AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Rev. Edwin P. Bruce’s ELMBURST is the subject of this issue. In a report on religious activity in Brighton township in the 1880 History of Livingston County, writer John Ellis notes the early beginnings of the Wesleyan Methodist church in the area. March 5, 1875, the Pleasant Valley congregation was organized, meeting in the log room Lyons School house. In spring, 1876, it was decided to build a church on the northeast corner of Pleasant Valley and Jacoby Roads. By that fall, the 48’ x 52’ structure was completed, reported to be able to seat 250, all of which was paid by subscription. It wasn’t long before members, living in town, formed another society. (A five mile buggy ride to attend services was probably found to be too difficult.)

In September, 1877. Rev. Edwin W. Bruce came to serve in both the Valley church, and the church in town. To adequately serve the congregations being formed in the county, pastors alternated Sundays holding services at the various sites.

Edwin Bruce had married Margery L. King in 1870 in Indiana. He had been preaching there since 1871 and was ordained a Wesleyan Methodist preacher in 1873. His obituary indicates his pastorate in this area, 1878-79, was followed with 55 years of work with that organization. For six years he taught theology at Haigton. New York. For 20 years he served as Secretary to the General Conference in Michigan. He also had parishes in Hart, Jackson, Okemos and Williamston, Michigan.

Pastor Bruce and Margery returned to Brighton to serve at the Wesleyan Church in 1912-14. During the summers he tended a small fruit farm business at Elmburst, conducting evangelistic work throughout the state during the winter.

The 1915 Atlas includes Pastor Bruce’s name on two pieces of land in Section 19, Brighton Township. One of which is approximately 60 acres on the north side of Hilton road with Ore Creek bisecting it. (It would appear the dam which forms Woodland Lake was later located on this piece.) The other is 16 acres on Grand River at the end of Hilton Road, where a residence is indicated. (In 1999, a Standard Service station is located on the site.)

Of the five children born to the Bruce’s only two remained at the time of his death in 1916: son, Richard, living in Cleveland and daughter, Hattie Waldron, in Lansing. Perhaps there was a special affinity for Brighton (his first call) that both Edwin and Margery are buried at Fairview Cemetery. For a time they lived at 407 E. Grand River. “...now occupied by Mr. Westin” (per Margery’s obituary, 1928).

The 1915 Atlas shows the Pleasant Valley church. When did the little church close, when was it removed, is it possible there is a photo extant? Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1880 History of Livingston County, early atlas, assistance of John and Janice Field and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additional information is always welcome.)
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: John Allen (FL), *Don & Ricci Band-
kau, *Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, *Gilly-
Kingsley Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of
the Civil War, Homing Elementary PTO;
*Jeanette Johnson, *Harold P. Leitz, *Bill
Barbara McCarroll, Ron & Jill Morey (Milan).
*Doug & Carol Reardon, Sycamore Middle
School PTA, *Pat & Margie White, *Franca
Nauer. Young.

BUS/PROF: *Boos Engineering (Howell), Brigh-
town Commerce Bank, *Brighton Ford-Mercury;
*Michael P. Hatty, A 1967 Graduate, *Pyramid Concrete
Inc., *Sheriff Don Homan, *Somewhere in
Park/Sales, *Yum Yum Tree.

COUPLES/HINDY: Jerry & Lisa Cave (00),
Honecker Chappel, Florence Chase, Bill &
Marianne Comisky, Leslie Healy, Merrill,
Ruth Herbst, Don & Alice Wyland.

*Membership is via Lyons School Restoration
Project Settler's Group+ donations. Welcome.
**Other new members, WELCOME
Membership dues cover the Society's adminis-
trative expenses and are what keeps your
Society viable. Patron and Bus/Prof dues
help keep the General Fund in the black.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Many Heddkinen for the new look of Trail
Tales. Many 'locking great' comments received;
...Ery and Dot Bandka and June Kimble
for helping get the March newsletter mailed.

Whitney Kimble for $1, a certificate of
Capitol stock in Michigan Military Academy.
Island Lake to John Gamble, June 12, 1918.
Deposit slip from the BHS Student Fund
($59.25). Jan. 15, with the collected
check from BHS to Midwest Assemblies ($20).,

November 26, 1940, 4, Early Blank Brighton
State Bank checks, etc.

Merrill and Ruth Herbst for a donation
in addition to dues.

Donations to the Lyons School Restoration
Project: Henry & Linda Asher, Bob & Tillie
Bitten, Florence Chase, Joe & Pauline Cheng
keth, Color Title: Joe & Irene Ellis, General
Nurseries: E. H. Harris & Loretta, Heart-
Land House, Lakeland's Golf and Country
Club, Jean Liezau, Gloria McConnell (S.C.),
Mather & Thriftstone Jones, Peffer & Manning,
Seymour & Lisa Comisky, Still & Giorgia
Vanetticoeur, Linda Warrick.

...John and Janice Field for their persis-
tence in rectifying and editing the Village
Cemetery Records. The results include a
map with named locations of burial sites.

ARCHIVES:

Work is proceeding on bringing the
history book of Society activities up
to date. We were also able to provide
two classes of Malathy Middle School
with information of the area's early history.
Schools includes all PSZ NOTE OF LONG
TENURE PEOPLE. MAY 12, THE SOCIETY
will be helping prepare an all day pro-
gram on local history for students of
Hornung Elementary School.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: At a recent City
Council meeting bids for the landscape
work at the Cemetery were approved.
Work should begin soon.

LYONS SCHOOL: Brochures describing the
importance of the functional restoration of
this building have been prepared.
Included is an appeal for the needed
funding. Donations to the Founders
Group ($1000+), the Pioneers Group
($500+), and the Settlers Group ($100+)
are being received. These donations will
be commemorated in an appropriate manner.
Contributions of any amount are appreci-
ated. Not only will elementary students
have the opportunity to experience early
Michigan education, the building will
function as a meeting site and as a
research facility. Call 810/229-6402
for a brochure detailing the purpose and
plans for this project.

LEE HOUSE: It looks like someone has a
spot for the house. They are awaiting ap-
proval for the (First Presbyterian)
Church in order to move it, reports Phil
Smith, co-chair, of the Save the Lee House
Committee. Perhaps the struggle to avoid
destruction of one of Brighton's earliest,
and most impressive, homes appears to have
a successful outcome.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...Someone to serve as Society Secre-
tary. The job entails the recording of
board decisions and chairman reports,
and distribution of membership mail to
board members one week prior to the next
meeting.

...Someone to organize the Society book-
ing Day Fair in August. Previous chair-
men will be glad to help.

...Someone to organize a Society entry
in the July 4th parade.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital

TIRES: The Cook & Shannon Blacksmith Shop
On W. Main, c. 1900, is shown on the 1998
Tire, and the other local scenes on
tiles, make a fine gift. The stock of ear-
lier Tires is steadily being reduced. Check
which ones you need to complete your col-
lection before they're gone. A limited num-
ber is made each year. Tiles are available
at Nostalgia Antiques; 116 W. Main.
$8.00 each or 3/$21.00.

TOILET BAGS $15. and Mugs $35, are in
short supply. These, and POSTER P 2.50
ALL FEATURE THE OLD TOWN HALL; MOST CARDS
OF EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES; 6785.00 and
11 "x14" photos of the MILL POST AND MILL,
c. 1940. $25.00, can be bought by
Calling 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

April 9:10: Local History Conference fea-
turing oral history programs - Wayne State
University; 535-677-4003. Friday, Teaching
Michigan history in Our Schools. Saturday:
The Do's and Don'ts of Oral History.

April 11; 10-1:30; Genealogy and History
Book Fair, Lansing Center, 335 E. Michigan
Ave. Lansing.

April 16: 7-9; Nostalgia Antique will be
offering a class on Antique Pottery and on
May 21: 7-9; Furniture. 810/229-4710 for
reservations.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: 810/229-9100, to
place your order. $25.00 will make
a fine gift. It also goes well
with the COVERS. These are at
HTY 'N Nice, 412 W. Main in red,
green or blue for $49.00.

SIGNATURE QUILT STILL HAS SOME ROOM
for your signature, $10.00 and it'll
be embroidered on the quilt. This will
remain with the Society. Signatures of
OTHERS can be sent or use EARLY RESIDENTS' signatures that are
available.

April 20 7:30: Barn Preservation, Hartland
Area Hist. Soc. 810/652-5200 for seating.
April 22-24: Michigan Historical Preserva-
tion Network, 19th Annual Conference, Doing
It Right - Getting the Results You Want From
May 6: 7 P.M. Livingston County Genealogical
Society, Howell. 227-1760.
May 14: One Room Schoolhouse 7th Annual Con-
ference, Portage, MI. C/O Greenacre, 20501
N. Livonia Rd, Livonia, 48152-1098. Laugh,
talk, sing, learn, reminisce.
MEMBERSHIPS


*Memberships via Lyons School Restoration Project Settler's Group+ Donations. Welcome. **Other New Members. Welcome. **

Preservation/Restoration

ARCHIVES: Work is proceeding on bringing the history book of Society Activities to date. We were also able to provide two classes of Maltry Middle School with information of the area's early history. Students also conducted interviews of long time residents. May 12, the Society will be helping prepare an all day program on local history for students of Honeynng Elementary School.

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NEEDED

...someone to serve as Society Secretary. The job entails the recording of board decisions and chairman reports, and distribution of these and minutes to board members one week prior to the next meeting.

...someone to organize the Society booth at the Fair in August. Previous chairmen will be glad to help.

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FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

TILES: The Cook & Shannon Blacksmith Shop on W. Main c. 1900. Is shown on the 1998 tile. This, and the other local scenes on tiles, make a fine gift. The stock of earlier tiles is steadily being reduced. Check which ones you need to complete your collection before they're gone. A limited number is made each year. Tiles are available at Nostalgia Antiques; 116 W. Main. 8:00 each or $321.00.

NOTE BAGS & $15, and Mugs $3.50, are in stock now. These, and note paper & 2.50 all feature the old town hall. Must cards of early local street scenes; 675.00 and 11"x14" photos of the Mill Pond and Dam, c. 1940. $25.00, can be bought by calling 810-229-6402.

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