AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS. LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE McCabe brothers' SHADY CREEK FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

Michael, Hugh, Thomas, Patrick (3), James, Edward and Matthew, McCabes all, and their wives, were born in Ireland. They came to Green Oak, Hamburg, Unadilla and Genoa Township by way of Canada. New York or Illinois, to find a life filling the soil. By 1864, several are listed as resident taxpayers in Green Oak Township sections 9, 10, 15 and 16. This concentration of Irish immigrants soon acquired the local name of Paddytown. The Monahan, or Irish, Cemetery, corner McCabe and Silver Lake Roads is the resting place for many Irish settlers. Census records indicate education was important to the McCabes. Children of school age attended regularly. One also finds that those 15 years and older are often employed by neighboring farmers and as domestics. The large families needed the children's income to survive.

Michael and Thomas of SHADY CREEK FARM, sons of Patrick D. and Bridget, were in Hamburg Township in 1854. (Sec. 1, NW 1/4, 60 acres plus 70 acres to the west in Sec. 2. This is between Hamburg and Bauer Roads on Hamburg Road. Shady Creek refers to Ore Creek flowing from Brighton Village to Ore Lake and on.) Thomas married Mary Fagan. Michael did not marry. Their four siblings were James, Margaret, Patrick and Alexander. A young nephew, Thomas, only child of James, lived with them after his parents died in 1892. At the age of 16 he drowned in Lime Lake, while swimming with friends.

Two cousins, brothers, enlisted in the Civil War, Patrick, in Lt. John Gilluly's Co. I. 5th Inf., died of disease March 3, 1862, at Alexandria, VA. Felix Co. H., 22nd Inf., died in Andersonville Prison August 15, 1864, and is buried there. At home inadequate nutrition, unsanitary housing and the strenuous work of the women contributed to high child mortality rates among the settlers, including the McCabes.

An M. McCabe is listed as a charter member of Livingston County Agricultural Society, 1855. Patrick F. is a subscriber to the construction of the Catholic Church (St. Patrick's) building in 1864.

C. 1837, the Boy Scout of America, Detroit Council, purchased SHADY CREEK FARM as a camp. Perhaps that is when the prime stands of evergreens were planted. The site is now the setting for one of the finest, most recent developments of the area.

(Research compiled by Marteanna Baird and Lisa Palmero from the 1880 History of Livingston County; Yesteryears of Green Oak; Early Census Records and Atlas; and Milton Charboneau's First Landowners, Early Landowners and Settlers and early obituaries. Additions, etc., welcome. 810/229-6402.)

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Ronni Powers and the Elementary Caucus are again collecting returnable beverage containers. The deposits are donated to the restoration of the Lyons School. If you'd prefer to return the containers yourself you may send the deposit refund slip, or the refund, to the Society.

To continue the restoration efforts thus far put forth, fund raising must be ongoing.

The Society Board of Directors is holding a special meeting to determine future fund raising events. This will be Monday, February 21, 7 p.m. at the Brighton District Library, 100 Library Drive. Your input will be very necessary.

Project Chairman, Chris Ward, continues to keep the goal of restoration at the fore. He can't do it alone.

Society members believe this is a worthwhile project and are counting on your help. In fact, without your help its completion will be farther in the future and more school children will miss the opportunity to learn about early Michigan education in a very personal way.

You'll enjoy being able to say, "I had a hand in this."

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 5, 10, 17, 24, 1-3 p.m. Archives Filing.
Feb. 9, 5-8 p.m. and 22, 1-5 p.m. for genealogical help. 227-1760 to confirm.
Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Planning fund raising events for Lyons School Restoration. Welcome.