AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. John W. Hunter's Cherry Hill Farm is this issue's subject.

It was 8171 when William and Rachael Hunter arrived in the South Lyon area from Ontario, Canada. John Hunter's parents had been born in Scotland, as were several of his eight siblings, before migrating to a new life.

John's Cherry Hill Farm lay in the E1 of the SE1 of Section 18, Brighton Township, and the NE1 of the NE1 of Section 19 (on the west side of Hunter Road approximately 1 mile north of Hilton Road) a total of 120 acres. Prior to 1900 these, and other tracts of real estate in Sections 18 and 19 had been bought for speculative purposes with a total of 200 acres (including John's 120) found in Charles Prosser's name by 1846.

January 1, 1879, at the age of 22, John and Hattie Prosser, Charles' daughter, were married. The 1895 Atlas lists John as owner of 120 acres and it is assumed he continued the farming practices of his father-in-law. John's brother-in-law, Frank, owns the other 80 (plus more near by).

In 1910 John is employed as a rural route mail carrier for the Brighton Post Office. This occupation he held until one year before his death in 1936. Both John and Hattie are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

John and Hattie had four children. One died as an infant. At the time of John's funeral, their only daughter, Minnie, was married to T. A. Kidd and lived in Ann Arbor. Son Perry lived in Wyoming and son Howard lived in Pontiac, Brothers Levi, Daniel, Alpheus, Enoch, William and Robert survived him. Brothers Thomas and James had passed on.

The name of John's farm, Cherry Hill Farm, gives us a clue to his agricultural pursuits. The site is north of Woodland Lake and rather hilly. The majority of Prosser's original 200 acres now houses the Woodland Hills Subdivision North and South. Flat maps show the house owned by Charles Prosser and then John Hunter was probably located somewhere around the entrance to Woodland Hills Subdivision North. (Compiled by Marianna Bair and Lisa Palermo from First Landowners of Livingston County, Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County and early obituaries compiled by Hilton Chabanneau. Also from early atlases. Corrections and additions will be most welcome.)

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

To continue the restoration of this unique building, 11455 Bung Road, much volunteer work has been dedicated by many.

However, materials (even at cost), installation of plumbing, heating, electrical and septic systems, etc. (even at a discount) need to be paid with cold, hard cash.

Many have contributed this past year. Another $40,000.00 will bring this restoration effort to the desired end - to provide elementary school children with the opportunity to experience early Michigan education, a meeting facility, archive research and the opportunity to display the Society's many photos and artifacts for educational benefit.

The Brighton area has the distinct privilege of a 124 year old building in its midst which can be put to such significant use.

Society members will continue the restoration effort. Your contribution of funds will assure its timely completion.

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a non profit 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are Federal Income Tax deductible. Need more information? Call Chris Ward, 229-0550 or Marianna Bair, 229-6402.

Dates to Remember:

Dec. 9, 16, 1 p.m., Archives Filing. Call 1800/229-6402 to confirm.

8, 5-8 p.m. and 21, 1-5 p.m. for genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.

Jan. 1, Happy new Millennium.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Ornendorf Dr.*
MEMBERSHIPS
BUS/PROF.: Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., 816 PDU.
PATRON: Whitney and June Kimble.
COUPLES/INDIV.: Robert & Diane Assenmacher, CRY & Dot Bandkau, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Bonner (Northville), Marian Carney, Gene & Judy Buhl, Homer & Evelyn Dougher (IL), Emil & Joan Engel, Bob & Judy Hertzt, Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), "Emily F. Hicks, Bill & Helen Hyne (Chelsea), Bob & Pauline Schaffer.
*A sincere welcome to new members, Advance Craft Home Builders and Emily French Hicks.

The addition of new members and the renewals of memberships (over 85% in 1999) are a source of confidence for Society board members - we must be doing something right.

A look at the address label of this issue will tell for which year your membership is paid, "99" for example, a member for 1999. "00" indicates you are a member for 2000. No number, or an issue stamped "Complimentary Copy" says: "I'm interested, but not enough to become a member." (A contribution towards the printing costs would be appropriate.)

Annually, in December, a review is made of the mailing list. The Society believes there is value in the monthly publication of Trail Tales. However, the expense must be recovered. Recipients of Trail Tales who are not members, and who have made no contribution to the expense involved must be considered as having no interest in the Society and its activities. The review committee must make a decision whether to continue mailing to uninterested persons.

The Society is a non profit organization. Proceeds from fund raisers are all dedicated to preservation/restoration projects, i.e., Oral History, Lyons School, Archives, etc. Your contribution to the administration expenses of the Society is essential.

THANKS TO:
...Bert Bair, Norm Catrell and June Kimble for helping make "For Clipping..."
...Bernie Young (Florida) for the genealogical records of the Young family.

PRESEVATION/RESTORATION
ARCHIVES: Meeting 6-8 hours each month. This committee is making headway on clipping and filing stories of historical value from Brighton Argus articles of 1950/1950. When indexed the information will be of help in answering queries of an historical nature. (And many are received.)

BRIGHTON HISTORICAL BOOK: This is soon to be published due to the herculean efforts of Carol McMacken. 810/231-2957. Various financing plans are being considered.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: Construction of the walk, by the DIA, will enhance the restoration of this first cemetery in Brighton. The markers being installed will provide proper identification and promote appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans from the area.

ORAL HISTORY: Alene Anderson (Charlevoix) and Arla Stumberg are the latest to have been interviewed by Larry Wagner. She and the Society are grateful to these ladies for their time and memories. A "My Top Pamphlet" is available for those who'd like to help with this project. Everyone's story has value.

Janice Beach for the several record books from the old Ritz Hardware.
...Bob & Diane Assenmacher, CRY & Dot Bandkau, Marian Carney and Emily Hicks for the donations sent with their dues.
...The Ann Arbor News for their interest in the activities of the Brighton area historical society.
...Alene Anderson (Charlevoix) who sent a photo of the Foldenour family c. 1900.
...All members of the Society board and committee persons for their dedication, belief in and perseverance toward the accomplishment of the Society's goals and projects. No president could have asked for a more supportive group.
...Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ) and to Sherly Viegmostad for contributions to the Lyons School restoration expenses.

In 500 BC, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus stated, "There is nothing permanent except change."
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BUS/PROF: "Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., B16/PDU.
PATRON: Whitney and June Kibles.
COUPLES/MIDW: Robert & Diane Asmanncher, CRY & Dot Bandikau, Mr. & Mrs. Leon Bonner (Northville), Marian Carrey, Gene & Judy Breslin, Homer & Evelyn Dougher (IL), Emil & Joan Engel, Bob & Fay Herbst, Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Emily F. Hicks, Bill & Helen Hyne (Chelsea), Bob & Pauline Schaffer.

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