AREA FARMS c.1900

The recent donation of a scrapbook of clippings from Eva Whalen sheds light on the origin of the library of local farms. Their names and owners, which is the inspiration of recent study to locate and learn about them, around 1900 the editor of the Brighton Argus, Seth Jacobs, was encouraging farm owners to endow their property with an official name. He assured them a long-term identification of the farms with the owners "...until it becomes so closely associated with your name that the name and the farm are inseparable," would be a valuable asset. He also urged the farmers to have letterhead and envelopes printed (by the Argus) to "...show the world that we lead; others follow."

FRANK L. (SOMETIMES E.) HACKER'S BIG OAK FARM IS THE PRESENT TOPIC OF RESEARCH LAND OWNERSHIP AND FAMILY TIES. AMONG THE FIRST SETTLERS IN THE AREA WERE WILHELM AND BARBARA HACKER, FROM GERMANY, FRANK'S PARENTS. THEY WERE THE FIRST TO PURCHASE 40 ACRES IN SECTION 23 OF GENOA TOWNSHIP, (OCTOBER 4, 1857). THIS WAS PROBABLY A SPECULATIVE PURCHASE SINCE WE LEARN THEY WERE LIVING IN SECTION 30 OF OCELA TOWNSHIP WHEN THEY SLOG THE GENOA PIECE IN 1858.

RECORDS INDICATE THE 40 ACRES IN OCELA WERE PURCHASED AUGUST 8, 1858, PROBABLY FROM GUSTAV BAETZKE WHO IS RECORDED AS THE FIRST OWNER IN 1856. (ANOTHER SPECULATIVE VENTURE?) BY 1862, THE HACKER'S HAVE ADDED A NEIGHBORING 64 ACRES (104 ACRES TOTAL) AND A RESIDENCE IS INDICATED ON THE MAP ON HACKER ROAD ABOUT HALF MILE NORTH OF GOLF CLUB ROAD.

THE CIVIL WAR FOUND SONS PHILLIP AND RALPH GIVING THEIR LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION. (A NUMBER OF THEIR LETTERS ARE IN THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY AT U OF M). DAUGHTER AUGUSTA ATTENDED A ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND TAUGHT FOR A WHILE BEFORE MARRYING ALPHUS MACOMBER IN 1882. THEY MADE THEIR HOME IN A LOG HOUSE IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP.

SEVEN CHILDREN WERE RAISED AND AUGUSTA BECAME KNOWN FOR THE POETRY SHE COMPOSED ABOUT LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS. DAUGHTER LUCY MARRIED E. S. HUNTER, DAUGHTER SERENA MARRIED MCLOUGLIN, SON THEODORE MARRIED SARAH L. GRIFFIN AND LITTLE WILLIE DIED AS AN INFANT. BARBARA DIED IN 1877: RECORDS INDICATE THE 104 ACRES WERE SOLD TO SON FRANK, OCTOBER 16, 1887, IS THE WEDDING DAY OF FRANK AND TILLIE EDER, DAUGHTER OF HENRY EDER, FROM GERMANY. HENRY OWNED AND LIVED ON THE 160 ACRES LYING ACROSS HACKER ROAD IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIP, SECTION 31. THIS PIECE BEARS THE HACKER NAME ALSO BY 1895. A TOTAL OF 350 ACRES ARE FRANK'S RESPONSIBILITY.

THE 1915 ATLAS SHOWS REN FRANK AND TILLIE'S SON, OWNING 60 ACRES ON THE SOUTH BORDER OF HIS FATHER'S. BEN MARRIED MARIE E. GEORGE (ALSO LONG TIME NEIGHBORS IN OCELA) AND IN 1955 THEIR NAMES ARE RECORDED WITH FRANK'S AS OWNERS OF THE 400 ACRES. BY THE 1960S BIG OAK FARM IS QUICKLY BEING PLACED INTO 2, 5, AND 10 ACRE HOME SITES. WII VETS WERE OFTEN THE BUYERS, WILHELM, LITTLE WILLIE, FRANK AND TILLIE ARE RESTING FROM THEIR LABORS IN THE BRIGHITON VILLAGE CEMETARY. (RESEARCHED BY MARIE EANNA BAIR: 810/229-6402. COMMENTS WELCOME.)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 2, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: "PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE GENERAL COURT" 1627-1760.

3-4, MT HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE. LANSING. 248/625-8181.

* 7-14, 21-28, 1 P.M., INDEX/archives archives.
* 2ND WEDNESDAY, 5-8, 4TH TUESDAY, 1-5 GENEALOGICAL HELP. 227-1760.
* 27, 7 P.M. BAMS BOARD MEETING. WELCOME.

**MAY 17, 4-5 P.M. SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR, LOCAL SCENE. GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
**JUNE 15-14, 10-5 P.M. SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR CENTENNIAL AND MARKER DEDICATION. ISLAND LAKE STATE PARK.

*AT BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY
**SEE RELATED ARTICLE.

SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR PROGRAM

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 4-6 P.M. A PROGRAM DESCRIBING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EVERYDAY CITIZENS OF THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE SPANISH/AMERICAN WAR WILL BE OFFERED BY THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO THIS EVENT AT THE FIRE HALL, 9384 WHITMORE LAKE ROAD.


A VISIT FROM MRS. LINCOLN