

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SO WHERE DID GAY LAKE GO?

The 1895 Platt Map of Brighton Township showed the closest lake to the city of Brighton was Gay Lake. A lake of less than thirty acres and about 35 feet deep. The property west of Gay Lake was owned by Amanda Gay, thus likely where the name for the lake originated.

Gay Lake was a kettle lake, also called a kettle hole, known in geological terms as a depression in a glacial outwash made by the melting of the detached mass of glacial ice that became wholly or partly buried. When filled with water, they are called kettle lakes.

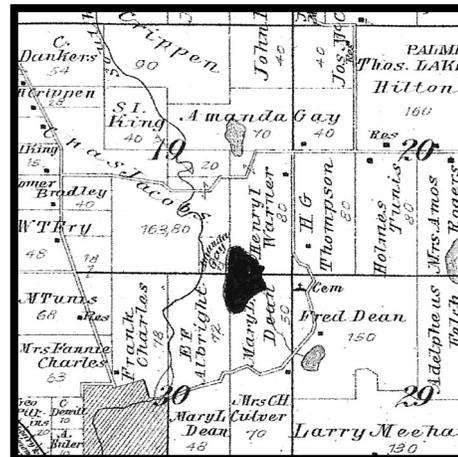
In the 1920's, the Capital Land Company of Detroit began buying up land in Sections 18 and 19 of Brighton Township along the Ore Creek north of the City of Brighton. The same Ore Creek that flows through Brighton when the dam formed for the Millpond.

Capital Land Company purchased some 1200 acres of mostly farmland located along both sides of South Ore Creek. The 1915 Platt Map shows that much of the acreage was owned by Ernest Crippen, Mr. and Mrs. Fracion, JL Taylor, JW Crippen, Amanda Gay and others. Capital Land Company's plan was for a large recreational area with a lake and 9 miles of shoreline, two golf courses, a senior and junior course, along with four hundred acres of building sites.

In 1927, a dam was built north of what is today Hilton Road and East of Grand River. The result of this dam is Woodland Lake. Woodland Lake is the largest lake in Brighton Township at 290 acres and a depth of 35 feet, including six islands and over three hundred homes. The 35 foot deep area is what was previously called Gay Lake!.

(Submitted by Jerry Damon. *Information compiled from: Brighton Argus, MLive, and Huron River Watershed Council documents.*)

1895 Platt Map



Current Map of Woodland Lake