AREA FARMS C. 1900

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Of the seven children of Godfrey and Sophia Westphall, Gustav was the youngest and the only one born in the U.S. His next oldest brother, Lewis H. (b. 1845), was born on the Atlantic Ocean during the long crossing from their ancestral home in Germany.

His oldest sister, Hannah (b. 1828) married Charles T. Hyne in 1847, shortly after arriving in the Brighton area. Hyne was also German born. The two families may well have known each other in the ‘old country’. His other sister, Marie (b. 1850), married John Hartman that same year. However John’s parents, Martin and Maria, had arrived in this area in the mid 1830s, from the same area from which the Westphalls had come. Again, one may surmise there had been social connections before moving to the United States.

Gus’ obituary indicates he was born 1848 in Brighton Township, near School Lake. The 1850 census would suggest his parents had not yet purchased land. By 1859 Gus’ brothers are owners of large acreages in Section 24, Genoa Township. Situated on the south side of Chalitis Road and east of Bauer. The 1875 Atlas notes Gus owned 95 acres in the same section, on the north side of Chalitis, across from Godfrey C. (b. 1836) and Frederick’s (b. 1838). Research makes it very apparent that land hungry European immigrants were anxious to secure acreage as soon as possible.

Altho’ his siblings married and had families, Gus did not marry. We find that niece, Mary Hartman, housekeeper for Uncle Gus. His FERTILE VALLEY is a productive farm until his death in 1917. Gus’ grave is in Fairview Cemetery. Other area cemeteries are the resting places of many of the children and grandchildren of Godfrey and Sophia who are buried in the Old Village Cemetery.

By 1935, the Grand River Wash Sand and Gravel Company owns a total of 182 acres which include Gus’ 80. By 1961 Louis and Marie Herbst are owners of most of that. And what is it today? Drive 1 mile west on Chalitis; the next 1 mile on the north is the property Gus farmed.

His brothers, Lewis and Godfrey C. served in the Civil War. They enlisted the same day, served in the same unit and were discharged together. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from county atlases and census records: “Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County” and early obituaries compiled by Milton Chardoneau. Corrections welcomed.)

TRAIL TALES

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

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

If you didn’t participate in the BLITZ BUILD at the Lyons School last month you really missed an exciting time. All the labor and fund raising of the past 15 years to restore this one room school culminated in a fantastic final push. Where does one begin to extend thanks for the incredible efforts of so many?

For the past two years Chris Ward, Lyons School Chairman, has been instrumental in fund raising and has encouraged the participation of members of the Brighton Rotary Club.

Two years ago Piet Lindhout and Bob King of Lindhout Associates were contacted to assist with the architectural expertise needed. Piet and Bob dedicated countless hours to planning how best to restore this 1885 frame school to become a worthwhile structure for 2000 and beyond. One must experience it to appreciate how successful their efforts have been. They also worked many hours at the BLITZ BUILD.

One of the major benefits of this restoration will be the opportunity for elementary students to experience Michigan’s early educational system. Space for displays of items related to the area’s history will now be available. An archives facility for proper preservation of records of this area’s history, and its research, can soon be put to use.

A sign facing Bundy Road, in front of the school, displays a long list of financial material and labor contributors. Many of them have been contributing for some time, not only during the Build.

Next month they’ll be recognized. Be assured not only does the Society extend its sincere thanks but also those who will make use of the Lyons School. Call 810/229-6402 to see the fine work that has been done.

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 9, 16, 30, 1-3 p.m. Archive filing.
Call 810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.
* 8, 5-8 p.m. and 20, 1-5 p.m. for genealogical help. 810/227-1760 to confirm.
* 27, 7 p.m. Society Annual meeting. Elections!!! Welcome!!!

*Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorf Dr.
MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Ann Arbor News (Bob Needham) and First Presbyterian Church of Brighton.

COUPLES/INDIV: Joan Brown, Terri Fisher (Fenton), Josephine Hyne (Chelsea, O1), Susan Lanning (Livonia, O1), Stephen Leith (Ann Arbor, O1), Cary & Marie Townsend (Howell, Ml), Christine Vaccaro (Ft. Wayne, O1).

* A hearty welcome to these new members. With their support the Society can continue for years to come. We are all aware how difficult it is to keep a cherished organization alive.

PRESEVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The several bags of 1900/60 issues of the Argus have been cataloged. Now on to the next collection of donated papers. Your help is needed, and welcome.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol McMacken, 231-2957, is dedicating many hours on this long awaited reference. Significant events of the area's 140 years, 1805-1945, are to be included.

KENSINGTON CEMETARY: John and Janice Field walk this cemetery often, determining boundaries and the who and where of those interred.

ORAL HISTORY: There are many long time residents of the area of whom it can be said, "When that person dies a library is lost." Info on doing an oral history is prepared. Contact a board member if this is a service you can perform. (On request a record of your life.)

NEEDED: NEEDED

*Box of address labels - Avery #5515,

*Books of 1st class postage stamps, for administration and archives.

*New 1890 Livingston County Census, prepared by Livingston County Genealogical Society, ordered before December 15, $65.00; after, $75.00. This is a valuable addition to Society archives records.

*Three hole notebooks, 11", D ring to properly file information on everything from "farming" to blacksmithing, to post office, to telephone, etc.

*Acid free plastic sleeves for early photos, records.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/ DONATION FORUM

20 Box 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? ( ) YES ( ) NO

( ) New ( ) Renewal. Your help is needed with: "Historic Preservation Projects" ***Fund Raising Projects. ***Administration of the Society. (Please circle one.)

DUES:

( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $75.00 Couple ( ) $2.00 Student (K-12, college)

( ) $50.00 Bus/Prof. ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $50.00 Life

DONATION: ( ) $100.00 ( ) $200.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $300.00 ( ) Other.

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


*Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Musgs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pellon.

***Administration of the Society: Board/Officers/Committee Members, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/3.50, musgs @ $.50, tote bags @ $15.; note paper b @ $4.50; boxed photos of the mill pond and dam @ $25.00 copies of 1875 plat maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1.00. Make an interesting display: Needlepoint kits, $8. show the Old Town Hall, all the above at $10/229-9402.

Tiles, 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. These are all limited edition. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 3/$21.00.

ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION

At November 27, Board Meeting Notice! Election 2001 Notice!

All board positions, 2001, will be filled by election. All Society members should consider a year's service on the board in the capacity of an officer or a director. Your participation will help ease the work of others and the Society's efforts can be expanded. If the regular meeting date is not convenient contact a board member and other arrangements can be made. You are needed! ! ! ! !

The Society extends sympathy to the family of David T. Barton.

Dave was a long-time resident and member of the Society Board of Directors.

SUVCW commemorates Veterans' Day.

Sunday, November 12, 11 a.m., the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be conducting memorial services at the Old Village Cemetery, located by the mill pond. More than 30 Civil War veterans from Brighton are interred in this cemetery. It would be most appropriate to recognize their sacrifices.
MEMBERSHIPS

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* A hearty welcome to these new members. With their support the Society can continue its efforts to compile and disseminate knowledge of the history of the area. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Their fullest participation, in any way, is appreciated.

Review of those names to whom the newsletter is mailed must begin this month. It would be great to be able to send to everyone in the area. However, this undertaking must pay for itself. Administrative costs must also be covered by dues. (Contributions of paper, copier cartridges, etc., help much.) Other expenses: old photo reproduction and the taking of pictures; archival quality filing materials, etc., are all paid by contribution. If there is no date on the mailing label or it is less than 2001, it will be necessary to change Trail Tales distribution. To be a competent organization the Society must conduct this review.

THANKS THANKS THANKS
...Bert Bair; Norm Catrell; June Kibble; and Marilyn Pettigrove for helping get the October newsletter in the mail.

...Family of Dave Barton for transferring his work on the Historic Resource Survey.

...Bonnie Pender for continuing her container return deposits fund raiser.

...Bogan Insurance Agency, Brighton Commerce Bank, Hometown Newspapers, Lawrence Auditor and Little Professor Bookstore for having the raffle tickets for sale.

...Josephine Hyne and Christine Vaccaro for including donations with their dues.

...All raffle ticket purchasers, Mary Jo Huston (White Lake) won first prize; Audrey Reeves (Brighton) second; Kathy Bair (Allen) third.

...Stephen Leith for completing the Old Village Cemetery Supplement by the late Bill Pless. Leith is continuing his assistance on other records, making them accessible.

ARCHIVES: The several pages of 1960/60 issues of the Brighton Argus have been reviewed, cataloged, and records added to the archives. The new volume of the Argus will be sent to the next collection of donated papers. Your help is needed and welcome.

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