AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Mary Christa’s HURON VIEW STOCK FARM is this issue’s subject. This farm concludes this series. Contact the Editor if you know of more named area farms which weren’t on the list, or wish to recommend another subject.

William S. Russell was among the early settlers in Green Oak Township, purchasing the entire NE ¼ of Section 3. After locating his site, May 6, 1833, a land patent was recorded October 15, 1839. William, born in Massachusetts, 1803, and wife Jane, born in 1817 in Vermont, must have built a house soon after arrival; all five children were born in Michigan, the eldest in 1834. The house may well have been a frame structure, instead of log, since Woodruff’s saw mill was within ¼ mile on Pleasant Valley Road.

The Indian Grand River Trail, already deviating from the township line road planned by the U.S. government, traversing through the north portion of his property. During William’s time here the Detroit & Howell Plank Road Company constructed the Grand River Road, c. 1850, with planks. A toll gate was installed near the house. William’s older brother, Elihu, born 1795 in Massachusetts, lived with William and had the job of ‘tending gate’. This involved charging travelers for the number of people, vehicles, cattle, etc., using the Plank Road.

William is given credit for planting lilacs on both sides of the road. Evidence of these is still visible. (These lilacs may be around for a while longer – they are part of the State Island Lake Recreation Area.) It was not unusual for land owners to provide plantings of trees, bushes, etc., for the pleasure and comfort of the slower moving travelers of that day.

After William’s death, August 27, 1870 (Jane died 1875, both buried in the Old Village Cemetery), son Francis S. purchased his siblings’ portions of the estate and sold (248 acres by now) to Phillip Christa in December, 1875 for $8000.00

Both Phillip and his wife, Ottilia, were born in Bavaria. Their four children were born in the Detroit area. Phillip owned a marble cutting concern there. Son John and Henry were also marble cutters. (An unverifiable tale is that the Christa’s harnessed the power of the Huron River for their cutting.) Young Phillip is a farmer and oldest sibling, Mary, keeps house for them all. However Mary is the owner of the HURON VIEW STOCK FARM by 1902. To be continued. (Compiled by Marianna Beir from censuses, atlases, a portion of the abstract for the property and Milton Charbonneau’s First Landowners and First Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County. Corrections and additions most welcome. 810/229-6402.)
PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: Investigation is ongoing to determine what kinds of filing equipment will work best in the Archives Research Center at the Lyons School. The goal is to select the best at a reasonable price. When a decision is made it will be necessary to raise sufficient funds.

LYONS SCHOOL: The walls, ceiling and half of the floor are freshly painted. The other half of the floor will soon be done—thanks to Jim DeJohn and Dick Wayler. Then we'll have to decide the best placement of tables, chairs and cabinets. It's a large area but over the years many artifacts, photos and ephemera have been donated. We're looking forward to properly archiving them.

Friends of the Lyons School can always use a few more friends. 229-6402.

Sincere sympathy of the family of
FRED KERPLAKE
A Society Member

NEEDED: RESTORATION of 20th century school maps of Michigan which are on rollers.
Base cabinets for the rest room and the archives room at the Lyons School, 36" wide.
People to set up the society display at the April 20 Livington County Genealogical Society Seminar.
People to be considering fund raising projects, i.e. Farmers Market, Art Fair, bake sales, home tours, etc.

THANKS: Bert Baeir, Janice Field, Jeanette Johnson and Rosemary Ulen for help in mailing the January issue of Trail Tales.


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME:___
ADDRESS:_
PHONE:___

(Please include zip or site)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No


DUES: ( ) $25.00 Family ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $10.00 Life.

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) $500.00 ( ) Other.

THE SOCIETY IS A 501c3 Income Tax Deductible Organization.

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Please list any additional comments or suggestions.

Fund raising projects: Bake Sales, Coverlets, Home Tours, Rodeo, Needlepoint Kit, Rite Aid Project, Latex/Adhesive, Other.

Please list any additional contributions.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS
YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

POST CARDS WITH EARLY LOCAL SCENES: PKG OF 6/75. NOTE PAPER @ $2.50; COPIES OF 1875 PLAT MAPS OF BRIGHTON, GENDAL, GREEN OAK AND RUMFORD TOWNSHIPS AND A 1915 MAP OF BRIGHTON FOR $1 NEEDLEPOINT KITS $6. SHOW THE OLD TOWN HALL AS DO NOS @ $5 AND TOTE BAGS @ $15. COVERLETS: RED, GREEN OR BLUE HAVE BEEN LOCAL SITES MENTIONED IN $35. 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, 810/229-9100 to order.

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, 115 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 5/2/21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

LIVINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is presenting its 50th anniversary seminar April 27, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Lake Pointe Manor, 5768 E Grand River, Howell. Curt B. Mitchell, manager, Historical Genealogical Society Allen County Library, Ft. Wayne, IN. Topics will include Doing Effective Research in Libraries; Passenger and Immigration Records; Using Church Records in Genealogy; Researching the History of the Allen County Library with an Emphasis on PERCH.

Registration fee 4-14-90 = $30, post paid 4-15-90 = $40 (box lunch included). Checks must be made out to Cindy Groostick, 507 Jones St., Lansing 48912-1717.
MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Doug & Carol Marrick, Harman & Yvonne Taylor.

COUNCIL/INDIVIDUAL: John Allen (FL), Bert & Marlena Bair, Erwin & Dorothy Bocke, Dan Bliese, Bill, Marlene Camuskey, Howell Davis, Libby Eisenhardt, Irene Ellis, Janice Field, Barbara Folken, Dorothy Foster (CA), Mark & Charlotte Godin, Fred Gruzewski, Stephen Leith, John & Ruth Le Patourel, Charles McConnell (SC), Ted & Kay Miller (Rockchair), Sherrel Ruttar (Dnr), Bob & Pauline Schaffner, Ed & Connie Sherman, Marcela Strong. Don Thomas (Mo), Sheryl Vignostad, Larry Wagner, Don & Alice Wyland, Richard & Lucille Weiss.

New members are always most welcome. Renewing members are what keep this organization moving along.

We try to note the correct year of membership on the mailing label. Be sure to contact us if in error. If the date is less than '82, a 'Complimentary Co-op' note will be added. This is a less expensive reminder than including dues envelopes. Dues support the administrative functions of the Society. Donations support the preservation projects, the reason for our being.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Bert Bair, Janice Field, Jeannette Johnson, and Rosemary Uler to help in mailing the January issue of Trail Tales.

...Jack & Judy Bond, Libby Eisenhardt, Irene Ellis, Fred Gruzewski, Stephen Leith, Charles McConnell, Sherrel Ruttar, Ed & Connie Sherman, Marcela Strong, and Don Thomas for including donations with their memberships.

...Stan Hester for photos of the Blue Lantern at Island Lake, four 78s of Gene Goldkette's band, and a CD of The Rhythm Boys, 1927-31, with Harry Barrie, Bing Crosby and Al Rinker.

...Jack & Judy Whitehead for more information.

...Larry Wagner for two signatures on the signature quilt.

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Sincere sympathies of the Society are extended to the family of Fred Kerslake. A Society Member.

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...Base cabinets for the rest room and the archives room at the Lyons School, 36½ wide.

...People to set up the Society display at the April 22, Livingston County Genealogical Society Seminar.

...People to be considering fund raising projects, i.e. Farmers' Market, Art Fair, bake sales, home tour, etc.

(thanks, cont.) ...Mindy Kinsey and Tom Neal for serving as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

...Brighton Township and Brighton City for their continued support.

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Regeneration pre 4-14-02 = $30. post 4-15-02 = $40 (box lunch included). Checks to LCS, send to Cindy Grostuck, 507 Jones St., Lansing 48912-1717.


BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Brighton Bar and Grill, Brighton Commerce Bank, The Fence Spot, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Auto Body, Yum Yum Tree. These are local businesses whose support is much appreciated. Give them your consideration. Please.
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A year ago the floor had been mailed down in the Lyons School. Within a month a fine, durable finish had been applied. Soon after, the desks stored in what will be the Archives Center, were getting a necessary cleaning and refinishing. The display cases were washed and set up. By mid-July invitations were sent to alumni, and the public, to the dedication of this 115-year-old structure. At this time the many contractors and others who had contributed so much to this project, and without whose determination this restoration would have been impossible, were publicly acknowledged.

The organization of a Friends of the Lyons School and the development of the Archives Center are near accomplishment. But this is 2002! Scheduling of students’ visits, continued maintenance and renovation will be spearheaded by the Friends. Financial goals must also be set. Utilities, as everyone knows, are increasingly expensive. The Friends of the Lyons School will benefit from your involvement. Your help in organizing the Archives Center to serve as an easily accessed repository of the area’s history will result in a one-of-a-kind source.

The Brighton area is fortunate to host so many willing to be a part of this effort to preserve, advance and disseminate the knowledge of the history of the area. It is important that you be a part of the activities of this organization. Your involvement will confirm the Society is on the right track. And you will be satisfied you helped accomplish this undertaking.