Ben Cushing built the Brighton Hotel on the NW corner of Grand River and Main Street, in 1850, at the time of the completion of the planked toll road connecting Detroit with the newly built capital at Lansing. A continual procession of teams and vehicles traversed the road in both directions. Brighton, at the half way point, became a popular stop for refreshment, both solid and liquid.

The Brighton Hotel (after the coming of the railroad and the building of the Western House, 1873, on Main Street by the tracks, the name became Eastern House) had been designed to serve the community as well as the traveling public. A room on the second floor was especially constructed for square dancing. Its floor joists were laid in a manner that would allow the floor to spring with the rhythm of the dancing. The verandas along the front and one side provided cover and shade for those waiting or just loafing on the benches furnished.

Following Ben Cushing's death in 1860, others ran the business until Fred and Will Stamburg, who had been raised on their father's (a blacksmith), small farm located just across Grand River from the hotel at what is now St. Paul Street, became proprietors.

Enterprising and energetic men of good reputation, the brothers kept the hotel (eight guest rooms) in good repair and added improvements, including telephone and electricity when these became available. A windmill was erected and an elevated tank supplied running water. While catering largely to locals, horsedrawn hacks were dispatched to the depot to meet travelers for transport to the Eastern House. The large livery barn erected east of the hotel also operated as a drivelin (including hay) barn to house rigs in inclement weather. Students at the local high school also left their horses during school hours. The hotel served three meals from food stuffs grown and preserved by the proprietors. Practically self-sustaining, only sugar, flour, spices, coffee, etc., were purchased.

The hardworking Stumburgs prospered: engaging in buying, selling and trading horses, they also stocked wagons, sleighs, buggies, carts, cutters, robes, horse blankets and harnesses. After Fred's accidental death on one of their several farms, his wife, Mary (Winklehaus) and Will continued to operate the hotel. In 1926 the barn burned.

Various businesses operated on the premises until the area was cleared for a parking lot for a food market and a drug store. (Condensed from "A Scrap Book of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Fless and a program presented to the Brighton Area Historical Society May 10, 1983, by Katherine Stamburg Hampton.)

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**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1985**

The General Meeting of the Society will meet as its speaker, David D. Finney, Civil War Historian and Lecturer. He will speak on "The History of Early Photography: 1840-1860." Included in this presentation will be information on daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, wet-plate (collodion) processes, albuminized paper and tin photographs. He will also speak about the early photographers, their studios and techniques. In addition a selection of slides of early 19th century personalities, events and locations will be shown.

Mr. Finney holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees from Indiana Univ. and the Education Specialist degree from Wayne State University, Michigan. He is Chairman of the History Department at North Farmington High School, where he has taught since 1969, and also teaches evening classes at Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

The Michigan Historical Marker Program is one of the several Michigan historically oriented boards on which he has served. He has published articles in the Michigan History Magazine and the Michigan Antique Arms Collectors Journal.

(Cont. next column, please.)

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**EDITORIAL**

Local business owners and professional persons have been most generous with donations of articles when asked.

An invitation was recently extended to many to become corporate members of the Society. Their continued support is most necessary to the expansion of the activities of the Society in accomplishing its goals. Readers are encouraged to remember these businesses when they are shopping or in need of services.

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Those attending are encouraged to bring old photographs. Mr. Finney will provide information regarding methods of identifying and dating artifacts of this nature.

The public is sincerely encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held at the former Miller Elementary School, 850 Spencer Rd. Refreshments will be served.

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**MEMBERSHIPS 1985**

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:


If your mailing label has an 85 on it your 85 dues are paid. The Society cannot exist without members. Thanks for your support.

(Cont. page 2, please)