

IT'S FAIR TIME!!!

THE MICHIGAN STATE FAIR, FOWLerville FAIR, BRIGHTON FOLK ART FAIR AND, SPONSORED BY THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR IN BRIGHTON. ALL BUT THE LATTER ARE FAMILIAR TO US.

THE 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, BY FRANKLIN ELLIS, NOTES THAT IN THE MAY 10, 1843, ISSUE OF THE LIVINGSTON COURIER CAN BE FOUND THIS NOTICE; "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1843 HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING...AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE VILLAGE OF HOWELL, MAY 2". IT IS ASSUMED THIS GROUP ORGANIZED 1841 OR 1842. THE LIST FOR WHICH PREMIUMS WERE AWARDED INCLUDED: FIELD CROPS, CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP, SWINE, POULTRY, FARM IMPLEMENTS, BUTTER & CHEESE, SUGAR & HONEY, FRUIT & VEGETABLES, BEST MANAGED FARM AND DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES (WEAVING, ETC.). HOWEVER ELLIS COULD FIND NO FURTHER RECORDS OF THIS ORGANIZATION NOR IS ANY SITE OF THIS FAIR RECORDED. (CAN ANY OF OUR READERS HELP WITH THIS RESEARCH?)

IN FEBRUARY, 1853 A CALL NOTED, ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS, TO MEET TO ORGANIZE A LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (AGAIN?) IRA JENNINGS OF GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP BECAME ITS PRESIDENT AND JOB CRANSTON OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP WAS A V.P. EACH TOWNSHIP WAS REPRESENTED BY A V.P. - ELY BARNARD FROM GENOA TOWNSHIP AND STODDARD W. TWICHELL, HAMBURG TOWNSHIP FOR THIS SE QUARTER OF THE COUNTY. OVER 200 MEMBERS ARE LISTED IN THE SOCIETY'S FIRST YEAR OF EXISTENCE. A CURSORY REVIEW OF THE LIST (AND THIS WRITER'S IMPERFECT MEMORY) INDICATES OVER 60 LIVED IN THE AREA.

ARTICLE I OF THE ADOPTED CONSTITUTION STATES IT "...IS ORGANIZED FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, AND THE MECHANIC ARTS." THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, MARCH 12, 1853, INCLUDED THE RESOLUTION: "THAT THE FIRST ANNUAL FAIR OF THE SOCIETY BE HELD IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER NEXT, IN THAT TOWNSHIP IN THE COUNTY WHICH WILL RAISE AND PLEDGE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ON OR BEFORE THE LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL NEXT, THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF MEANS TOWARDS DEFRAYING THE INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF THE SAID FAIR."

APPARENTLY THIS WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE TOWNSHIPS TO ACT ON THE OFFER. IN EARLY MAY AN EXTENSION WAS GRANTED TO JUNE 15 TO RECEIVE PLEDGES. AT THAT MEETING THE BOARD RESOLVED, "THAT WHEREAS THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIGHTON HAS OFFERED THE LARGEST SUM (\$140.00) FOR THE LOCATION OF THE FIRST ANNUAL FAIR AT THAT VILLAGE, THAT THE SAID FIRST ANNUAL FAIR OF THE SOCIETY BE HELD AT SAID VILLAGE OF BRIGHTON ON THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH DAYS OF OCTOBER NEXT." (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED