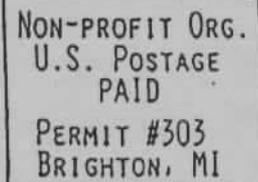


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE BOGANS FROM IRELAND

The inner sections of Genoa Township welcomed early settlers from Ireland, among them, the Bogans. Patrick, a farmer, as was his father Edward, arrived in the U.S. in 1830 at 30 years of age. With him came his wife, Mary, and five children. New York City, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania were all considered, looking for the right place to locate. Finally Michigan Territory seemed to fit the bill. Arriving in Detroit in 1836, whether by the land or sea route, has not been recorded, they settled. November 15, 1836, 40 acres in section 15, Genoa Township, were recorded to Patrick and the following spring his family joined him.

A log home in the woods was the first dwelling. The two daughters, between 10-20 years old, and the three sons, between 10-15, all pitched in to clear land for cultivation. Altho' not located directly on the Old Grand River Trail, they were visited by many Indians, all in need. Wildlife, consisting of small game, deer and bears was plentiful and supplemented the Bogan's diet. Wolves were a source of concern against which they were constantly on guard.

By 1849, another 120 acres were added by Patrick. With only oxen and early farming implements this hard working immigrant family survived. The children attended school wherever the family had settled following their arrival in this country. The parents were determined the children should have the ability to read and write, to which not all in Ireland had been entitled. Log school houses, quill pens, slab benches for seats were the accoutrements of that early educational process.

Son James, only four when crossing the Atlantic, even attended school in Howell one winter, 1852, at the age of 26. A sign of the desire and the determination to acquire that all important ability. A year later he was employed in the Upper Peninsular copper mines where he worked for 16 years. Upon his return he bought 80 of his father's acres and by 1890, section 15, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, is also recorded in his name. Crooked Lake Road is on the south and Dorr Road on the east with the Detroit Lansing Northern Railroad traversing diagonally. The raising of grains, stock and sheep was, for 11 years, intermingled with his duties as postmaster of Genoa Station.

At the late age of 58 he married Kate Milet who was born in California. Some of the descendents of the five living children are still located in this area. The children of James and Kate's son, Edward, are those with which this writer is familiar. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; census records; 1st Landowners of Livingston County, Early Landowners and Settlers, and the transcription of Calvary Cemetery by Milton Charboneau; and conversation with Rita Bogan Mickelson. Corrections and additions are welcome. 810/229-6402)