AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE FRUIT RIDGE FARM OF H.M. TUNIS IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

GROUPS OF SETTLERS UNITED AS THEY HEADED WEST TO MICHIGAN FROM NEW YORK IN THE 1830S; MANY OF THEM LONG TIME FRIENDS. (NOT UNLIKE THE WAGON TRAINS WHICH 'WENT WEST A FEW YEARS LATER.) ARRIVING IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP THEY FOUND NO LIVING QUARTERS, MERELY A WILDERNESS. SOME LAND WAS LEVEL, SOME WET, MUCH ROLLING, ALMOST ALL HEAVILY FORESTED. A LOG HOUSE, BUILT BY WILLIAM VALENTINE, WHO HAD RETURNED TO NEW YORK, BECAME SHELTER FOR 12, SOON FOR 22, PERSONS FOR THREE WEEKS UNTIL THE MEN BUILT HOUSES FOR THEIR FAMILIES. AMONG THESE WAS WILLIAM TUNIS WHO, IN AUGUST, 1836, TOOK UP 280 ACRES IN SECTION 17. MUCH OF THIS IS NOW PART OF A SUBDIVISION, FINE CREEK (N.W. OF SCHOOL LAKE) WITH LOVELY HOMES IN THE HILLS. HE IS LISTED AS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 24, 1855. BY 1859 HE OWNS 110 ACRES IN SECTION 28 (SOUTH OF BUND ROAD, EAST OF U.S. 23, NORTH OF E. SPENCER ROAD). COLONIAL VILLAGE SUBDIVISION (MID 1960S) AND BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP HALL (1984) ARE LOCATED ON THE NORTH 50 ACRES OF THIS PROPERTY. THE SOUTH 60 ARE STILL IN HIS NAME IN 1895. (IN 1935, HIS DAUGHTER, ALICE (EUGENE) HICKS IS RECORDED AS OWNER.)

RESEARCH INDICATES HOMES TUNIS IS PROBABLY A SON OF WILLIAM. IN JULY, 1866. HOMES HAS MARRIED AMY ANN BUCK, DAUGHTER OF WARREN AND ANN BUCK WHO CAME FROM MASSACHUSETTS IN 1842. (THE BUCKS LIVED JUST TO THE SOUTH IN SECTION 20, ALONG HILTON ROAD AND WHAT WAS CALLED FLINT ROAD.) BY 1895, HOMES' NAME IS ON THE PLAT MAP ON THE BUCK'S 80. INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY FORCES THE WRITER TO ASSUME THAT HOMES TUNIS' FRUIT RIDGE FARM WAS LOCATED ON THIS PIECE. THE LAY OF THE LAND IS SUFFICIENTLY LEVEL AND DRY.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

TO REPLACE THE DETERIORATING LOG SCHOOL, BUILT ON LAND DONATED BY RICHARD AND MARTHA LYON IN 1842, THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DISTRICT #8 CONSTRUCTED THE FRAME ONE ROOM SCHOOL IN 1875. STILL ON SITE, 11055 BUND ROAD, THE BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP STRUCTURE IS UNDER RESTORATION BY THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE BELL TOWER AND BELL HAVE BEEN REPLACED, PROPER STYLE WINDOWS INSTALLED (WITH SHUTTERS FOR SECURITY), THE ROOF LINE EXTENDED OVER LATER ADDITIONS, A NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM AND WELLS ARE IN THE FURNACE AND AC INSTALLED, A FOUR BOARD FENCE ERECTED, INTERIOR GUTTED, SUB FLOOR IS IN AND THE EXTERIOR PAINTED. ALL THIS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS BUILDING ONE OF VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WILL BE PART OF MICHIGAN'S EARLY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THERE WILL BE DISPLAY FACILITIES AND A GOOD SIZED ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AREA WILL BECOME AVAILABLE.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF LABOR, MATERIALS AND CASH ARE NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT THAT ALREADY DONATED. BATHROOM FACILITIES, ELECTRICAL WIRING AND INTERIOR CARPENTRY NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND COMPLETED. THE GAS WILL SOON BE HOOKED UP TO THE FURNACE.

ALL DONATIONS ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THEY MAY BE SENT TO THE SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON 48116, CALL CHRIS WARD, CHAIRMAN, 229-0550 OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 FOR MORE INFO.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mar. 29, 30, 31 7-3 P.M. ARCHIVES FILING. CALL 810/229-6402 TO CONFIRM.
* 8/5 P.M. AND 21/2 5 P.M. FOR GENETICAL HELP, 227-1750 TO CONFIRM.
* 27/7 P.M. SOCIETY BOARD MEETING.
* "BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY, 200 ORNDORF DR."