AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Manuel Crout's ROSELAND is the subject of this issue. Making his home in New York, Lewis Crout was killed (1865) while serving in the Civil War. This left his wife, Hannah, with nine sons, the oldest 15 years, to make their way in the world. Five years later (1868) this plucky widow moved her family to the Brighton area by means of a lumber wagon. (One can hardly imagine what prompted this decision.) Within weeks of their arrival she passed away. Hannah is buried on the Charles Durfee lot in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

How were the children to survive? In 1870 the Livingston County Census records her youngest, Walter, 9 years, was living with newly weds Charles and Mary Durfee in Brighton Township. Willard, 13, was with Charles' parents, Edgar and Margetta and their two daughters along Flint Road in the Skoman Road area. Manuel, 14, is with Ira and Laura Warner about a mile north, west of Warner (School) Lake, Everett, 16, we find with James and Phylancy Thurber about 2.5 miles north. Henry, 22, the oldest, is a laborer on Charles and Hannah Wyne's farm in that same general vicinity, where the four other children were located we've not found. It's possible they were in Oakland or Washtenaw Counties at the time of the 1870 Census.

Without a highly organized governmental social services department the five noted above were all cared for. It's certain they earned their keep but one assumes they were fed, clothed and sheltered. They probably all attended the Bitten School at some time. (Their basic needs were provided.)

By 1895 Manuel is shown as owner of 80 acres in Section 9, Brighton Township, with the Flint Road running through the middle. In 1881 he had married his neighbor's daughter, Emma Thurber. To them three daughters were born: Eula, Bernice and Gertrude; who probably also attended the one room school of their parents.

The Crouts lived on the farm until 1911 when they moved into town. Their home, at 835 E. Grand River is now the site of Independence Village. Eight years later the farm was sold; the 1935 Atlas shows Ernest Hicks as owner. By then US 23 is routed to the west side of the 80 acres. The original road is now Taylor Road. Manuel died January 8, 1924 outliving Emma by 3.5 years. Both are buried in Fairview, on Flint Road. Now often they must have traveled past the cemetery while living on the farm.

It is humbling to consider the trials and tribulations through which the Crout brothers survived and thrived. Manuel's farm's name, ROSELAND, evokes a sense of fragility, which is all the more paradoxical considering the strengths they exhibited. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from early atlases, the 1870 Census of Livingston County, assistance of John and Janice Field and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Additional information is always welcome.)
PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: John and Janice Field are assisting with local research. Sometimes we meet at a location other than the Library. Call 229-6402 to confirm the site. Tuesdays 1-3 p.m., not good? Let us know when is.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 231-2957, has a lot of material put together. Want to help? Call her.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: No work yet on the Historic Site register application. Tree and brush cutting will begin soon.

LEE HOUSE: Efforts are continuing to fund a move of this 1840 Greek Revival home built by Daniel S. Lee. A search is also on to locate a site where this home can continue its existence for another 150 years. Contact Phil Smith, 810/231-1178 or http://members.tripod.com/~saveleehouse

LYONS SCHOOL: The Society board met with Bob King of Lindsicht Associates recently. The proposed specs: lighting, heating, etc., were reviewed. Suggested changes will be incorporated.

A Lyons School cleanup day will be scheduled for a Saturday when the weather temperature looks low. Desk, chairs, display cases, etc., must be moved to the back room to make way for construction crews in the main part of the structure. Let us know if you might be able to help. 810/229-6402. Lyons School is at 11459 Bum Road, between Van Amuris and Pleasant Valley Roads. A tour of the building can be arranged by calling 810/229-6402.

NEED NEED NEED

COPY/TYPING PAPER: (Case is $25.00)
BOX OF ADDRESS LABELS: Avery #5351, #5393.
SOCIETY SECRETARY, ONE YEAR: (Priceless)
SOCIETY MEMBER WILLING TO CONDUCT ORAL HISTORIES, OR HELP WITH FUND RAISING, OR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICITY, OR DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY, OR HELP WITH LYONS SCHOOL/LEE HOUSE PROJECTS, OR CONDUCT RESEARCH, OR BE RESPONSIBLE THAT THE SOCIETY HAS AN ENTRY IN LOCAL PARADES, ETC., ETC. CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER OR CALL 810/229-6402. (These members are also priceless.)

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

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TOTE BAGS @ $15, and MUGS @ $5, are in short supply. These, and NOTE PAPER @ 2.50 all feature the old town hall. First cards of early local street scenes, 6/$35.00 and 11"x14" photos of the mill pond and barn, c. 1940! Plymouth Hist. can be bought by calling 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mar. 11, 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the Century, 1950s, Jazz, Wine and Bread Plymouth, Plymouth History Museum, Plymouth.

Mar. 19, 10:20 a.m. Grand Writing for Arts, Culture: Lansing, 810/229-6402.

Mar. 19, 2-9 p.m., 20, noon-8 p.m.; 21, noon-5 p.m., Michigan Home and Garden Shows, Civic Center, Southfield, 810/965-94/4.

Apr. 8, 7:30 p.m. Celebrate the Century, 1940s, WW II, The Jeep, Music of the Era, etc. Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: 810/229-9-100 to place your order. $28.00 will make a fine gift. It also goes well with the coverlets. These are at Naughty 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 in use early residents' signatures that are available.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

DON RODKIN, HORNING ELEMENTARY PTO & JEANETTE JOHNSON, FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION FUND.

BONNIE CORRIGAN, JOHN & JANICE FIELD, JEANETTE JOHNSON, MARY莲 TETTS, ROSEMARY ULMER, CINDY WADE & MARIE WHITE, FOR HELPING STUFF, TAPE & LABEL THE LYONS SCHOOL BROCHURE.

BART BAIR, JOHN & JANICE FIELD, AND MARY莲 TETTS, FOR HELPING PREPARE THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR MAILING.

GENERAL MOTORS PROVING GROUND FOR THE CALENDAR COMMEMORATING THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY. BEST WISHES.

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MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Margaret Squire.


WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: John & Lisa Palermo and Kevin Roch.

Many thanks to those who actively support the Society by becoming members. We pays the bills relative to the administration of the Society, the major expense ($225 per month) being the printing and mailing of the monthly newsletter. Free copies can be found at various sites. If you are reading a free copy you are urged to consider a contribution to its cost. Those who believe other issues should be offered, i.e., 4, 6 or 8 times a year to cut expenses, can call 810/299-6402. Your financial support is vital.

THANKS

Don Roman, Horning Elementary PTO and Jeanette Johnson for their donation to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.

Bonnie Corigan, John & Janice Field, Jeanette Johnson, Marilyn Pettigrove, Rosemary Ulmer, Chris Ward and Marje White for helping stuff, tape and label the Lyons School brochure.

John & Lisa Palermo for their donation to the Lee House Preservation Fund.

Bob King, of Livonia Associates, for meeting with the board to review the first specification drawings. Changes in the electrical and heating layouts were considered.

Beverly Zizza for her mother’s Girl Scout scrapbook, from the 1960s.

Bert Bair, John & Janice Field and Marilyn Pettigrove for helping prepare the February newsletter for mailing.

General Motors Proving Ground for the calendar commemorating their 75th anniversary. Best wishes.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

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NEED NEED

COPY/TYPING TIER. (Case is $25.00)

Box of address labels, Avery #5351, 89/40.

Society secretary, one year. (Priceless)

Society member willing to conduct oral histories, or help with fund raising, or be responsible for publicity, or develop programs for public events, or help with Lyons School/Lee House projects, or conduct research, or be responsible that the Society has an entry in local parades, etc., etc. Contact a board member or call 810/229-6402. (These members are also priceless.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME ____________________________

PHONE __________________________

ADDRESS __________________________

(Include 12zp + 4 digit)

(NEW) (Renew) (Increase)

Donation: $10.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $500.00 ( ) Other:

$__________ autobiographical information.

( ) Other:

Society is a tax deductible organization. 501(c)


Fund Raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Mugs, Headlight Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature quilt, Special events, Tote bags.

Administration of the Society: Board Officers/Committee members, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUNDS RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital.

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TOTE BAGS @ $5.00, and MUGS @ $15.00, are in short supply. These, and Note Paper 3” x 5” all feature the OLD TOWN HALL, FIRST HANDS OF EARLY LOCAL STREET SCENES, 67/50.00 and 11”x14” photos of the MILL ROAD AND MAIN, c. 1940. Plymouth history can be bought by calling 810/229-6402.

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THANKS

Clarence and Darlene Hines, owners of Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main, for hosting the February 18 meeting. A program on collectibles and depression glass. Describing them and what makes them valuable. Collected following a scavenger hunt in the store made the evening very interesting. Many thanks to Clarence and Darlene for their continued support.
AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. MANUEL CROUT'S ROSELAND IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

MAKING HIS HOME IN NEW YORK, LEWIS CROUT WAS KILLED (1863) WHILE SERVING IN THE CIVIL WAR. THIS LEFT HIS WIFE, HANNAH, WITH NINE SONS, THE OLDEST 15 YEARS, TO MAKE THEIR WAY IN THE WORLD. FIVE YEARS LATER (1868) THIS PLUCKY WIDOW MOVED HER FAMILY TO THE BRIGHTON AREA BY MEANS OF A LUMBER WAGON. (ONE CAN HARDLY IMAGINE WHAT PROMPTED THIS DECISION.) WITHIN WEEKS OF THEIR ARRIVAL SHE PASSED AWAY. HANNAH IS BURIED ON THE CHARLES DURFEE LOT IN THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY.

HISTORY OF CHILDREN: IN 1870 THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY CENSUS RECORDS HANNAH'S YOUNGEST, WALTER, 9 YEARS, WAS LIVING WITH NEWLY WEDS CHARLES AND MARY DURFEE IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, WILLARD, 15, WAS WITH CHARLES' PARENTS; EDGAR AND MARGETTA AND THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS ALONG FLINT ROAD IN THE SKEMAN ROAD AREA. MANUEL, 14, IS WITH IRA AND LAURA WARNER ABOUT A MILE NORTH, WEST OF WARNER (SCHOOL) LAKE, EVERETT, 16, WE FIND WITH JAMES AND PHYLLIS THIBERGE ABOUT 2.5 MILES NORTH, HENRY, 22, THE OLDEST, IS A LABORER ON CHARLES AND HANNAH HYNES' FARM IN THAT SAME GENERAL VICINITY, WHERE THE FOUR OTHER CHILDREN WERE LOCATED WE'VE NOT FOUND. IT'S POSSIBLE THEY WERE IN OAKLAND OR WASHTENAW COUNTIES AT THE TIME OF THE 1870 CENSUS.

WITHOUT A HIGHLY ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTAL SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT THE FIVE NOTED ABOVE WERE ALL CARED FOR. IT'S CERTAIN THEY EARNED THEIR KEEP BUT ONE ASSUMES THEY WERE FEED, CLOTHED AND SHELTERED. THEY PROBABLY ALL ATTENDED BITTON SCHOOL AT SOME TIME. (THEIR BASIC NEEDS WERE PROVIDED.)

BY 1895 MANUEL IS SHOWN AS OWNER OF 80 ACRES IN SECTION 9, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, WITH THE FLINT ROAD RUNNING THROUGH THE MIDDLE. IN 1881 HE HAD MARRIED HIS NEIGHBOR'S DAUGHTER, EMMA THIBERGE. TO THEM THREE DAUGHTERS WERE BORN: EULA, BERNICE AND GERTRUDE; WHO PROBABLY ALL ATTENDED THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL OF THEIR PARENTS.

THE CROUTS LIVED ON THE FARM UNTIL 1911 WHEN THEY MOVED INTO TOWN. THEIR HOME, AT 853 E. GRAND RIVER IS NOW THE SITE OF INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE. EIGHT YEARS LATER THE FARM WAS SOLD; THE 1935 ATLAS SHOWS ERNEST HICKS AS OWNER. BY THEN US 23 IS ROUTED TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE 80 ACRES. THE ORIGINAL ROAD IS NOW TAYLOR ROAD. MANUEL DIED JANUARY 8, 1924 OUTLIVING EMMA BY 3.5 YEARS. BOTH ARE BURIED IN FAIRVIEW, ON FLINT ROAD. NOW OFTEN THEY MUST HAVE TRAVELED PAST THE CEMETERY WHILE LIVING ON THE FARM.

IT IS HUMBLING TO CONSIDER THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS THROUGH WHICH THE CROUT BROTHERS SURVIVED AND THRIVED. MANUEL'S FARM'S NAME, ROSELAND, ECLIPSES A SENSE OF FRAGILITY, WHICH IS ALL THE MORE PARADOXICAL CONSIDERING THE STRENGTHS THEY EXHIBITED. (COLLIFIED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY ATLASES, THE 1870 CENSUS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ASSISTANCE OF JOHN AND JANICE FIELD AND OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ALWAYS WELCOME.)