AREA FARMERS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. John Carlton Hicks' MEADOW GREEN STOCK FARM is the subject of this issue.

One finds the Hicks name in Livingston County in the 1850s. This writer has not been able to prove the connection between these Hicks, that also came from New York, to those who settled in Brighton Township by 1859.

Azariah Hicks and his wife, Phoebe, are owners of record of 40 acres in Section 20 (Corner Hilton/Hunter Roads) in 1860. It appears the entire family, including grand children, came as a whole to the area at that time. Upon the death of Azariah, his two sons, Azariah (JR.) and William Wheaton Hicks, inherit this piece and another 40 acres 1 mile east. Both soon sell these properties.

By 1873, WM. Wheaton Sr.'s son, WM. Wheaton Jr., is recorded as owner of 150 acres, NW 4 Section 21. This included both sides of Skeman Road, just touching the south shore of School Lake. (By then Jr. is over 50 years old. He'd been born in New York, 1821, as was Sally Roes whom he married in 1843.) Wheaton and Sally had six children: Eugene, Lois, Ross, Lamartine, Sarah and John Jr. Several of these married neighbors.

Of Ross and Emily Stretches' six children, John Carlton (b. 1877; d. 1967) married Edith Skeman, continuing the tradition of neighbor marrying neighbor. C. 1900, with Maxfield Road dividing it almost in half, John C. and Edith are owners of MEADOW GREEN STOCK FARM: 160 acres in the NW 4 of Section 5. By then much of the wooded wilderness had given way to the axe and plow. As the name implies John raised fine cattle and the variety of grains and grasses necessary for them to return a profit. Father Ross had owned much of that in prior years. John and Edith had four children, two of which died in infancy. (Research reminds us often of the lack of medical knowledge which resulted in so many dying at an early age.)

John Carlton, his siblings and descendants of the last quarter of the 19th century, and their spouses, controlled large amounts of land in Brighton Township. This held true as late as 1961. This prosperous family was well aware of the hard work involved. All were industrious and participated in the area's development, its politics and its social life. Earlier, grandfather WM. Wheaton, had served as Township supervisor for six years. John C.'s uncle Eugene is noted as school inspector during the mid to late 1870s, as supervisor in 1887 and later serving in the state legislature. The final resting place for many of the Hicks is in Fairview Cemetery. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from Early Settlers and Land Owners of Livingston County and obituaries copied by Milton Charboneau. Also early atlases and census records. Corrections/additions will be gratefully received. 810/229-6402)

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OFFICERS
President & Editor
Marjorie Bair
810/229-6402
Vice President
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810/229-7887
Secretary
Lisa Palermo
810/229-1757
Treasurer
Marg White
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Hist. Res. Surv.
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810/229-6165
Anne Stratigos
Hospitality
810/229-9189
Herb Warner
Livingston School
810/229-0504

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road, is being restored to function as a one room school and museum. Upon completion everyone in the area can be proud to have had a hand in this project. The end result will provide a rare opportunity for students and adults to experience and understand the history of the Brighton area.

Students will undergo a day in the life of children in early Michigan and how they were educated; an education which stood them in good stead for the rest of their lives. Brighton District teachers are at work planning a curriculum for use when the children visit.

Adults will sense a glimpse of area history and the opportunity to conduct historic research in a local facility will be available.

Much labor has been contributed; the interior is ready for reconstruction. Much more labor is needed.

Financial and in-kind contributions have been made. Much more is needed.

This project must have the support and commitment of the entire Brighton area. Give serious consideration in regard to your financial support to ensure the timely completion of this project.

The Society has 501(c)(3) status: donations are income tax deductible. Note the donation is for the Lyons School project. All donations are recognized in this newsletter. All donations $100.00 or more will be memorialized in an appropriate manner for future commemoration. Donations may be sent the Brighton Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481.

Dates to Remember:
Aug. 12, 19, 26, 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.
11, 18, 25 p.m. and 24, 25, 1-3 p.m. for genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.
14, 9-1 p.m. Lyons School workday.
23, 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorf Dr.