AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, continues. SHADELAND, the farm of George E. Pless, is the subject of this issue.

It was 1881, when George E. Pless' grandfather, Henry Andrew (Frederick Heinrich Andreas) Pless purchased 240 semi improved (somewhat cleared) acres on the Grand River Indian Trail, west of Brighton in Genoa Township. (Section 11, SW NW1, north of Hughes Road; Sect. 12, E1 SW1, Euler Road; Sect. 15, W1 SW1, straddled the Grand River Trail.)

Freight wagons and stages were operating on the recently graded road between Detroit and Howell. Henry and Maria (Kleson), who had arrived in the U.S. in 1839 moved their large, young, family into a frame house built in 1838 by Tom Pinckney. Also on the property was an 1839 log house, two frame barns and a blacksmith shop. He was the fourth owner of this property. The depression of 1857 forced the earlier owners to sell. It appears that only the youngest of their 10 children was born in Michigan. The others were born in Russia and Germany.

The Plesses weren't farmers by trade, however they adjusted well. The boys learned to clear land and develop it and plant crops which grew plentifully in the virgin soil. By 1850, the Indian trail had been planked and excess produce and livestock could be transported to cities along the Trail. The girls, as was the custom, could card and spin wool. Knitting many garments, besides seeing to the preservation of food and the general welfare of the family.

Children of nearby neighbors were the logical future spouses of Andrew and Maria's children: Dingler, Euler, Fish, George, Grostic, Hazard, to note a few. As William, Pless, from whose writings much of this research was gleaned, writes: "... in those horse and buggy days young men didn't travel far to find a wife." The father of our subject, Andrew Christian (born August 14, 1850 in Moscow, Russia) married Margaret Euler, May 8, 1860. In 1861, he and brother Lewis bought their parents' farm property with Andrew acquiring the acreage on the south side of the Grand River Trail.

Acquisition of more acreage increased the total of Lewis and Andrew's property to 560 acres by 1870. At that time the brothers divided their respective properties to their sons. (Lewis' son, Fred, and grandson, Harlow, developed the Plessland Dairy.) Andrew, in turn, divided his property between his sons. Charles H. and George E. George E., produced fruit, potatoes, grains, hay, cattle, sheep and pigs on SHADELAND. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the writings of William Pless and Milton Charboneau's Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County. Additions or corrections most welcome. 810/229-6402.)
MEMBERSHIPS
BUS/PROF: Sue Hamilton, P.C. (Howell).
LIFE: Marilyn Campbell, Indiana. The first
Life Membership recorded. Marilyn has an-
cestors interred in the Old Village Ceme-
tery. Many thanks for the expression of
confidence in the Society.
COUPLES/INDIV: Mildred Bender (01), Tim
& Helen Hurst, Ted & Linda Potter, and
Delores Yackley.
Of the members recorded for 1999 68% have
renewed for 2000. The board looks forward
to the date when it can be reported to the
Society has a 100% membership renewal
rate. Be assured each of the board members
are giving 100%.

How to determine if your membership is
up to date? If you see a 99 or earlier
number after your name on the label (or
no number at all) your membership is not
up to date.

To preserve privacy address and telephone
numbers are not made public. The list is
for Society purposes only.

If you are receiving the newsletter but
are not a member, please consider a
propriate donation.

THANKS THANKS THANKS
...Lisa Cave, John B Janice Field and
Shirley Ritter who helped prepare the
APRIL newsletter for mailing.

..Marian Bender who included a donation
with her membership renewal.

.Margaret Squire for her donation.

.City of Brighton for a donation to the
installation of a marker dedicated to the
veterans interred in the Old Village
Cemetery.

.Ted & Linda Potter, who included a dona-
tion to the Lyon Schools with their mem-
bership renewal.

.Ed Bottom, Jim Detzel, Bill Gastley,
Dr. Bill Metz, Stan Schaefer, and clinic
ward for their many hours of work at
the Lyon Schools last month.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION
Archives: 1950/70s clippings from the Bri-
gton Argus are being filed into categories
such as: Businesses, Township and City,
Area development, homes, residents, church,
etc., etc. This is a long term project
which will enable the Society to better
answer researchers' questions. Maltby and
Scranton Middle Schools and Lindstrom Ele-
mentary School had presentations made on
the early days of the area. The local press
has been assisted with research.

HISTORY BOOK: Work is continuing. Contact
Carol Hoffman, 231-2957. If you believe
you can assist with this project.

LYONS SCHOOL: Andy Skinner of Boy Scout
Troup #350 will be offering a landscape
project on the grounds. He is working
for Eagle Scout rating.

ORAL HISTORY: Also, "Oral History and The
Law," has been purchased. Several views
have been scheduled.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: The check for the
historic site marker is in the mail. It
may be 1-3 months before the marker arri-
vess. The text provides a short history of
the cemetery. Help will be needed to orga-
nize a proper dedication ceremony. Call
Marcella Bair, 810/229-6002. (Suggestions
on which site to place on the historic
site register next?)

CORRECTION!
The Editor's abject apologies to the family
and friends of Elsa Stegenga. We recently
inaccurately reported her as deceased.

The following have paid year 2000 dues.
Recognize them with your patronage.
Advance Craft Home Builders, Fence
Spot, Sue Hamilton, P.C., Herrmann
Funeral Home, Lawrence Autobiody, Herb
and Ruth Munzel, PDS/BSU Imaging Group
and Pyramid Concrete.

The older I get the more clearly I remem-
ber things that never happened. Mark Twain.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM
P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No
(please include zip + 5 digit)

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $20.00 Student (K-12, College)
( ) $15.00 Bus/Prof ( ) $10.00 Individual ( ) $5000.00 Life
DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $500.00

The Society is a 501c3 Income Tax Deductible Organization.


**Special Events, Note and Post CarDS, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillow.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

CORPORATE MATCHING:

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REVISED/RESTORATION

Archives: 1950/70s clippings from the Brighton Argus are being filed into categories such as: Business, Township and City, area development, homes, residents, churches, etc., etc. This is a long term project which will enable the Society to better answer researchers' questions. Malby and Scranton Middle Schools and Lindborn Elementary School had presentations made on the early days of the area. The local press has been assisted with research.

HISTORY BOOK: Work is continuing. Contact Carol McNacken, 221-2297. If you believe you can assist with this project.

LYONS SCHOOLS: Andy Skinner of Boy Scout Troop #550 will be offering a landscape project on the grounds. He is applying for Eagle Scout rating.

ORAL HISTORY: Also, "Oral History and The Law," has been purchased. Several interviews have been scheduled.

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( ) $15.00 BUSINESS/PROF. ( ) $15.00 INDIVIDUAL ( ) $50.00 LIFE

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $ OTHER

FUND RAISING PROJECTS: ***ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY. (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES, POGS of 5/75. $1.00 ea. ( ) TOTE BAGS & $15.00 NOTE PAPER @ $2.50: [1124] PHOTOS OF THE MILL FOND AND DAM @ $25; COPIES OF 1875 PLAT MAP OF BRIGHTON, GENOA, GREEN OAK, HAMBOURG TOWNSHIP AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR $1. MAKE AN INTERESTING DISPLAY? NELDER-REUTHER KITS. SHOW THE OLD TOWN PLAN ON ALL THE ABOVE AT 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

GREEN OAK TWP. HIST SOCIETY: May 23, 2-4. Greenoich Mill, Rushton Road, 5 miles south of I-96. Program on the life of Gov. Kingsley Bingham, one of the earliest settlers in Green Oak Twp. 216/865-3358.


SOUTH LYON HIST. SOCIETY: MUSEUM OPEN THURSDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY 1-5.


PIONEER MEM ASSOC/ENTL. MUNITY TWP: MAY 13, 6 P.M. BUFFALO DINNER. 810/629-9878

MEMORIAL DAY WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY? It is a day set aside to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by so many. It is a most appropriate and meaningful expression of appreciation. It is more than a three day holiday to play. Observing this day properly will make us more thankful that we can play. Going out of town? Veterans all over the country will make it possible for you to spend an hour in grateful remembrance no matter where you are.
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Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116
http://community.mlive.com/cc/bahs

Trail Tales

May Vol. XIX No. 5 2000

The Society has had much help from individuals, local contractors and businesses in the restoration of the Lyons School, 11955 Bono Road, Brighton Township.

Many intangible benefits accrue to the business which donates to local projects and community development programs.

The community responds with improved good will when it recognizes the company as a caring business.

All involved with a company develop a sense of pride knowing they are associated with an establishment that cares about the community is which it does business.

Employee morale can be improved because the employee works for a company which demonstrates a sense of responsibility to the community in a substantial manner.

Greater trust in the local company is developed by the entire community. An improved relationship results.

Considerable financial funding is necessary to continue with this restoration. One finds very few one room rural schools still on the original site.

Those who’ve not had the opportunity to contribute are encouraged to do so. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are income tax deductible. Questions can be directed to Chris Ward, 810/229-6402 on Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402. Donations can be directed to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton 48116.

Dates to Remember:
May 11, 18, 25, 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing.
May 22, 9-11 a.m., June 19, 9-11 a.m., July 3, 9-11 a.m., August 7, 9-11 a.m., September 4, 9-11 a.m., October 2, 9-11 a.m., November 20, 9-11 a.m., December 18, 9-11 a.m.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Ondorf Dr. —