RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. MAPLE LAWN FARM IN FRANK PROSSER'S NAME IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION READERS CAN PROVIDE WILL BE WELCOME.

AMONG THE VERY EARLY FAMILIES' NAMES RECORDED IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS, AND WHOSE FARMS WERE ALSO LISTED IN THE C.1900 ARGUS, ONE FINDS THE NAME OF PROSSER. JOINING THE MANY WHO WERE STREAMING INTO MICHIGAN AND BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. IN THE MID 1830s, WERE CHARLES AND ELMINA PROSSER FROM GREENE COUNTY, NEW YORK. LYDIA PROSSER, WHO PERHAPS WAS HIS SISTER, CAME WITH THEM ON SHORTLY AFTER. RECORDS INDICATE SHE OWNED LAND, SW1 SE1. SECTION 18, ON JUNE 18, 1852. SHE IS LISTED IN THE 1850 AND 1860 CENSUS OF THE TOWNSHIP. LYDIA, WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 17, 1869, CHARLES, DECEMBER 30, 1893 AND ELMINA, JUNE 13, 1890, ARE BURIED IN THE VILLAGE CEMETERY. ALSO A DAUGHTER, LOVISA, A THREE YEAR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER AND OTHER RELATIVES.

CHARLES AND ELMINA ARE NOTED AS ORIGINAL PURCHASERS OF 120 ACRES IN THE SE1 OF SECTION 15, OCTOBER 1841, BOUNDED BY VAN AMBURG AND SEITZ (FORMERLY SKEMAN) ROADS. BY 1859 J. CHRISTIAN OWNS THE SOUTH 80 ACRES WITH HOUSE, WHICH LATER Burned, Indicated on the Map. The REMAINING 40 ACRES ARE OWNED BY J. STANFIELD, WITH A HOUSE, WHICH IS STILL STANDING.

IN MARCH 1846, CHARLES ALSO LOCATED ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (SECTIONS 19 AND 30) WITH CHALILS ROAD ON THE SECTION LINE, FROM ELDER GEORGE POST, A BAPTIST SOCIETY MINISTER, FROM ALLEGHENY COUNTY, NEW YORK, JUST NE OF THE DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER. CHARLES SET UP A BRICK YARD, "HERE HE MADE THE FIRST BRICKS MADE IN THE TOWNSHIP." THESE WERE DESIGNATED TO BE USED FOR CHIMNEYS. "...NO RESIDENT AT THE TIME HAVING ADOPTED THE LUXURY OF A BRICK DWELLING." (1880 HISTORY) THE BRIGHTON FALLS OCCUPIES THE REMAINDER OF THAT SITE.

IN 1846 CHARLES ALSO OWNS 160 ACRES IN SE1 SECTION 18 AND BUILT A BRICK HOUSE ON THE WEST SIDE OF HUNTER ROAD ABOUT 3/4 MILES SOUTH OF HYDE. IN 1895 THE NAME OF SON-IN-LAW, JOHN HUNTER, IS NOTED ON THE EAST HALF OF THIS PIECE WITH SON FRANK'S NAME ON THE WEST 80. FRANK ALSO OWNED 60 ACRES IN THE SW1 OF SECTION 9, ON HYDE ROAD EAST OF OLD 23 (HARTLAND/FLINT ROAD). WE BELIEVE MAPLE LAWN FARM IS THE NAME GIVEN THIS SITE. A PRINCIPLE SOURCE OF INCOME IS FROM HIS CUSTOM THRESHING BUSINESS. NORMALLY SET UP IN A FARMER'S BARN YARD, THE HUGE THRESHING MACHINE WAS PROBABLY STEAM DRIVEN. THE GRAIN WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT, BUNDLED AND BROUGHT TO THE YARD FOR THRESHING. THE GRAIN WAS FUNNELED INTO WAITING BAGS, THE STRAW FORMING AN IMMENSE GOLDEN STACK. A SECOND PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, A PORTABLE SAW MILL, WAS ANOTHER MEANS OF PROVIDING FOR HIS FAMILY. THIS WAS PROBABLY STEAM POWERED EARLY ON AND LATER BY A GASOLINE ENGINE. FRANK'S SEVEN CHILDREN, THREE OF WHICH WERE BOYS, MUST HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE LABOR ENTAILED WITH RUNNING A FARM AND A BUSINESS. (COMPILED BY MARIEANN BAIN FROM EARLY ATLASSES; BILL FLESS' SUPPLEMENT TO VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS; 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY; OBITUARIES AND EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY BY MILTON CHARBONNEAU.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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229-5669

Heck Warner - Lyons School
227-6506

DATES TO REMEMBER

* Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 1-3 P.M. ARCHIVES/FILING. WELCOME. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
** 8 p.m., Lyons School Curriculum/Program Subcommittee, Children's Activity Room. Welcome. 229-7887.
** 7 P.M., Lyons School Fund Raising Committee. Welcome. 229-0560.
** 22 P.M., Lyons School Steering Committee, Welcome. 810/229-0560.

* At Brighton District Library
**See related article

WILL MORE LOCAL HISTORY BE LOST?

IT IS AFTER THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNITY BENDS THE LOSS OF EACH EARLY STRUCTURE EITHER BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT TANGLING BURN, OUTRIGHT NEGLECT OR IT IS KNOCKED DOWN BY DEVELOPERS.

WHEN APPROACHED BY A DEVELOPER THE VARIOUS PLANNING/ZONING HEADS ARE OFTEN NOT AWARE OF THE PRICED VALUE OF AN EARLY STRUCTURE ON A PIECE OF PROPERTY. AND IF THEY WERE AWARE THERE WOULD BE NO DIRECTIVES OR GUIDELINES IN PLACE TO ASSURE THE PRESERVATION/RESTORATION OF AN EARLY SITE OF LOCAL HISTORY. NOR ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS THAT AN ABSENTE LANDLORD NOT ALLOW A STRUCTURE TO BE CONDEMNED BY SENIORITY.

IT SEEMS THE SEVERAL TOWNSHIPS AND THE CITY SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SETTING IN PLACE THE LEGAL MEANS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SITES CONNECTED WITH THE AREA'S EARLY HISTORY.

COMMISSIONS CAN BE FORMED TO CONDUCT HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEYS AND RECOMMEND PROPER PROCEDURES TO CLOB THE RAPID ELIMINATION OF THE UNIQUE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE BRIGHTON AREA THAT WHICH GIVES THE AREA ITS CHARM AND DESIRABILITY.

THOSE WHO WANT TO ACTUALLY PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF EARLY STRUCTURES - THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PREPARING A HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY - THOSE WHO ARE CONVINCED OF THE NEED MUST BE A MEANS TO PRESERVE THESE STRUCTURES MAY CONTACT THE SOCIETY 810/229-6402. GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION ARE AVAILABLE.
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Bill & Gloria (Fox) McConnell* (SC) Frances (Nauss) Young (Laper)
COUPLES/INDIV: Rudy & Virginia Hermann, Doris Housven, Josephine Ryne (Chelsea), John & Ruth LAPATOUREL* (95), Helen Littell (99), Joe & Irene Mike (99), Lucille Pletsen (200), J. D. & Mary Jean Richter (99), Randy & Kyle Wilson (99)

"Welcome to new members and thanks for your support. Only a few members have not renewed their membership. Be assured you are important to the society. If an error is found on the date on your label please call 810/229-6402 for correction.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Bert Bair, Lisa Cave, John & Janice Field, Gary Mackie and Marje White for their help in preparing the September issue for mailing.

Dr. Harry Davis for a copy of the Campbelltown Cemetery transcription.

Boy Scout Troop #550, Leader, Dave Skinner, for their help in cleaning up debris at the Village Cemetery.

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HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 810/231-2957, is donating much time and energy toward the preparation of Local History Book. Your offer of photos, etc., is welcome. Let’s make this complete.

LYONS SCHOOL: The Steering Committee met at the school last month. Attending were: Joyce Powers, Brighton School Board member, Bonnie O’Hara (Curriculum Director, Brighton Schools), Dale Hermann and Charlotte Marcotte (Brighton teacher), Eileen Herbst and Emily Brown (Brighton residents). Ron Morey, Joanne Swonk, and Jim Vichich (Society board members). Issue and strategies for Fund Raising were discussed. The agenda for October 8, 7 p.m., Brighton Library, will include a slide presentation on one room schools. Research into the development of a curriculum is underway. The public is welcome at these meetings.

A sign, to be erected at the site, will describe the project, how it will be used and the financial support that will be contributed. Your questions can be directed to Chris Ward, Chairman, 810/229-6402.

VILLAGE CEMETERY: Thanks to John and Janice Field and Nancy Fredenburg for their continued interest and help on this project. During their work session members of Boy Scout Troop #550 recoved a marker that had been rolled down the hill and had become hidden. Little by little the cemetery will soon look as tho’ local citizens care about the last resting place for the area’s early citizens. Please report vandalism to the Brighton City Police. 227-2700.

NEEDED

Sponsors for Trail Tales expenses.

Early School desks, etc., for Lyons School.

Case of copy/typing paper.

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FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital.

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TAPESTRY PILLOW: Many pleased customers mean there are less than half of the order remaining. Don’t miss out. 801/229-9100.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Kempf House Center for Local History, Monday noon lectures, 512 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, 48104 or phone: 734/994-8698.


COVERLETS: Nine local sites woven in.

N. S. A. at Naughy ‘N Nice, 412 W. Main, Red. Greene, Blue. Whoever receives one of these is always well pleased.


NOTE PAPER: $2.50, 11x14 photos of the Mill Pond and dam: 25c. 810/229-6402.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT will have two more names added. Those of Jerry and Jenny Jacoby of Brighton Township, courtesy their grandson, Val Jacoby, Florida.

GENERAL MEETING, October 26, 7 P.M.

"Life in Livingston County 1928/1939" is the subject on which Peter McNeny, local attorney and financial advisor, will speak at the District Library. Beginning with the Stock Market crash October 29, 1929, and ending with the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, Peter’s thorough research in the local press of that day will help us learn how county businesses, farmers, professionals, government and the average resident fared. Many of us still have memories of no money for clothes, shoes, food shelter or continuing education, and the Barker economy which sustained the majority. Public welcome.
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COUPLES/INDIV: Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Doris Housten*, Josephine Rynne (Chelsea), John & Ruth Lapatourel* (95), Helen Leitz (99), Dr. Bern & Irene Mike (99), Lucille Pieskorn (200), J. D. & Mary Jean Richter (99), Fraser), Randy & Kyle Wilson (99).

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SPECIAL EVENTS: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 7:00 PM, Rollins over Michigan, A Statewide Michigan Studies Conference, Clinton Township. 810/228-3500.

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POST CARDS: Early local street scenes, a packet of 6/$5, Mags, $5. I.O. R. BAG: $15. NOTE PAPER: $2.50, 11x14 Photos of the Mill pond and dam: $2.50. 810/229-6402.

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**TRAIL TALES**

Brighton Area Preservation News

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

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

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**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**OFFICERS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Treas.</td>
<td>Maxine White</td>
<td>810-259-8278</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ricci Randell</td>
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<td>810-229-9686</td>
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<td>Nancy Freedenburg</td>
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<td>Carol McCormick</td>
<td>810-292-2957</td>
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<td>Jim Vichich</td>
<td>810-4840</td>
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<td>Chris Ward</td>
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**CHAIRPERSONS**

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<td>Jon &amp; Audrey Leith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Stratigos</td>
<td>810-229-5669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rees Warner</td>
<td>810-5601</td>
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</tbody>
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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

* Oct. 6: 13-20, 27: 1-3 P.M., ARCHIVES/FILING. Welcome. 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.*
* 14: 5-8 P.M., Oct. 27: 1-5 P.M., GEOLOGICAL HELP. 810/227-1760.*
* 7 P.M., Lyons School Curriculum/Program Subcommittee, Children's Activity Room. Welcome. 810-7887.*
* 15: 7 P.M., Lyons School Fund Raising Committee. Welcome. 810-2550.*

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**WILL MORE LOCAL HISTORY BE LOST?**

It is after the fact that the community bemoans the loss of each early structure either by a fire department training burn, outright neglect or it is knocked down by developers.

When approached by a developer the various planning/ zoning heads are often not aware of the presence of an early structure on a piece of property. And if they were aware there are no directives or guidelines in place to assure the preservation/restoration of an early site of local history. Nor are there any requirements that an absentee landlord not allow a structure to be condemned by seignior neglect.

It seems the several townships and the city should be concerned with setting in place the legal means for the preservation of sites connected with the area's early history.

Commissions can be formed to conduct historic resource studies and recommend proper procedures to combat the rapid elimination of the unique local history of the Brighton Area that which gives the area its charm and desirability.

Those who want to actively promote the preservation of early structures - those who want to learn more about preparing a historic resource survey - those who are convinced of the need must be a means to preserve these structures may contact the Society 810/229-6402.

Guidance and direction are available.

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*At Brighton District Library

**See related article**

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**AREA FARMS C. 1900**

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Maple Lawn Farm in Frank Prosser's name is the subject of this issue. Additional information readers can provide will be welcome.

Among the very early families' names recorded in the Village Cemetery records, and whose farms were also listed in the C.1900 Argus, one finds the name of Prosser. Joining the many who were streaming into Michigan and Brighton Township, in the mid 1830s, were Charles and Elminda Prosser from Genesee County, New York. Lydia Prosser, who perhaps was his sister, came with them on shortly after. Records indicate she owned land, SW 1/4 Section 18, on June 18, 1857. She is listed in the 1850 and 1860 census of the township; Lydia, who died September 17, 1869, Charles, December 30, 1893 and Elminda, June 13, 1890, are buried in the Village Cemetery. Also a daughter, Louisa, a three year old grandmother and other relatives.

Charles and Elminda are noted as original purchasers of 120 acres in the SE 1/4 of Section 16, October, 1841, bounded by Van Amberg and Seitz (formerly Skeman) Roads. By 1859 J. Christian owns the south 80 acres with house, which later burned, indicated on the map. The remaining 40 acres are owned by J. Stanfield, with a house, which is still standing.

In March, 1846, Charles also located along both sides of the Grand River Trail (Sections 19 and 30) with Chalil's Road on the section line, from Elder George Post, a Baptist Society minister, from Allegheny County, New York, just NE of the Davis Medical Center, perhaps under Cinema Drive, Charles set up a brick yard, "Here he made the first bricks made in the township. These were designated to be used for chimneys, ... no resident at the time having ascribed to the luxury of a brick dwelling." (1880 History) The Brighton Mill occupies the remainder of that site.

In 1846 Charles also owns 160 acres in SE 1/4 Section 18 and built a brick house on the west side of Hunter Road about 3/4 miles south of Hyne. In 1895 the name of son-in-law, John Hunter, is noted on the east half of this piece with son Frank's name on the west 80. Frank also owned 60 acres in the SW of Section 9, on Hyne Road east of Old 23 (Hartland/Flint Road). We believe Maple Lawn Farm is the name given this site. A principle source of income is from his custom threshing business. Normally set up in a farmer's barn yard, the huge threshing machine was probably steam driven. The grain would have already been cut, bailed and brought to the yard for threshing. The grain was funneled into waiting bags, the straw forming an immense golden stack. A second piece of equipment, a portable saw mill, was another means of providing for his family. This was probably steam powered early on and later by a gasoline engine. Frank's seven children, three of which were boys, must have been a significant source of support for the labor entailed with running a farm and a business. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from early atlases: Bill Pless' Supplement to Village Cemetery Records: 1880 History of Livingston County: Obituaries and Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County by Milton Chartbonneau.)