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### AREA FARMS C. 1900

RESEARCH OF LOCAL FARMS AND FARMERS, LISTED IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, THEIR BACKGROUND AND LOCATION CONTINUES. R. B. ROBERT'S PINE GROVE FARM IS THIS ISSUE'S SUBJECT.

R. (RICHARD) B. ROBERTS' PINE GROVE FARM IS FOUND IN THE 1915 ATLAS IN BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, SECTION 30, S $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ . THE GRAND RIVER ROAD CROSSES THE SOUTHEAST CORNER ON ITS WAY NORTH (AT THAT POINT). THIS PIECE COMPRISED 63 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CROSS STREET. NEIGHBOR, HOLMES TUNIS, HAS A 63 ACRE PIECE DIRECTLY NORTH, BOUNDED BY CHALLIS ROAD. THIS WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL C. 120 ACRES BOUGHT BY KINSLEY BINGHAM AND ROBERT WARDEN, IN 1833, FROM THE GOVERNMENT (BINGHAM WAS MICHIGAN'S GOVERNOR DURING THE MID 1850s.) WARDEN HAS TRANSFERRED HIS INTEREST BY 1835. ROBERTS ALSO OWNS A 10 ACRE PIECE ON THE WEST SIDE OF NORTH SECOND STREET, NORTH OF WALNUT, JUST OUTSIDE THE SMITH-McPHERSON ADDITION WHICH WAS PLATTED C. 1870.

IN THE 1859 ATLAS ROBERT AND FANNY CHARLES ARE OWNERS OF THE C. 120 ACRES. A STRUCTURE IS INDICATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER JUST NORTH OF CROSS STREET. FANNY IS THE DAUGHTER OF TRUMAN AND JANE N. WORDEN. TRUMAN IS NOTED AS ORIGINAL OWNER OF PROPERTY IN GENOA TOWNSHIP SECTION 25, WHICH IS ON THE BORDER OF BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP. NOW WE KNOW HOW WORDEN LAKE GOT ITS NAME. (TRUMAN HAS THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST PERSON BURIED IN THE OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY, 1837.)

INTERESTING QUESTIONS ARISE. ARE THE WORDENS AND THE WARDENS RELATED OR IS IT A TRANSCRIBER'S ERROR FROM THE HAND WRITTEN RECORDS? IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT A CLEAR RELATIONSHIP. BOTH SPELLINGS ARE FOUND IN EARLY RECORDS.

ALTHO' THE ROBERTS NAME IS FOUND IN EARLY LIVINGSTON COUNTY CENSUS RECORDS NONE IS RICHARD B. AND ALL ARE IN NEIGHBORING TOWNSHIPS. ONE RESOURCE INDICATES R.B. WAS BORN IN 1852 IN LYON TOWNSHIP, OAKLAND COUNTY. THE 1890 RESIDENTS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY NOTES RICHARD B. AND WIFE, ETTA, BECAME PARENTS OF CLIFFORD DECEMBER 28, 1890. EARLY OBITUARIES INDICATE R. B. AND ETTA HAD BURIED AN INFANT THREE YEARS EARLIER. THIS SAME SOURCE LISTS R. B. AS A 'SALOON KEEPER' IN BRIGHTON. SON, CLIFF, IS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BUILDING OF THE RIALTO THEATER ON W. MAIN, ACROSS FROM THE MILL POND IN 1918. THIS BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED FOR A PARKING LOT AFTER WW II.

IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT ROBERTS' 63 ACRES NOW HOLDS MEIJER'S INC., MEIJER SKATEBOARD PARK AND GM POWER TRAIN, ON THE WEST SIDE OF GRAND RIVER. IN THE AREA WHERE THE HOUSE STOOD ON THE EAST SIDE, AT ONE TIME UNCLE JOHN'S PANCAKES, THEN UM HEALTH CENTER WERE ON SITE AND MOST RECENTLY REAL ESTATE ONE. OTHER OWNERS OF PINE GROVE FARM INCLUDED E. BIDWELL AND RUDY BOWEN, OWNER OF MICHIGAN LANDSCAPE NURSERY. FOLLOWING A DISASTROUS GRASS FIRE IN MARCH, 1969, A FEW BIRCHES STOOD THERE UNTIL RECENTLY. (COMPILED FROM EARLY LAND OWNERS AND SETTLERS AND EARLY OBITUARIES COMPILED BY MILTON CHARBONEAU AND FROM LIVINGSTON COUNTY ATLAS AND PLAT MAPS. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS? MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.)