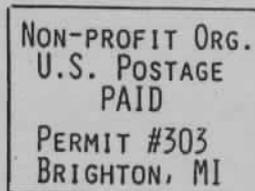


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P O BOX 481  
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#### AREA FARMS C. 1900

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 Unadilla Township has been recorded in his name. January 26, 1838, 40 acres in Hamburg Township are his. 160 acres in Genoa Township, Section 34, SW, and 80 in the W $\frac{1}{2}$  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 older 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 1861, Norman married Maryette Watrous 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 .30¢; ice cream freezer .40¢; corn planter \$1.; two horse blankets \$2.50. During this period the Ann arbor railroad needed gravel for the road bed. 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, Wm. 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 on the Case 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 Downs, offered to work for the Zeebs for room and board. Donna and daughter-in-law, Cecelia, cleaned painted and furnished a nearby box car from the gravel pit for him. They also paid him \$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 Bair from information gathered by Stephen S. Leith and Milton Charboneau's "Early Settlers and Land-owners of Livingston County".)