



HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

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Number 3

Celebrating our town's history and educating our community about Brighton's past.



Photograph: Quarry operations on Cobb's Hill looking toward Pinnacle Hill circa 1900

Credit: University of Rochester Rare Books and Special Collections. Herman Leroy Fairchild Collection

Historic Brighton Celebrates:

**Cobb's Hill and Washington Grove
At the Lake Riley Lodge at Cobb's Hill Park**

100 Norris Drive — off Culver Road

11:30am • Saturday • June 11th • 2011

“The UNnatural History of Cobb's Hill”

A STUDY OF THE HUMAN IMPACT ON THIS BEAUTIFUL RESOURCE

A LUNCH AND LECTURE WITH LARRY CHAMPOUX

Weather permitting; a hike in the Grove will follow the program.

We all know Cobb's Hill for its beloved park and reservoir, its plentiful fields of play, its attractive neighborhoods and its mysterious ancient glacial woodlands of huge oak trees. But there is much more to the story of this special place. Humans have been traversing this hillside for centuries and have left both positive and negative imprints on these glacial soils.

This presentation draws upon rarely or never seen photographic images culled from many local archives to tell the story of how we nearly destroyed this valuable hill and how it was transformed and preserved for the benefit of our community. It is a story that continues to unfold today.

Larry Champoux is an artist, poet and writer who embarked upon this study of Cobb's Hill Park and Washington Grove after having spent many, many hours walking in circles around the reservoir and the quiet trails of the Grove.

RESERVATION NECESSARY - SEE INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER

www.historicbrighton.org

Postcard views of the Cobb's Hill Area

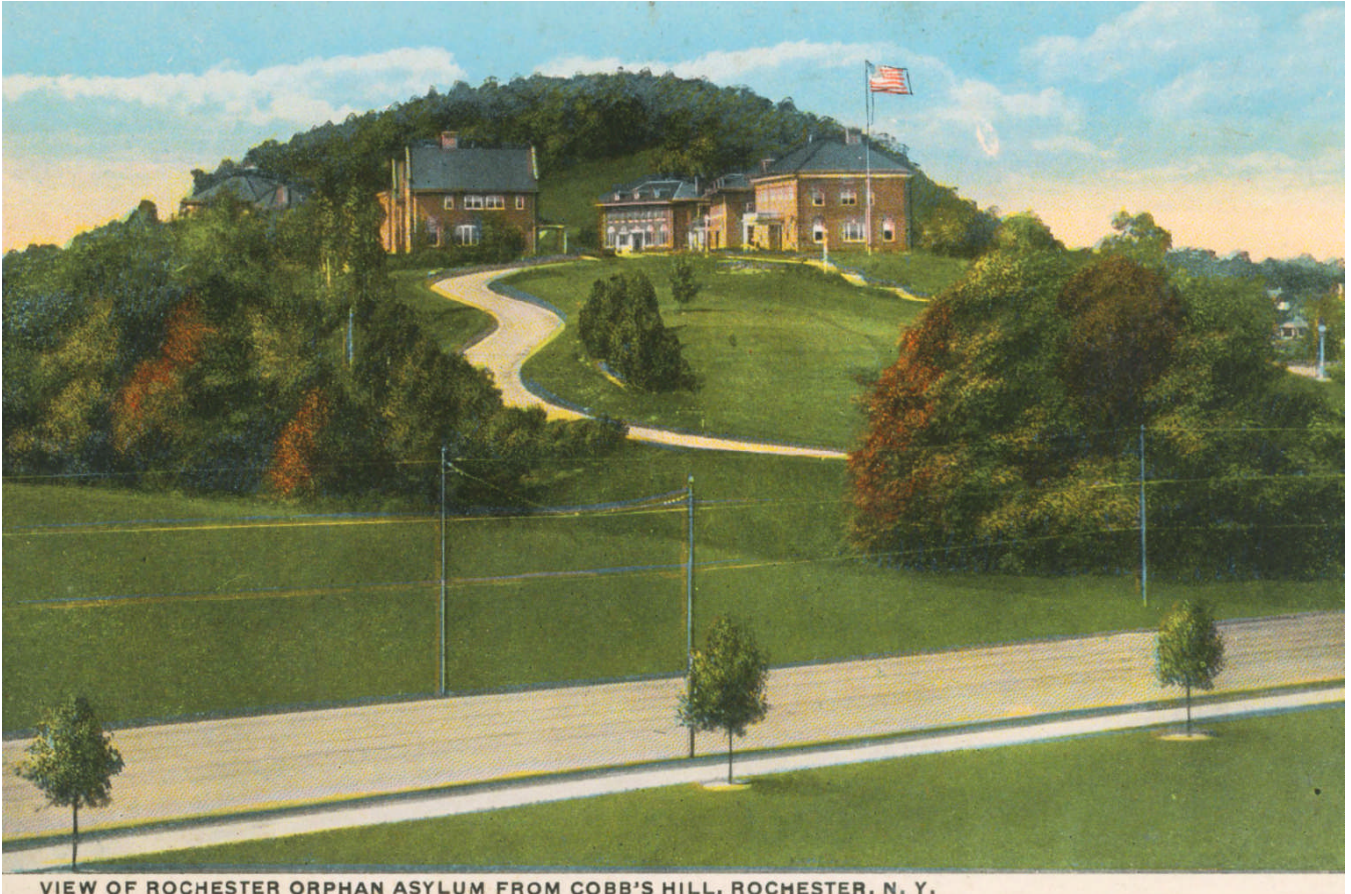
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Cobb's Hill Reservoir and Lake Riley, Rochester, N. Y.

De Wolf Aerial Photo

Cobb's Hill reservoir and Lake Riley, Rochester, NY. Card was mailed in August 1934.



VIEW OF ROCHESTER ORPHAN ASYLUM FROM COBB'S HILL, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

View of Rochester Orphan Asylum from Cobb's Hill, Rochester, NY. Card not mailed.

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View from Cobb's Hill, Rochester, NY. Card was mailed March 1929.



Culver Road Bridge over Eastern Wide Waters, Rochester, NY. Card was mailed Sept. 1910.

These cards are from the collection of our member Nancy Uffindell. Thanks for sharing.

School #3

...and what we know:

By Leo Dodd



On the high hill of glacial till that supports the intersection of Clinton Avenue South and Westfall Road stood a brick building. The building was named and numbered as Brighton School #3, serving our community for a hundred years plus. A moment of time within this building was recorded on Kodak film and recently shared by Mary Jo Lanphear, Brighton Town Historian. The “Kodak Moment” was estimated as the spring of 1937, and Richard Spangenberg, a former pupil in School #3 delivered the prize photo. Richard can identify several of the pupils and the teacher was a Miss Margaret Schaffer.Photo is shown below.

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Over the years Mary Jo has received several historical documents that assist in putting flesh on a building that has disappeared from our view. That's one of the great benefits from the State established office of “Town Historian”. The Town is provided with a focus and a reference point for sharing and learning about our Brighton's past. Mary Jo has performed an outstanding job in managing the flow of questions and providing answers and information to see that this community is historically educated.

A defining gift, donated by Susan Edmunds, was a book containing the Records of the School #3, titled “School Board Meetings”, from 1830 to 1893. Within this book were recorded the actions of the Board and listed Board members, including names such as the brick-maker brothers Amos and Leonard Buckland, farmers James Edmunds, Petrocles Blaker, John Chattin, (who owned the farm on the present Monroe Community College), the Bittner

farm and many others. The following entry gave us a definition of the building that we lacked, stating building size, materials and date of construction:

“September 5, 1846”

“Resolved: That Henry C. Day serve as chairman.

Resolved: That the new house be built 24’ by 32’ and 12’ between joints.

Resolved: That the Old school House be sold at public sale to the highest bidder.

Resolved: To raise \$400 to build the house and Wood Shed.

Resolved to build the Wood Shed 10’ wide and 16’ long with a brick wall in front and on the east end. The wall to be built 8’ high in front or next the Road

Resolved that we build a board fence to have fronts 7’ long, 2.5’ under the ground.”

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With the above information we can build and develop a possible view of the School #3.



What is the reason for the wood shed you ask? Well the following note is in every year's meeting notes *“Resolved: Each individual purchase one cord of wood to a scholar, all to be delivered by the middle of December”*.

There was no mention in records of a privy to be built. Just thought it necessary!

We also know from the Edmunds Diary Collection, again a gift to the Town Historian, that James Edmunds was the designated coordinator of all events related to School #3, for it was built on his farm property. The school marm usually came to live at his farmhouse while she was teaching. One such teacher, Grace May Fox, married his son, James Edmunds II.

A relative of that marriage, Mildred McNall provided access to a school bell used in School #3. Therefore, you can see that gift by gift, an historic picture can evolve. Neat! “Eh What!”



Yes there were others, Mrs. Max (Ursula) Gonsenhauser shared a photo she took of the school house on a rainy day from her car window. ‘Tis the only photograph I have seen of the building exterior. Well, yes, there was one other, in a Pittsford Post article, when Anthony Costello purchased the farm property to develop the existing medical complex. Anthony attempted to save the building but the Brighton Town board would not cooperate. Thus it was destroyed. Anthony should have received an “Historical Heroes Badge.”

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The school enrollment reached into the seventies in number. If they all came on the same day, this school must have been very, very crowded. The local farmers had servants of school age and the farmers were obliged to see to their schooling. I would expect the average attendance was in the mid-thirties as illustrated by Richard’s photograph on page four. School enrollment for 1877 was seventy-one students. Students of 1877 were from twenty-nine Brighton families and included ten servant students. Servants were at the farms of W. Hickox, J. Hartley, H. Smith, F. H. French, Peter Paul, H. Chattin, and L. Buckland.

The School Board was responsible for not only the construction and maintenance of the school building but also furnishing the maps and maintaining a library as noted in the 1847 record below.

October 2, 1847

“Resolved; to purchase a Globe for the use of the School.”



The Edmunds Diaries are a steady source of School #3 related topics such as the following entries:

March 5, 1883: "Went down to L. Buckland's after School Tax."

October 14, 1886: "We went down to the School House to look at the new Map."

January 24, 1890: "The School Marm was here to swear to her Register."

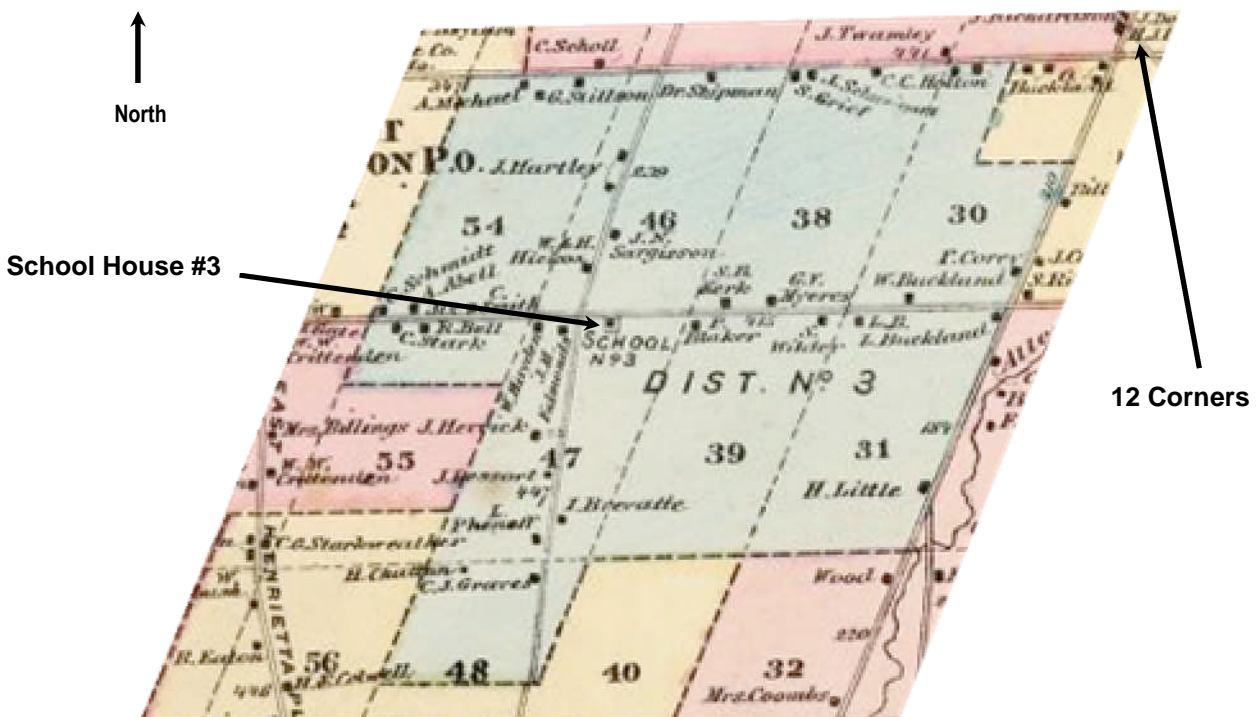
August 5, 1890: "The Boys and I went to School Meeting at night."

September 4, 1893: "The School Marm came here to Board."

October 15, 1893: "Helped J. Hartley put up new Stove Pipe in the School House."

These diary entries describe maintenance activity, adult use for community meetings and provide hints at the pride in advancing knowledge by supplying the latest graphics for learning. Each school related entry helps advance our human understanding beyond the building bricks.

The 1870 map below outlines the properties that made up District Number Three.



Brighton School District #3

1870 District Outline

So to all who have advanced our knowledge of School House #3 through the sharing of stories, artifacts, photos, record books.....**thanks!**.....keep them coming. ☐

Historic Brighton
P.O. Box 18525
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Historic Brighton

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our community about Brighton's past.*

P.O. Box 18525 Rochester, NY 14618

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