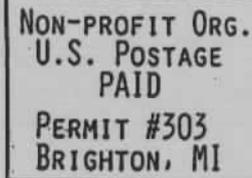


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. The conclusion of research re: Mary Christa's HURON RIVER STOCK FARM is this issue's subject. The examination of area farms has come to the end of the listing. Contact the Editor if you know of more named area farms which weren't on the list, or wish to recommend another topic for consideration.

Mary selected this most appropriate name for her farm. The Huron flowed through the southern portion of the acreage. The Christa house, built c. 1875, probably replaced the Russell home. The entire two story house was built at the same time. (As opposed to many early structures which had additions built on to the original.) A very modern house for the time it had the first furnace (a huge monster) with steam radiators in the area. A marble lined bathroom had an outside entrance for use by farm workers, an inlaid marble-floored entry, a marble stairway and a shallow marble-fronted fireplace. The white marble baseboards provide convincing evidence the Christa's constructed the house. A chimney in the kitchen area indicates Mary probably used a wood stove for cooking. Built-in closets were another unusual feature.

In 1923, Mary signed a right of way for a highway realignment for M 16 (Grand River). This eliminated a dangerous curve, just east of the house, when the highway was paved in 1924. (Early drivers were not immune to the challenge "Just how fast can this Lizzie go?")

Upon Mary's death, 1934, her nephew, Milton, was responsible for the property. By 1960, when your editor acquired the house, most of the land (which hadn't been purchased by the state for the recreation area) was owned by the Brighton Development Corporation. It didn't take long for the barns to be replaced by industries. A few of the long row of black walnut trees do remain. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from censuses, atlases, a portion of the abstract for the property and Milton Charboneau's First Landowners of Livingston County and First Land Owners and Settlers of Livingston County. Corrections and additions most welcome. 810/229-6402)