

BRIGHTON MEMORIES



When Allen's Creek School was established in 1815, there were 10 school districts in the town of Brighton.

School District 6 was large — half of the district was in Pittsford and half in Brighton. In the latter part of the 19th century, the district also included the Holland Settlement in an area that was formerly Brighton Village that in 1905 became the city's 21st Ward in what is now the northeast part of the city of Rochester.

The original frame school building, constructed in 1820, was a neighborhood social center and worship site as well as a school. By 1840, the school had outgrown its first building, so local residents raised \$400 to build a stone schoolhouse. In 1879, that

building also needed replacing, so a frame school building costing \$700 was erected on the same stone foundation.

The featured photograph shows this 1879 building shortly before a 1910 addition. Eight grades were educated in five school rooms.

The increase in population in this area of Brighton produced 110 students by 1927, so plans were drawn for the fifth Allen's Creek Schoolhouse, the Southern Colonial-style brick building that still stands on a knoll overlooking East Avenue. It opened in the fall of 1929 with 123 pupils.

In 1956, the Allen's Creek School became part of the Pittsford Central School District.

And what became of Brighton's 10 1815 school districts? Because of

annexations by the city of Rochester and consolidations with the school systems of neighboring towns, Brighton children today are educated in five separate districts, with the Brighton Central School District being the only one wholly within town boundaries. The others districts are Penfield, Pittsford, Rush-Henrietta and Wheatland-Chili.

Note: Thank you to readers who pointed out that the Chateau Restaurant at the Twelve Corners was demolished in 1957, not 1982, as was reported in the Aug. 17 edition.

Photo and text provided by Mary Jo Lanphear, Brighton town historian.