Area Farmers C. 1900

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Azariah Hicks and his wife, Phoebe, are owners of record of 40 acres in Section 20, (Corner Milton/Hunter Roads) in 1860. It appears the entire family, including grand children, came as a whole to the area at that time. Upon the death of Azariah, his two sons, Azariah (Jr.) and William Wheaton Hicks, inherit this piece and another 40 acres 1 mile east. Both soon sell these properties.

By 1873, WM. Wheaton Sr.'s son, WM. Wheaton Jr., is recorded as owner of 150 acres, NW 1 Section 21. This included both sides of Skeman Road, just touching the south shore of School Lake. (By then Jr. is over 50 years old.) He'd been born in New York, 1821, as was Sally Rogers whom he'd married in 1843. Wheaton and Sally had six children: Eugene, Lois, Ross, Lamartine, Sarah and John Jay. Several of these married neighboring Eastern Stretchs. Six children, John Carlton (b. 1877, d. 1967) married Edith Skeman, continuing the tendency of neighbor marrying neighbor. C. 1900, with Maxfield Road dividing it almost in half. John C. and Edith are owners of Meadow Green Stock Farm. 160 acres in NW 1 Section 5. By then much of the wooded wilderness had given way to the axe and plow. As the name implies John raised fine cattle and the variety of grains and grasses necessary for them to return a profit.

Father Ross had owned much of that in prior years. John and Edith had four children, two of which died in infancy. (Research reminds us often of the lack of medical knowledge which resulted in so many dying at an early age.)

John Carlton, his siblings and descendants of the last quarter of the 19th century, and their spouses, controlled large amounts of land in Brighton Township. This held true as late as 1951. This prosperous family was well aware of the hard work involved. All were industrious and participated in the area's development, its politics and its social life. Earlier, grandfather WM. Wheaton, had served as Township supervisor for six years, John C.'s Uncle Eugene is noted as school inspector during the mid to late 1870s, as supervisor in 1887 and later serving in the state legislature. The final resting place for many of the Hicks is in Fairview Cemetery. (Compiled by Marion Bier from Early Settlers and Land Owners of Livingston County; and obituaries copied by Milton Chadbourne. Also early atlases and census records. Corrections/additions will be gratefully received. 810/229-6402)
MEMBERSHIPS
PATRON: Bob & Tillie Bitten (OD). *Dale Hernandez, Mike & Jan Woodford (OD), Berenice & Barbara Young (FL OD)
Couples/Indiv: Raymond & Kay Clevery, Piet & Jean Lindhout, Bill & Barbara McCarrie (OD), Dorothy O'Jack (A)
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...Bert Bair, John and Janice Field for help in getting the July issue of the Newsletter in the mail.
...Bob & Tillie Bitten and Dorothy O'Jack for donations sent with dues.
...Rudy & Doreen Meffert for their donation.
...Brighton Rotary, Ray & Kay Clevery, WM & Betty Lindhout (OD), Piet & Jean Lindhout, National City Corp., and Margaret Souris for donations to the Lyons School Restoration Project.
...Stan Schaffer (Scapher Const., Inc.), and Rick Botton for cleaning the attic in the school and moving a wall in the furnace/kest room area.
...Fire Chief Larry Lane for use of scaffolding in the school.
...Dave Elofson (Elofson & Sons) for researching the septic field at the school.
...Steve Dandy of Waste Management for use of a dumpster.
...Nancy Fredericks for setting up the Society booth at the Farmers' Market and at the Sunday concerts at the Mill Pond. Nancy will be pleased to have you join her.

ARCHIVES: Meeting Thursdays, 1-3 P.M. This group has compiled Society history up to 1999. A review of this scrapbook promotes pride in the Society's efforts in the past. Brighton Argus and Mid 1950s are being reviewed for archival filing. Call 810/229-6402 for confirmation.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 221-2359, looking forward to publication in 199?

OLD VILLAGE CEMETARY: Altho' located in the middle of town, desecration of some of the small flags at each veteran's marker has occurred. Please call Brighton Police, 221-2700, to report vandalism. Marble shafts identifying a veteran's grave will be delivered soon. There is a delivery charge of $250.00. Descendants of these veterans may wish to help with this expense with an income tax deductible donation to the Society.

LYONS SCHOOL: Saturday, August 14, 9-1, has been scheduled for another work day. Wear grubby clothes and bring a hammer or other tool. A major activity will include cleaning the ceiling.

This will also be the last day donations may be made for items for which the Society has no use. Included are: mounted photos, cards and exterior mirrors for use with a camper; dining room table with 3 leaves in wood box and matching sideboard; large picture frames; 4 gallon gas coffee urn; lamp/shade; log maker, cast iron bathroom sink; attic fan in frame; doors; double hung windows, collection 78 rpm's; games, c. 1950; Bell/Howell movie projector, metal school desks. These are taking up needed space. Whatever is left will have to be placed in the dumpster.

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PAUL BAKERS
CLIFF RITTER
GERALD SMANN

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital to the Society's growth.

* Fund raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Mugs, Needlepoint kit, Horse and Post Cards, Signature quilt, Special events, Tote bags.

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TIFF: The Cook & Shannon Blacksmith shop on W. Main, c. 1900, can be seen on the 1998 tile. Reserve yours now to be sure you don't miss out. This and the other local scenes on tiles make fine Christmas, birthday gifts. The stock of earlier ones is steadily being reduced. Check with you ones you need before they're all gone. A limited number are made each year. The earlier ones are available at Nostalgia Antiques, 115 W. Main. Each $8. or 3/$21.00.

TOTE BAGS $15., MUGS $5., SUPPLIES DWINDLING, POST CARDS PKG 6/$5. Early local street scenes; NOTE PAPER $2.50; 11"x14" photos of the Mill Pond and Dam, c. 1900. $25. 810/229-9402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

* Sept. 25, 8:45-1 p.m. Michigan Historic Preservation Network workshop on your eligibility for 25% State Tax Credit when restoring your historic property. Registration due September 20.

Robert Bitten
104 S. Best Ave
Brighton, MI 48117

Handwritten Notes:

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-- Meadria Cooper for help with the Social Committee.

-- Glen Batten for help with the Society's mailing list.

SOCIETY MEETING: Meeting Thursdays, 1:30 P.M. This group has compiled society history up to 1999. A review of this scrapbook promotes pride in the Society's efforts in history in the past. Bright St. Agures of the mid 1950s are being reviewed for archival filing. Call 810.229.6042 or confirmation.

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