In the early 1900s, there were less than thirty families in the whole township of Hamburg; roads were mere trails through the woods, Indians begged at the door, bears carried off the little pigs, and the distant howling of wolves at night was a familiar sound. On one occasion, when the Doctor had gone to Brighton, a dreadful cry was heard by those at home from across the lake. They felt certain it was a panther or Indians on the warpath. Mother and children sought shelter and refuge in the root cellar, back in the hills, and cowered in fear until a familiar and reassuring whistle announced that the head of the household had returned unharmed. The hidden canoe from their sanctuary and learned the maniacal clamor that had sent them scurrying for safety had been made by a harmless waterfowl, a loon.

Autumn days brought crops to harvest and nuts to gather. When storms sent the whitecaps racing across the lake (present day Minnas Lake) or when the north wind piled snow deep around the little cabin, they all gathered before the great fireplace and listened enthralled while their scholarly father read aloud of the fearsome ride of the Erl King, pages from King Lear or appropriately enough, chapters from the Last of the Mohicans.

Within a few years his devoted "Lizette" died in childbirth, 1846, leaving the threehour old baby and its older siblings entirely in his care. She was buried on "Holly Hill" overlooking the lake. (Later to be reinterred in St. George Churchyard in Genoa Township in April, 1850.) The Doctor and Lizette had nine children, of which the first five were born in Germany and the last four in Hamburg Township in the cabin on the lake.

In 1833, Michigan's first Lutheran pastor, Rev. Friedrich Schmid, from Basel, Switzerland, preached his first sermon in Michigan. Riding his horse, using his axe to clear a path, and carrying his blanket roll, Rev. Schmid preached his first sermon in Genoa Township in 1842. Due to the shortage of pastors in the wilderness, Rev. Schmid pressed into service every professional person he found in the area, of which Dr. Buek was one. By 1845, St. George Ev. Lutheran Church was organized with Dr. Buek as Secretary of the vestry. That year, he returned to Germany and solicited donations from classmates, friends and Lutherans for the construction of a building to house the new congregation. Along with $600 in cash, he also brought back a communion set, baptismal font, church seal, offering plate and a register book. In April, 1849, the church was built. The several children were confirmed there and several of the girls married other German pioneers who located in the nearby townships. Dr. Buek served as Pastor (except for two years in Detroit) until he died July 2, 1860 on the farm in Section 28 in Genoa Township on land to which he had moved in 1850, now a part of Burroughs Farms. He and his Lizette are buried in the St. George cemetery in Genoa Township, where once stood the little church to which he gave his life's devotion. (Condensed and edited from "A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ernst Adolph Buek" compiled by Robert Lee Watson.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North St.
Brighton, MI 48116

In the early 1900s, there were less than thirty families in the whole township of Hamburg; roads were mere trails through the woods, Indians begged at the door, bears carried off the little pigs, and the distant howling of wolves at night was a familiar sound. On one occasion, when the Doctor had gone to Brighton, a dreadful cry was heard by those at home from across the lake. They felt certain it was a panther or Indians on the warpath. Mother and children sought shelter and refuge in the root cellar, back in the hills, and cowered in fear until a familiar and reassuring whistle announced that the head of the household had returned unharmed. The hidden canoe from their sanctuary and learned the maniacal clamor that had sent them scurrying for safety had been made by a harmless waterfowl, a loon.

Autumn days brought crops to harvest and nuts to gather. When storms sent the whitecaps racing across the lake (present day Minnas Lake) or when the north wind piled snow deep around the little cabin, they all gathered before the great fireplace and listened enthralled while their scholarly father read aloud of the fearsome ride of the Erl King, pages from King Lear or appropriately enough, chapters from the Last of the Mohicans.

Within a few years his devoted "Lizette" died in childbirth, 1846, leaving the threehour old baby and its older siblings entirely in his care. She was buried on "Holly Hill" overlooking the lake. (Later to be reinterred in St. George Churchyard in Genoa Township in April, 1850.) The Doctor and Lizette had nine children, of which the first five were born in Germany and the last four in Hamburg Township in the cabin on the lake.

In 1833, Michigan's first Lutheran pastor, Rev. Friedrich Schmid, from Basel, Switzerland, preached his first sermon in Michigan. Riding his horse, using his axe to clear a path, and carrying his blanket roll, Rev. Schmid preached his first sermon in Genoa Township in 1842. Due to the shortage of pastors in the wilderness, Rev. Schmid pressed into service every professional person he found in the area, of which Dr. Buek was one. By 1845, St. George Ev. Lutheran Church was organized with Dr. Buek as Secretary of the vestry. That year, he returned to Germany and solicited donations from classmates, friends and Lutherans for the construction of a building to house the new congregation. Along with $600 in cash, he also brought back a communion set, baptismal font, church seal, offering plate and a register book. In April, 1849, the church was built. The several children were confirmed there and several of the girls married other German pioneers who located in the nearby townships. Dr. Buek served as Pastor (except for two years in Detroit) until he died July 2, 1860 on the farm in Section 28 in Genoa Township on land to which he had moved in 1850, now a part of Burroughs Farms. He and his Lizette are buried in the St. George cemetery in Genoa Township, where once stood the little church to which he gave his life's devotion. (Condensed and edited from "A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ernst Adolph Buek" compiled by Robert Lee Watson.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North St.
Brighton, MI 48116

Grand River Trail:

TRAIL TALES

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

The membership is composed of people who feel the above purpose is worthwhile, and should be promoted.

EDITORIAL

The Brighton area has many old buildings. Like old friends they can be reassuring in times of change.

It has been suggested that 90% of the houses we will occupy in the year 2000 are already built. Restoration of older buildings, including retrofitting and updating of plumbing, heating and wiring, is therefore vital. This can be done while retaining the integrity of the original design and the Brighton area can be proud of its variety of livable dwellings and profitable places of business.

The structures in which our forefathers worked and lived are a part of us. To lose them would be like losing a part of ourselves.

The Society can be one means by which we can work together to identify, preserve and encourage the reuse of these buildings.

+ + + + + +

1986 MEMBERSHIPS

Erv & Dorothy Bandau, Sandy and Steve Bansbach, Chuck & Janice Seach, Dr. Bell, Richard & Elaine Blight, Kevin & Faith Brady, Rae Carmack, Florence Chase, Esther Clark, Dale & Doris Clibby, Frances Clare, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Doris Fays, Tom & Sara Graham, Mary Griffith, William & Katherine Hampton, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, John & Carol Hills, Bill & Helen Hyne, Josephine Jacobs, Don & Shirley Jenks, Wally & Marilyn Jolitts, Al & Lois Kreusner, Francis & Helen Michaels, Margaret Mulr, Alice Nowakowsky, Lyle & Joyce Pouwer, Lovisa Seger, Margaret Squire, Fran Stokes, Leo & Iris Sullivan, Allen Walblay, Anna Westin, Trevor & Avina Woodworth, John & Phyllis Wenzel. (Please turn to page 2.)