AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continue, The McDonnell Brothers’ ELM FARM and M. McDonnell’s SPRING BROOK FARMS are this issue’s subject.

Several McDOnnells are listed as first landowners in the area: Charles in Deseda, and James and Michael both in Hartland Townships. A John McDonnell, of Monroe, N.Y., recorded on May 11, 1853, a purchase of 160 acres in section 26 of Brighton Township, (Bun and Spencer Road area.) Some McDonalds purchased land in Green Oak and Hamburg Townships. The hand-written early documents can be difficult to clearly determine accurate spelling.

Patrick and Rose McDonnell, of New York, bought the land in section 26 in 1852 and 1860. They also bought in 1869, in section 25. The 1875 record indicates they sold these pieces. Is the John McDonnell, the spellings vary, related to the Patrick McDonnell who purchased John’s property (Brighton Section 26) in 1822? Both are from New York. We hesitate to draw unsubstantiated conclusions.

Not all of the McDOnnells who bought land in the county lived on the land at the time. The various spellings (MacDonald/McDonald) in which land transactions are recorded prohibit us from ascertaining accurate family connections without much more comprehensive research. At one time Rose McDonnell’s (Patrick’s wife) name is on the 560 acres bounded by Bun Road on the north, Spencer on the south with Kensington Road dividing on the section line.

The McDonnell Bros ELM FARM may have been Patrick (b. 1873), Alexander (b. 1875), James (b. 1880), John (b. 1880) and Richard (b. 1894), the sons of James (b. 1850) and Mary (b. 1848?)

The M. McDonnell SPRING BROOK FARM may be a cousin, Michael (b. 1855). The last McDOnnell to own the Section 26 property were Michael’s children: Duncan, Rose Mary, Dorothy, Gertrude and Jessie. Several of the girls married, the others worked in offices in Detroit.

As has occurred with much of the area’s acreage, small parcels were sold to individuals who have built comfortable homes on the rolling real estate. Governmental regulations may have encouraged the sale of these smaller pieces even as these regulations reinforced the “Sprawl,” with which we are all familiar. Other land owners in Sections 25 and 26 included: Wm. Sterling, New York City, Daniel Dufresne, Montgomery, New York and several others from New York City. It is very possible, if not likely, these families knew each other for some time and decided it would be better to strike out for the wilderness together. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from census records and atlases of Brighton Township. Also First Land Owners, Early Land Owners and Settlers, copies of local ordinances and records of Calvary Cemetery all by Milton Charbonneau. Corrections/Additions welcome. 810/229-6402.)
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Ted Carmack (Allen Park 01).
BUS/PROF: Home Town Newspapers.

COUPLES/INDIV: Carolina DeLoa (Howell), Nancy Fredenburg, Dale Hermann (Howell), Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Walter & Merilyn Jollitz (01), Harold & MaryAnn Letitz, Mark & Bonnie Mathisen (CA), Jennifer Scott, Paul & Kay Spangler, Sheryl Vignospad.

It would be very nice if Trail Tales could be mailed to everyone; whether dues have been paid, or a donation made, or not. However the Society is not an income generating operation. It survives on dues and donations.

Check the date on the mailing label - if it does not show 00 or more your annual dues have not been received. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, if you wish to learn how you can help with the Society projects, if you wish to make a donation you should consider sending in your dues. The remote (?) possibility exists that an error has been made re: the date on the label. Please contact 810/229-6402.

Sincere welcome to Home Town Newspapers.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Norm Catrell, Libby Eisenward, June Kimble and Lisa Palermo for helping mail the June newsletter.

...Diane Needham, Highland Twp Historical Society, for sending information of people from the Brighton area who are interred at the Highland Cemetery. It is good when neighboring historical societies share these kinds of records.

...Phil Smith for getting the ball rolling on a grant application for a brochure for a historic site, walking tour of Brighton.

...the Bogan Insurance Agency for donating the case of typing paper noted in the last newsletter.

...Ray Lane of the Brighton Area Fire Department for helping remove several bags of construction trash from the Lyons School.

...Calligraphy by Victoria for the fine work on the Business/Professional membership certificates. Each is receiving one.

...American Legion Post #25 for their donation.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Lisa Palermo is compiling the history of business addresses in the area. Not all sites remain in their original location. Fires and demolition have taken a toll. Janice Field and Marianna Bair are reviewing the "Yesteryears" and social columns of the mid-1950s column of the newspaper. These provide information re: the political, cultural, commercial and social events of the times. You're welcome to help. 810/229-6402 to confirm.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 231-2957, is aware of others who are interested in completing the completion of this area's history. Your patience will be rewarded.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETARY: We're still waiting on delivery of the historic site marker. 810/229-6402 to help with the dedication ceremony.

ORAL HISTORY: Lory Wagner is conducting interviews of long-time area residents. 229-6402 to help.

PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETARY: John and Janice Field are alerting their attention to the transcription of the cemetery and the Kensington Cemetery. The area's earliest settlers are interred at these sites.

...Booth helpers at the Society booth at the ART FAIR in Brighton, August 12/13. A few hours would be great. Please call Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100. Recruits are also needed to help at the booth at the Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

...Directors or Chairpersons for a home tour, a raffle, a sale: develop regular publicity to the media of Society events, needs, etc.

...Persons to help with the Old Village Cemetery historic site marker dedication.

Much of the activity of the Society takes place with generous support of volunteers who spend many hours. Plan ahead, be a worker and not a spectator. Don't have many hours? There are jobs that can be done in short spurts.

...Lyons School Restoration Project donations from Ted Carmack and John and Joyce Rogers.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48111-0481

NAME

ADDRESS

(PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP + 4 DIGIT)

Send membership card ( ) Yes ( ) No

( ) Renew: your help is needed with: *Historic Preservation Projects.

*Fund Raising Projects: ***Administration of the Society. (Please circle one.)

DUES: ( ) $50.00 PATRON ( ) $25.00 COUPLE ( ) $20.00 STUDENT (K-12 COLLEGE)

( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $ Other.

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


FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS Vital

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/35, $5.00 each. $5.00 for 30 cards. $15.00 note paper pkg, $2.50 11x14 photos of the mill pond and dam $2.50 copies of 1875 plat map of Brighton, Genda, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting play; needlepoint kits $8.00, show the Old Town Hall at all the above.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Howell Area Historical Society, offer train rides during themelon festival weekend. Spag's Specialties: Howell will have tickets ($3.00) available mid July. 517/948-6878.

Waterford Farm Museum, quilt show August 5, 10-4 P.M. Civil War Encampment August 5, 10-4 and August 6, 1-4 P.M. 517/995-5089.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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


COVERLETS: Red, green or blue have nine local sites woven in. $45. At Naughty 'N Nice, 412 W. Main.

A Tapestry Filling $28., goes well with the coverlets. 810/229-9100 to order.

The Signature Quilt, on which are embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, has space for yours. Send in your signature of that 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: 15 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 3/421-00.

RE: restoration of landmarks in Europe following WW II. "...at a time when both present and future were uncertain at best. The past offered a reassuring sense of familiarity and permanence. Restoring tangible links with the past was a way to reestablish the sense of continuity that fosters stability in a society. The need for continuity - is something we all share. The yearning for a connection with something real and meaningful is what makes us preservationists, no matter what country we call home."

Excerpt from editorial by Richard Nie, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation, July/August issue Preservation Magazine.
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The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization.

Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Rides, Needlepoint Kit.
Note and Post Cards: Signature Quilt, Special Events, Bote Bails, Pillow
*Administration of the Society: Board/Officers/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

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Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/for $5, mug & $5: Tote Bag $15.00
Note paper pad $2.50, 101x4 photos of the Mill Pond and Dam @ $2.50; copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Gonda, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1. Make an interesting display: Needlepoint kits. $10, show the Old Town Hall, all the above at 810/229-6402.

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...Vance Craft Home Builders, Brighten Bar & Grill, Fence Spot, Sue Hamilton, P.C., Herrmann Funeral Home, Home Town Newspapers, Lawrence Autobody, Herb and Ruth Munzel, FDO/Bus Imaging Group and Pyramid Concrete.

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Except from editorial by Richard Roe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation, July/August issue Preservation magazine.
AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUE. THE MCDONNELL BROTHERS' ELM FARM AND M. MCDONNELL'S SPRING BROOK FARMS ARE THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

SEVERAL MCDONNELLS ARE LISTED AS FIRST LANDOWNERS IN THE AREA: CHARLES IN OCEDELA, AND JAMES AND MICHAEL BOTH IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIPS. A JOHN MCDONNELL OF ROCHESTER, N.Y. RECORDED, ON MAY 11, 1853, A PURCHASE OF 160 ACRES IN SECTION 26 OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, (BOHNE AND SPENCER ROADS AREA.) SOME MCDONNELL PURCHASED LAND IN GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS. THE HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS CAN BE HELPFUL TO DETERMINE ACCURATE ACCLIMATIZATION.

PATRICK AND ROSE MCDONNELL OF NEW YORK, BOUGHT THE LAND IN SECTION 26 IN 1852 AND 1860. THEY ALSO BOUGHT IN 1879. IN SECTION 25. THE 1875 RECORD INDICATES THEY SOLD THESE PIECES. IS THE JOHN MCDONNELL, THE SPLENDS VARY, RELATED TO THE PATRICK MCDONNELL, WHO PURCHASED JOHN'S PROPERTY (BRIGHTON SECTION 26) IN 1852? BOTH ARE FROM NEW YORK. WE HESITATE TO DRAW UNSUBSTANTIATED CONCLUSIONS.

NOT ALL OF THE MCDONNELLS WHO BOUGHT LAND IN THE COUNTY LIVED ON THE LAND AT THE TIME. THE VARIOUS SPLENDS (MACDONALD/MCDONALD) IN WHICH LAND TRANSACTIONS ARE RECORDED PROHIBIT US FROM ASCERTAINING ACCURATE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITHOUT MORE COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH. AT ONE TIME, ROSE MCDONNELL'S (PATRICK'S WIFE) NAME IS ON THE 560 ACRES ACQUIRED BY BUNO ROAD ON THE NORTH, SPENCER ON THE SOUTH WITH KENSINGTON ROAD DIVIDING ON THE SECTION LINE.

THE MCDONNELL BROS ELM FARM MAY HAVE BEEN PATRICK (B. 1875), ALEXANDER (B. 1875), JAMES (B. 1880), JOHN (B. 1890) AND RICHARD (B. 1894), THE SONS OF JAMES (B. 1850) AND MARY (B. 1848).


AS HAS OCCURRED WITH MUCH OF THE AREA'S ACREAGE, SMALL PARCELS WERE SAINED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BUILT COMFORTABLE HOMES ON THE ROLLING REAL ESTATE. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SALE OF SMALLER PIECES EVEN AS THESE REGULATIONS RE- FORCE THE SPRING. WITH WHICH WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR. OTHER LAND OWNERS IN SECTIONS 25 AND 26 INCLUDED: WM. STERLING, NEW YORK CITY, DANIEL DURFEE, MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM NEW YORK CITY. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE, IF NOT LIKELY, THESE FAMILIES KNEW EACH OTHER FOR SOME TIME AND DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STRIKE OUT FOR THE WILDERNESS TOGETHER. COMPILED BY MARIANNA BAIJ FROM CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLAS OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, ALSO FIRST LAND OWNERS, EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS, COPIES OF LOCAL OBITUARIES AND RECORDS OF CARYVALLY CEMETERY ALL BY MILTON CHARBROUOE. CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS WELCOME. 810/229-6402.