AREA FARMS c. 1900

The Brighton Argus, c. 1900, listed a number of farms, with a name 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. Your writer welcomes additional information.

It is 1840 and Godfrey and Mary Hyne arrive in New York from Germany. Four of their children: Charles T. C. Sr., Frederick C. Jr., Anne and Godfrey, Jr. made the three month long ocean voyage with them. Tragically, Anne and Godfrey, Jr. died soon after. Within a short time the family moved to 160 acres of virgin land in Brighton Township. By 1845, the family was listed among the charter members of St. George Ev. Lutheran Church, Genoa. Upon reaching the age of majority, Charles T. married Henrietta L. Westphal. In 1846, by then he had purchased land in Sec. 8, Brighton Township. The 1875 Atlas shows over 700 acres in his name including land in Brighton. One finds the Charles T. residence on Hyne Road, known as Maple Creek Stock Farm. Five daughters and three sons were born.

Frederick C. married Harriett Shefield C. 1847. They settled on property in Cogottah Township. 1865 found them in Fowlerville in a business enterprise.

At the time the railroad came through Brighton, 1871, most of the land on the west side of town was in Charles T.'s name. He sold it to Smith/McPherson who subdivided it. He built a grain elevator on the south side of Main Street, east of the tracks and soon added a coal and a lumber yard. He built a fine house on the NE corner of Second and Walnut where he lived out his life.

Chas' first son, William F., joined his brother Frederick T. in an 18 year partnership. Breeding stock, past horses and top quality sheep were their major resources. ORE CREEK STOCK FARM was by 1900. In Fred's name. William F. married Mary Durfee in 1870. After May's death in 1881 he married Lois Hicks, from New York. In 1882.

Frederick T. was associated with his father, Charles, in the elevator, lumber and coal business for many years. Fred married Sarah Hicks C. 1870. Of their six children four died in early childhood. They are buried in the Village Cemetery.

Third son, Franklin L., married Elizabeth Sullivan. The farm was named CLOVERDALE. He operated a grocery on W. Main for several years and engaged in land and livestock speculation before retiring to his father's farm on Hyne Road.

A partnership of Charles T.'s sons, William F., Frederick T. and Franklin L. operated the Brighton Flour and Grist Mill for several years. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from First Landowners of Liv. Co. Early Landowners of Liv. Co. Fairview Cemetery Transcriptions and Brighton Argus obituaries all by Milt Chardoneau 1880 History of Livingston County; and 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album.)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

* July 7, 14, 21, 28: 1 p.m. Indexing and filing archival materials.
* 8 & 9 p.m. and July 28, 1-5 p.m. genealogical help. 227-1760.
* 27, 7 p.m. Kate Otto will speak to restoration of one room schools and curriculum development.

_PUBLIC WELCOME_

Most any Tuesday this summer you'll find Nancy Fredenburg at the Society table at the Brighton Farmers' Market. She will have covers, tote bags, maps, tiles, memberships, etc., available.

Aug. 8: 7 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society, 227-1760.

15: 3-4 p.m. Green Oak Days at Gage Farm Museum, 6440 Kensington Rd.

* At Brighton District Library
**See related article

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION

KATE OTTO TO SPEAK, JULY 27

Monday, 7 p.m., Brighton District Library, Kate Otto will share her experiences in the restoration of a one room school in Plymouth. The development of an appropriate curriculum, a vital necessity, will also be considered.

As a long time educator, Kate can offer the benefit of her background and make recommendations.

Everyone from the area, including school administrators and educators, are urged to become involved with this project. Ideas, direction, curriculum development, fund raising, grant application are a few of the myriad opportunities for involvement.

With some preliminary architectural plans drawn for us by Piet Lindhout Associates, a serious effort is underway to bring about the functional restoration of the Lyons School for the students of this and neighboring communities.

On its original site, the Lyons School serves as a link to the area’s past. The 114 year old building, on Bono Road between Van Amberg and Pleasant Valley Roads, is a typical structure of its time.

Unable to attend but want to be involved? Call Joanne (Cerio) Swonk, 810/229-7887, or Marieanna Bair, 810/229-6402.