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AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUE. THE McDONNELL BROTHERS' ELM FARM AND M. McDONNELL'S SPRING BROOK FARMS ARE THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

SEVERAL McDONNELLS ARE LISTED AS FIRST LANDOWNERS IN THE AREA: CHARLES IN OSCEOLA, AND JAMES AND MICHAEL BOTH IN HARTLAND TOWNSHIPS. A JOHN McCONNELL, OF MONROE, N.Y. RECORDED, ON MAY 11, 1833, A PURCHASE OF 160 ACRES IN SECTION 26 OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. (BUNO AND SPENCER ROADS AREA.) SOME McDONALDS PURCHASED LAND IN GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS. THE HANDWRITTEN EARLY DOCUMENTS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO CLEARLY DETERMINE ACCURATE SPELLING.

PATRICK AND ROSE McDONNELL, OF NEW YORK, BOUGHT THE LAND IN SECTION 26 IN 1852 AND 1860. THEY ALSO BOUGHT, IN 1869, IN SECTION 25. THE 1875 RECORD INDICATES THEY SOLD THESE PIECES. IS THE JOHN McCONNELL, THE SPELLINGS VARY, RELATED TO THE PATRICK McDONNELL WHO PURCHASED JOHN'S PROPERTY (BRIGHTON SECTION 26) IN 1852? BOTH ARE FROM NEW YORK. WE HESITATE TO DRAW UNSUBSTANTIATED CONCLUSIONS.

NOT ALL OF THE McDONNELLS WHO BOUGHT LAND IN THE COUNTY LIVED ON THE LAND AT THE TIME. THE VARIOUS SPELLINGS (MacDONALD/McDONALD) IN WHICH LAND TRANSACTIONS ARE RECORDED PROHIBIT US FROM ASCERTAINING ACCURATE FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITHOUT MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH. AT ONE TIME ROSE McDONNELL'S (PATRICK'S WIFE) NAME IS ON THE 360 ACRES BOUNDED BY BUNO ROAD ON THE NORTH, SPENCER ON THE SOUTH WITH KENSINGTON ROAD DIVIDING ON THE SECTION LINE.

THE McDONNELL BROS ELM FARM MAY HAVE BEEN PATRICK (B. 1873), ALEXANDER (B. 1875), JAMES (B. 1880), JOHN (B. 1890) AND RICHARD (B. 1894), THE SONS OF JAMES (B. 1838) AND MARY (B. 1848?)

THE M. McDONNELL SPRING BROOK FARM MAY BE A COUSIN, MICHAEL (B. 1855). THE LAST McDONNELLS TO OWN THE SECTION 26 PROPERTY WERE MICHAEL'S CHILDREN: DUNCAN, ROSE MARY, DOROTHY, GERTRUDE AND JESSIE. SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS MARRIED, THE OTHERS WORKED IN OFFICES IN DETROIT.

AS HAS OCCURRED WITH MUCH OF THE AREA'S ACREAGE, SMALL PARCELS WERE SOLD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BUILT COMFORTABLE HOMES ON THE ROLLING REAL ESTATE. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SALE OF THESE SMALLER PIECES EVEN AS THESE REGULATIONS REINFORCE THE "SPRAWL" WITH WHICH WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR. OTHER LAND OWNERS IN SECTIONS 25 AND 26 INCLUDED: WM. STERLING, NEW YORK CITY, DANIEL DURFEE, MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM NEW YORK CITY. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE, IF NOT LIKELY, THESE FAMILIES KNEW EACH OTHER FOR SOME TIME AND DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO STRIKE OUT FOR THE WILDERNESS TOGETHER. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASSES OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. ALSO FIRST LAND OWNERS, EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS, COPIES OF LOCAL OBITUARIES AND RECORDS OF CALVARY CEMETERY ALL BY MILTON CHARBONEAU. CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)