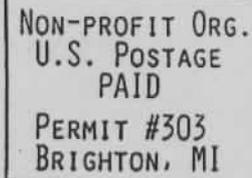


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P O BOX 481  
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

#### AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. Adam Weber's MAPLE AVENUE FARM is this issue's subject.

In 1872, Henry and Margaret (Euler) Weber came to the United States from Germany. By the 1880 census they were in Genoa Township with their three sons, John, Adam (b. 1865), and Conrad. Their three daughters, Catherine, Elizabeth, and one who married R. E. Baetcke, were born in Michigan, according to Margaret's obituary.

(Early obituaries did not list wives' given names only the husband's.)

Genoa and Brighton Townships were being populated at a relatively fast clip in the 1830/1840s. (Nothing's changed.) Among the earliest were the Conrads, Dorrs, Eulers, Behrens, etc. When the Webers came to the area neighbors were still a mile or more apart. Travel was not a simple matter so, as is often found, children of neighbors married. These children might meet at church functions, school events or while working on a neighbor's farm. Just over 100 years ago, Adam Weber and Maria Catherine Conrad (b. 1863, Genoa) married, April 30, 1891. They had two children, both of which, sadly, died as infants. Prior to this time, the 1880 census finds Adam, 15, working as a farm laborer at the Henry Herbst farm in Genoa. His older brother, John Henry, 20, is employed on the Lewis Pless farm. (John also married a neighbor, Margaret Euler.)

Not long after their marriage, on the 1895 atlas, Adam Weber's name is found on 68 acres on the south side of Grand River, bordered on the east by Whitmore Lake Road. (Brighton Township, E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 32.) At the time, brother Conrad owns 240 acres on the north side of Grand River, directly across from Adam's. This had originally been purchased by a speculator, Jacob Leroy of Genesee, New York, August 11, 1835. It is doubtful he ever saw the land since he sold while still in New York, in 1836. Jacob H. Coe recorded the purchase of this piece December 6, 1845, of Livingston County. He sold it in 1848, but his name is still on the map as owner in 1875. Many brief periods of ownership are recorded. People often over-extended themselves and were unable to pay real estate taxes. Even as today much property was bought and lost. Before the end of the 20th century V.G.'s and Kroger shopping centers and a myriad of other businesses are now located on Adam's MAPLE AVENUE FARM. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from census records and early atlases. Also 'Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County' by Milton Charboneau and obituaries copied by Charboneau. Additions/corrections gratefully accepted. 810/229-6402)