

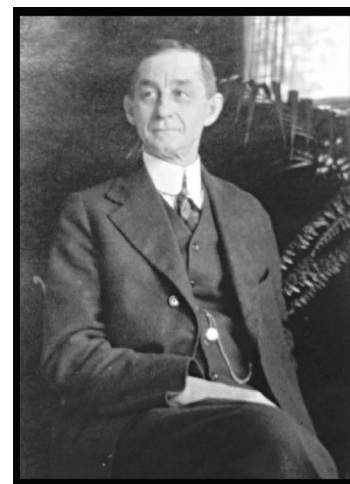
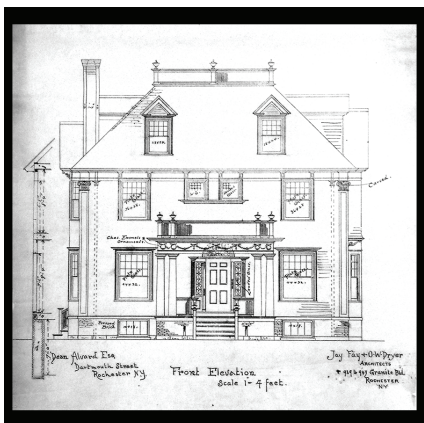


# HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS

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Number 1



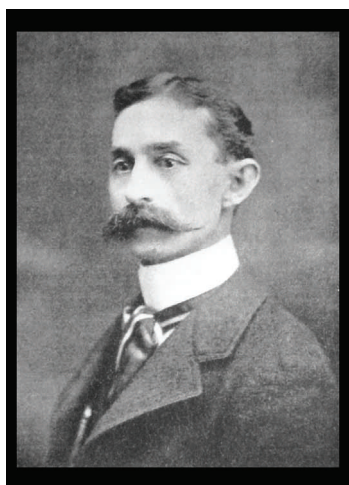
Harwood Dryer

## Historic Brighton Presents Salon II Brighton's Notable Architects:

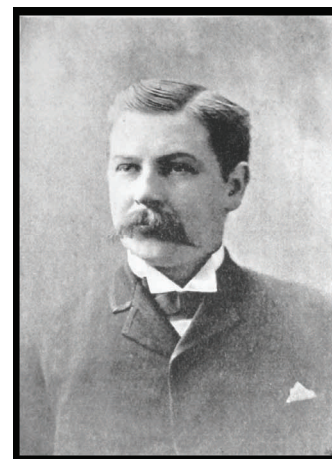
**JAY FAY . OTIS W. DRYER .  
HARWOOD B. DRYER .  
LEANDER MCCORD**

Presented by Arlene Wright Vanderlinde  
and Christopher Brandt

**January 31, 2010 — 2:30PM  
Brighton Town Hall  
2300 Elmwood Avenue**



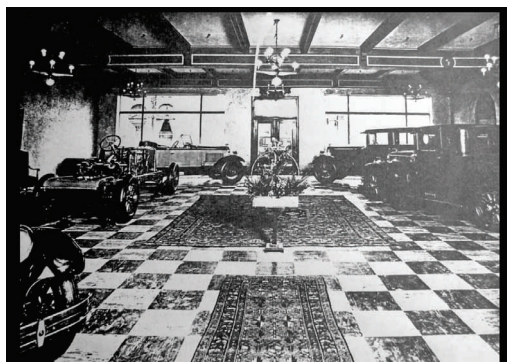
Otis Walter Dryer



Jay Fay



Mr. McCord







## Caple's Tavern

By Mary Jo Lamphear —  
Brighton Town Historian

Caple's Tavern at 1832 Monroe Avenue occupies a unique position in the collection of Brighton's extant nineteenth century brick buildings. It is the only one that was designed for commercial purposes. All of the others were residences. This origin adds a different dimension to the evaluation of the building as a

**2** historic structure. Because it was a public building, it was the site of town meetings and social events not associated with the brick residential buildings in Brighton.

Edward Caple typified the mid-nineteenth settler of Brighton. He emigrated from England, opened a butcher shop in Rochester's Central Market, then moved to Brighton in 1848 to buy and operate a tavern on the main road from Rochester to Pittsford. Located near the Twelve Corners, Edward Caple catered to travelers, land speculators, brick buyers, workers, and nearby residents. The tavern was a hub of activity that continued until his death in 1889.

Edward Caple obtained a tavern license from the Brighton Board of Excise in May of 1849 for \$25.00. In October of that year the Brighton Town Board met at Caple's Tavern. It was the habit of the board to hold meetings in taverns in east, west, and central Brighton on an alternate basis.

A nineteenth century tavern was more than a place to obtain liquid refreshment; it more closely resembled a bed-and-breakfast of the modern era. In addition to public rooms for meeting and dining, it offered overnight accommodations for travelers and even long-term stays when necessary. According to an account of the Caleb Martin family of Pittsford, his daughter, Annis Martin, went to live at Caple's tavern after her father's death in 1866. The settlement of the Caleb Martin's estate by an out-of-town sister excluded Annis from the family home in Pittsford.



By the time that the Monroe County Business Directory was published in 1869, Edward Caple had prospered to the point of sponsoring the publication. Not only is his name printed in bold type as the proprietor of the Farmers' Home Hotel, but the hotel had a separate listing, also in bold type. The 1860 U.S. census indicates that Caple held real estate valued at \$3,000; in the 1870 U.S. census the figure given is \$6,000.

Edward Caple's daughters, Ann and Sarah, married local men who also did well. Ann married Daniel MacFarlane who owned land on the north side of Elmwood Avenue now known as the MacFarlane Farms neighborhood. Sarah married John Irving whose land included what is now Irving Road on the south side of Elmwood Avenue.

3 Not only is Caple's Tavern the only surviving brick building in the area between Cobb's Hill and the Twelve Corners, an area that for over seventy-five years was totally devoted to brick making, it is the last remnant of that industry that was so important to the development and prosperity of the town. It is an "anchor building" in that it links Brighton's main commercial corridor of the twenty-first century to the town's manufacturing era in the nineteenth century.

Edward Caple's Farmers' Home Hotel merited designation as a Brighton town landmark because of its long-standing connection to the cultural, political, economic, architectural, and social history of Brighton. Over 160 years after its construction, it is still a contributing structure to the streetscape of the Twelve Corners. Care and appropriate maintenance will guarantee it another 160 years. □

Sources:

Monroe County and Ontario County deeds

United State census

Monroe County Business Directory, 1869-1870.

Rochester Union and Advertiser, 13 March 1889

Town of Brighton meeting minutes, 1814-1870



"Sunday Best" in Corbett's Glen, 1928 film.

## Corbett's Glen 2010 Celebration

### *Volunteers Needed!*

Sunday, September 12, 2010 is the date chosen to celebrate the past, present, and future of Corbett's Glen Nature Park.

An historic film of a 1928 picnic at Corbett's Glen has been discovered and the highlight of the day will be a showing of the documentary, "A Day in Corbett's Glen: 1928". This film showcases a large private picnic in Corbett's Glen (with Patrick Corbett himself collecting entrance fees!) starting when the picnic-goers first step





Paper bag game in Corbett's Glen, 1928 film.

off the trolley to when they exit the park at dusk, with all the games, music, gambling, drinking, dancing, and eating that went on in between.

The planning for the September event is well underway, but volunteers are needed to make the event a success.

Historic Brighton members who would like to help may contact Jean Baric at [jmbaric@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jmbaric@rochester.rr.com) (585-385-2293), or visit [www.corbettsglen.org](http://www.corbettsglen.org) for more information. □

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Historic Brighton is pleased to announce that the Brighton Brick book has been reprinted and is now available for sale. Since the original limited edition was published in 2004 and sold out quickly we have had numerous requests for copies of this book.

This book presents a brief outline of the history of the brickyards of Brighton. It was written by Mary Jo Lanphear, Brighton's town historian with superb illustrations by Leo Dodd.

The book will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. The price remains the same -- \$15.00.

If you would like us to mail you a copy please send a check (or use Paypal) for \$17.00 (includes postage) to:

**Historic Brighton, P.O. Box 18525, Rochester, NY 14618.**

# 1890 Dedication of The Children's Pavilion:

A farm journal also titled a farm diary was a simple account book, recording daily farm events and transactions. It was a reference book itemizing time and money spent in crop production. The journal provided an inexpensive, brief daily historical farm record. James Polk Edmunds Sr., who managed his family's 110 acre farm in Brighton, was diligent in the maintenance of his journal. He never missed a day. Never! Each daily work task was identified.



1890 Edmund Diary  
"Farm Journal"



Edmund Farm, Barn, Haystack, Cows & Orchard

All tools and animals used in establishing the soil were listed and harvest quantities recorded. It was a thorough historical reference of daily activity to be used for intelligent farm management.

But occasionally, almost unintentionally, a non farming related event is noted. Such was the entry written by James Polk Edmunds Sr., age 45 in his 1890 farm journal:

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***September 29, 1890:***

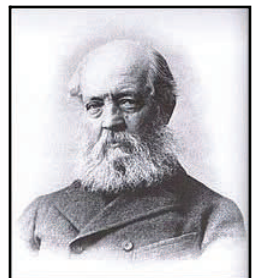
***Commenced to Field Corn. Frank and I cut all day.***

***The Boys helped a spell in the afternoon.***

***There was no School.***

***Dedication of the Pavilion up at the Reservoir.***

(**The translation of above:** James Edmunds started cutting his field corn, planted in June, in the field east of the young orchard with the assistance of his hired hand named Frank. "The "Boys" who helped were two high school boys, Jimmy, aged 16 and Fred, aged 13 sons of James and Aderica Edmunds. "There was no School" refers to the Rochester Free Academy on Fitzhugh Street which had canceled afternoon classes so all 400 students could attend the dedication of the Children's Pavilion. This pavilion was designed to lift the viewer high overlooking a park designed by the father of American landscape architecture, the 68 year old Frederick Law Olmsted. A park called Highland.)



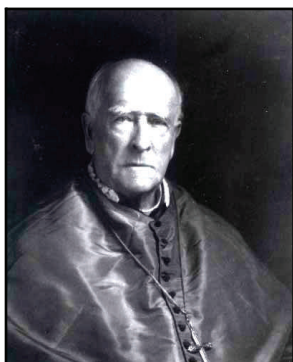
Frederick Law  
Olmsted



James (Jimmy) Polk Edmunds II, age 16 wrote in his farm journal as follows:

***September 29, 1890:  
Pa and I commenced to cut Corn.  
I went to School in the morning.  
There was no School in the afternoon.  
I helped cut Corn.***

September 29 in Rochester was a great day of celebration. You would never know it from the terse account in the farm journals of the Edmunds family. But the journal was not used to record in detail the happenings outside the farm concerns. I am going to assume that they, ...yes..possibly the whole family, ate dinner early, and then walked the mile-plus from “Edmund’s Corners” (Westfall and Clinton intersection) up Clinton Avenue to arrive at the 2 P.M. ceremony in the park.



Bishop McQuaid

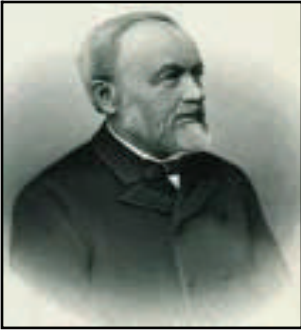
What a ceremony it was! Within a “perfect autumn day, with a gentile northeast wind and a well-nigh cloudless sky” the celebration took place. The 54th Regiment Band brought the 8,000 to 10,000 celebrants to attention. Rochester’s Catholic Bishop Bernard F. McQuaid then addressed the crowd and described the background of the new Park. He praised the contribution of the Ellwanger and Barry Nursery in donating the initial twenty-two acres and the funds to construct the Children’s Pavilion. The southern view looked directly over the Edmunds Farm property.

“The Children’s Pavilion was three stories high, circular in form, sixty-two feet in diameter on the first floor, each upper floor being about ten feet less in diameter than the one below it. Each floor has a strong fence-railing, the first one being floored with brick, the upper ones with Georgia pine. The posts, roof timbers and central stairways are all of the most substantial order, and are very strongly put together. The roofs are of



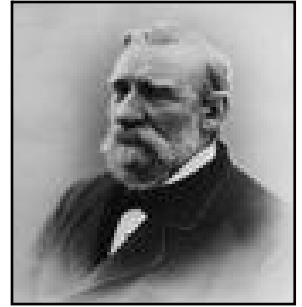
The above photo appearing in the 2010 Democrat & Chronicle calendar pictures a 1960 Lilac Festival where spectators crowded the Children’s Pavilion in Highland Park.

shingles, and the structure is finished in oil. The building cost about \$7,000, was designed by Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, Boston, and constructed, under the supervision of Architects Warner & Brockett by H. H. Edgerton, of this city.”



George Ellwanger

George Ellwanger spoke and presented the land and pavilion to the City of Rochester. Mayor Carroll accepted the gift and several people followed with speeches of appreciation and meaning to the children of the community.



Patrick Barry

The address of the surviving Ellwanger and Barry partner, George Ellwanger, was read by his son, George H. Ellwanger. Introduction read: “I welcome you all,

7 and the whole city also, to this commanding elevation, where I have been in the habit of, coming almost daily for nearly forty years. I came to breathe the fresh, invigorating air that comes across the open country, full of the perfume of the fields, and of the flowers and vegetation that grow so richly as far as the eye can see.”

A dedicatory poem was read by George Chandler Bragdon, the father of architect Claude Bragdon. A prominent figure in New York State political and newspaper circles, George, was an accomplished poet. The poem was a ten verse poem, using a five line stanza called, Envelope Quintet, where the first and fifth lines rhyme as do the second, third and fourth lines. It is a difficult structure to write in and equally difficult to deliver with understanding. Please to read the fourth verse:

**So, festively we consecrate  
To girls and boys this structure fair,  
Their trusting sport in this pure air  
Is better than our doubting prayer,  
Their chatter than our harsh debate.**



Claude Bragdon

George Bragdon gave his best in creating a poem for a great occasion. I don't know if today's "educated" pupils could appreciate and enjoy such an oral performance. I wonder how the Edmund family reacted to such rhyming.

So our short story, built around one day's diary entry, ends!

What a great day to remember. □

Note: The Children's Pavilion was demolished in 1963, one year after the Edmunds Farm stopped functioning. The modern day estimate for replacement is in excess of two million dollars.

Historic Brighton  
P.O. Box 18525  
Rochester NY 14618



Historic Brighton Annual Meeting  
Announced for  
Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010 2:30PM  
Brighton Town Hall  
(2300 Elmwood Avenue)

Historic Brighton Spring Meeting  
Announced for  
Sunday, April 25, 2010  
Brighton Town Hall  
Elizabeth Brayer will speak on the  
Eastman Theatre Restoration.  
Save the date!