

Some Interesting Additions to the Buckland House

In the past year, several interesting donations have come to the Buckland house from current and former residents of Brighton. Their cherished pieces help to flesh out the story of the 200-year-old house that sheltered families from mid-1820s to the mid-1980s. The variety of their donations illustrate life in the house for almost that entire span.

A former Brighton dentist and clock collector brought a circa 1830 Gilbert wooden works shelf clock to the house, along with some other vintage pieces. The clock comes from a part of Rochester that was Brighton until 1823 so it's possible that the clock was actually made in Brighton. The same donor also brought a steeple-style mantle clock, a rush-seated chair, a Hepplewhite-style side table, a wooden document box, and several glass oil lamps that represent evening illumination in the early years of the house.

Another special donation came from a family that once occupied Abner Buckland's house on Winton Road. It's a circa 1815 Elizabethan Revival style four-drawer bureau, and it's said to have belonged to the Bucklands that lived in the Winton Road house. The bureau has had some modifications over the years but not enough to prevent its original owners from recognizing it, should they return...

A Virginia Colony couple donated to the house a fine piece of early twentieth century household equipment. It's a full-sized icebox with its original finish and parts intact. Before the invention of electric refrigerators, the up-to-date family would have enjoyed chilled food and beverages thanks to the icebox. Regular delivery of blocks of ice to the house cost about \$7.00 a month. Some early twentieth century Brighton houses still have "ice doors" that enabled a deliveryman to place a block of ice into the icebox from outside the house.

Because of its sturdy construction, the twentieth century icebox makes an ideal support for the fragile 1830 clock. Look for them in the hearth room, opposite the front door.

A Southland Drive family donated some small family artifacts to the house – a three-piece Bunnykins dinnerware set and upholstered child's chair bring to mind the many children that lived in the house while a stereopticon and slides represent after dinner entertainment in the pre-electricity era.

The family of Leo Dodd, longtime Brighton resident and artist, donated to Brighton several of his watercolors that depict Brighton brickyards and the men who operated them. These paintings have been framed and have become the permanent exhibit at the Buckland house in the Rotary meeting room. When another exhibit takes place, such as the annual Brickyard Trail exhibit in March, the Dodd collection will be stored away for the duration.

Before 2020 and COVID restrictions, Brighton Recreation trained some docents to lead tours of the Buckland house on a regular basis, expected to be one weekend a month. The epidemic halted those plans but now it is time to re-establish a corps of trained volunteers to guide visitors around the house. Full details and registration for the Docent Program may be found online at www.brightonny.gov/rec, or call 585-784-5260 x0 to be registered.

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