AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Ed Bauer's CRANBERRY CRUSH is the subject of this issue.

John Bauer and wife, Magdelina, came to the U.S. from Germany c. 1849. Their three sons, Leonard (11), George (9) and Thomas (3), came with them. They lived in Detroit until moving to Saginaw from where they came to Genoa Township in 1850. (Baby Margaret was born 1847.)

The earliest Bauer land purchase is recorded in Section 2 of Brighton Township in 1852. By 1855, 80 acres in Genoa Township are in John and Magdelina's name. She also buys 160 acres nearby in 1872. These lands all border what we now call Bauer Road, north of Brighton Road. No need to wonder how Bauer Road got its name.

By 1840 there were already several families from Germany who had settled in Genoa. Among their near neighbors were George and Caroline Rousher who had already settled in 1835. Section 24 (NW 5N). By 1854 there are two boys and daughter, Barbara, born 1839. When planning a new home so far from one's native land it must be comforting to neighbor with those who speak one's mother tongue.

C. 1860 George Bauer and Barbara Rousher marry. By 1875 they own 200 acres, a portion of which was acquired from her parents. By the turn of the century the Bauer name is on seven 100 acres of Genoa Township land. Altogether conducting a farming operation he is also recorded as being a shoemaker and having a cobbler shop in town. (Where?) He is also noted as serving as J.P. in Genoa in 1879. Research indicates George and Barbara had five children, several of whom also married neighbors' offspring.

C. 1900, son, Ed, was farming 150+ acres on the corner of Chaliss and Bauer Roads. In the October 16, 1925, issue of the Argus one finds "For Sale, Squash, Pumpkins, Potatoes. Phone 6260 Ed Bauer & Son." Grain and cranberries were grown; to wit the title of CRANBERRY CRUSH for his farm. This is somewhat puzzling since the cranberries we know grow on very acidic soil and are flooded for picking. These conditions did not exist. Ed's might have been a visurnan cranberry or even grown from seeds brought from Europe where a type of cranberry is grown. The also had milk cows and Ed owned a threshing rig.

Neighbors, often youngsters, were hired to pick the cranberries. Any extra produce could have been shipped to market on the railroad that ran diagonally across Ed's farm.

Ed's brother, Albert's 200+ acre farm has become the ever popular Mount Brighton.

(Compiled by Marianne Bair from early atlases, obituaries, and Early Land Owners of Livingston County compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Also thanks to Dorothy Boettger, John Coddington and Merrill Herbst and the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Service's Gretchen Votey.)

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Trail Tales

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

A recent, newly applied paint job sure makes the school look good. Drive by 11425 Bung road, Brighton Township, and see for yourself. Many thanks are in order: Joanne Swoyk, Jim Vickich, Chris Ward and Andrew Wardach who scraped the school prior to painting! And to Matt Mathison and Mike Vickich, students, for helping with this preparation: to the members of the BEA, a good turnout, who painted the school; and to Mike and Barb Emmory for supplying the water needed.

Bonnie Corrigan and Jane Tomlinson held a successful bake sale at the Farmers' Market last month, with many thanks to all of you who donated. If you weren't contacted or you weren't able to provide a cake, pie, etc., a financial donation can still be made.

Ronni Powers (teacher at Hawkins Elementary) along with students from all elementary buildings conducted a bottle/can drive in May. Nearly $700 were raised with more still to go into the crushers. Another drive will be held in the fall. In the meantime (especially if you don't want to keep all your containers all summer) you might consider saving your deposit refund slips to turn in at that time; or send to the Society.

Work on clearing out the interior of the school for restoration to begin will take place Saturday, June 12 in the a.m. Have an hour and a bit of energy? We hope to see you there.

In this preservation effort there are ways for everyone and anyone to contribute. For a real sense of satisfaction get involved with this project. The Society is an income tax deductible organization. A donation receipt can be prepared.

Dates to Remember:

* June 3, 10, 17, 24, 1-3 P.M. Archives filing. Call 810/229-6042 to confirm.
* 5-7 P.M. and 22, 1-5 P.M. for general help, 227-1760 to confirm.
* 21, 7 P.M. Society Board meets. Welcome.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Ornold Dr.