AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. John Duckering's YAZOO FARM is this issue's subject.

The 1880 Census is the first that records the John Duckering family in Livingston County. By then they are well settled into their home on Pleasant Valley Road south of Hyne Road. The household includes John (38), his wife Emily (or Erma, 33) and four children: two boys and two girls ages 2-10. (Two more daughters are born later.)

John was ten when his parents emigrated from England in 1851, settling in neighboring Oakland County. There are indications of siblings but our limited research provides few details.

John and Emily purchased the E1 of the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 11 in Brighton Township, 120 acres, in 1876 and at the same time, 40 acres in Section 35, approximately 21 miles distant in Hartland Township. Both parcels were sold to them by Aaron and Sarah Palmer who had moved closer to Milford shortly before.

The original owners of these two pieces had held them for only a few years; probably bought on speculation in Michigan Territory's pioneer days. John VanLeuen, in 1834, combined these two separate parcels and sold to Phillip and Experience Crippen in the 1850s. The Palmers had purchased both pieces from the Crippens in 1867.

The 1859 map indicates a structure which was probably built by the Crippens. That would have been the Duckering home c. 1850 when the YAZOO FARM IS listed in the Brighton Argus. The unusual name may have had a significant implication to the Duckering family heritage, serving as a link to the past. It may have been indicative of the slang of the times or John Duckering had a well developed sense of humor.

Two of the Duckering daughters married local residents. Laura married Sam McClements, son of John who came to Michigan c. 1870 from Ireland. Mary married W. L. Bidwell, grandson of pioneer settler Seth Bidwell. Son George is the only child still on the farm at the time of John Duckering's death in 1923.

Shortly after John's passing (Emily died in 1922), General Motors was purchasing land on Pleasant Valley Road for construction of a proving ground for their motor care. The 80 on the east side of Pleasant Valley Road is now behind an enclosure, out of view. The old farm house was soon removed. On the west side of Pleasant Valley the once-productive farm now consists of small parcels with home homes and families. (Compiled by Marjonna Bain from early atlases; Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Hilton Charbonneau. Please contact us, 810/229-6402, with additions/corrections.)

OFFICERS

President 
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P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Vice President 
Joanne Duckering
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Secretary 
Lisa Palermo
11322-1767

Treasurer 
Marge White
11327-7177

Directors 
Lisa Cave
11329-4808

Lisa Benner
11329-6060

Charles Ward
11329-5950

Herman Bitter
11329-5809

Marie Smith
11329-6402

Marianne Bain
11329-6402

Marge White
11327-7177

The Lyons School, 11455 Bono Road, is being restored to function as one room school and museum. Everyone who has had a hand in this project will have reason to be proud. The end result will provide a rare opportunity for students and adults to experience and appreciate the history of the Brighton area.

The structure was built in three sections: the original frame one room school in 1885 (replacing a log school of 1812). The good sized addition, of a similar style, in the late 1920s and a concrete addition after the township offices located there.

The concrete addition, a perfect facility for research and filing of archival materials, presently houses desks of many volunteers, glass cases for display of local historical artifacts and a round oak stove.

The frame center room will house the furnace and a handicapped accessible utility rest room, with the main area to serve as a museum.

The earliest room will enable elementary students to experience a day in the life of children in early Michigan and how they were educated. Brighton District teachers are at work planning a curriculum.

The front and middle rooms have been radixed for installation of heating, electricity and plumbing. (A new septic is in - $9500, 4.) Following those jobs (for which knowledgeable volunteers are desperately needed), insulation, flooring, walls and painting (volunteers!!!) can be completed.

Donations of materials: such as insulation, electrical, plumbing, lumber, paint, will be a major help. Fundraising is ongoing. A financial contribution can pay some of the bills. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are income tax deductible. Donations of $100.00+ will be recognized in an appropriate manner for future commemoration. Call Chris Ward, 810/229-5950, or Marjonna Bain, 810/229-6402, if you can help in any way - physical, financial, material.

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, 1 p.m. Archives Filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm.

6-8 p.m. and 26-1:30 p.m. for Genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.

25, 8-6 p.m. Harvest Fest, Main St.

26, 1-3 p.m. Society Board Meets, Welcome.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Onondaga Dr.
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Still & Gloria McConnell (NC '01), Richard & Barbara Smith ('01).
Bronze: Sue Hamilton (Howell), Erika Anderson (St. Clair Shores), Charles & Joan B. Brown, Don & Karen Bierer, Ron & Cathy Dougherty, Amy Clark, Stephen Clark (both Midland), Dorothy Foster (CA '05), Jason Hoff ('11), John & Tanya Maclean, Alice Necubism ('01).

*The several new members this month are an encouraging sign to hard working board members. WELCOME!!! All members are invited to board meetings and to participate in any/all projects of the Society. Any, John and Jason are students whose dues have been paid by Lois Clark. We would encourage others to consider making such gifts.

Each newsletter carries "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED". Each returned item costs the Society $3.50 plus the cost of original mailing. Please call 810/729-9402 with address changes: If there is a period of time you're "TEMPORARILY AWAY"; or you may, as many do, provide an alternate address for the months you'll be in Florida, Arizona, northern Michigan, etc. This information will be held in strict confidence, as is all such information. Thanks for your help.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Norm Catrell, John & Janice Field and Nancy Fredenburg for help in getting the August issue of Trail Tales in the mail.

...Dick Smith for history of the School Lake church camp.

...Margaret Squier for her donation toward the delivery expense of the grave markers for veterans at the Village Cemetery.

...Alene Anderson (Charleviox) for photos of early Brighton we copy for archives and for her continued support.

...Detroit Edison, Helen Leitz and children and Lois Clark for donations to the Lyons School Restoration project.

...Nancy Fredenburg for overseeing the Society booth at the Farmers' Markets, Art Fair and Sunday night concerts, Barb Smith, Aggie Sullivan and Joanne Swink helped out.

...Eugenia Anderson and four children will be on the signature quilt.

ARCHIVES: Early 50s Brighton Argus issues are under scrutiny. Newsworthy columns are being appropriately filed. (It will be good to have a real archive filing facility one day.)

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 251-2557, looking forward to publication in '87.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETARY: Saturday, September 25, 9-noon. Scouts of Troop 390 will be at the cemetery (by the mill pond) engaging in a grounds clean up. You can also help. Bring a rake, pruning clippers, etc.

The balance of the delivery charge for the veterans' grave markers has been paid. Descendants of those vets may wish to help with reimbursement. They'll also have the satisfaction of repaying a tiny bit of their sacrifice these men made. Of course, any American citizen can have that satisfaction.

Call Brighton Police, 227-2700, to report vandalism.

LYONS SCHOOL: The ceiling has been cleaned (thank you Dave Pettigrove), the excavating of the hearths and doors and we thank to Bert Bair, Norm Catrell, Nancy Fredenburg and her nephew Chris, Joanne Swink and Chris Ward. Plumbing installation is underway (thank you Palermo). Some roof on the back is gone (thank you Norm and Nancy and Dave). Stan Schafer has been a guides framing in this restoration.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

TILES: The Cook & Shannon Blacksmith shop on W. Main, c. 1900, can be seen on the 1998 tile. Reserve yours now to be sure you don't miss out. This and the other local scenes on tiles make a fine Christmas, birthday, etc. gift. The stock of earlier ones is steadily being reduced. Check which ones you need before they're all gone. A limited number are made each year. The earlier ones are available at Nostalgia Antiques, 112 W. Main. Each $6, or 5/21/00.

TOTE BAGS $15, MUGS $5, SUPPLIES DWINDLING, POST CARDS Pkg 6/$5, Early Local Street Scenes, Note PAK, $2.50, 11 x 14" Photos of the Mill Pond and Dam, c. 1940, $25. 810/729-9402.

SOCIETY AT HARVEST FEST

Saturday, September 25, 8-5 p.m.

Contact Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100 or Marieanna Bair, 229-9402.

With other organizations:

Sept. 10/11, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., WANDOTTE "HERITAGE DAYS' 97", 754/512-7297.
CONCERTS, LIVING HISTORY, TOURS, FOOD.

Sept. 12, 10-4 p.m., FLEA MARKET & VILLAGE TOURS, GREEFRED HISTORIC PARK, LIVONIA, 298-477-7577.

Sept. 17/19, HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN 125TH ANNUAL MEETING, KALAMAZOO.

Sept. 19, 9-5 p.m., BELLEVILLE AREA HOME TOUR, 734/697-1944.

SEPT. 19, 2 P.M., PROGRAM ON GENEALOGY, GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FIRE HALL, 11414 E. GRAND RIVER.

TAPESTRY PILLOW 810/729-9100. TO PLACE YOUR ORDER. $20.00 WILL MAKE A FINE GIFT, IT ALSO GOES WELL WITH THE COVERLETS. THESE ARE AT NAUGHTY H 4, NICE, 12 W. MAIN IN RED, GREEN OR BLUE FOR $9.00.

SIGNATURE QUILT STILLS NOE SOME ROOM FOR YOUR SIGNATURE, $10.00 AND IT'LL BE EMBROIDERED ON THE QUILT, THIS WILL REMAIN WITH THE SOCIETY. SIGNATURES OF OTHERS CAN BE SENT OR USE EARLY RESIDENTS' SIGNATURES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital

BRIGHorton AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME 

PHONE 

ADDRESS 

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP? (YES) (NO) (Please include zip + 4 digit)


DUES: $25.00 Patron, $12.00 Couple, $7.00 Student (K-12, College, $25.00 Bus/Prof. $7.00 Individual.

DONATION: ( ) $100.00 ( ) $200.00 ( ) $300.00 ( ) $400.00 ( ) $500.00 ( ) $1,000.00 ( ) Other. Society is an Income Tax Deductible Organization. 501(c)(3).


**Fund Raising Projects: Bake sale, Coverlets, Home tour, Hugs, Headprint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature quilt, Special events, Tote bags.

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

HAROLD JARVIS, JR.
PAUL DE LUCA

The Society extends sincere sympathy to their families.

Both these men made valuable contributions to the Brighton community.

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Booth attendants needed!

Contact Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100 or Marieanna Bair, 229-9402.

...Bill & Gloria McConnell (NC) for a contribution with their membership.

...Joanne Swink. We're on line with the Internet. The address is: http://community.mlive.com/cc/bahs

...Bert Bair, Norm Catrell, John & Janice Field and Nancy Fredenburg for help in getting the August issue of Trail Tales in the mail.

...Dick Smith for history of the School Lake church camp.

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BUS/PROF: Sue Hamilton (Bownell),

COMPILERS/EDITORS: Eugenia Anderson (St. Clair Shores), Mary Charles & Joan M. Brown, Don & Karen Bierer, Ron & Cathy Dougherty, Amy Clark, Stephen Clark (both Midland), Dorothy Foster (CA '05), Jason Hoff (11), John & Tanya Maclean, Alice Nechum ('01).

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RESTORATION/PRESERVATION

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P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

NAME

ADDRESS

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? (yes) (no) ( )


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These are at Naughy & Nice. 112 W. Main in red, green or blue for $35.00.

SIGNATURE QUILT: Still has some room for your signature. $10.00 and it'll be embroidered on the quilt. This will remain with the Society. Signatures of others can be sent or use early residents' signatures that are available.

Sept. 25. 8:45-5 p.m. Michigan Historic Preservation Network workshop on your eligibility for 25% state tax credit when restoring your historic property. Reg. Sept. 20. 248/625-8181. $5.00.


Sept. 26, 3 p.m. Brighton Jr. Center Family Variety Show /Brighton Community Ed. At BCPA. $10.00.

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