

## **1908-1917 – Plotted and Planned**

In 1887, D.F. Carmichael, founder of Brighton, plotted the “Walnut Grove Addition” in Brighton.

*<<Between 1887 and 1908 currently unknown>>*

In 1908, William G. Lovelace (*born 1858*) purchased lots 1-12 of block 11 of the Walnut Grove addition in Brighton from Daniel F. Carmichael. The deal included other portions of land in Brighton as well. Of note, a “W. G. Lovelace” was Mayor of Brighton from 1891 to 1892. It is worth noting that Lovelace and Carmichael had many land deals between the two of them, including them both listed as grantor and grantee. It is possible that both were in business together to some degree. William is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Brighton.

In 1912, Edward F. Kleinmeyer purchased lots 1-12 of block 11 of the Walnut Grove addition from Lovelace. The deal included other portions of unplotted land in Brighton as well.

In 1914, Ellis F. Hutchcroft, a realtor and apparent land speculator in Brighton purchased lots 1-12 and 29-39 of block 11 of the Walnut Grove addition from Kleinmeyer. The deal included a great portion of other lands in the area and stock in the Fulton Irrigating Ditch Company.

## **1918-1923 - A Home is Built, Tragedy Strikes**

In 1918, Samuel (*born ~1860*) and Millie (*born ~1/1864*) McLaughlin purchased the undeveloped lots one (1) and two (2), block eleven (11) of the Walnut Grove Addition in Brighton from Ellis F. Hutchcroft. Samuel and Millie then constructed the home that is still standing on the property, completing it in 1919.

Per the 1920 census, we know that Samuel was a foreman at a local sugar factory.

From what we can find from historical documents, it seems that the marriage between the two was Millie’s second, and it is not believed that Samuel and Millie had children together. Sometime very soon after the home was complete - possibly in 1920 or 1921 - Millie passed away suddenly.

Most likely due to Millie’s death, the home soon went into foreclosure, with a default notification on record in 1926. Between the years of 1921 and 1936, a few different names are listed in the Brighton City Directory and the 1930 Census, all of which were suspected renters of the home. In 1928, the Industrial Building and Loan Association filed a lawsuit against Samuel and the estate of Millie to recoup the loan. It not known the outcome of the suit.

## **1923-1936 - In Limbo**

Not much is known about the occupants of the home between the years of 1923 and 1931, potentially due to the home being used as a rental property while court proceedings took place between the Industrial Building and Loan Association and the McLaughlins.

From 1923 to 1924, the Brighton City Director listed an “F.H. Cress” as living at the home. This is assumed to be Floyd Henry Cress, the patriarch of a notable Brighton family.

In 1925, the home is listed as “Vacant” in the City Directory.

From 1926 to 1927, a “C. Lutz” is listed in the City Directory. This is believed to be Christine Lutz (*born August 8, 1870*), who lost her husband, Wilhelm, the year previously. No other information is known. Christine is buried with her husband at Elmwood Cemetery in Brighton.

In 1928, a “Burt Thilen” is listed in the City Directory. No further information is known.

From 1929 to 1930, Ray (*born ~1901*) and Corenne (*born ~1903*) lived in the home with their son Ray Jr. (*~1924*) and Phyllis Jean (*born ~1929*). The 1930 census records Ray as being a bookkeeper for a Ford dealership.

### **1936-1944 - The Hollemon Era**

In 1936, Claude (*born June 15, 1895*) and Martha (*born January 26, 1895*) purchased the home from the Industrial Federal Savings and Loan Association (same company mentioned above). They moved into the home with their daughter Gladys (*born April 17, 1916*) and their son Kenneth (*born March 30, 1917*).

Through discussions with descendants of the Hollemon family, it is believed that the family moved to Brighton due to Claude’s job, which was as a sugar boiler for the Great Western Sugar Company.

On October 17, 1940, Kenneth enlisted in the Army Air Corps where he served until the winter of 1946. He never again lived in the home, but did visit from time to time. Kenneth was married to Gloria on August 15, 1943.

The marriage between Claude and Martha ended abruptly with Claude leaving Martha to marry Mertha “Mert” Miller. The divorce was finalized in either 1944 or 1945. On August 18, 1945, Claude and Mert were married in Cheyenne, Wyoming. It is believed that during this time – and possibly due to the divorce – the home was listed for sale.

### **1944-2010 – On The Road from Battle Creek**

In 1944, Hedwig Wegner (*born May 19, 1887*) purchased the home from the Hollemon family and moved in with her three daughters, Ruby (*born June 28, 1928*), Wilma (*born May 30, 1929*), and Eunice (*born October 10, 1931*).

The Wegner family moved from a family farm in Battle Creek, Nebraska soon after the father, William, passed away from what was believed to be bleeding ulcers. He passed away in 1937. It is also worth mentioning that the Wegners also had a son – Marcus Waldo – who passed away as an infant in 1925. It has been said that Hedwig and her daughters moved to Brighton.

The Wegners had family nearby. Next door, at 408 S. 2nd Avenue, lived Otto and Rosalie Rotekohr. Otto was previously married to Hedwig's sister - Leona - before she passed away on July 10, 1951. Rosalie was also previously married to Alfred Frank Mohling, and had a number of children. Alfred passed away sometime previously.

Elsewhere in Brighton lived Agnes R. Stevenson, Hedwig's older sister.

Wilma graduated from Brighton High School in 1947. Wilma ended up marrying Dean, the son of Alfred and Rosalie. As previously mentioned, Alfred passed away and married Otto Rotekohr (who lived next door at 408 S. 2nd Avenue). Otto was previously married to Wilma's aunt, Leona, before her passing. Wilma and Dean were married on August 19, 1954 and moved to Missouri sometime after. They had 3 kids, named Jayne, Hugh, and Thomas "Tom". Wilma passed away on May 20, 2014.

The last sister, Eunice, was confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church in Brighton in 1945 and graduated from Brighton High School in 1949. Eunice attended Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska where she graduated in June 1952 with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught for two years at St. Johns Lutheran School in Denver. It was at St. Johns that Eunice met Luther Sanow, a widower, and they were married in November 1953. Luther's 6 year old son Stephen then joined them in Denver. After living there for a year, the family moved several times ending up in Eugene, Oregon in 1958. They had three children together, Timothy William (*born 1960*), Daniel Jacob (*born 1963*) and Rebecca (Becky) Lu (*born 1966*). They moved to Vancouver, Washington, where Eunice would spend the remainder of her life. Eunice and Luther divorced in 1995, and Eunice later remarried in 2002 to Richard Zander, who she remained with until his death in 2017. Eunice had a passion for music, playing piano and organ in her church. Eunice passed away on June 2, 2021.

Hedwig and Ruby would go on to spend the rest of their lives in the home.

Hedwig never remarried. The 1950 census lists no occupation (neither does the 1940 census, when they were still in Nebraska). She passed away on March 8, 1989, at the age of 101. She is buried at Saint Paul Cemetery in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Ruby graduated from Brighton High School in 1946. Her first employment was with the Gaunt and Byrne law firm and Dr. John Timming. She next worked as a secretary at the Kurer Empson Canning Company, after which she began her career as a secretary to the Superintendent for School District 27J, a position she held for 39 years. Ruby was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and was an active choir member from 1944 through 2009. According to family, Ruby spent the entirety of her life having the unfinished basement as her bedroom, sleeping on a straw bed that was brought from Battle Creek, Nebraska. Ruby never married and passed away on July 26, 2010 at 82 years old from pancreatic cancer.