AREA FARMS C. 1900

The Crippen saga continues. (Springdale Farm was noted in the July issue of Trail Tales.) When Angel and Marilla (Paddock) Crippen came to Brighton Township from Penfield, New York in 1835, they brought with them two sons: Millard Fillmore (1832) and Henry L. (1835). Isaac (1837), Harrison (1839), Ernest (1842) and Emma (1844) later joined the growing family in the Crippen home on Hacker Road. (Take a look when you drive by.)

Hiram Paddock (perhaps a brother of Marilla) with his family had joined the Crippens on their move to this wild land in the west. Often, when coming to the unsettled, unpeopled lands of woods and swamps, with wolves and bears as neighbors, several families would unite to make the trip. Can one imagine the courage needed to make this venture? With the nearest merchant many miles away everything a family needed, so to be brought along in the wagons.

In the 1859 Atlas Hiram Paddock’s name is on property just south of Hacker road on both sides of the Grand River Trail. (A trail in every sense of the word at that time.) This old Indian trail, from Detroit to the wilderness, lay along the property selected by members of these two families when they arrived. (By 1859, John Paddock had 120 acres in Sec. 11, Marion Township - the south of Howell - Richard had 40 acres in Sec. 15, Brighton Township [in Pleasant Valley]).

By 1875 Henry L. Crippen had purchased 40 acres on the west side of the trail, in Genoa Township, from Hiram paddock. It was this piece, later owned by Henry’s son, Ben and his wife Georgia, where a house was built and they farmed Oak Ridge Farm. Any oaks there now?

When Henry L. bought this piece the trail was a toll road, and had been planked for a more dependable thoroughfare for travelers and freight. However the completion of the rail road between Detroit and Lansing greatly reduced these needs. It must be remembered this was now the main road between Detroit and the State Capitol.

At the time when Ben farmed. c. 1900, the toll had been removed and most of the planks replaced with gravel. It would be 1924 before MI became a hard surfaced road. The 1915 Atlas indicates Ben owned land south from Oak Ridge Farm to Chalis Road. (Compiled from Milt Charbonneau’s collection of obituaries, 1880 History of Livingston County, Atlases and Norman Catrell’s genealogical records. Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402. Corrections/additional information always welcome.)

Brighton Area Preservation News

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The membership is composed of people who feel this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

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The site should be accessible for meetings, dry and heated. Space for file cabinets, desks, chairs, storing of fund raising items, books, research materials, early newspapers, etc., is needed.

An early building; an expanding business, a municipal building, new construction in the area; all could be considered.

The Society has contributed in many ways to the area and continues to do so. It is felt any site selected as headquarters should not make a large debit to the Society’s income. The Society has 501(c)3 status - the value of the donation of space is income tax deductible.

Contact any board member for information or to discuss possibilities.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS
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Marianna Bair  229-6402
V.P.:  
Joanne Ceru  229-7887
Sec.:  
Ron Ferrey  227-7281
Treas.:  
Marcie White  227-5928

DIRECTORS:
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CHAIRPERSONS:
Tom & Audrey Leh - Membership  229-6165
Anne Stratigos - Hospitality  229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School  229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER

*Aug. 7: 7 P.M. Livingston County Genealogical Society, 227-1760 for info.
  * 9-10: Society booth at the Art Fair.
  * 13: 5-8 p.m. and Aug 26, 1-5 p.m. Genealogical Help.
  * 16: 1-4 p.m. Green Oak Day Picnic. Gage House Museum, 8440 Kensington Road. Beverage, cake provided.
  * 25: 7 p.m. Board Meeting, Brighton Room. 
  * Sept. 12: Society Spaghetti Supper. Y'all come, 1st Presbyterian.
  * 17: 7-9 p.m. American Home Landscapes 1800-1940. Landscape historian and preservationist, Scott Kunst. No charge.

*Meet at the Brighton District Library, 200 Charles Ondorf Drive.

THE SEARCH IS ON

A continuing search for a site in which the Society can be headquartered has proven fruitless thus far.

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DATES (cont.)

20: 6 p.m. BAS Alumni reunion dinner, Ph 229-9872 for info.
Oct. 4: Society home tour.

Michigan Historic Center website www.sos.state.mi.us/history/history.html

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