AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. ROBERT LONGTHORN'S HILLCREST FARM IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ISSUE.

THE 80 ACRE HILLCREST FARM OF ROBERT LONGTHORN WAS LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF FLINT ROAD, SOUTH OF HILTON ROAD; E1 SE SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. PRIOR TO HIS PURCHASE IT HAD BEEN OWNED BY HENRY J. WARNER. IT WAS ORIGINALLY BOUGHT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER 16, 1856, BY JOHN DEAN (PENNSYLVANIA) AND WIFE SALLY. (NEW HAMPSHIRE). THEY WERE AMONG THE LARGE NUMBER OF SETTLEERS WITH THAT SURNAME WHO CAME AT AN EARLY DATE FROM THE EAST AS THE ROUTE BECAME MORE ACCESSIBLE. IT IS LIKELY THEY CAME BY WAY OF THE NEWLY OPENED ERIE CANAL.

ROBERT, HIS PARENTS HENRY AND ANNE (WOULDS) LONGTHORN, TWO BROTHERS (GEORGE AND JAMES) AND A SISTER (BETSEY) CAME FROM ENGLAND C. 1850 AND TO MICHIGAN SHORTLY AFTER. ANNE'S BROTHER, THOMAS (B. 1820 IN ENGLAND) WAS A COLLEAGUE OF TIM WARNER (B. 1820 IN NEW YORK) WHO CAME TO THE AREA IN 1837. BOTH WERE YOUNG, EARLY SETTLEERS IN THE AREA. THOMAS ARRIVED HERE IN 1855. ROBERT'S SISTER, BETSEY, IS WITH HER UNCLE TOM WOULD AND HIS WIFE, IN 1870, ON PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD.

PIONEERS, AS THE LONGTHORNS AND THE WOULD, OFTEN CAME IN INFORMAL FAMILY GROUPS. THIS WAY THEY COULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER FINANCIALLY, SOCIALY AND SHARE THE LABOR. IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE TODAY INTO WHAT A WILDERNESS THEY WERE MOVING. AS LATE AS 1845 WOLVES PLAGUED A SLEIGH LOAD OF LUMBER MALCOLM FITCH AND HIS NINE YEAR OLD SON, HENRY, WERE BRINGING FROM A MILL IN FLINT. AT THE 1907 BRIGHTON HOMECOMING HENRY RECOUNTS THE DARKNESS THAT OVERCAME THEM ON FLINT ROAD AND HOW THE PURSUING WOLVES BECAME BOLDER UNTIL THE RACING HORSES AND SLEIGH CAME WITHIN A BLOCK OF GRAND RIVER ROAD. CAN WE POSSIBLY IMAGINE HOW DARK A CLOUDY JANUARY SKY COULD BE?

IT IS LIKELY LONGTHORN RAISED SHEEP ON HIS LAND. A LARGE PORTION IS COMPOSED OF HILLS, NOT CONDUCIVE TO BEING PLOWED.

AN 1859 MAP INDICATES A GRAVEYARD IN THE FAR NW NW OF SECTION 29, JUST SOUTHWEST OF ROBERT'S PROPERTY. THIS WAS A PART OF THE EXTENSIVE ACREAGE OWNED BY THE DEANS. AS LATE AS 1935, THE SMALL CEMETARY IS NOTED ON THE PLAT MAP. PERHAPS SOMEONE CAN TELL US WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT. (COMPILLED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM FIRST LANDOWNERS AND EARLY SETTLEERS AND LANDOWNERS BY MILTON CHARBONEAUX: CENSUS RECORDS AND PLAT MAPS. ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS ARE WELCOME.)


**MEMBERSHIPS**


*A genuine welcome to the Camerons. Your help and support is appreciated. The many renewing members serve as encouragement to all of us.*

Don’t remember if you’ve paid membership dues? The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. If the number is 01 or higher you’re all set. If lower – please consider renewing. If there’s no number or a “complimentary copy” stamp is on there...............

It would be nice to continue providing Trail Tales to you but that would not be fair to the many who support the Society. The Society does not manufacture a product to provide income. Only dues, donations and sales of tiles, etc. can generate income. Advancing and disseminating the knowledge of the history of the Brighton area.

That there may be an error is possible; let a board member know.

**THANKS THANKS THANKS**

...Bill Bair for help with mailing the March issue of Trail Tales.  
...Betty Herbst, Merrill & Ruth Herbst and Frances Young for their Lyons School donations with their dues.  
...Bill & Jackie Damm and Dave & Marilyn Pettis for help at Lyons School.  
...Bob & Diane Assemacher, Horace & Yvonne Taylor and Herb & Arlene Warner for their preservation projects donations with dues.  
...Joan Pinney Rice (CA) for over 60 photos from her father’s inventory as photographer of the 1930s.  
...John & Janice Ted for completing transcription of the Kensington Cemetery.  
...Dave Lehman for mementos of the Brighton J.C.L.s from the mid 1950s.

**ARCHIVES:** The 1890 Resident Records of Livingston County were purchased by donations. Donations of photos, etc., are included and filed and cross-indexed for future reference.

**Want to help?** 810/229-6402.

**HISTORY BOOK:** Carol McManus, 231-2957. It’s always exciting as she reports the progress being made. You can reserve your copy now.

**ORAL HISTORY:** Be among those recording histories and stories of long-time residents. They won’t be around forever.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY:** Camera and film will be provided. Plus a list of structures to be photographed. We won’t have a record once they’re gone.

**BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

The Fence Spot, First Presbyterian Church, and The Tom Tom Bee have expressed support of the Society’s mission. They desire our patronage.

**THANKS...CONT.**

...Dave Barton’s family for transferring project material on which he was working. This included 10 era plat maps of the city: a copy of “First Landowners in Livingston County and a framed photo of the Mill Pond c. 1940.”

**NEDDIDD NEDDIDD**

...Box of address labels – Avery #5551.  
...Books of 1st class postage stamps, for administration and archives mailing.  
...Three hole notebooks, 11” D ringed properly file archival information.

**FUND RAISING PROJECTS**

**Your support is vital**

**POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES:** P.O. Box 185, Fowlerville, MI 48846. Sets B-9 $45; Note Paper $9.50; Photos of the Mill Pond and Dam $25; Copies of 1875 Plat Map of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Township and a 1915 Map of Brighton for $1, make an interesting display. **NEEDLEPOINT KITS:** $8, show the Old Town Hall. All the above at 810/229-6402.

**TILES:** 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6” square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main, has them in stock at $15.00 on 3/31/00.

**COVERSETS:** $49.30, red, green or blue have nine local sites woven in. At Naughton ‘N Nice, 412 W. Main.

A NEW TAPESTRY Pillow, $30., depicting the Brighton Railroad Depot and Train is available. A fine companion to the coversets above. 810/229-9100 to order.

The Signature Quilt, on which are embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, has space for yours. Send in your signature of that of a relative. A file of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society’s activities.

April 26/28: Michigan Historical Preservation Network 21st Annual Conference. Speakers on historic preservation, adaptive reuse, urban environments, transportation, etc. 213/224-3478.

April 28: 6 p.m., Livingston Recycle Waste Watchers dinner. 517/548-4395.

May 10: 10-4, Brighton Garden Club Wildflower Sale, First United Meth Church. 810/229-9487.


May 19: Oral History Workshop, Novi Public Library. 289/540-6774.
THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO BELIEVE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION. THESE REASONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Cultural Heritage:** Historic preservation helps to maintain the cultural identity of a community by preserving its unique architectural, artistic, and historical elements.

2. **Economic Benefits:** Preserving historical buildings and sites can attract tourists and increase property values, thereby benefiting the local economy.

3. **Educational Opportunities:** Historic preservation provides educational opportunities for residents and visitors, allowing them to learn about the history, culture, and significance of their community.

4. **Environmental Benefits:** Historic buildings are often more energy-efficient than newer structures, contributing to reduced energy consumption and environmental impact.

5. **Community Pride:** Preserving historic elements can foster a sense of pride and belonging among community members, strengthening social cohesion.

6. **Residential and Commercial Use:** Historic preservation can lead to the reuse of buildings for residential and commercial purposes, preserving valuable space and maintaining the character of the community.

7. **Architectural Significance:** The architectural significance of historic buildings can be recognized and preserved, ensuring the continued availability of important structures for future generations.

8. **Historical Research:** Historic preservation can provide material for research and documentation, contributing to scholarly and historical studies.

9. **Public Health:** Preserving historic elements can contribute to public health by promoting green spaces, pedestrian-friendly environments, and cultural enrichment.

10. **Social Equity:** Historic preservation can address social equity issues by preserving the history and architecture of historically marginalized communities.

In summary, historic preservation is critical for maintaining the cultural heritage, economic well-being, and environmental sustainability of communities. It is a crucial component of our efforts to preserve and celebrate the richness of our past while fostering a vibrant and dynamic future.
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Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116
http://community.mlive.com/cc/bans

Trail Tales
COMPLEMENTARY CONTENT

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area
LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

AN ADEQUATE LAYER OF INSULATION IS IN THE ATTIC. NEXT YEAR'S HEATING BUDGET SHOULD BE LESS. THE WINDOWS WILL NEED WORK TO PUSH THEM OPEN AND CLOSED MORE EASILY.

THE FLOOR FINISH IS COMPLETED AND IS BEAUTIFUL! A PROTECTIVE COVER IS IN PLACE SO WORK CAN BEGIN ON THE CLEANING AND RESTORATION OF SCHOOL DESKS.

CALL 810/229-6402 TO LET MARIEANNA BAIR KNOW WHEN YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THIS JOB. HER HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE - SHE WILL WORK YOU INTO HER SCHEDULE. WE'RE GETTING NEAR A COMPLETION DATE, FOLKS - LET'S SET THIS COMPONENT OF THE RESTORATION FINISHED.

AFTER THE BACK ROOM IS EMPTIED OF DESKS, ETC., WORK CAN BEGIN ON RE-FURNISHING WHAT WILL BE THE ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FACILITY. THE MANY BOOKS, PHOTOS, OTHER WRITTEN MATERIALS AND ANTIQUE ITEMS CAN BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE STORAGE LOCKER.

AT THE SCHOOL THESE WILL BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE WITH LONG-TERM, PROPER ARCHIVAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PROTECT THESE IRREPLACEABLE ARTICLES.

MIKE DUFFY'S PRESENTATION

THE FOLKS WHO ATTENDED THE MARCH 11, GENERAL MEETING WERE ENTERTAINED IN THE LIVELY MANNER OF THIS LONG TIME DETROIT FREE PRESS TV CRITIC. HE FIELDED QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND ALL DELIGHTED IN RECALLING EARLIER TV PROGRAMS. CONSIDERATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE IMPACT OF THE MEDIUM ON OUR LIVES WAS MUCH DISCUSSED AND REVIEWED.

Dates to Remember:
April 12, 19, 25, 1-4 p.m. Archives Filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.
11: 5-5 p.m. & 24: 1-5 p.m. for genealogical, uclp., 810/227-1970 to confirm.
25: 7-9 p.m. Society board meeting. Welcome!

"Brighton District Library, 100 Library Dr."