

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P O BOX 481  
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #303  
BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### CHARLES EDWARD PLACEWAY AND THE BRIGHTON ARGUS

Early settlers from New York, Joseph Placeway and wife Ann Maria, with daughters Mary (2) and Mathilda (1), purchased 200 acres in Genoa in 1836. The following year, Joseph Edward was born followed by George and John. Joseph Edward married Emily Jane Smith, born in Plymouth, daughter of another early settler.

Joseph E. and Emily had three children, Charles Edward, Jennie and William. At the time of Charles E.'s birth, October 13, 1860, the family was in Hamburg Township on a farm. By 1867 the family lived in Brighton Village. Charles E. graduated from Brighton High School in 1874. His education was furthered at the "University in Ann Arbor." His father served for 1½ years in the Civil War with the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. Both uncles also heard duty's call. Several ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

Charles E., at 15 years, began learning the newspaper publishing business by working for George Axtell, owner of the "Brighton Citizen", established in 1870. In 1877 he's with the "Ann Arbor Courier". A year later Charles established the first paper in South Lyon, the "South Lyon Herald". By 1879 the "Pinckney Gazette" up and running. He was now 19. Having purchased the contents of the office of the "Brighton Citizen", he sold both of these papers and established the "Brighton Argus". He published the Argus until 1897 when he sold to Town and Jacobs. In five years Seth Jacobs bought Town's interest.

Charles E. did find time to woo and wed neighbor Alta E. Case, daughter of merchant Ira Case, October 10, 1887. They lived in the house built by Daniel Marsh "in an early day", on the corner of Rickett and Grand River. He also found opportunity to serve four years as Township Clerk, three as Village Clerk and four as School Inspector. Charles and Alta had three children, William E., Edna S. and Gertrude. William E. married Iva MacAvoy in Toledo and had a career as a reporter for a Detroit paper. Edna S. became Mrs. Edward Crout and Gertrude, Mrs. Cliff Roberts (who built the Rialto Theater on W. Main in 1918.) After retiring from the Argus, Charles E. became a real estate agent. For about 15 years he'd been an auctioneer. After Alta's death April 28, 1910, of heart trouble, Charles married Abigail Buck Lyons, widow of William C. Lyons, son of Richard J. and Martha Lyons, pioneers in Brighton Township. February 8, 1919 Charles died from a stomach ailment. He and Alta are buried at Calvary Cemetery. Abigail died eight months later and is buried with William Lyons just two lots away. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Charboneau and Case Genealogy by Stephen Leith. Additions/corrections welcome, 810/229-6402.)