AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION AS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. MYRON WEST'S FAIR VIEW IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

In the 1870 census of Livingston County we find the first evidence of Myron West living in Brighton Township. He is working for Heram Nichols who has 120 acres in Section 55, SE1. (The present site of Brighton Hospital. The house, which formed the nucleus of the hospital was moved to its present location from a site much closer to the Grand River Trail.)

By 1895 West owns 80 acres about one mile north, FAIR VIEW, Section 26, N1 SE1. Robert Edgar, from Ireland, and wife, Nancy Whalen, of Livingston County, N.Y., had purchased this 80 acres from the U.S. government by 1895. One notes a house on the site on the 1895 atlas. (It's likely the lumber was saved at the nearby Woodruff mill on Pleasant Valley Road.) In 1879 this was transferred by Robert, who died the next year, to his 29-year-old son Emery. His widowed sister, Mathilda Hudson, and her three children are living there, as is his 71-year-old mother Nancy. At this time Emery is farming. It would appear brother Walter (wife Sarah and one year older Margery) are probably living in the smaller of the two houses, just south of the larger. All are dependent on the farm.

Myron West, born in Farmington February 12, 1851, was the second of five brothers. By the time he is recorded as the owner of this 80 acre farm, he had married Katie V. Ferguson, a neighbor's daughter, January 5, 1881. He did general farming, raising grain and livestock. When the milk factory was established in Brighton, he, as many others, switched to dairy farming.

Their only child, Carrie Viola, married Rufus Darlington Christmas Eve, 1913, and lived in the smaller house until after her mother's death in 1935. Carrie was still on that farm well into the 3rd quarter of the 20th century. The present barn is not the original. That burned c. 1930 as a result of Carrie's son, Vern, playing with matches.

Myron, who died in 1925, Katie, Carrie and Rufus are buried in the Kensington Cemetery as are Robert and Nancy Edgar. The small house is presently in a state of disrepair. The larger appears to have been undergoing repairs for some time. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from "Early Land Owners and Settlers" and obituaries by Milton Charboneau; early census records, atlases and interview of Herb Warner. Additions/corrections welcome.)

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Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116
http://community.mlive.com/cc/bahs

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Contributors to The Lyon School Blitz Build Weekend

Sponsored By:

Material Contributors

Labor Contributors:

---

Lisa Caven
810/229-6683

Randy Freedenburg
810/229-6110

Carol McKeeen
810/231-2957

Jim Vyczich
810/227-8480

(continued on next page)
ANNUAL REPORT OF SOCIETY ACTIVITY

If one had unlimited space this report would not be difficult to prepare. Much has been accomplished in 2000.

All year long many Rotary Club members have willingly contributed much time, labor and materials to the restoration of the 1885 Lyons one room school in Brighton Township. This was culminated in the "Blitz Build" the end of October. It was an intensely labor intensive project. Walls, floors, plumbing, painting, door installation, landscaping, ramp building, fence and exterior painting happen as dozens of people exerted every effort. During the year, water, heating, plumbing, electricity, concrete, walls (infrastructure) was installed.

Chris Ward, Brighton Township Clerk, has worked with dedication on his goal as Chairman of the Lyons School Restoration. It takes people like him to stimulate others in that direction.

The school restoration was an impressive result one can see. Others dedicated themselves to less visible, but most necessary projects.

Several long time residents have been interviewed for the Oral History Program. Loren Wagner and Sherryl Vismosad are continuing their efforts.

The monthly newsletter is mailed by several willing members. John and Janice Field and Anne Stratigos send deliver about 250 certificates for business/professional members are prepared. We've been able to speak to several local school groups and others on local history. The board regularly assesses the manner in which it conducts business. Grant applications and activities are reviewed, new projects are considered and various fund raising possibilities are analyzed. The society is involved with other community organizations and governing bodies in developing an awareness of the value to our sense of place of historic preservation and restoration.

Her dedication to the writing of the history of the area which are prepared. Includes a description of Caroline Macken's life and her inspiring.

We express deep gratitude to those who have provided inspiration and support. We will attempt to be consistent throughout the year. Come....Marieana Bair

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 27, 2000

The main business transacted was the election of the 2001 Board. Of those present the president, vice president and treasurer were re-elected as were Nancy Fredriksen, Jim Vichich and Carol McMenon to director positions.

Several more directors are needed and the office of secretary needs to be filled. A member who can attend board meetings regularly to record board activities is needed to serve as a secretary.

Also needed are chairpersons for the Historic Resource Survey Fund raising, preparation of grants and historic site applications, stocking of sale items. Photographing of early structures before they're all gone.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes.

POST CARDS:

- Burgess $5.00
- Tote Bags $10.00

Note Pagers $25.00

Photographs of the mill pond and dam $5.00 copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighten, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township $15.00 a set.

The Old Town at 810-229-6402.

TILES: 13 different local sites, are shown on black/white 6 square ceramic tiles.

These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 N. Main, has them in stock at $3.00 or 3/$21.00.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

- Bert Bair, John and Janice Field, June Kimber, Shirley Ritter for helping get the November newsletter in the mail.

- GEMC (Sons of the Union, Veterans of the Civil War) for their certificate of appreciation recognizing the society's preservation efforts at the Old Village Cemetery. A commemorative service was held November 12 at the Lt. Col. John Gilluly memorial.

- John and Janice Field for their transcription of the Kensington Cemetery.

- John Curly and Stephen Leith for their donations to the purchase of the 1890 Census.

- Esther Jarvis and Jeannette Johnson for the contributions included with their dues.

- Brighton District Library for the use of the Brighton Room for board meetings.

COVERS: $49.00 red, green or blue have nine local sites woven in. At Naughty 'n Nice, 412 N. Main.

A new tapestry pillow $30.00 depicting the Brighton railroad depot and train is available. A fine companion to the covers above. 810-229-9100 to order.

The signature quilt, on which are emblazoned signatures for a donation of $10.00. Has been signed by everyone in your signature or that of a relative. A fine gift of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society's activities.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

The following have paid year 2000 dues. Please recognize them with your patronage.


HISTORIC PRESERVATION CLASS OFFERED

Beginning Tuesday, January 16, 7:30-9:00, a six week class on historic preservation will be presented by Phillip Smith (EMU Historic Preservation grad) in cooperation with Community Ed at the High School.
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Her dedication to the writing of the history of the area which have provided, and Carol Macken’s life is awe inspiring. We express deep gratitude to those who have provided inspiration and support. We will attempt to be more proactive in the coming year.

Marianna Bair

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Also needed are chairpersons for the Historic Resource Survey fund raising, preparation of grant and historic site applications, and stocking of sales items. Photographing of early structures before they’re all gone.

END MEMBERSHIP CARD ( ) Yes ( ) No
-Fund Raising Projects. **Adviser of the Society. (Please circle one.)

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $25.00 Student (E-12), College.
( ) $50.00 Bus/Prof. ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $10.00 Other.

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization.


**Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Cookies, Raffle, Tour, Music, Needlepoint Kit, Book and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events. **Tote Bag, Pillow. **Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes. Pkg. of 5/$5.00 ; single $1.00 ; single $5.00 ; Tote Bag $10.00 ; Note Paker @ $2.50 ; 11X14 Photos of the Mill Pond and Dam @ $2.50 ; copies of 1875 plat map of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display, need photo kits. $5.00 show the Old Town. All the above at 810/229-6402.

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