AERA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers, listed in the Brighton Argus, continues. Lake Shore Farm, owned by W. J. Sawyer, is the subject of this issue.

The 170 acres farm of Walter J. Sawyer, Sections 16 and 17, in Brighton Township, has first been purchased by David and Arigil Land and son, Peter, residents of Wayne, Michigan in 1839. It seems likely they were land speculators, no evidence is found they ever were in the area. By 1850, Ina Warner's name is on the map.

By 1895 it's Henry Warner and by 1915 W. J. Sawyer is owner.

The site is five miles north of Grand River, on Old US 25. The road, known at that time as Flint Road, passed through a portion of the farm. The east side of the farm included a large part of the shore of School Lake (formerly Hick's Lake) and before that Warner's Lake.

As with most of the farms and families researched, we find that Walter's grandfather came to the area in the early 1850's. Caleb Sawyer, born in 1808 in Massachusetts, was a farmer. After purchasing land in Green Oak Township in 1854, he brought his family, wife Caroline Wheeler and son, Henry, the next year. Caleb and Caroline had nine children, seven of them boys. They would all be needed in order to survive the wilderness.

Second son, John, married Florilla Spring. They had two daughters and a son, Paul. (He was a local postal carrier for a number of years.) One daughter married and moved to South Dakota c. 1900, part of the vast numbers of pioneers still moving west. Following Florilla's death, John married Ella who cared for Florilla's children as if they were her own, with the seven she and John had.

Her oldest, Walter J., was born in 1879. He must have been an astute and enterprising business person. Besides owning Lake Shore Farm, he was involved with the up and coming automobile industry. From his brother Floyd's obituary, September, 1921, around 1919 he and Walter "...opened a fine new Overland garage in Howell."

"...Floyd was the oldest automobile man in Brighton and one of the oldest in the county." From that time on we find no more references to Walter in the material available to us. We don't know when he died or where buried.

Local descendants of brother Floyd, would include William F., who married Mary M. Holden and lived in Green Oak Township. Both are buried in Fairview having passed away in 1999 and 2000. (Compiled by Marrianna Bair from census records and atlases; obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau and cemetery records transcribed by John and Janice Field. Additions/corrections gratefully received.)
MEMBERSHIPS
PATRON: Ted Carmack, OZ.


* A warm welcome to the several new members this month. Renewing members are sincerely appreciated. The continued support of the community proves again that we still value, and recognize the benefits of learning from our past.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS
Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Bar and Grill, The Fence Spot, First Presbyterian Church and the Yum Yum Tree. The confidence they’ve expressed with their membership is very encouraging. Your patronage will be helpful.

THANKS THANKS THANKS
...Bert Bair, John and Janice Field and Shirley Mattern for helping mail the August issue of Trail Tales.
...Larry Wagner for donating a copy of the report she prepared on the evolution of front porches for the EMU Historic Preservation program.
...Gary Townsend for the three reams of copy paper.
...Kay Spangler for applying signatures onto the signature quill.
...Dave Leiman for his memorial contribution in memory of Richard Jupe.
...Bill & Jane Tomlinson and David & Mary Miller for their memorial contribution to Mabel Pless.
...Nancy Friedenburg and Joanne Swone for hosting the society booth at the Art Fair.
...Jerry & Lisa Cane for providing two new copier cartridges.
...Bob Knight for the 2x4 48 star flag.
...Ed Bottin for his picture of Lyons School Students of 1964. All I.D.O.
...Dick & Barbara Smith for the large 48 star flag which has been flown over our nation’s capitol.
...Larry Lawrence for the flag staff, stand and flag to be in the front of the room.

ARCHIVES: Sorting, clipping, filing is continuing. Work on preparing the archives room at the Lyons School is ongoing. Won’t be long now and we can move the community. I love the smell of paper in the archives. Thank you for your patience.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK: The continued dedication of Carol McMacken, 251-2597, will bring this fine book to fruition. Your help is appreciated.

LYONS SCHOOL: Each Tuesday, 6 p.m., you’ll find people working to complete the restoration. The archives room is soon to be painted; school desks are awaiting restoration; the furnace room needs painting; shelves, etc. Need installation, built-in cabinets are needed in the archives room and the rest room; need one go on? If Tuesdays aren’t good for you call 810/229-6402 and other arrangements will be made.

The Society expresses sincere sympathy to the families of Mary Ann Brady Leitz and Betty Hall Franklin.

They grew up in the area and were Society members.

The friends of the Lyons School

Several society members are meeting to develop policy for the use of the newly restored building in order that good and proper use will be made. They will next meet, 7 p.m., September 10, at the school. Your ideas and help are welcome. It has been determined that a "Friends of the Lyons School" should be formed to help raise funds and see to the proper upkeep and use of this unique structure. Consider participating in some manner. 810/229-6402.

The fund raising projects, on which are embroidered signatures for a donation of $10.00, is 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.

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES: Pkg of $6/65. NOTE PAPER & 2.50 copies of 1875 PLAT MAPS OF BRIGHTON, GENOA, GREEN OAK AND HANBURY TOWNSHIPS AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR $1.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS $8. SHOW THE OLD TOWN HALL AS DO MUSG @ $5. AND TOTEBAGS $15. COVERLETS, RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE 9 NICE LOCAL SITES WOVEN IN. $45. 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 thru February 18, 2007: Bluewater Sentinel Chapter National Railway Historical Society, has train trips planned. Website: www.bluewaterhnr.org or 800-599-5162, or P.O. Box 256, Royal Oak 48068.


RECOMMENDED READING
...Someone to serve as Society Secretary and someone to serve as Treasurer. Marge White has been Treasurer for a number of years. She deserves a break. 810/220-6402.

...First class stamps for administration and archival postage needs.
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Brighton Area Historical Society Membership/Donation Form

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Note__

Check membership card ( ) Yes ( ) No

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Help is needed with: Historic Preservation Projects

Fund Raising Projects: Administration of the Society (Please circle one.)

Donations: $ 100.00 Patron $ 25.00 Couple $ 20.00 Student (12-18) College $ 150.00 Church Fund $ 100.00 Life Membership

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


Administration of the Society: Board/Officers/Committee/Model, Newsletter, Publicity.

Fund Raising Projects

Your Support is Vital

Post Cards with Early Local Scenes: PKG of 6/$5; Note Paper & 2$50 copies of 1875 plat Maps of Brighton, Genoa, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 Map of Brighton for $1; Needlepoint Kits $5; show the Old Town Hall as do Musg $5, and tote Bags $15. Coverlets, red. green or blue have nine local sites woven in. 495. 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. 810/229-7934 to order.

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Tiles: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6" square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 115 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 3/421.00.

With Other Organizations

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October 23: 8:30-2:30, Michigan Council for History Education. 2945 Quail Run, Troy 48098 for brochure. 8th Annual Conference on History Themes and the Meigs," Michigan Historical Center, 717 W. Allegan, Lansing.

Needed Needed Needed

Someone to serve as Secretary and someone to serve as Treasurer. Marge 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 Historical Site Markers. 810/229-6402 for applications.

First class stamps for administration and archival postage needs.

Sept. 11, 1825, 6 p.m. continuing work at the Lyons School. 15, 20. 27. 1-5 p.m. Archives filing. Call 810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome, 24. 7-9 p.m. Society board meeting at Brighton District Library. Welcome.
AREA FARMS C. 1900

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

The passionate determination of many has brought this structure to the point where it can contribute to the neighborhood again. The extra ordinary efforts of concerned individuals who expressed their delight in the restoration of this 1885 structure culminated in a memorable event last month.

At the risk of omitting a contributor mention must be made in a demonstration of gratitude from the Society board.

Prior to the event an all out ‘get ready’ push included Betsy Herbst who helped set up displays as did Nancy Fredenburg and Judy Kline. Nancy also scrubbed the restroom to a gleaming finish. G1 G1 Valliencourt painted the front door and interior trim. Bob Herbst cleaned the moldy refrigerator and Kevin Roach cleaned the shelves. When not cleaning desks, Jim DeJohn and Dick Weare also worked on desks and moving ‘stuff’.

The “Rotary Raiders”, represented by Piet Lindhouw, Bob King, Bill Anderson, Ed Botterm, Stan Schaffer, Tom Cooker, Jr. and Bill Metz made certain that all systems were ‘GO’.

Dedication day saw Julie Kee, Alexis Novak and Kim Tomczyk, members of the BHS Interact Club set up tables and chairs, High School band member, 15 strong, provided music to help set the mood. Honorable Mike Rogers brought a significant essence of distinction to the program. Chris Ward, Lyons School Chairman, confirmed the value of the preservation of this historic school to the community’s heritage. Thanks also to Terri Olson for her attention to details. The donation, by Joe and Irene Mike, of Joe’s artistry in the donation of his picture of the school was a highlight.

The dedication committee included Chris Ward, Joann Smok, Ronnie and Joyce Powers, Jim Vichich, Jim DeJohn, Dick Weare, Judy Kline and Nancy Fredenburg. Good job, well done!

PLEASE SEE “DATES TO REMEMBER” ON PAGE 2