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AREA FARMS c.1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN AN EARLIER EDITION OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, CONTINUES. THE FARMS OF P.J. SPICER, PLEASANT VIEW FARM, CHILSON, AND THAT OF HIS SON EDGAR S. SPICER, WILLOW BROOK FARM, CHILSON, ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THIS ISSUE.

P.J. (PHILETUS JOSIAH) SPICER AND EDGAR S. SPICER ARE LOCATED IN THE 1915 ATLAS OF GENOA TOWNSHIP. (OUR RESEARCH DOESN'T CONNECT THE LARGE GEORGE SPICER FAMILY, WHICH SETTLED IN GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP C. 1856, WITH P.J. AND EDGAR S.)

MARCH 30, 1852, P.J. WAS BORN IN MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. AFTER MARRYING LIZZIE JOHNSON IN 1878, THEY LIVED FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS IN MONROE. THE LOSS OF SEVEN OF THEIR 13 CHILDREN AS INFANTS WAS EXTREME EVEN FOR THAT TIME.

1891-93 FINDS THE FAMILY IN DENVER, COLORADO, WHERE P.J. WAS A BLACKSMITH AND MINER. SON, EDGAR S., WAS ONLY 8 WHEN THAT MOVE FROM MONROE WAS MADE. IN 1893 THEY CAME BACK TO MICHIGAN SETTLING IN BRIGHTON. P.J. CONTINUED HIS WORK AS A BLACKSMITH UNTIL 1905 WHEN THEY MOVED TO CHILSON. WHERE RICHARDSON MEETS SCHAFER ROAD, JUST NORTH OF HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, P.J. HAS AN 80 ACRE PIECE IN THE E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF SECTION 32 IN GENOA TOWNSHIP. ANOTHER 40 ACRES ARE IN THE SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ALMOST ENTIRELY DESCRIBED AS A HUCKLEBERRY OR BLUEBERRY MARSH.

IN 1910 EDGAR S. MARRIED HARRIET JORDAN. BY THEN HE HAD MOVED TO DETROIT. HE HAD STUDIED FOR TWO YEARS AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE, N.Y., TO BECOME A MINISTER. MARCH 12, 1918, AT THE AGE OF 35, HE DIED, PERHAPS A VICTIM OF THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF THE TIME. A SON PRECEDED HIM AND A DAUGHTER AND WIFE SURVIVED HIM. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL EDGAR S. HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN FARMING. THE FARM MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN IN HIS NAME.

BROTHER RALPH DIED, NOVEMBER 7, 1923, AT AN EVEN YOUNGER AGE, 30. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE MICHIGAN AND OHIO SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY AT THE PIT IN CHILSON. A CAVE-IN LEFT HIS WIFE OF TWO YEARS A WIDOW AND HIS ONE YEAR OLD SON, FATHERLESS. (COMPILED BY MARIE-ANNA BAIR FROM OBITUARIES AND CEMETERY RECORDS COLLECTED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU AND GENOA TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS ARE WELCOMED. 810/229-6402)

IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION NOT ALL OF OUR READERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH A LAND SALE IS RECORDED. THE 16 TOWNSHIPS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY ARE DIVIDED IN 36 SQUARE MILE SECTIONS. THESE ARE NUMBERED, BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER ENDING WITH SECTION 36 IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER. FOR RECORDING PURPOSES EACH SECTION CAN BE DIVIDED INTO QUARTERS AND SUBDIVIDED AS NECESSARY. EACH SECTION EQUALS 640 ACRES; EACH TOWNSHIP EQUALS 23,040 ACRES. LIVINGSTON COUNTY EQUALS 368,640 ACRES. (THE EARTH'S CURVATURE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT; SO NORTH AND WEST BOUNDARIES OF TOWNSHIPS WILL OFTEN RESULT IN FRACTIONAL SECTIONS.)