AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS. LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. SAMUEL P. MOON’S ORE LAKE FARM IS THIS ISSUE’S SUBJECT.

AMROD AND CATHERINE MOON, OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, ARRIVED IN HAMBURG TOWNSHIP C. 1837. THEY CAME WITH SONS LUTHER (B. 1826), ALFRED (B. 1827), SAMUEL P. (B. 1829), HIRAM (B. 1832) AND WILLIAM (B. 1836).

SAMUEL’S OBITUARY TELLS US THAT BY 1850, AT 21 YEARS, HE MADE HIS FIRST OF FOUR TRIPS ACROSS THE CONTINENT BY MULE TRAIN, ARRIVING IN HANGTOWN, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 15, 1850. ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS AGO, (HE MAY, PERHAPS, HAVE BEEN IN THE COMPANY OF EDWIN B. WINANS WHO MADE HIS FIRST TRIP IN 1850 ALSO, FINDING GOLD IN ROUGH AND READY, CALIFORNIA. WINANS MARRIED ELIZABETH GALWAY IN 1855, WHO JOINED HIM ON HIS VENTURES.)

LUTHER AND SAMUEL EACH BOUGHT PROPERTY IN SECTIONS 11 AND 12, HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, IN 1853. THE BROTHERS’ PROPERTY STRADDLED HAMBURG ROAD 1 MILE SOUTH OF BAUER ROAD. THEIR COMBINED ACREAGE EQUALLED OVER 300 ACRES, SOME OF IT ALONG THE NORTH SHORE OF ORE LAKE. ORE CREEK COURSES THROUGH BUT HERE IS SUFFICIENT HIGH, FAIRLY LEVEL LAND FOR FARMING. PERHAPS SAMUEL FOUND ENOUGH GOLD IN CALIFORNIA TO FUND HIS PURCHASE.

IN 1855, SAMUEL MARRIED DELPHINE ELTON. HER PARENTS ALSO WERE FROM NEW YORK AND OWNED LAND WITHIN A MILE OF SAMUEL AND LUTHER’S. TWO CHILDREN, FANNY AND FRED, WERE BORN. IN THE 1850 CENSUS DELPHINE AND CHILDREN ARE WITH HER PARENTS — PERHAPS WHILE SAMUEL IS OUT WEST, LEAVING THE FARMING TO LUTHER — IT WOULD APPEAR. TRAGICALLY, DELPHINE DIED IN 1869. LATER THAT YEAR SAMUEL MARRIED ISABELLE BUTLERWhose father was also from New York. THREE SONS WERE BORN — LOUIS, ROY AND EDWARD.

BY THE TIME SAMUEL DIED IN 1915 THE DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIAL UPON THE BRIGHTON AREA WAS BEGINNING TO BE REALIZED. THAT AREA WAS NOT OVERLOOKED IN THE POSTWAR YEARS WHICH HAVE SEEN THE POPULATION GROWTH OF THE AREA. PROGRESS OF HAMBURG TOWNSHIP. ALSO FROM FIRST LAND OWNERS, EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS, COPIES OF LOCAL OBITUARIES AND CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION RECORDS ALL BY MILTON CHABONNEAU ELLIS’ 1880 HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY. (CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WELCOME. 810/229-6402.)

 Trail Tales

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

LYON SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

In 1842 the settlers in Brighton Township, within about a mile radius of Richard and Martha Lyons’ property on Bun Road, accepted their offer of a site on their property for the construction of a school. The log structure stood until 1885 when the Board of District #8 recommended that a frame building be erected. After more than 40 years the log school had served its purpose well.

Still lighted by windows and oil lamps, still heated by a wood stove, still obtaining drinking water from the neighbor’s well, still using two outbuildings and still being taught by very young teachers, about 20 students took their seats. Now there were more desks, chairs, a recitation bench, roll-up wall maps and pictures of presidents Washington and Lincoln for inspiration.

About 55 years later an addition was built. Toilets were brought indoors, electricity installed, a well drilled and a more efficient heating unit put in place. They still brought lunch in a tin bucket. Played baseball. Pom-pom-pull away, Annie-o-ver, fox and geese, musical chairs, charades and teased each other. They still had a community picnic on the last day of school. Performing a Christmas program for the parents and neighbors. Held spelling bees and younger students still listened as the older ones learned their math and history.

After WWII and improved highways made possible the migration of many families to the rural area from nearby crowded cities. School District #8 found itself (as did the other rural districts) unable to contain and educate the growing numbers of students. (Please continue on Page 3.)

*Brighton District Library, 200 Onondaga Dr.