AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Henry Conrad’s LAKE SIDE STOCK FARM is this issue’s subject.

Henry’s father, Jacob, came to the U.S. in 1832 with brothers Phillip and Charles and sister, Mary Magdelene, as very young children. Their parents, Charles C. and Maria Catherine Nadig, came by sailing vessel, an ordeal of which our imagination is incapable. In the early 1830s, German immigrants constituted a major portion of the stream of newcomers arriving in the U.S. How does one conceptualize the conditions in Europe, Germany, in particular, which would prompt this family to make such a move, knowing one would never see their homeland again? Earlier religious intolerance was a prime factor. However, during the 19th century, economic and political strife provided valid reasons. This would be an opportunity for them and their children to own land on which a home could be built and prosperity a possibility.

Jacob married neighbor Elizabeth Dorr in 1866. He was 3/4 and had purchased 120 acres in Section 22 of Genoa Township, bordering the east side of Cooked Lake. By 1875, 255 acres were in his name. As Henry and his siblings matured their names are noted as land owners. At the time that farmers were encouraged to name their farms Henry owned 255 acres, much of it around the south end of Cooked Lake and Round Lake. Henry raised wheat and cattle; LAKE SIDE STOCK FARM was an apt title.

Arthur, there would have been marsh hay for cattle; land with water was not too desirable at the time. One must also remember that all these acres had to be cleared before the plow could go into the ground. Strenuous work, Henry married Ida Gangnuss October 29, 1894. (His brother married her sister and his three sisters married area neighbors.)

W I resulted in changing economic conditions in the U.S. The automobile and gravel roads made it possible for “City” people to find a respite in the country. Henry’s property became a major attraction. Astute developers purchased land in Section 22 and platted lots quickly sold. Before long cottages and homes bordered every inch of these lakes. In 1927 Burroughs Adding Machine Company purchased the remaining lake property and farm lands along Brighton Road, eventually totaling 600 acres. After many years of Burroughs ‘family’ vacations, developers of Oak Pointe bought the ‘Farms’ in 1981. Charles, Jacob and Henry would be astounded at the changes that have occurred where they raised their cattle and crops. Compiled by Marianna Bair from early atlases, obituaries and early land owner of Livingston County by Milton Charbonneau. Also the writings of Bill Pless. Additions or corrections will be gladly received. 810/229-6402."

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
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Trail Tales

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

The restoration of the one room Lyons School in Brighton Township is a project in which the entire community can participate.

Where else can one find a one room school on its original site? Not near by. Many other sites of historic value have been demolished; removed or so altered it is not possible to recognize them.

Other communities find it advantageous to preserve their history. The Brighton community also has a vital history. Everyone participating in one way or another in this project can take pride in their efforts.

Individuals and local business leaders have responded to requests for donations: Cash, labor and in kind materials and supplies. However there is a long way to go. Contributions to this project can be sent the Society.

As is typical of such a structure, the ceiling is approximately 14' high. To install an electrical system, insulation, walls, cleaning and painting of ceiling and walls, scaffolding is needed to make these tasks efficient and safe. Can you furnish such scaffolding, or rent it? July 17, 9-1 p.m. has been set as a work day. It would be helpful to have scaffolding at that time. Depending on a contractor’s schedule, work days are planned with short notice. Have a few hours you can donate? Call chairman Chris Ward, 229-0560, Joanne Swonk, 229-7887 or Marianna Bair, 229-6402 to be added to the list of volunteers who can be called. A long list of volunteers assures several will be able to help for an hour or two.

Edna Peach to Visit Green Oak

Long-time resident, Edna Peach, will be feted at a potluck Wednesday, July 14, noon/5 p.m. at the Gage House Museum, 6400 Kensington Road. Edna now resides in Arizona. The Green Oak Township Historical Society is hosting an opportunity for Edna’s friends to greet her.

EDNA PEACH TO VISIT GREEN OAK

LONG-TIME RESIDENT, EDNA PEACH, WILL BE FETED AT A POTLUCK WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, NOON/5 P.M. AT THE GAGE HOUSE MUSEUM, 6400 KENSINGTON ROAD. EDNA NOW RESIDES IN ARIZONA. THE GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS HOSTING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDNA’S FRIENDS TO GREET HER.

Dates to Remember:
3
July 8, 15-22-29, 1-3 p.m., Archives filing.
Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

14, 5-6 p.m. and 27, 1-5 p.m., for geological help, 227-1760 to confirm.
17, 9-1 p.m., Lyons School work day.
26, 7 p.m., Society board meets. Welcome.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorf Dr.