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### AREA FARMS C. 1900

THIS SECOND OF A SERIES OF NOTES ON FARMS AND THE NAMES GIVEN THEM, WILL BE CONCERNED WITH THE ERNEST M. CRIPPEN FARM, SPRINGDALE FARM. LOCATED JUST NORTH OF THE CHARLES JACOBS FARM, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED LAST MONTH, IT WAS ALSO ON ORE CREEK.

ERNEST WAS BORN IN THE HOME ON HACKER ROAD, 1/8 MILE NORTH OF GRAND RIVER, APRIL 14, 1842, THE YOUNGEST SON OF ANSEL AND MARILLA CRIPPEN. HIS PARENTS HAD SETTLED IN THAT SW $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 18 IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP A FEW YEARS EARLIER. BY THE TIME HE REACHED MATURITY HE HAD SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR - 9TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS, CO. I. ERNIE MARRIED HELEN LUCE JULY 4, 1870. (127 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH.) THEY FARMED THERE UNTIL MOVING INTO BRIGHTON IN 1904. ERNEST CRIPPEN DIED IN BRIGHTON MARCH 15, 1920. (HELEN DIED IN 1912.)

HOW MIGHT THE FARM HAVE ACQUIRED THE NAME SPRINGDALE FARM? THE BARN WAS LOCATED AT THE TOP OF A STEEP HILL ABOVE ORE CREEK. A SMALL SHALLOW POND (LOCALLY CALLED MOSS LAKE) LAY JUST NORTH. ONE NIGHT, DURING AN UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAINFALL, AN ENORMOUS GULLY WAS FORMED IN THE HILL BELOW THE BARN. THE NEXT DAY A LARGE SPRING WAS DISCOVERED FLOWING FROM THE GULLY. THIS SPRING, UNDOUBTEDLY, WAS THE SOURCE OF MOSS LAKE. THE LAKE'S WATER LEVEL WAS GREATLY LOWERED AND NEVER RESUMED ITS FORMER SIZE. THE SPRING RAN STRONGLY FOR YEARS PROVIDING AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WATER FOR THE LIVE STOCK AND FOR COOLING CANS OF MILK IN PREPARATION FOR SHIPMENT TO THE DAIRY FOR BOTTLING. THE DAM ON ORE CREEK, WHICH FORMED WOODLAND LAKE, HAS OBLITERATED ALL EVIDENCE OF THE SPRING.

AT THAT TIME GRAND RIVER CONTINUED NORTH ON HACKER ROAD, MAKING A SHARP LEFT TURN (AT BENDIX) TO SKIRT A LARGE HILL, BEFORE CONTINUING WEST TOWARD HOWELL. MORE RESEARCH IS NECESSARY TO NOTE WHEN THE CUT WAS MADE THROUGH THE HILL PROVIDING AN EASY CURVE INSTEAD OF THE ORIGINAL SHARP TURN. (SURELY SOME OF OUR READERS CAN HELP WITH THIS DATE.)

DURING THE '30s, PERHAPS EARLIER, CRIPPEN'S BARN BECAME A CLUBHOUSE FOR A REAL ESTATE VENTURE. HIGH SCHOOL PROMS AND OTHER PARTIES WERE HELD THERE. THE BARN BURNED IN THE MID 1950s (?). THE HOUSE STILL STANDS.

ORE CREEK NOW QUIETLY FLOWS UNDER I-96, UNDER GRAND RIVER (SOUTH OF CROSS STREET) AND INTO BRIGHTON'S DOWNTOWN WHERE ANOTHER DAM FORMS THE MILL POND. (COMPILED FROM (BILL PLESS' MEMORIES, MRS. MYRON WEST'S SCRAPBOOK, 1915 LIVINGSTON COUNTY ATLAS. MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402)