AREA FARMS C. 1900

The Zeeb Farm on Chilson Road is the topic of research this issue.

Investigation takes one back to the date of Samuel Case's arrival in Livingston County. By 1836 land in Ursuline Township has been recorded in his name. January 26, 1836, 40 acres in Hamburg Township are his. 160 acres in Genoa Township, Section 3, 4th, and 80 in the 6th SE, are recorded November 1, 1844, and May 10, 1847, respectively. Of ten sons, at least four also purchased land in the county about that time. A number of cases are on record but we are unable to determine relationships without further research. (Anyone interested?)

A son, Norman, by second wife, Clarissa, was born in New York State March 1, 1825. All of Samuel's children were born before he came to Michigan. At the age of 23 the ownership of Sam's Farm in Genoa was transferred to Norman in 1848. Sam became a shoemaker after the crippling effects of feet frozen while hunting in Oswego County, New York. It can be assumed Norman's elder brothers had acquired farms, leaving him to help at home. (Sam died 11 days after amputation surgery by Drs. Bingham and Smith, April 16, 1854.)

In 1854, Norman married Maryette Katrous of Genoa Township. They had four daughters. The youngest, Donna Edna, was only five when father Norman died. Widow Maryette remarried but it was unsuccessful. George Sweeney was hired to manage the farm. He was a man of meticulous record keeping: a spade and shovel .300; ice cream freezer .400; corn planter $1; two horse blankets $2.50. During this period the Ann Arbor railroad needed gravel for the roadbed. Mr. Bradley of Toledo, Ohio, opened a gravel pit on the farm, the Ohio Michigan Sand and Gravel Company.

About 1909, Donna went to Arizona to wed William Frederick Zeeb, a first generation German-American. At the time he was employed by the U.S. government building bridges. Upon returning to Genoa Township, Mrs. Frederick Zeeb began working at the gravel pit. In fact, he remained employed there until the pit closed. He also assisted his mother-in-law with the farm. Son, Harley Zeeb was born at the Zeeb Farm June 3, 1913. After buying out the interests in the Farm of her three sisters, Donna and Fred owned the Farm July 31, 1917.

During the nationwide depression of the 1930s, a neighboring family lost their farm and had to move. A few days before leaving, their hired man, Pat Down, offered to work for the Zeebs for room and board. Donna and daughter-in-law, Cecilia, cleaned painted and furnished a nearby box car from the gravel pit for him. They also paid his $30.00 a month. Pat remained with the Zeebs for the rest of his life. Donna died March 19, 1956 and Fred, September 9, 1952. They are buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Howell. (Compiled by Marieanna Blair from information gathered by Stephen S. Leith and Milton Charbonneau's "Early Settlers and Landowners of Livingston County").

MAY 2002
Vol. XXI No. 5

Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116
HTTP://COMMUNITY.MLIVE.COM/CC/BAHS

Preserve, Advance and Dissiminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

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MAYORIAL DAY 1958-2002

In 1958, General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veteran's organization, set May 30, as a special day for remembering.

After the Civil War widows and children were observed placing flowers on both Union and Confederate soldiers' graves. Veterans were moved to do this in other cemeteries and at other graves. This healing concept has continued.

The modest, reverent manner in which the Brighton area veterans' organizations conduct these memorial services is to be commended. They are conducive to a fitting recognition of the sacrifices of veterans.

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In the Brighton area Memorial Day services will be held Monday, May 27, 10 a.m., on Main Street by the mill pond.

(when we conduct tours of downtown Brighton the memorial rock by the mill pond is included. All of us can stand a reminder of those who make it possible to congregate in such a manner. M. Bair)

Dates to Remember:
May 1, 6, 15, 22, 29, 7 p.m. Lyons School restoration. Wear your working duds.
9, 16, 23, 30, 1-3 p.m. Archive Filing.
610/223-0404 to confirm. Welcome.
9, 16, 23, 30, 7-9 p.m. Society Board meets. Welcome.
19: 2-4 p.m. Green Oak Township Historical Society meeting. Public welcome.
Lyons School, 1465 Suro Rd., Brighton.
#Brighton Dist. Library, 100 Library Dr.
**MEMBERSHIPS**

COUPLE/INDIV: Richard E. Hyne (Winston), Noma E. Miller, and Bill S. Rosemary Ulmer. 

Welcome to Richard Hyne, new member. This is a gift from her parents, Bill and Helen. 

75% of last year’s members have already renewed. It is assumed the others will want to continue their support.

If your label doesn’t have “02,” “03” or higher remember the Society is entirely dependent on its membership for administrative expenses. Board members are volunteers but cannot be expected also to pay for paper, copying, postage, fees, etc., relative to their position. Administration changes are also paid by memberships. These entail printing mailing of the newsletter, P.O. box rent, non-profit mailing fees, membership in the Historical Society of Michigan, Fidelity bonding, Financial records review, etc.

Unless designated otherwise donations (not dues) are designated to historic preservation projects: the Lyons School (insurance, utilities, restoration/maintenance), Archives, Historic Resource Survey, Oral History, etc., etc. Donations are IRS Income Tax deductible - the Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

Your membership and donations are absolutely vital to the success of the Society in fulfilling its mission.

A “Complimentary Copy” stamp on your issue of Trail Tales indicates just that. Consider membership or a donation to the Society’s expenses.

THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...

Bert Bair, Jane Kiebler, Shirley Blakes and Rosemary Ulmer for helping get the April Newsletter in the mail. 

Bill and Helen Hyne for their donation with the new membership for their son, Richard. 

Jim DeJohn and Dick Weals for their continued help at the Lyons School.

**PRESERVATION/RESTORATION PROJECTS**

ARCHIVES: A type of portable filing cabinets is being researched. These will be rather expensive but will conserve space. It seems likely that 50 years from now, archivists will need our help in installing this kind of system. Shortly archival materials in storage will be moved in.

BRITTON HISTORICAL BOOK: Proof reading is ongoing. Your patience with these volunteers is appreciated. Your offer to contact potential sponsors will be appreciated. Call Carol Mikkelsen, 810/231-2557 or any board member.

LYONS SCHOOL: The refinishing of desks is nearing completion. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at the school, 1455 Bono Road, you can help. A number of later style, oak, one desk will not be needed. The Society has them for sale, $15.00. These are in very good condition but are not needed. Call 810/203-6402, 810/229-3086 or 801/229-5575. Electrical connections are most ready for inspection. Thanks to Eric Vignos! Keep it together. Window mullion material is at the school. Your help is necessary.

...needed...needed...needed...

...postage stamps. The mailing of minutes each month, paying bills and regular correspondence make for a regular administrative expense. A book or roll of stamps is a fairly easy contribution.

...the case of typewriter paper donated last year is almost depleted. A contribution of a ream, case of paper, etc., also helps with administrative expenses.

...a new Society brochure is being developed. If you’d like to give this a try contact a board member.

...donation for Resource Center paint at $35.00.

...restoration of a small cast iron stove at the Lyons School.

...undocumented to complete the 15 names marked on the Signature Quilt.

...32“ wide base cabinets; for the rest room and the archives room at the Lyons School.

**FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Post cards with early local scenes, pkg of 6/$3.; NOTE PAPER 2/$.25 pkg; copies of 1875 PLAT MAP of Brighton, Oakland, Green Oak and Hamburg Townships and a 1915 map of Brighton for $1.00; TOTE BAG at $15.; NEEDLEPOINT KITS at $8. and MUGS at $5. all show the Old Town Hall, Afghan, red, green or blue, with nine local sites woven in at $49., at The Nature Preserve, 420 W. Main.

A new TAPESTRY PILLOW, $30., depicting the Brighton Railroad depot and train is available. A fine companion to the aforesaid above, 810/229-3100 to order.

For $10.00 your signature or that of another of your choice will be embroidered on THE SIGNATURE QUILT. A file of signatures of early residents is available. Your donation is an appropriate and simple way to support the Society’s activities. This quilt will stay in the Society’s archives.

TILES: 13 different local sites are shown on black/white 6” square ceramic tiles. These are all limited editions. Nostalgia Antiques, 116 W. Main, has them in stock at $8.00 or 3/$24.00.

**WITH OTHER PRESERVATION/RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS**


Indian Village Days/Garden Tour, June 9, 10-5, 313/820-0011 for $12. advance tickets.

Wildflowers, perennials, bird feeders, etc., Brighton Garden Club, May 9, 10-4, Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St.

Green Oak Township Historical Society tour of newly restored Lyons School, May 19, 2-4 p.m. 1455 Bono Road, Brighton Township. Learn of the community involvement that brought the old school to its current state of beauty and usefulness. Learn of the plans for sharing this 19th century experience with 21st century school children. Learn of the history of this structure. Public invited. Children welcome. There will be an opportunity to ring the bell.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craftsm Home Builders, Inc. 

Brighton Commerce Bank, First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Autobody. 

The support of these local businesses is much appreciated. Give them your consideration, please.
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GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For the preservation and historical preservation of Green Oak Township. For information on the historical preservation of Green Oak Township, contact the Historical Society at 71095 Bono Road, Brighton, MI 48116. Phone: (248) 427-4457. Fax: (248) 427-4075. E-mail: brightontownshipHist@msn.com. Website: www.greenoakms.org.

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IOWIA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

(Include zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? () Yes () No

DUES: () $50.00 Patron () $25.00 Couple () $25.00 Student (K-12, College) () $50.00 Life

DONATION: () $10.00 () $25.00 () $50.00 () $100.00 () $500.00 Life


ADMINISTRATION of the Society: Board/Officer/Committee Member, Newsletter, Publicity.

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Brighton, MI 48116

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Archives
178/573-5535

Jim Stratton
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Newsletter Dist.

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