AREA FARMS C. 1900

The Brighton Argus, c. 1900, listed a number of farms, with a descriptive title and the name of the owner. Research into location, type of farming and a bit of family background is undertaken. This study is an attempt to provide an understanding of the early days of the area and its residents. Any additional information readers can provide will be welcome.

Born in Bennington County, Vermont, June 10, 1805, Aaron H. Kelley (or Kelly) headed west to Michigan in 1830. At the time, Chief Black Hawk’s threatening activities were causing serious concern to area settlers. That and the spread of the cholera epidemic (brought by the soldiers under orders to bring Black Hawk under control) sent Aaron and other early settlers back east.

In 1835 he returned and purchased 270 acres north of Brighton at Clark Lake. He did not settle there until 1837, after marrying Emeline Grimes in Duxbury, Washtenaw County. In 1836, he sold some of the land to Rev. William A. Clark. William Winchell then sold Aaron about 300 acres in Section 18, Brighton Township, just south of the Lake. On Hyne Road, the Kelleys moved into the log house Winchell had built "...east of the creek at Kelley Bridge." Aaron immediately built a dam on Ore Creek about 1 mile south of Hyne and ~1 mile east of Hacker Road. The pond provided him power to run the saw mill constructed that year. He was kept busy supplying lumber to the many settlers wanting to build homes. Many of the long, thick planks used in the construction of the Detroit to Howell Plank Road were cut at Aaron’s mill.

Two children were born: Charles A. and Carolyn H. (Lewis). Before Emeline died in 1849. In 1851 Aaron married Mary J. Murray of Green Oak Township. Aaron died in 1877 and is buried in the Brighton Village Cemetery as is Mary. At her death, 1886, she owned 380 acres.

Her stepson, Charles, was probably conducting the farming operations at both he and wife, Marie A. Allyn, lived in town at the north east corner of Grand River and Spencer Road for many years. By 1900 he is owner of the farm when the appropriate name, Millbrook Farm, was selected. At one time he was the village undertaker and had a furniture store on the east side of Grand River in the block south of Main. Charles was Secretary of a very well attended Brighton Homecoming in 1907 being re-elected for the 1909 event.

Upon Charles’ death in 1925, his son Carl, inherited the house in town and the farm. Shortly before Carl died, 1945, all the Kelley property had been sold. Charles, Marie and Carl are buried in Fairview Cemetery. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair, from area atlases: Bill Pless’ Supplement to the Village Cemetery records; the 1880 History of Livingston County: obituaries; Early Landowners, and Fairview Cemetery transcription by Milton Charmbomeau.)
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan and Joan Rice (CA).

COUPLES/INDIVIDUALS: Charles & Janice Beach (IL), Gene & Judy Dahl, Homer & Evelyn Doughtier (IL), Tim & Helen Hurst, Tom & Audrey Leith (99), Dorothy O'Jack (Ann Arbor), Phyllis Schaefer (Holly), David & Aleta Taylor and Delores Yackley.

Welcome to new members Phyllis Schaefer and David and Aleta Taylor. An increase in membership is vital to the Society's effectiveness.

A small percentage of members has not yet renewed their membership. The year through which dues have been paid is noted on the address label. (If it appears the date is incorrect please contact the Society. Patience with record keepers is appreciated.)

The Society consists of those who believe the recording and preservation of the area's past is relevant to its future. By knowing from where we've come we realize not everything is happening for the first time. Preservation helps the Brighton area evolve without losing its scale, character and life.

THANKS

...Chuck & Janice Beach, Norm Catrell, and Rosemary Ilmer for helping get the July newsletter ready to mail.

Homer & Evelyn Doughtier (IL), Tim & Helen Hurst, Dorothy O'Jack (Ann Arbor), and Delores Yackley for donations accompanying their dues payment and other donations from 'FRIENDS'.

...Marilyn Campbell (IN) for photos of 111-12 1st grade class in front of the "Little School", 1912-13 2nd grade and 1913-14 3rd grade of Brighton students. Some are I.D. Also two photos of a country school with Seth Jacobs as teacher.

...John and Janice Field for a notebook "Michigan Volunteers of '98". Included is a list of names with death dates, cemeteries, muster rolls of the 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 56th, 59th, 57th, 56th, and 57th Michigan Volunteers and Michigan Naval Reserves in the Spanish/American War. Also for their presentation "The Rest of the Story" with references regarding this war.

...John Park (Flint) for his response to the article on the Hyne family farms.

ARCHIVES: Most Tuesday afternoons one finds Society members sorting, indexing, and filing photos, maps, old letters, press clippings, etc. in the Brighton Room at the Brighton District Library.

Contributions of similar items, which will make the archives more complete, will be welcomed. PH: 810/229-6402.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol MacKenzie. 810/331-9257. Can still use your photos, clippings or other items of local history. Contact her. Your help will make this a complete area history book.

LYONS SCHOOL: Your support in the restoration of this one room school, still on its original site, either physical, financial, or both, is absolutely necessary. The steering committee is formulating a procedure for this restoration in which you can participate. Until a chairperson of the committee is named, call Marieanna Bair. 810/220-6402 or Joanne Swank. 810/229-7897.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: Early September will see the beginning of the first year's restoration activity. Brush, weed trees and other undesirable vegetation will be removed. Lighting is scheduled for the future as is repair of monuments. Vandalism should be immediately reported to the Brighton City Police. 227-2700.

...Alene Anderson, Charlevoix. For the statue of an eagle by Richard Spencer of Central Lake. She notes that at one time her father owned the Island Lake site of the National Guard Training Camp.

...Horace Taylor for a copy of the graduation invitation of the Class of 1924, 20 students, held at the Rialto Theater. (Presently a parking lot opposite Little Professor Book Center, 20S W. Main.).

...Bud Stedman (FL) for his signature to be included on the Society Signature Quilt.

...Nancy Freedburg for Society 'presence' at the Farmers' Market and the Sunday Kiwanis concerts.

Sympathies of the Society to the family of Irene Paquette, a long time resident of the area and member of the Society.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

The Signature Quilt, on which are embroidered signatures of those donating $10, has space for yours. Send your signature or that of a relative. Signatures of early residents are available also. Your donation can include these. An appropriate and simple way to support the Society's preservation/restoration activities. The quilt will remain in the Society archives.

Society Booth at Art Fair
August 8 & 9. The Society will have its annual booth on West Main Street. The various items for sale will be on hand.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/Donation Form
P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

NAME
ADDRESS

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? (YES) (NO) (Please include Zip + 4 digit) ( ) New ( ) Renewal. Your help is needed with: *Historic Preservation Projects, **Fund Raising Projects. ***Administration of the Society. (Please Circle One.)

DUES:

- $25.00 Patron
- $12.00 Couple
- $2.00 Student (K-12, College)

DONATION: ($ 10.00 $ 20.00 $ 50.00 $ 100.00 $ OTHER)

Society is an Income Tax Deductible Organization. 501(c)3 IRS #83-2524692


**Fund Raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Mugs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature quilt, Special events, Tote bags.

***Administration of the Society: Board/Officers/Committee members, Newsletter, Publicity.


POST CARDS: EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES, A PACKET OF 5/$5. AT THE BOOK NOOK: 332 W. MAIN.

COVERLETS: NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN, $49. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE: 412 W. MAIN.


WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Special Spanish/American War Centennial Exhibit. In addition to early Michigan farming displays, can be seen 1-9 P.M. August weekends, at the Gaze Farm Museum, 6440 Kensington Road.


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HELPERS will be needed to run the booth. Schedules of 2-3 hours are being prepared. Call Lisa Caves, 229-0683 or Marianna Bair, 229-6402. Let them know which times are convenient for you. Make it unnecessary for them to spend time calling you.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN. *MULLING OVER MICHIGAN*, A WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY. NOVEMBER 9, MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MEL MILLER, 810/228-3465.

PUBLICITY

BRIGHAM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

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PHONE __________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________

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