. Overall, it was: you make the trip to the city; you wait your turn for grain access; then you fill and lift baskets with a return trip that consumed a half day labor time from the farm, several days a week. This was a strong commitment of limited time.

The use of brewery grains to feed milk cows was a very common activity in Monroe County and throughout the country in the late 1800's, and there were legitimate concerns as to the influence on milk supply. The Rochester Board of Health prohibited the sale of milk in the City if the farmer had used brewery waste grains older than three day of manufacture. Eventually there feeds were outlawed

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James did not comment on the Temperance activities in the county, city or town directly in any diary, but their influence was evident in the city and county health regulation of the milk business.

One of the fourteen breweries in Rochester was the Bartholomay Brewery. When the prohibitionists finally won their campaign with the enactment of the 14th Amendment, the Bartholomay Brewery became know as the Bartholomay Dairy. Neat transformation! □

Historic Brighton
P.O. Box 18525
Rochester NY 14618



Save these Dates!

September 19th, 2010 World Canal Conference

Kicking off the 2010 World Canal Conference in Rochester NY is a public event which will include a flotilla, aqueduct tours, historical displays, entertainment, food, and much more.

Be sure to check out the Historic Brighton display at the Blue Cross Arena. For more details, please visit www.wccrochester.org

October 2nd, 2010 Historic Brighton

Historic Brighton will travel the Erie Canal from Corn Hill Landing to the Edgewood Avenue lock and back aboard the Mary Jemison. Details to be announced in the Fall newsletter and on our Website. www.historicbrighton.org