AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON AREAS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. M. BURTON FRANCIS’ LINWOOD LAWN FARM IS THIS ISSUE’S SUBJECT.

THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS LINWOOD LAWN FARM WAS PARTLY IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP AND PARTLY IN GENOA TOWNSHIP.

THE WI NW4 OF SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP (80 ACRES) WAS FIRST PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN MAY, 1853, BY EPHRIAM C. ALLEN OF GENESSEE, N.Y. MR. ALLEN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF MANY LAND SPECULATORS AS WE HAVE FOUND HIM IN A DIFFERENT TOWNSHIP THE LANDS HAVE BEEN ONCE OWNED AND THEN SOLD AS ONE FARM. THE EAST END OF THE FARM WAS NOT FAR FROM ORE CREEK.

ALANSON P. DICKINSON AND WIFE, JANE, ARE OWNERS IN 1852 BUT SELL BY 1859. BY 1870 THEY LIVE IN BRIGHTON VILLAGE. DICKINSON SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR AS 1ST LT., CO. L, 9TH MICHIGAN INF., REG., ENLISTING FROM ROMEO, MICHIGAN, CHARLES AND ANNA MARTA DOWNOW THE FARM IN 1870, SELLING IT IN 1872. BY THAT TIME THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNSHIPS) IS THE SCENE OF DAILY PASSING OF STAGE COACHES, WAGONS AND BARGES. THE 1875 ATLAS INDICATES A HOUSE ON THE N Corner of GRAND RIVER AND CROOKED LAKE (HERBST) ROAD. A HOUSE IS STILL ON THAT SITE.

IN 1895, THE FARM IS OWNED BY CARSTEN AND ADELAIDE DENHWAUS, BORN IN PRUSSIA. THEIR DAUGHTER, MARGARET, MARRIED M. BURTON FRANCIS MARCH 9, 1904. AT THAT TIME SHE IS A CHILDLESS WIFE OF HARRY L. BITTEN. FRANCIS BRINGS HIS SON, HARVEY, (FROM AN EARLIER MARRIAGE) INTO THIS UNION.

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: Brighton Commerce Bank 01/02. Couple/Indiv: Joe & Irene Mike 02/03.

The support of new and renewing members during 2001 is most encouraging.

During December in order to behave responsibly to dues paying members, a review of the mailing list for the newsletter must be made.

To promote interest in the Society and its mission inquirers’ addresses are added to the list during the year. If there is no response in the form of membership or donation it is assumed continued receipt of Trail Tales is not desired. If your issue is stamped “Complimentary Copy” no dues have been received. The year of your membership is noted on the address label – “01” is paid for 2001, etc. Does more need to be said?

THANKS

...John & Janice Fields and Shirley Bitter for their help in preparing the November issue of Trail Tales for mailing.

...The several who relayed comments re: their memories to add to the Burt Mitten article in the last issue.

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...Norm Catrell for his donation for use in the Archives Center.

...The Dave Barton family for their continued storage of the Society’s restored buggy.

...Dave Pettigrove and Bill Bath for their help in moving the buggy.

...Mike Corrigan for donating a vehicle and driver to move the buggy.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Files of history of local businesses are being placed into binders according to the streets on which they are located for quicker retrieval.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Proofreading will begin soon per Carol McMacken. 810/231-2957, chairman of this project. 2002 will see the selection of a publisher and raising of sponsorships.

LYONS SCHOOL: Tuesday evenings, 6 p.m., you will find workers preparing the Archives Room. Much archival material is stored in various locations. It will be good to have it in one place. Your help is necessary. December Tuesdays have been cancelled. Schedule several to begin in January for your participation. Call 810/229-6402 for more information.

CONSIDER YOUR 2001 DONATION

Before December 31, 2001, review your annual tax strategy. A gift to the society, an Income Tax deductible organization may be to your advantage.

You might decide a gift in someone’s name, or a tribute to a special person or in memory of a departed loved one.

Your donation may specify General Fund, the Lyons School, or toward a project – oral history, historic resource survey, archives, historic site markers, etc. Check should be payable to the Brighton Area Historical Society.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...People to index cemetery files.

...Donation to the non profit permit mailing fee. ($125.00 for 2002).

...Pay one month’s newsletter printing cost. ($15.00).

...Please note

The Society membership list is used only for Society purposes. It is not lent or sold.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

It is vital you support the Society.

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES, PKG OF 8/$3.; NOTE PAPER @ $2.50; COPIES OF 1875 PLAT MAPS OF BRIGHTON, GENOA, GREEN OAK AND HAMBURG TOWNSHIPS AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR $1.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS $8. SHOW THE OLD TOWN HALL AS DO MAS @ $.50. AND NOTE BAGS @ $15. COVERLETS RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN $49. ALL THE ABOVE AT 810/229-6402.

A new TAPESTRY PILLOW, $30., depicting the Brighton railroad depot and train is available. A fine companion to the coverlets above. 810/229-1100 to order.

A NEW PROJECT IN THE WORKS

In support of the Young Farmer Committee of the Livingston County Farm Bureau and MSU, a complete statewide survey of farmsteads is being undertaken. One objective is the photography of existing farmsteads, especially existing barns and outbuildings.

Before all of these evidences of farmsteads are lost to subdivisions, shopping/office centers, golf courses, etc., it seems wise to at least have a verbal record of an earlier Livingston County.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT, on which are embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, has room for yours. Send in your signature or 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.

TILES: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6” square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia antiques, 110 V. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 3/$21.00.

Several Society members will underwrite this survey in Brighton township, Green Oak, and Hamburg Townships need surveyors. Contact the Livingston County Farm Bureau 517/596-4820 or the Society, 810/229-6402 for more information.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton and Erie, Brighton Commerce Bank, The Fence Spot, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Auto Body, Yun Yum Tree. These are local businesses whose support is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.

...Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

...New ( ) Renew ( ) Salve, your help is needed with: "Historic Preservation Projects."

...Fund Raising Projects. **Administration of the Society. (Please circle one.)

DUES: ( ) $50.00 Single ( ) $75.00 Couple ( ) $12.00 Student (K-12) College ( ) $50.00 Bus/Prof. ( ) $115.00 Individual ( ) $250.00 Life

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) Other

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization.


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P.O. Box 481, BRIGHTON MI 48115-0481

NAME

ADDRESS (please include zip + 4 digits)

PHONE

(Please include Zip + 4 digits)
MEMBERSHIPS

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AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. M. Burton Francis' LINWOOD LAWN FARM is this issue's subject.

The property known as LINWOOD LAWN FARM was partly in Brighton Township and partly in Genoa Township.

The WI 4 of Section 19, Brighton Township (80 acres) was first purchased from the U.S. government in May, 1853, by Ephraim C. Allen of Genesee, N.Y. Mr. Allen appears to have been one of many land speculators as we find he sold later that same year.

The NE1/4 of Section 24, Genoa Township (40 acres) was first purchased by Benjamin J. Bontwell of Wayne in 1836. Altho' in two different townships the land seems to have been bought and sold as one farm. The east end of the farm was not far from Ore Creek.

Alanson P. Dickinson and wife, Jane, are owners in 1852 but sell by 1859. By 1870 they live in Brighton Village. Dickinson served in the Civil War as 1st Lt., Co. L, 9th Michigan Inf. Reg., enlisting from Romeo, Michigan. Charles and Anna Marta Dorsey own the farm in 1870, selling it in 1872. By that time the Grand River Trail (on the border between the two townships) is the scene of daily passing of stage coaches, wagons and buggies. The 1875 atlas indicates a house on the NW corner of Grand River and Crooked Lake (Herbst) Road. A house is still on that site.

In 1895, the farm is owned by Carsten and Adelaide Denhaus, both born in Prussia. Their daughter, Margaret, married M. Burton Francis March 9, 1901. At that time she is a childless widow of Harry L. Bitten. Francis brings his son, Harvey, (from an earlier marriage) into this union.

M. Burton Francis, born 1877, died 1969, is one of three children of Joseph W. and Eugenia A. Francis. Joseph is a veteran of the Civil War, serving as a corporal in Co. I, 5th Michigan Cavalry from September 5, 1862/June 2, 1865. The Michigan 5th Cavalry, Co. I, served most of their time in Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. Following the marriage of M. Burton and Margaret the farm is in the care of M. Burton. A total of about 115 acres. Before his death he saw the construction of a dam on Ore Creek and the formation of Woodland Lake, the construction of 1-50 and major changes in land use in the area. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from First Land Owners of Livingston County, Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Also early atlases and Michigan in the War, 1961-1865. Additions, corrections gratefully accepted. 810/229-6402. A more complete history will result.)