AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. LEONARD L. MORGAN’S LILAC LAWN FARM IS THIS ISSUE’S SUBJECT.

LEONARD LEWIS MORGAN, C. 1900, IS OWNER OF 71 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SPENCER ROAD WEST OF VAN ANBERG, LILAC LAWN. THIS WAS A PART OF SOME OF THE ACREAGE HIS FATHER, NATHANIEL G. SR., OWNED IN 1859, ABOUT THE TIME LEONARD WAS BORN.

CYRENUUS AND NATHANIEL G., SR., MORGAN, WITH TIM WARNER, ABRAHAM DEAN, E. G. DURFEE, WILLIAM TUNIS AND OTHERS CAME FROM NEW YORK. C. 1855-37. AS STATED IN TUNIS’ OBITUARY THEY “…CAME TO THIS COMMUNITY (BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP) WHEN IT WAS A WILDERNESS.” THESE MEN ACQUIRED SIZEABLE ACREAGE IN SECTIONS 22, 27, 28, AND 29 AND CLEARED IT FOR FARMING. ONE CAN ASSUME THEIR FRIENDSHIP CONTINUED AND THAT THEY SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF NEED.

BY 1875, THE HOLDINGS OF NATHANIEL G. AND WIFE, ELIZA JANE, HAD INCREASED TO ALMOST 80 ACRES PLUS 80 MORE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SPENCER ROAD. NATHANIEL WAS A BUTCHER, AS WERE SOME OF HIS BROTHERS, AND A DROVER. CATTLE WERE PURCHASED FROM AREA FARMERS AND HERDED, DOWN THE GRAND RIVER ROAD TO THE DETROIT STOCK YARD BY HORSE AND BUGGY. THE RETURN JOURNEY AFTER SUCH A TRIP WAS FRUITFUL WITH PERIL. RACING HOME WITH THE CASH, THROWING THE HORSE’S REINS TO HIS WIFE, HE HURRIED TO CONCEAL THE MONEY. IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR ROBBERIES TO MAKE THEMSELVES COGNIZANT OF WHICH DROVER WAS CARRYING MUCH CURRENCY. WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE RAILROAD, AND LEARNING THAT A BETTER PRICE COULD BE HAD BY SELLING IN BUFFALO, N.Y., HE SHIPPED A HERO ON THE TRAIN. HOWEVER, THE MAN IN CHARGE DID NOT COME BACK WITH THE CASH. ANOTHER WAS SENT TO RETRIEVE HIM BUT HE DIDN’T RETURN EITHER. NATHANIEL’S 80 ACRES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SPENCER WAS LOST IN THE DEAL.

AS WITH MANY OF THE EARLY PIONEERS, THE MORGANS (THOSE WHO HADN’T BROUGHT SPOUSES WITH THEM FROM THE EAST) MARRIED NEIGHBORING OFFSPRING: THEIR ANCESTORS HAVING BEEN ACQUAINTED FOR MANY YEARS. NATHANIEL G. AND ELIZA HAD ELEVEN CHILDREN. SOME OF THE BOYS, AS NEIGHBORS, WORKED FOR NEIGHBORING FARMERS. THEIR SON, LEONARD, FOLLOWED THE PROFESSION OF BUTCHER AND LIVED ON THE WWII SIDE OF SPENCER ROAD. HE AND WIFE, ELLA, HAD ONE CHILD WHO THEY NAMED NATHANIEL. HE MARRIED KATHERINE PYLE AND ALSO HAD ONE SON. ROBERT. ROBERT AND NELLIE RAISED A FAMILY OF FOUR BEFORE SELLING 20 ACRES TO THE BRIGHTON SCHOOLS DISTRICT.

UNTIL 1975, THE OLD HOUSE AND BARN STOOD ON THE SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY SPENCER ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. ROBERT AND HIS FAMILY WERE THE LAST OF THE MORGANS IN THE OLD HOUSE. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR AND LISA PALENO: FROM FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVIGNSTON COUNTY AND EARLY OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHABONNEAU. ALSO 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND EARLY XYLASES. THANKS ALSO TO ROBERT MORGAN FOR HIS ASSISTANCE. CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.)
MEMBERSHIPS

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL: General Motors Proving Ground and Hilton School Elementary PTO.

COUPLES/INDIV.ity: Pat & Josie Arnold (01), Don & Ricci Bandak (00), Bob & Margaret Bland, Mike & Barb Emorey (02), Barbara Folkman, Bob & Betsy Herrist, Walt & Meryl Jollitz, Josephine Hyne (Chelsea 00), Doris Houseman, Jeanette Johnson (00), Harold Salom (00), David & Paula Skinner

*WELCOME To NEW MEMBERS, YOU ARE NEEDED! To assure an accurate mailing list, "RETURN Requested" is on each newsletter. When the Post Office returns a copy with a corrected address it costs the Society an additional .50c. Call 229-8402 with address corrections. "RE-From List", "Don’t Send for (A TIME PERIOD)" or provide an alternate address if you wish. This information will be held in strict confidence as is all such information.

THANKS

...Bert Bair, Norm Catell, and Nancy Fredeburg for their help in the mailing of the October newsletter.

...Doris Houseman, Josephine Hyne and Jeanette Johnson for sending donations with their dues.

...General Motors Proving Ground, Hilton Elementary PTO, Harold Salom and Sherry Vignos for their donations to the Lyons School Restoration Project.

We are living at the 'turn of the century'. Help preserve the past century for the next.

The following business/professional have become members in 1995. They should be patronized:
Ann Arbor News, Boss Engineering, Bryant Chrysler, Bryant Commerce Bank, Bryant Ford/Mercury, Bryant Professional Tax Service, Inc., Fence Spot, General Motors Proving Ground, Sue Hamilton, Michael P. Hatty, Don Homan, Brian Lavan, Little Professor Book, Center of Brighton, McKenna Associates, McMurray, Porter & Stryker, Peter McNulty, Old Kent Bank, PO Box 81, Primid Concrete, Inc., Somewhere in Time, Stanley Home Builders, Woodland Park/Sales, Yum Yum Tree.

PUBLICITY

ARCHIVES: Research of early 1950s issues of the BRIGHTON Argus and area history continues. Join us 810/229-6402.

BRIGHTON HISTORIC BOOK: Carol Mckenzie, 241-2597 plans to publish in Y2K.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: Various security devices will be installed by the city shortly. Hopefully this will reduce the amount of vandalism taking place. Call Brighton Police: 227-2700, to report vandalism.

We are being heard shortly from the State Historic Preservation Office on the status of the historic site application. Donations can be made to the cost of the marker, $2700.00, to the Society. An appropriate way to memorialize those pioneers buried there.

MEMBERSHIP CARD?

Many members prefer to receive a card confirming dues payment. (The year for which dues are paid is noted on the newsletter mailing label.) In an expense reduction move the Society will no longer be mailed unless requested. Members should feel free to request a card if desired.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, November 22, 7 p.m.
Society Blamons require the holding of an Annual Meeting of the membership. Society business and election of members to the governing board will take place. All positions on the board are scheduled for nomination and election by those attending.

Any member of the Society may serve on the board. Nominations need the approval of those nominated.

This meeting will be held in the Brighton Room at the Brighton Country Library, 200 Erin Drive. Enter the library, continue to the information desk and turn right to the end of the hall.

More information? Martaean Dair, 810/229-6402.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/$3.50, mus$ 15.; tote bags $15.; note paper $2.50; 11x17 photos of the mill pond and dam $25.; copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display pueblo school $15. Show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

WISH LIST

An Active Organization Always has One

1. Offers of physical labor at the Lyons School Restoration. (Financial contributions are always welcome.)
2. Oral historians. The recording of memories of this area should be undertaken for the benefit of future generations. Policies, procedures, etc., are in place.
3. Researchers for proper recognition of area historic sites. The explosive growth of the area (townships also) removes us to recognize and preserve its early foundations. The Old Town Hall, Lyons School, etc., have had markers placed. The Village Cemetery application is in progress. Some early structures remain. However sites can also be marked: first hospital, tavern, Gath, Pyram, school, etc. We have a history which should be confirmed.
4. Volunteers to contribute on raising funds for the purchase of historic site markers, archives, printing of the history...
MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: General Motors Proving Ground and Hilton Hotel Elementary PTO.

COUPLES/INDIV: Pat & Josie Arnold (01), Don & Ricci Bandkay (00), Bob & Margaret Bowland, Mike & Barb Emorey (00), Barbara Folkman, Bob & Betsy Herrist, Walt & Merilyn Jollitz, Josephine Hyne (Chelsea 00), Doris Housner, Jeanette Johnson (00), Harold Salow (00), David & Paula Skinner

*Welcome to new members. You are needed! To assure an accurate mailing list, "Return Service Requested" is on each newsletter. When the post office returns a copy with a corrected address, it costs the society an additional $.30. Call 229-5602 with address corrections. "Remove From List", "Don't send (for a time period)" or provide an alternate address if you wish. This information will be held in strict confidence as is all such information.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Norm Catrell, and Nancy Freedenburg for their help in the mailing of the October newsletter.

...Doris Housner, Josephine Hyne and Jeanette Johnson for sending donations with their dues.

...General Motors Proving Ground, Hilton Elementary PTO, Harold Salow and Sherry Vignos for their donations to the Lyons School Restoration Project.

We are living at the 'turn of the century', Help preserve the past century for the next.

The following business/professionals have become members in 1995. They should be patronized.


ARCHIVES: Research of early 1950s issues of the BRIGHTON ARGUS and area history continues. Join us. 810/229-6402.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

**Fund Raising Projects. **Administration of the Society. (Please circle one.

**DUES: **

- $50.00 Patron
- $25.00 Couple
- $20.00 Student (K-12, College)
- $50.00 Bus/Prop.
- $15.00 Individual
- $50.00 Life

**Other: **

- $10.00
- $20.00
- $50.00
- $100.00

Donation: $50.00

**Membership Card? : **

Yes

No

(please include $4.95)

**Fund Raising Projects:** Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Mug, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillow.

**Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS
YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/$3.50, mug $5., tote bags $15.

Note papers $2.50, 11 x 14 photos of the Mill Pond and dam $2.50, copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamberg Township. In a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display. Need enough to show the old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

WISH LIST

An Active Organization Always Has One

1. Offers of physical labor at the Lyons School restoration. (Financial contributions are always welcome.)
2. Oral historians. The recording of memories of this area should be undertaken for the benefit of future generations. Policies, procedures, etc., are in place.
3. Researchers for proper recognition of area historic sites. The explosive growth of the area (townships also) moves us to recognize and preserve its early foundations. The Old Town Hall, Lyons School, etc., have had markers placed. The Village Cemetery application is in progress. Some early structures remain. However sites can also be marked: first hospital, tavern, GAF, Pyram, school, etc. We have a history which should be confirmed.
4. Volunteers to concentrate on raising funds for the purchase of historic site markers, archives, printing of the history.

COVERLETS: red, green or blue have nine local sites woven in. $49. at Naught 'n Nice, 412 W. Main.

A Tapestry Pillow, $28., does well with the coverlets. 810/229-9100 to order.

The Signature Quilt, on which are embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, has space for yours. Send in your signature of that of a relative. A file of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society's activities.

TILES: 13 different local sites, are shown on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main has them in stock at $8.00 or $21.00.

BOOK: Endowment fund for Lyons School utilities, etc.
5. People to direct development of Historic District ordinances in the city and surrounding townships.
6. The transcribing of local cemeteries: Chilson, Benedict/Benjamin, Pleasant Valley, etc. These are invaluable to researchers.
7. Develop a Grandmother's Trunk or a similar program for use in schools.
8. Assume responsibility for Society involvement in community events.

Contact a board member if any of these interest you.
AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Leonard L. Morgan's LILAC LAWN FARM is this issue's subject.

Leonard Lewis Morgan, c. 1900, is owner of 71 acres on the north side of Spencer Road west of Van Amberg, LILAC LAWN. This was a part of some of the acreage his father, Nathaniel G. Sr., owned in 1859, about the time Leonard was born.

Cyrenus and Nathaniel G., Sr., Morgan, with Tim Warner, Abram Dean, E. G. Durfee, William Tunis and others came from New York c. 1835-37. As stated in Tunis' obituary they...came to this community (Brighton Township) when it was all a wilderness. These men acquired sizeable acreage in Sections 22, 27, 28, and 29 and cleared it for farming. One can assume their friendship continued and that they supported one another in times of need.

By 1875, the holdings of Nathaniel G. and wife, Eliza Jane, had increased to almost 80 acres plus 80 more on the south side of Spencer Road. Nathaniel was a butcher, as were some of his brothers, and a drover. Cattle were purchased from area farmers and herded down the Grand River Road to the Detroit stock yard by horse and buggy. The return journey after such a trip was fraught with peril. Racing home with the cash, throwing the horse's reins to his wife, he hurried to conceal the money. It was not unusual for robbers to make themselves cognizant of which drover was carrying much currency. With the arrival of the railroad, and learning that a better price could be had by selling in Buffalo, N.Y., he shipped a horse on the train. However, the man in charge did not come back with the cash. Another was sent to retrieve him but he didn't return either. Nathaniel's 80 acres on the south side of Spencer was lost in the deal.

As with many of the early pioneers, the Morgans (those who hadn't brought spouses with them from the east) married neighboring offspring; their ancestors having been acquainted for many years. Nathaniel G. and Eliza had eleven children. Some of the boys, as teenagers, worked for neighboring farmers. Their son, Leonard, followed the profession of butcher and lived on the homestead on Spencer Road. He and wife, Ella, had one child whom they named Nathaniel. He married Katherine Pyle and also had one son, Robert. Robert and Maxine raised a family of four before selling 20 acres to the Brighton School District.

Until 1973, the old house and barns stood on the site now occupied by Spencer Road Elementary School. Robert and his family were the last of the Morgans in the old house. (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 Milton Charboneau. Also 1880 History of Livingston County and early xylases. Thanks also to Robert Morgan for his assistance. Corrections and additions will be gratefully received.)

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Work on restoration of the Lyons School - 11355 Burd Road, is continuing. A functional building will be the end result. The many who have donated financially, by providing labor and/or materials, and with various other types of support will have reason to be proud of their efforts.

Elementary students will have a rare opportunity to experience early Michigan education by spending time there. There will be room for a small museum for display of local artifacts and an archival research facility.

The heating/air conditioning is almost complete and the sub floor is in. (Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Stan Schaffer.) When the gas is connected to the furnace work can continue during cold weather. What's next? Electrical wiring, insulation, walls, plumbing, etc.

All of this can come to a screeching halt if there are insufficient funds to keep up with the expenses involved. The Society is asking you to consider and end-of-year tax deductible contribution to this project. The Society is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. Your contribution will assure the completion of the restoration project. Your contribution will help maintain the history of the area. Your contribution will stay in the community.

Need more information? Call Chris Ward, 810/229-0560 or Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402.

Dates to Remember:
Nov. 4, 11, 18, 1 p.m. Archives Filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.
10, 5-8 p.m. and 23, 1-5 p.m. for genealogical help. 22-1760 to confirm.

Brighton District Library, 200 Onondow Dr.