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 into 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 wed 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 Skenan 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 Thurber about 2.5 miles north. Henry, 22, the oldest, is a laborer on Charles and Hannah Hyn's farm in that same general vicinity, where the four other children were located we've not found. It's possible they were in Oakwood 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 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, Bernece 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 833 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. How 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 too paradoxical considering the strength they exhibited. (Compiled by Marianne 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.)

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Brochures detailing plans for the building and requesting financial help will be in the mail shortly. All donations will be properly recorded and recognized.

This frame one room school, built 1885, is to be a resource to experience and understand the history of the Brighton area. The school museum will enable students to learn first hand how rural children were educated, how they lived, how they played, how they worked in that period of Michigan's past.

One of the rooms will be developed as a source for archival research. The fireproof room will be ideal for preservation of paper materials, photos, fabric, etc. The Society's collection grows regularly. Long time residents donate books, maps, abstracts, cemetery records, newspapers, photos, etc., etc. It is very important to have a safe place for these links to the past. Without them the roots we try to put down will find it difficult to take hold.

Not many early buildings remain in the area. It is imperative this one be saved and put to a good use. Your support is absolutely vital.

Altho' much effort is being donated by those who believe in this project, cold, hard cash is still needed. The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible organization. Contributions can help you as well as to preserve and disseminate the history of the Brighton area.

Dates to Remember:
*Mar 9, 16, 23, 1:00 p.m. Archives Filing. Call 810/229-6165 to confirm.
*Mar 7, 10, 13, 20, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 1:30 p.m., for genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.
*22, 7-9 p.m., Society Board Meets. Welcome.
*Brighton District Library, 200 onndorf Dr.