AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farmers and farms, 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 born in New York in the last decade of the 18th century. There father, Solomon, was the youngest of 11 children. By 1828 Castle and Nancy Ann were in Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor and Scio where Solomon was born, 1833. By 1834 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 “Yesterday 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 Marianne Bair from county atlases and census records: “Early Land Owners and Settler of Livingston County” and early obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Corrections welcomed.)

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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 genea-
logical help. 810/227-1763 to confirm.
23, 7 p.m. Society Board Meeting.
Welcome!
28, 29 dawn to dusk Blitz Build.

*Brighton District Library, 200 Orndoor Dr.

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 Bundy 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 #5. 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 Maryanne Bair, 810/229-6402 to furnish these items.