AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farm and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. W. S. Smith’s OAK GROVE FARM is this issue’s subject.

As can be assumed, the name of Smith is not uncommon. It is found in the area as early as 1831. First Land Owners lists 42 with seven in Green Oak Township. However W. (Winfield) S. is not among them.

His obituary in the March 7, 1923, issue of the Argus records his death at age 77. March 4, 1923. He had been born in Kinsman in 1845. This likely was Oakland Co.

W. S. OAK GROVE FARM was in the NE1 NW1 (40 acre) of Section 15 in Green Oak on McCabe Road. This was part of 80 acres bought by Peter McNamee from the U.S. government May 12, 1834. It remained in the McNamee family until Smith bought it c. 1891. After his death children Flora and Howard lived there until moving to California in 1932. American Aggregates owns it in 1935. By 1961 the Island Lake Recreation Area is noted as the owner.

Smith obituary records: “In young manhood he went to Eaton County to make his home on a farm and here he married Amanda Champlin who preceded him to the great beyond by nearly 20 years. After 15 years spent in Eaton it returned to Livingston County and settled on a part of the old Goy, Bingham farm at Green Oak Station. After 11 years he moved to the Peter McNamee farm, two miles southwest....and here he spent the remainder of his life. He followed the threshing business for 40 years and made life long friends wherever he went....He was the father of three children. One daughter died in infancy, another daughter Flora and son Howard, both at home.”

To have been in the threshing business meant several months each summer of intense labor. Near the end of the 19th century farmers grew more wheat, oats, etc. This became a cash crop since transportation of a product to market had improved with the coming of the railroad in 1870. If he were the owner/operator he’d have had several large pieces of equipment including the enormous steam engine and the threshing machine and even the farmer’s barn. As grain ripened in the south the thresher followed north at scheduled stops at farms. (Compiled by Marianna Bais from early census records and atlases, and “First Landowners of Livingston County” and “Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County” and obituaries copied by Milton Charbonneau.)
MEMBERSHIPS PATRON: Dr. & Mrs. Harry Davis (02).


*Welcome to new members Deborah Eagle of Brighton and Willis Wolfe of California. New memberships help the Society grow in its mission. Renewing members provide the dependability necessary for the Society to continue the projects underway. If a Complementary Copy is stamped on this page it says someone else is footing the bill for printing and distribution. You are urged to help make a financial contribution or become a member.

THANKS THANKS

...Best Bair and John & Janice Field for help mailing the September issue of Trail Tales.

...Willis Wolfe (CA) for his donation with dues payment.

...Tom Leith for postage stamps.

...Hedr Warner for memorial to his sister, Florence Chase, for the Lyons School.

...Joe Mack for the 1x1 picture frames of Washington and Lincoln for Lyons School and Bill McGirr for his support in securing these picture archives.

...Jenny Fredenburg for helping with registration at Lyons School dedication.

...Jim DeJohn, Judy Kline and Dick Weare for their work caulking seams and painting the Archives Center.

...Sue Daniel (Mich. One Room Schoolhouse Assoc.) for photos of Lyons School dedication.

...Sue Eunell for 1891 and 1897 Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Society expresses sincere sympathy to the family of Florence Warner Chase.

She was a native to the area and the long time Society member.

PRESEVATION/RESTORATION

LYONS SCHOOL: The ceiling in the Archive Center has been sprayed and painted thanks to the efforts of Jim DeJohn and Dick Weare. The walls are next. Each Tuesday, 6 p.m., is work time. Wear grubby clothes, and you’ll be given a job. Walls in the utility room need paint, also putting trim and sill on the window. Dick has installed several shelves. The restroom window needs trim and a sill also.

Brighton wallpaper and paint is discounting each gallon of paint. However each gallon is $30.00. If you can’t participate physically perhaps you’d like to donate a gallon. Various cleaning supplies and hardware have to be purchased. When the Archive Center is ready shelving will be purchased as will filing cabinets and archival storage material.

You’ll probably not receive a special medal for your work or donation but you’ll have lots of satisfaction you helped.

The Friends of the Lyons School will meet October 24, 7 p.m., at the school. Scheduling of visitors for regulations for use of the building, charges/deposits to be required are some of the subjects being considered. Your input is important.

The several small groups who’ve toured the building have been very complimentary with their comments. Before long elementary school children will be able to spend a day learning about education of an earlier day in Michigan.

FLAGS ETIQUETTE

It is inspiring that so many display Old Glory. Some notes on proper display: when displayed from a staff projecting from the window sill, flag pole or front of a building, the union should go to the peak of the staff; it should fly freely, not brush against or catch on anything; it is not to be draped over a railing, vehicle, etc; it is not to be used as a part of a costume or athletic uniform; it is not to be used as the covering of an object other than a casket; when displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union is to be to the viewer’s left; it is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be retired in a dignified manner. The local American Legion will help provide proper disposal.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME ______________________ PHONE ______________________

ADDRESS ______________________

SEND MEMBERSHIP CARD? ( ) YES ( ) NO

( ) REJ, ( ) RENEW. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED W/ "HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS. FUND RAISING PROJECTS, "ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY. (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

DUES: ( ) $5.00 PAYROLL ( ) $2.00 COUPLE ( ) $2.00 STUDENT (X-22, COLLEGE)

( ) $5.00 BUS./PROF. ( ) $5.00 INDIVIDUAL ( ) $5.000 LIFE DONATION: ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $200.00 ( ) $500.00 ( ) $1000.00 ( ) OTHER: ______________________


"FUND RAISING PROJECTS: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Music, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillow.

Administration of the Society: Board/Officer/Governor/Reader, Newsletter, Publicity.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Your support is vital.

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES: PKG OF 6/$3.00. EMBOSSED CARDS & TREE STAMPS: 6/$1.00. 100 CARDS & 100 TREE STAMPS: 10/$10.00. BLACK & WHITE PHOTOS: 2/$1.00. COMBINED 50 POST CARDS & TREE STAMPS: 8/$5.00. COMBINED 100 POST CARDS & TREE STAMPS 15/$7.00. POST CARDS & TREE STAMPS: 10/$7.00. COMBINED 150 POST CARDS & TREE STAMPS: 15/$10.00.

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, 116 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 5/$21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS


BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Bar and Grill, The Fence Spot, First Presbyterian Church, Yum Yum Tree. These are local businesses. Their support is much appreciated. Get them for yourself.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...Someone to serve as Society secretary and someone to serve as treasurer. Manager White has been treasurer for a number of years. She deserves a break. 810/229-6402. Someone to promote and help prepare applications for Michigan Historic Site Markers, 810/229-6402 for applications.
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Dr. & Mrs. Harry Davis (O2).
COUPLES/INDIV: *Deborah Eagle, Dick & Mary Jean Richter (O2), *Willis H. Wolfe (CA) (O2).

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*FUNDRaising PROJECTS, **ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY. (PLEASE CROSS ONE)

DON: $1.00 $5.00 $10.00 $25.00 $50.00 $100.00 $500.00 $1000.00 $5000.00

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


*Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverlets, Home Tour, Musse, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillow.

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YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES: PKG OF 6/35¢, NOTE PAPER @ $2.50; COPIES OF 1875 FLAT 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 MUGS $5., AND TOTE BAGS $15. COVERLETS: RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE NINE LOCAL NAMES, $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, 810/220-7934 TO ORDER.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS


Now through 1-22-02, Betty Beavy's Breadth of Art Exhibit. Her professional career includes Times/Life magazine, CBS IV, mural at the Michigan Farm Museum, Midland, MI.


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