AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, their background and location as listed in the Brighton Argus, continues. John Sutherland’s RIVERVIEW FARM is this issue’s subject.

John Sutherland’s grandparents, Col. Castle and Nancy Ann, were both born in New York in the last decade of the 18th century. His father, Solomon, was the youngest of 11 children. By 1826 Castle and Nancy Ann were in Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor and Scio where Solomon was born, 1835. By 1854 Castle owned land in Deerfield Township. The 1880 History reports Castle was highly spoken of as a responsible citizen of that area.

In 1861, Solomon became the third owner of 80 acres in the W1 SW1 of Section 2 in Green Oak Township and 80 acres in the E1 SE1 of Section 3. These pieces abutted each other, the Huron almost dividing them in half.

By 1875 the map indicates Sutherland Road, between Pleasant Valley and Kensington, with a bridge over the Huron. (Prior to that it was necessary to ford the river.) Their cabin had probably been built by former owner John Myers but soon after, Solomon and his bride, Sara Augusta Myers, were living in a fine frame farm house on a hill overlooking the river. Son John, b. 1860, was the second child of four.

John married widow Clara Quackenbush in 1882. He and Clara raised her son, Fred and daughter, Elizabeth; the father, Scott, had died in 1877.

Solomon died in 1888, leaving John to care for the farm and his mother. (His sister Laura, had married Charles E. Stanfield, brother William, married and moved to South Lyon, brother Warren had died at 22.) John most likely continued farming in the tradition of his father. An 1875 ad, as noted in “Yesterdays of Green Oak”, says Solomon was a general farmer. Growing grain, stock and fruit. He owned a steam threshing machine.

“Will do in good shape and low rates all work entrusted to him.”

Besides farming John participated in the functioning of Green Oak Township - as treasurer, Justice of the Peace and as constable during the years. Clara died in 1923 and John 20 years later. Both are buried in Kensington Cemetery as are his parents and brother Warren. By 1935 the Sutherland property is owned by the Liberty Starter Company. By 1954 that, and much more, is owned by the State of Michigan Conservation Department, part of today’s Island Lake Recreation Area. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from county atlases and census records: “Early Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County” and early obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Corrections welcomed.)

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

Trail Tales

October 2000
Vol. XIX No. 10

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area
LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

BLITZ BUILD, OCTOBER 28 AND 29, 2000

The old Lyons one room school, 11455 Bund Road in Brighton Township will soon come to life again. Elementary students will soon have the opportunity to experience a long ago, very effective method of teaching. They’ll be able to spend a day (or 2 or 3?) sitting at wood desks, preparing lessons, enjoying old fashioned games at recess and noon time.

The Blitz Build is geared to complete the restoration of this school in District #8. A recent visit to the school disclosed that three new wood interior doors have been hung, insulation installed and the base of the platform for the teacher’s desk constructed.

Walls, flooring, trim, plumbing fixtures, a porch and side walks are still needed.

You’re not a skilled laborer? You just show up and you’ll be given a chance to have a hand in this project.

It’s planned to work from dawn to dusk, food and child care will be available. Come when you can. Contact Piet Lindhout, 810/227-5668, 8:30/6:30, to offer your services or donate materials.

Looking for a way to contribute in a different manner? Book cases are needed as well as a flag, pictures of Washington and Lincoln, a dictionary and a flag and pole for outdoors. Light fixtures need to be procured and desks need restoration. Contact Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402 to furnish these items.

Dates to Remember:
Oct. 12, 19, 26, 1-3 p.m. Archive filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.
11, 5-8 p.m. and 24, 1-5 p.m. for genealogical help. 810/227/1760 to confirm.
23, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting. Welcome.
28, 29 dawn to dusk Blitz Build.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Orndorf Dr.
MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Brighton Commerce Bank
PATRON: Tillie Bitten (01) and Mr & Mrs Richard Smith (02).
COUPLES/INDIV: Dave Lehman (01), "Tim & Erin Mulvihill, David & Marilyn Pettigrove, Dick & Mary Jean Richter (Fraser 01), Fulsassa Shepherd (Battle Creek 01).

A hearty welcome to our new members, the Mulvihills and Fulsassa Shepherd. For this Society to succeed in its purposes support is needed from many.

THANKS

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Bert Bair and John & Janice Field for their help in mailing last month's newsletter issue.

Gail from Meijer's, Inc. for donating the large historical pictures from the snack shop. Also to John & Janice Field for mailing them to John and Lisa Palemos for storage; for which the Palemos are thanked.

David Lehman and Tim & Erin Mulvihill for sending donations with their dues.

DeMaria Building Co., and to Carol Perlin for their donations.

All of you purchasing raffle tickets.


NEEDED

People to show up, ready to work on one (or both) days of the 'Blitz Build' October 28, 29, at the Lyons School, 11455 Budo Road; between Van Amburg and Pleasant Valley Roads in Brighton Township.

People to serve on the Society board or on a committee. There are plenty of opportunities for anyone to find their niche. Attend a board meeting or contact any board member to find your niche.

A box of address labels for the newsletter. White, Avery $5.95 is the type needed. Most office suppliers carry them.

ARCHIVES: Meeting weekly to properly file references to businesses in the area. Stephen Leith is continuing typing for us; Christine Vacarro (Florida), Marilyn Campbell (Indiana) and Fulsassa Shepherd send genealogical and other information.

HISTORY BOOK: Carol McManus, 251-2957 is concentrating on the 140 years of history of the area. 1865-1905.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY: John & Janice Field recently completed their transcription of the cemetery. This was presented to the City of Brighton at a recent council meeting. The Fields are continuing their efforts with other local cemeteries.

ORAL HISTORY: Thanks to Marian Carney for allowing Sheryl Vigneau to interview her. Marian has spent her life in this area and has a unique perspective.

RAFFLE PROCEEDS TO LYONS SCHOOL PROJECT

Those receiving Trail Talk by mail also received a raffle ticket last month. Many of you have already returned the stub and payment. (If you sent more than $5.00 an appropriate number of stubs has been prepared for you.)

Are they available elsewhere? YES!!! Bogan Insurance Agency, Brighton Commerce Bank, Hometown Newspapers, Lawrence Autobody, and Little Professor Book Center have offered to help. All these businesses are in Brighton (and members of the Society). Tickets may be ordered from the Society. P.O Box 481.

YEAR 2000 BUS/PROF. MEMBERS

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


FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/4.50, Hugs & $5.00; tote bags $15.00; note paper @ .25, 11214 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. Make an interesting display: needlepoint kits, $15. show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/292-6402.

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 $5.00 or 3/42.100.

ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION

AT NOVEMBER 27 BOARD MEETING NOTICE! ELECTION 2001 NOTICE!

All officers are open for nominees and an unlimited number may serve on the board. This is your chance to help the Society develop its impact on the community.

COVERLET: $99.00. RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE. 412 W. MAIN.

A NEW TAPESTRIES PILLOW, $30.00, DEPICTING THE BRIGHTON RAILROAD DEPOT AND TRAIN IS AVAILABLE. A FINE COMPANION TO THE COVERLETS ABOVE. 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 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.

A DEDICATED SECTION IN FULL COLOR MATCH BOOK.

Depot. Train Pillow. Rocking Toy Prize.

$30.00
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"A hearty welcome to our new members, the Mulvihills and Fulissa Shepherd. For this Society to succeed in its purposes support is needed from many."

Try to remember to let us know if your address changes. When the post office must tell us it costs us money.

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