

# NEW BRIGHTON TOWN HISTORY

The first reference to the land that would become New Brighton is recorded in the annals of Moravian missionaries who set up temporary camp there in 1770 en route to Friedenstadt (now Moravia, in Lawrence County). In the late 1700s, a simple blockhouse along the Beaver River (look for a marker on Third Avenue) was manned by a small garrison of soldiers charged with maintaining security on the frontier. This post was the highest that could be held in "Ohio Country" by the United States Army until 1793, when the blockhouse was abandoned due to the army's westward movement into the Indian stronghold of the Northwest Territory (Ohio).

New Brighton's beginnings as a community began in 1815 when David Townsend scoped out a plan of lots on a riverbank terrace opposite the busy industrial village of Brighton. "New" Brighton soon grew in prominence, prompting the Harmony Society (owners of Brighton) to rename their town Beaver Falls.

Townsend mapped out New Brighton in 1828 in anticipation of a state-funded canal being constructed along the Beaver River (the borough was incorporated in 1838). The project brought prosperity to New Brighton. Water-powered mills and gristmills soon lined the riverbank, with boats hauling goods through the river's five locks to markets beyond. Bridges were added, including, in 1833, a more durable replacement to the Rochester-Bridgewater span built in 1816. A covered bridge to Fallston, constructed in 1837, stood until the flood of 1884. The coming of the Pennsylvania railroad in 1851 led to the eventual demise of the canal, but even after canal traffic ceased in 1882, its waters continued to provide hydraulic power for industries until other sources of energy became available.

New Brighton played a role in the Civil War. While men were sent off to fight in Gettysburg, Fair Oaks and the Battle of the Wilderness, others back home tended to details that aided more than 3,000 soldiers on the front lines. Townswomen sewed uniforms and made bandages. Buildings on Fourth Avenue and 11th Street were used to house soldiers and provide medical examinations for enlistees. The New Brighton Historical Society currently sponsors a Civil War re-enactment group that portrays the Company C 63rd Pennsylvania Infantryman recruited from New Brighton in 1861.

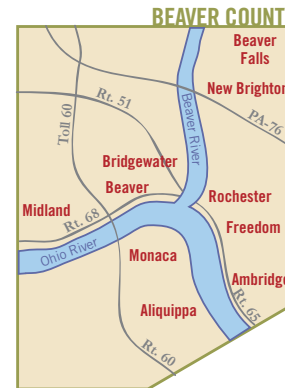
In the 20th Century, New Brighton's industry left the rivers but remains in town. The borough still holds claim to an interesting variety of items that have been produced there—everything from bricks, glass, sewer pipes and hydraulic power to flour, twine, lead kegs, refrigerators, bath tubs, wallpaper, steel castings, nails, rivets and wire. Along with Fallston, Pulaski and Daugherty, it is part of the New Brighton Area School District.

*Courtesy of Beaver County Bicentennial Atlas and New Brighton During Civil War Times by Karen Helbling, Milestones Vol. 11 No. 2, Spring 1986*

The Ohio and Beaver rivers have played an important part in the development of Beaver County, spawning many unique river towns, each with a personality and character all its own. Today, each of these river towns shares a common focus on family values, hometown pride, economic growth and historic preservation.

The purpose of the Beaver County Community Walking Maps project is: 1) to promote health and exercise among the residents of the various river towns; 2) to highlight points of interest within each community; and 3) to promote community pride among all residents of the county. Through these maps, we hope people will see Beaver County as a collection of welcoming neighborhoods, all connected by common goals of economic progress, community pride and historical preservation.

## THE RIVER TOWNS OF BEAVER COUNTY



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## BEAVER COUNTY RIVER TOWN Walking Maps



# NEW BRIGHTON

PENNSYLVANIA

# NEW BRIGHTON WALKING MAP

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH  
22nd Street
- 2 NEW BRIGHTON FISHING PARK  
8th - 11th (11th Street tunnel)
- 3 TOWNSEND DAM
- 4 BIG ROCK PARK  
8th Street - 4th Street along the river (tunnel at 8th)
- 5 NEW BRIGHTON BOROUGH BUILDING  
610 3rd Avenue
- 6 TOWNSEND PARK  
across from Borough building

7 THE ORIGINAL BRIGHTON HOT DOG SHOPPE  
1128 3rd Avenue

8 MERRICK ART GALLERY  
5th Avenue & 11th Street

9 NEW BRIGHTON SHOPPING DISTRICT

**1 Mile Route**

**2 Mile Route**

**3 Mile Route**

