AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus their background and location continues. B.S. Miller's MAPLE FORT FARM is this issue's subject.

Ezra Miller was living in Michigan by 1856. He had been born in Canada and married Elizabeth Voo in the early 1800s. He is listed as the first purchaser of 40 acres in Section 10, Genoa Township; NW 1/4 NW 1 1/2 (all under Lake Champlain).

Burt, born 1875, the youngest of their five children, is recorded as the owner of MAPLE FORT FARM. The farm was located in Section 18, Brighton Township; NW 1/4, 93 acres intersected by Hacker Road. Burt married but it seems he may not have had a marriage of long standing. He was a member of the Wesleyan Church and later lived in a two-story house on Washington Street within a couple blocks.

However, Burt Miller is remembered more for his contributions to the betterment of the life of citizens of Brighton City than for farming. Many long time residents have vivid memories of Burt Miller as the constable in town. For a number of years he was the only law enforcement staff in town. Altogether a small build, Burt had a strong voice. A loud blast on his shiny whistle prompted cooperation from anyone who would doubt his "You stop right there!" that, and the swinging of his night stick, and the driver stopped. Regularly Burt got into the offending vehicle, had the misdemeanor arrested to the State Police post, get his ticket and return Burt back to his beat. Young and old, everyone knew Burt meant business. His ability to corral speeders earned him the "State Police Civilian Award" February 8, 1945.

Probably the attribute for which he is best remembered is the manner in which he completed what he considered his major assignment. After the new school at the top of the hill on Church Street (BECC Building) opened in 1926, it was his job to assist school children across Grand River. He took satisfaction from knowing that while he was on duty no child was injured while making that crossing.

Guiding a group of 5-6 grade schoolers he often carried the littlest across. He did not hesitate to place himself between a child and a vehicle. Occasionally he was nudged by a vehicle but was never absent from his post, no matter what the weather. This continued until the mid 1940s.

C. 1948, when parking meters were installed in town. Burt gave up his badge because he refused to issue parking tickets. He had too many friends and he felt the meters were faulty. In a move to honor the life of a dedicated citizen while he was still alive to enjoy it, Sunday, May 4, 1956, the Burton S. Miller School (Spencer Road) was named in his honor. Burt died in 1960 and is resting in Fairview Cemetery. (Compiled by Marianne Bair from early census records and atlases; "First Landowners of Livingston County", "Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County" and obituaries written by Mel Skeman and Tom Leith. Additions/corrections requested, 810/229-6402.)
MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: First Presbyterian Church and Lawrence Auto Body, Inc.

PAREN: Charles & Norma Jean Pless (03)

COUPLES/INDIV: Don & Ricci Bandeau, Gene & Judy Tanel, Pat & Marciena Fonseca (AZ), Bill Franklin (Ypsilanti), Humber Township Library, Bill & Helen Nye (Cheboygan), Tom & Melinda Kindsley, Rolland & Edith Kindsley, Daniel Schmidt, Randy & Kyle Wilson.

A SINCERE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Humber Township Library (Per M. Pettigrove), and the Kindsleys. Growth in memberships is vital.

THE RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS KEEPS THIS GROUP ALIVE AND FUNCTIONING.

LETTING THE SOCIETY KNOW OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS APPRECIATED.

THANKS

John & Janice Field, June Kimble, and Rosemary Ulmer for their help in preparing the October newsletter for mailing.

Scranton Middle School teacher Kathleen Florio for the 1967 Brighton Centennial flag.

Bob Watson for the photographs of Main Street businesses of 1967.

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Irene Ellis for the memorial contribution for Florence Chase; Bill Franklin's memorial to wife, Betty; Charles & Norma Jean Pless donation, all to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.

Brownie Troop 150, for planting daffodil bulbs in front of Lyons School, Jane Lindhard and Bob Emory in charge.

Judy Guary for delivery of the suggested curriculum for classes attending Lyons School. It is all done.

Jim DeJohn and Dick Weare for continued help at Lyons School.

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WRITINGS AND OTHER MATERIALIZED ITEMS are determined, notes are made where relevant items can be found and copies made when necessary. Indexing of various records, writings and other applicable material is determined.

RESEARCHERS should be able to locate all information the society has on a subject. Call 810/229-6402 with your offer to help.

BRIGHTON HISTORY BOOK: Proof reading will begin shortly. Many are anxious to have this reference available. Carol McMacken has dedicated the past several years of her life to this project.

LYONS SCHOOL: The Friends of Lyons School will next meet 7 P.M., November 28, at the school. School rules are being compiled to make the visits so smooth and to be enjoyable. Determinations are underway re making reservation and any possible fees charged to groups. The expense of utilities, insurance (including cost), upkeep, etc., must be considered. Also who is to be contacted and who will be serving as docents.


By the way, the roof is leaking. Any docents available?

NEEDED...NEEDED...NEEDED

...someone to embroider 15-18 signatures on the signature quilt.

...room mats and short runners to protect the Lyons School floor. (On the cash to purchase.)

...paint for the concrete floor in the archives room at the school. C. $55.00.

...base cups/boards: 36", for use in the best room and the archives room at the school.

...someone to make small slates, for use by students visiting the school. Several pieces - 2x4 and 5x4. One slate is available.

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NEWSLETTER: (Please include zip + 4 digit.)

Send newsletter card + (Yes) or (No) 1 Reel, $1600. Your help is needed with "Historic Preservation Projects."

FUND RAISING PROJECTS: "Administration of the Society (please circle one).

DUES: (1) $20.00 Patron, (2) $25.00 Couple, (2) $20.00 Student (U-12), (3) $50.00 Bus/Prof, (4) $15.00 Individual, (5) $50.00 Life.

DONATION: (1) $100.00, (2) $120.00, (3) $150.00, (4) $200.00, (5) Other.

The Society's Tax Deductible Organization.


FUND RAISING PROJECTS

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

The Signature Quilt, which is embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00. 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 way to support the Society's activities.

Tiles: Nine 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 $8.00 or 5/421.00.

With other organizations:

Nov. 28, 1-4 P.M. Christmas walk through Mill Race Village, Northville.

Dec. 1-2, 1-5 P.M. A Patriotic Christmas also Monday/Friday 11-4 P.M. through Dec. 21, Wyandotte Museum, 734/324-7297.

Dec. 2, 1-4 P.M. Ol' Fashin American Christmas, Mill Race Village, Northville.


REMEMBER: Attend the Annual Meeting November 26, Lyons School

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY notes the following merger possibilities:

1. Xerox and Wurlitzer (will be making reproductive organs?)

2. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers (to be called Fairwell Honeychild)

3. Polygram Records, Warner Brothers and Keebler (to be called Poly-Warner-Cracker)

4. W.R. Grace Co., Fuller Brush Co., Mary Kay Cosmetics and Hale Business Systems (to be called Hale Mary, Fuller, Grace)

5. 3M and GoodYear (MM good)

6. John Deere and Abitibi-Price (Deere Abi)

7. Honeywell, IMASCO and Home Oil (Honey, I'm Home)
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Ezra Miller was living in Michigan by 1855. He had been born in Canada and married Elizabeth Voo in the early 1880s. He is listed as the first purchaser of 40 acres in Section 10, Genoa Township; N1/2 NW1 (all under Lake Chenango).

Burt, born 1875, the youngest of their five children, is recalled as the owner of MAPLE FRONT FARM. The farm was located in Section 18, Brighton Township; NW1/4 SW1/4 93 acres intersected by Harker Road. Burt married but it seems he may have not been a marriage of long standing. He was a member of the Weslayan Church and later lived in a two story house on Washington Street within a couple blocks.

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