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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 FRONT FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

EZRA MILLER WAS LIVING IN MICHIGAN BY 1856. HE HAD BEEN BORN IN CANADA AND MARRIED ELIZABETH WOOD IN THE EARLY 1850S. HE IS LISTED AS THE FIRST PURCHASER OF 40 ACRES IN SECTION 10, GENOA TOWNSHIP; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (ALL UNDER LAKE CHEMUNG).

BURT, BORN 1875, THE YOUNGEST OF THEIR FIVE CHILDREN, IS RECORDED AS THE OWNER OF MAPLE FRONT FARM. THE FARM WAS LOCATED IN SECTION 18, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 39 ACRES INTERSECTED BY HACKER ROAD. BURT MARRIED BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE NOT BEEN A MARRIAGE OF LONG STANDING. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE WESLYAN 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 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. ALTHO' OF SLIGHT BUILD, BURT HAD A STRONG VOICE. A LOUD BLAST ON HIS SHINY WHISTLE PROMPTED COOPERATION FROM ANY 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 MISCREANT DRIVE 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 SPEEDSTERS EARNED HIM THE "STATE POLICE CIVILIAN AWARD" FEBRUARY 8, 1943.

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 1928, 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 GRADESCHOOLERS HE OFTEN CARRIED THE LITTEST ACROSS. HE DID NOT HESITATE TO PLACE HIMSELF BETWEEN A CHILD AND A VEHICLE. OCCASIONALLY HE WAS NUGGED BY A VEHICLE BUT WAS NEVER ABSENT FROM HIS SPOT, 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, 1958, THE BURTON S. MILLER SCHOOL (SPENCER ROAD) WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR. BURT DIED IN 1960 AND IS RESTING IN FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA BAIR FROM EARLY CENSUS RECORDS AND ATLASES; "FIRST LANDOWNERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY", "EARLY LANDOWNERS AND SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY AND OBITUARIES COPIED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU; AND CONVERSATIONS WITH MEL SKEMAN AND TOM LEITH. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS REQUESTED. 810/229-6402.)