AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus continues. Henry Maltby's OAKWOOD STOCK FARM is the subject of this issue.

Henry's farm has its origin in the very early days of the settlement of Brighton. Genoa and Green Oak Townships. His father, Almon, and uncle Raymond (both teachers) were among the first to take up land in these townships. Born in New York, they came to the area in 1852. Within two years they had built a saw mill on Oke Creek, southwest of town. On what became later known as the 'old Pentlin Farm' at the head of Brighton Lake, many early structures were built of lumber sawn at the Maltby mill. The brothers' first house, of logs, served often as a refuge for settlers.

Raymond, who married Sarah in New York in 1839, had two children. He was the first Justice of the Peace and performed the first marriage in Brighton Township. He was also the first director in the school district. He died in 1840.

By 1875, Almon owned over 440 acres, Sec. 7 Green Oak, west of Ricketts, south of Maltby Road. This became the family farm. Six of his children grew up there. Both of Henry's older brothers, Richard and Albert (sons of Almon's first wife, Eliza Jane), enlisted to serve in the Civil War March 18, 1865. 11th Cav., Co. 1. Albert died of disease in a Tennessee hospital about six weeks later. He had two younger brothers, George and Everett J. and a sister, Cynthia, who married Wilson Abrams, a Brighton boy.

Henry, after attending a commercial college in Chicago in 1866, managed his parents' farm for several years. January 19, 1875, he married Mary J. Krabb, who had come to Michigan with her parents from Pennsylvania several years earlier. They had two sons, Almon H. and Robert D., who were a big help on the farm. Henry is noted as having a "fine farm, a good house and barns.... and he takes great interest in raising good grades of stock. He has a fine flock of registered Shropshire sheep, and a very fine herd of Jersey cattle, which is considered one of the best specimens of that popular breed in this vicinity." Henry died July 23, 1927. Both he and Mary are buried in the Green Oak Plains Cemetery as are his parents. The 1961 Atlas notes E. F. Fisher as the owner of most of the Maltby land. He raised championship stock, continuing the tradition. The 1979 Atlas records the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority as owner of all, including the old farm house, but about 50 acres in Ray and Betty Maltby's name. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Livingston County Atlases and census records: Early Land Owners and Settlers in Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau: the 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album and the 1880 History of Livingston County. Additions and corrections are welcome.)
**MEMBERSHIPS**

**BUS/PROF:** Lawrence Auto Body, Herb & Ruth Munzel (01).

**PATRON:** Ron & Jill Morey (Milan).

**COUPLES/INDIV:** Lois Clark (Milan), Joe & Irene Ellis, Janice Field, Floyd & Jill Fuller, Ron & Sue Kelly (MFR), Jack & Bev LaRelle, Jack & Ruth LePateau, Helen Michaels, Jere & Kay Michaels, Joe & Irene Mike (01), Dave & Marilyn Pettisgrove, Dan & Jean Schmidt, Doris Singer (Gr. Rap.), William & Georgiana Vailiencourt.

"Welcome to new members, Ron & Sue Kelly. New members are always a vital part of any organization. Thanks to all who have been renewing. Encourage others to join the Society, a non-profit organization. The restoration of Lyons School and the continuation of the other projects depends on the membership to accomplish and expand its goals.

The date in the upper right corner of the address label on your newsletter is the year for which dues have been paid. If there is no date it is hoped you’d like to join or send a contribution toward the expense involved.

Since we are fallible please call if you believe an error is made on the date on the mailing label. 810/229-6402.

The following business/professionals have paid Y2K dues. They should be patronized.

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...Norm Catrell, John & Janice Field and Lisa Palermo for help in preparing the December newsletter mailing.

...Dave & Marilyn Pettisgrove, Helen Michaels and Lawrence Auto Body for the donation they added with their membership for 2000.

...Additional board members.

...Interviewers for Oral History recording and people willing to be interviewed.

...Workers to help at Lyons School.

...Promotion of fund raising items the Society has for sale, development of other fund raising projects.

**ARCHIVES:** Many items of historical significance have been clipped from 1950-60 issues of the Brighton Argus. These will be reviewed for proper filing and indexing. This group meets Thursdays, 1-3 P.M., your help would be welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm time and place. If you have issues of the local press consider donating them to the Society. The community’s history is vital when considering future planning. Several calls a month, with inquiries of local history, are received. To be of service the Society needs extensive archival records.

**OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY:** New markers for veterans’ graves are in place. Much of the walk along One Creek and around the cemetery, culminating at Grand River, is under construction. Security lighting in also being installed.

The City government is showing good sense in supporting the preservation of this site. Not many communities have a stream, mill pond, historic cemetery, historic old town hall, annual farmers’ market, children’s play area, summer concerts, etc. All within pleasant walking distance, one will soon be able to walk to the Post Office, Libray, Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display. Need teen kit 10, show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

**BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK:** Before long Carol McMacken, 810/231-2957, and the book committee will be completing research for this oft requested local history book. Then it’s off to the printer. Any contribution you wish to make? Contact Carol immediately.

**ORAL HISTORY:** This project is gaining momentum. Transcripts are needed. Call 810/229-6402.

**FUND RAISING PROJECTS:**

**Post cards with early local scenes, pk of 6/$3.**

**SUSPENDED until further notice**

MUGS @ $5: Note cards @ $1.50, Tote bags @ $15, Note pads @ $2.50, 11x14 photos of the mill pond and dam @ $2.50, copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Grey Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display. Need teen kit 10, show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

**ANNUAL MEETING HELD**

At the November Annual Meeting of the Society elections to the board for 2000 were held and annual reports submitted.

These referred to the progress made in the various projects of the Society and future goals: the completion of the restoration of the Lyons School being in the forefront. Continued opportunities for community participation will be offered.

The Oral History Project is progressing. Cognizant of the very urgent need to record long time local residents’ memories, the forthcoming history book will be completed and sponsored for its printing. Recruit identification and registration of local historic sites must be undertaken while they still exist. The installation of new markers for the Old Village Cemetery is on the docket. 1999 saw the transcription of this cemetery and the Green Oak Plains cemetery. The transcription of the Pleasant Valley and Kensington cemeteries will commence. The promotion to the public of the society and its goals must be improved. The creation of a web page brings the society to the world. Further development of archival resources will continue and donations are promoted.

All members of the board and committee persons are to be heartily commended for their dedication, belief in and perseverance toward the accomplishment of the society’s goals and projects. The Society is in good hands. However your support is vital.

**FUND RAISING PROJECTS YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL**

**COVERLETS:** Red, green or blue have nine local scenes, set of 4, $49. At Naught ‘N Nice, 412 W. Main.

**TAPESTRY PILLOW:** $2.50, goes well with the coverlets. 810/229-9100 to order.

The Signature Quilt, on which are emroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, has space for yours. Send in your signature of that of a relative, a file of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the society’s activities.

**TILES:** 13 different local sites, are shown on black/white 6” square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 5/21.00.

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NEEDED

...Someone to hand deliver newsletters to 40 businesses in Brighton City. This is a 1.5 hour walk through downtown Brighton. Once a month. Two/three issues per week at each site for pickup by their customers/clients. $4.50 for delivering these by hand. The Society board believes this is a good public relations effort. You will contribute one 1.5 hours per month (and the exercise will be good for you) will be a significant help. Call 810/229-6402 to help.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES, PKG of 6/$3.50: mugs @ $5.00: tote bags @ $15.00: note pads @ $2.50: 11x14 photos @ $25.00: copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display! Need at least 10, show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

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