BROTHERS HENRY W. AND WILLIAM H. PIPP

Henry W. b. 1831 and Elizabeth Buek b. 1833 Pipp were both born in Germany. Henry, an orphan at 16 came to America in 1847. Before his apprenticeship as a wagon maker Henry worked in a brick yard. 1859 finds him, a partner of John Becker, in the blacksmith business in Brighton. Their shop was on the south side of Pitch (S. Main) between East Street and Grand River; where the Beckers lived.

(The construction of the railroad, 1871, resulted in the Smith/McPherson Addition for several blocks each side of the tracks. This event was followed by the building of a foot bridge over Ore Creek for pedestrians and a bridge for wagons, etc. The commercial area west of the creek developed quickly.) Pipp and Becker realized the smity business would be 'down-sized' now that Farmers needs could more easily be filled. The Pipp and Becker Hardware Store, s. e. corner W. Main and Hyne was built c. 1871 by brother William H. Pipp, a carpenter/contractor. William built many homes and other buildings in the Brighton area.

Henry W. and Elizabeth's home was the n. w. corner of Grand River and Mill (St. Paul) Streets. A descendant notes Henry's business motto was 'Deal fairly and keep your expenses below your income.' Their home was filled with eight children - five boys and three girls. Brighton Village was organized in 1867. By 1888 Henry W. was village president. As a member of the school board he was responsible for construction of the new school for District 5 students which opened in 1869, grades 1-10. The curriculum was improved over the years and the first class to graduate from the 12th grade was in 1886. During the 'War of the Rebalion' the Union League (Loyal National League of America) to which many Brighton and Livingston County residents adhered - finds Henry W. among them.

William H. b. 1836, married Elizabeth Smith b. 1835, but didn't leave the 'old country' until about 20 years later, c. 1857, after the birth of two sons, William 1853 and Henry 1855. Their home was at the s. e. corner of Grand River and Beaver Streets where five more children were born - three girls and two boys.

Pipp and Becker were in business until 1895 when they sold to Henry Ratz. Years later son George, when remodeling the store found a wide board from the counter under which he found in Germany. "Pipp is just a poor handyworking man who kept his nose out of other peoples' business, enjoyed his food and his liquor and slept well at night." The children of both Henry W. and William H. Pipp have taken their talents to other climes and appear to have continued those responsible ways. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from Census records; Bill Pleiss 'with Stephen Leath's addendum') Village Cemetery Supplement; obituaries recorded by Milton Charbonneau and material compiled by Robert Watson. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402)