AREA FARMS c. 1900

The Brighton Argus, c. 1900, listed a number of farms, with a name and the owner. Research into the location, type of farming, and a bit of family history is undertaken. Ferndale Farm, owned by Nelson and Ada Gould, was located in Section 29, Brighton Township.

Nelson Gould's parents came to Michigan in 1856, settling in Saline. Sister, Maria L. (19), brother Solomon (17), joined Nelson (12) and his parents on their journey from Conesus, Livingston County, New York.

Michigan had been a state for 10 years. Perhaps the elder Goulds hoped for a promising future for their children. The children all became farmers, therefore we can assume they farmed. Therefore, can we assume the parents were farmers in New York?

Nelson came to Brighton c. 1879 a few months after his marriage to Ada Meeks of Pinckney. From A. M. Nichols they bought 80 acres in S3T24S Section Nichols, and other previous owners, had purchased the land for speculative purposes; land was not cleared, nor was any structure built. Nelson and Ada must have spent many days trying to make a productive farm of land with such steep hills, deep gulleys and much wet ground.

By 1895 a structure is shown at the corner of Spencer Road and the southernmost end of what would later become US 23. (In the early 1930s US 23 south of Spencer would connect with US 23 coming from Ann Arbor at Grand River.)

Marie married William Monroe, 1877, and came to Brighton soon after. After only 16 years of marriage, William died. Her mother, Avis, lived with them at the time of her death in 1885. Brother Solomon, who never married, followed Nelson to the area in 1881. He owned 80 acres immediately west of Nelson's. He was living with sister, Maria, and stayed there after her death (1914) until he died, 1918.

In 1906 Nelson and Ada moved to the Village, still on Spencer Road. He died there January 21, 1921, Ada, August 17, 1928. Nelson, mother Avis, Ada and Solomon are all at the Village Cemetery.

The 1935 Atlas shows Birney Smith as owner of Ferndale Farm. Later Carter Smith is the owner. Maps of this decade seem to place the Nelson’s old house under US 23 Expressway. Much of Nelson and Solomon’s farms are Paradise Farms subdivision. The land along Old 23 is zoned commercial. (Prepared by Marianna Bair. Compiled from atlases, Charbonneau’s colts, First Landowners and Early Landowners of Livingston County. Corrections and additions are welcome.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar 5, 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society, International Night. LDS Church, 1401 W. Grand River, Howell.

7, Michigan Barn Conference, Lansing. 517/772-0911 ext 302.

*2nd Wednesday, 5-6 p.m. 4th Tuesday, 1-5 p.m. Genealogical help 810/227-1760. Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Archives Committee. 810/229-6402.

*15, 4-6 p.m. Spanish/American War program with Queen Oak, Fire Hall.

23, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting.

WELCOME! 810/229-6402.

*Brighton Room, Brighton District Library.

**See related article.

**WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

18th Annual Michigan Preservation Conference, “Working with Government to Get the Job Done”, Sponsored by State Historic Preservation Office and National Trust for Preservation at Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, April 3-4. 248/625-8181


Waterloo Farm Summer Schedule: June 1/ August 31, Tues/Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

MEMBERSHIPS

PATRONS: John Allen (FL), *Charles & Stephanie Koenig, Steve & Kate Lowry, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Horace & Yvonne Taylor.

COXIES/INDY: Wayne & Sally Baldwin (Gr Rapids), Marilyn Campbell (IN), Joanne Ceru & Herman Chase (Fvml), Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, *Thelma Duncan, Joe & Irene Ellis, Dr. D.H. & Barbara Polk

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHIVES: A new file cabinet has been delivered to the Brighton Room at the Library. Proper filing, indexing, recording of archival material relating to the history of the area can now begin in earnest. You are welcome to join in any Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m.

BOOK COMMITTEE: Meetings are Thursdays, 1.p.m. Any photos clippings or other local history information, etc., you have would be most welcome. Carol McMacken, 231-2957.

LYON SCHOOL: The historic site marker has been delivered. People are needed to be involved with a marker dedication ceremony. Thanks to the Potters for their donation to the marker fund. About $500.00 is still outstanding. Your donations will be most welcome. It is planned to prepare a plaque listing donors to this fund.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: February 19, the Brighton City Council authorized work to begin on the restoration of the Village Cemetery (the one by the mill pond). Gretchen Voyle and Kevin Green, Extension Service tourists, will be working with us in making the cemetery more visible. Future plans will incorporate the cemetery into the entire downtown scene with designated walks. Michigan Historic Site registration is underway.

SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

All in the Brighton area are invited to the March 15, Green Oak Township Historical Society meeting, 4-6 p.m., at the Fire Hall, 9384 Whitmore Lake Road. Dave Washburn will speak on the events of the period of the War. Memorabilia will be displayed. Plans for the June 13, 14, commemoration of the 100th anniversary will be revealed. Info. 810/729-6402.

NEED NEED

...Todd and Linda Foster for their donation to the Lyons School Marker Committee.

...Bert Bair, Joanne Ceru, John & Janice Field and Marilyn Pettigrew for helping prepare the February meeting and mailing.

...those who are sending a little extra with their membership fee: Steve & Kate Lowry, Helen Mae Michaels, Randy and Kyle Wilson, Joe & Pauline Kennewell and Marilyn Campbell from Indiana.

...Bert Bair, Ev & Dot Bandeau, Lisa Cava, Janice Field and Nancy Fremdung for helping prepare the 1997 tile for sale.

...Dona Nelson for loaning a picture of Leonard Hackett's face on Sheldon Road.

...John & Janice Field, Nancy Fremdung Eileen Herbst for providing support at the February 19 City Council meeting.

...Brighton City Council for support re the renovation of the Village Cemetery.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS/EVENTS

1997 TITLE IS HERE!

LINCOLN HOTEL

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

CANOPY HOTEL

In 1927 local visionary and entrepreneur Thomas S. Leith constructed the Leith Block on the SE corner of W. Grand River and St. Paul Street on the site of the first frame house in the village. The First National Bank was located in the north portion with a restaurant in the southern portion with rooms of the Lincoln Hotel upstairs. Following the financial crash of '29 the bank folded. It became a popular bar, the bank vault serving as liquor storage. Various owners were in charge of the restaurant, one of whom added a green canopy over the entrance. The Canopy became known for its good food and ambiance. It was heavily patronized by Detroit-Lansing travelers. The building of nearby expressways reduced business sufficiently to make it unprofitable. It has been most recently renovated and now serves as the offices of Prudential Preview Properties.

TILES: 8 SQUARE WHITE CERAMIC TILES DEPICTING 11 DIFFERENT SITES IN THE AREA CAN BE PURCHASED AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE: 412 W. MAIN FOR $8.00 OR 3 FOR $21.00.

POST CARDS: LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES INCLU- DING STREET SCENES AND MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OF EARLY BRIGHTON ARE AT THE BOOK NOOK. 322 W. MAIN FOR $3.00 A PACKET OF 3.

COVERLETS: NINE LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES ARE WOVEN INTO THESE RED OR GREEN COTTON COVERLETS. TO SERVE AS BIRTHDAY, ANNIVER- SARY, HOLIDAY OR HOSTESS GIFTS THESE CAN BE PURCHASED AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE: 412 W MAIN. FOR $49.00 INCLUDING TAX.

THE MANY ITEMS LISTED ARE WORTH YOUR PURCHASE. IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUND RAISING PROJECTS, CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER PLEASE!!!
MEMBERSHIPS

PASTORS: John Allen (FL), *Charles & Stephanie Koehn, Steve & Kate Lowry, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Horace & Yvonne Taylor.


* New members. WELCOME! Several of the above memberships were gifts from relatives, and friends. Good idea we think.

Your patience is appreciated re: the correct dating on the address label. Every attempt is made to correct it with you for the correct year for which dues are paid.

Contact us if there is an error. If the date on your address label isn’t 98 or later dues have not been received. Patron and Bus/Prof. memberships are helping keep the Society administrative expenses paid, including the printing and mailing of Trail Tales. Your support makes this organization possible.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

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COVERLETS: Nine local historical sites are woven into these red or green cotton coverlets. To serve as birthday, anniversary, holiday or hostess gifts these can be purchased at Novelty "N" Nice. 412 W. Main. For $49.00 including tax. The many items listed are well worth your purchase. If you have suggestions for fund raising projects, contact a board member please!!!
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