FROM GERMANY TO GENOA THE CONRAD FAMILY

Just before Christmas, 1836, a boat from Germany docked in New York harbor. Immigrants loaded included the Charles Conrad Family. (His Father, Jacob, a shoemaker, stayed in Germany as did a sister.) With wife Maria Catherine, sons Jacob (10), Charles (4), Phillip (1) and daughter Mary Magdeline (8), Charles lived in Albany and Montgomery, New York for three years. During this time daughter Elizabeth was born. His sister had lent him $400.00 which he almost lost due to forgery in a bank in Albany. Other than that they had no funds. Assuming they traveled the Erie Canal a boat was boarded to cross Lake Erie to Detroit in 1839. Traveling by foot, he took up 80 acres in Section 23, Genoa Township; W4 N4, recorded June 6, 1836. In their new home his growing sons were called upon to provide labor in clearing land for farming. Son John was born in Michigan in 1842.

For several years son Jacob worked in Green Oak Township for $4.00 per month. When Jacob reached 30 years he "...went to California by water." (Around the tip of South America.) For three years he received $3.00 a day sowing wheat in the San Jose Valley. For a time he also worked in the Red Woods. His German ancestry and its characteristic attributes of frugality and economy, stood him in good stead. He headed back to Michigan in 1855, with enough cash to get himself started. Neighbor Elizabeth Dorr, born in New York, became his bride in 1856. Two sons, Louis and Henry, and three daughters, Caroline, Maria and Augusta were born to them. Louis and Henry married sisters, Lydia and Eda Gengnau, respectively. (Daughters of Rev. Henry Gangnau.) Caroline married William Musch, Maria and Augusta married brothers, Adam and Conrad Meber, respectively. One tended to marry those one met in school, church or who were neighbors. Among the charter members of St. George Lutheran Church of Genoa were Jacob and Elizabeth's fathers. They contributed funds to the construction of the second church on the corner of Crooked Lake and Beaver (Herbst and Hubert) Roads. Many of these folks and descendants are buried at the Lutheran cemetery on Herbst Road. Many still live in the area.

Purchasing land by paying overdue tax assessments Jacob soon acquired 400 acres. Included were about 60 acres on the east side of Crooked Lake. His farming consisted of wheat and stock. The arrival of the railroad ensured a convenient and sure means of getting both to market. Brothers Charles and Phillip also purchased land nearby. Charles and Otto Lahner of Bedford bought the Conrad farm on Crooked Lake and Round Lake in 1917, selling lots. They sold to the Barrington Adding Machine Company, who also bought around the south end, as a place of recreation for their employees and families. In 1981 Oak Pointe Development purchased the property. (Compiled by Marilene Blalr From 1881 Portrait and Biographical Album, numerous records; Society archives; St. George Cemetery records; obituaries from the Brighton Argus and Early landowners and Settlers of Livingston County compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Additions/connections? 810/229-6405.)
MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Individuals: Bill & Barbara McCrindle and Bill & Rosemary Ulmer.

Over 90% member renewals have been received for 2003. This kind of support is most important for this organization to exist and function. Member dues pay for printing mailing of Trail Tales, supplies, postage, operation fees (insurance, bonding, government 5 financial accounting, annual Post Office fees & box rent, etc.)

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. A 03, 04 or more indicates dues have been received for 2003, 2004, etc. A 'Complementary Copy' stamp means your financial support is needed as a member of the Historical Society. (The next column gives opportunities for physical support also.)

If you believe an error has been made re membership fact we know. Address corrections are much appreciated, as is your patience.

THANKS

CAROL McCrindle of McCrindle & Associates, P.C. for her contribution to the Society in the compiling of financial records and compiling governmental reports up to date.

Jim Kowalski for two small school desks and to Tom Longworth for a desk.

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John Kowalski for small school desks and to Tom Longworth for a desk.

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RURAL PROPERTY INVENTORY SURVEY

This survey, for which we’ve been searching, was undertaken to establish uniform assessment rates. The dearth of basic data was clear to tax administrators and government officials. Beginning late in 1935, it was sponsored by the State Tax Commission in cooperation with the MPA (Works Progress Administration). Besides compiling needed data for tax assessors, land appraisers and other trained citizens were given employment. This massive undertaking con

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

LYON SCHOOL: Membership in the Friends of Lyon School is increasing. This is an opportunity to give extra financial support to the maintenance of the Lyon School, which goes on year after year. Charter Member rate is $15.00 per individual or $25.00 per family, payable to the Society. Thanks to those adding an extra donation.

A large, 41½” wide steel door for the rear entrance is needed. ‘Friends’ donations will help purchase this before winter.

Bats have made a home in the attic. Front and rear garages need to be replaced - after the bats leave for the night. Again, 'Friends' contributions will be used.

The MSU Extension Service Council will be dedicating a heritage tree, a tulip tree, this month. It was planted on Lyon School grounds. This adds another learning tool.

Each Wednesday, 7 p.m., restoration of school desks is continuing. Keep your crumbs. Displays in the museum area could benefit from attention. Is your ‘thing’ perhaps?

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FUND RAISING PROJECTS

POST CARDS with early local scenes, pkg $4.00; TOTE BAGS $9.00; NEEDLEPOINT KITS @ $6.00; all show the Old Town Hall. PLAT MAPS of Brighton, Geneseo, Green Oak and Hamburgh Townships, 1875 and a 1915 map of Brighton @ $4.00. A TAPESTRY PILLOW, depicting the railroad depot and train @ $30.00. AFRICAN red, green and blue, with nine local sites woven in @ $49.00. Other items listed below to order any of the above.

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 signature is appropriate and simple way to support the Society. This quilt will remain 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 E. Main and Main Street Cafe 440 N. Main have them in stock. $8.00 or $3/$21.00.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

July 25/27: Civil War Encampment, Waterloo Area Farm MUSEUM, P.O. Box 57, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

Congratulations to Northville Historical Society. The city purchased an early prominent residence and donated it to the society for use as a museum.

(Cont. from page 2.)
MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/Individuals: Bill & Barbara McDermott and Bill & Rosemary Umer

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THANKS THANKS THANKS

Janice Field and June Kibler for their help with mailing the June issue of Trail Tales

Carol McDermott of McDermott & Associates, P.C. for her contribution to the Society in the compiling of financial records and compiling governmental reports up to date.

Jim Katakowski for two small school desks and to Tom Longworth for a desk.

Charters of members of Friends of Lyon School

Joan Winchell and helpers for the fine job at printing Lyon School.

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This survey, for which we've been searching, was established to achieve uniform assessment rates. The dearth of basic data was clear to tax administrators and government officials. Beginning late in 1935, it was sponsored by the State's Commission in cooperation with the NPA (Works Progress Administration). Besides compiling needed data on the farmers, land appraisers and other residents, the surveyors were employed. This massive undertaking consumed the

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NEEDED

-hat house for Lyon School

-materials and workers to install corner delineating property lines at the school.

-deeds to help tell of the history of the school. Information will be provided. Call Karla Arnone 810/223-6402 to help.

-six to eight folding chairs to provide seating at the school 810/223-6402.

-people to conduct a Society booth at this summer's Farmers' Market and/or Arts Fair. Also items to be raffled or sold.

-Avery #5391 address labels or Funds (c. $30.00) to purchase.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders. The Press Association Auto Group. The continued support and confidence of these local businesses is much appreciated. Gift them your consideration, please.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

(Please include Zip + 4 digit)

Send membership card? ( ) Yes ( ) No

( ) New ( ) Renewal. Your help is needed with: #1Historic Preservation Projects, #2Fund Raising Projects, #3Administration of the Society. (Please circle your preference)

DUES:

- $50.00 Patron
- $25.00 Couple
- $25.00 Student (K-12, College)
- $50.00 Bus/Prof.
- $15.00 Individual

- $50.00 Life

DONATION:

- $10.00
- $25.00
- $50.00
- $100.00

One

- $250.00

- $500.00

- $1,000.00

C orporate

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Income Tax Deductible Organization.


Fund Raising Projects: Bake Sale, Coverettes, Home Tour, Hugs, Needlepoint Kit, Note and Post Cards, Signature Quilt, Special Events, Tote Bags, Pillows.

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

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(Cont. from page 2.)

continued until 1942. The now obselete data provide a sharp picture of Michigan rural life of over a half century ago. Records of 60 of Michigan's 83 counties are available for research in the State Archives. Livingston County is not one of the 60. What happened to our survey results? County Clerk, Assessor and Register of Deeds offices have no knowledge of this survey. Is it possible some of the townships have theirs in a forgotten storage facility? The opportunity to pursue these would be beneficial to researchers. It would improve Livingston County in the State Archives.
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THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION
OF THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Adopted in Congress 4 July, 1776

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. "

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"...And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

The signers to this Declaration were well aware of the danger in which they and their families were placed. Over 50% of the signers were imprisoned or lost their entire fortunes dying destitute, nor were their families spared. Each of us, reaping the benefits of their bravery, has a responsibility to never let their efforts to have been in vain.

Dates to Remember:
July 2, 3, 16, 23, 30: 7-9 p.m. Lyon School restoration/maintenance continues. You can help. Welcome, 810/229-5402 to confirm.
July 10, 8 p.m. Livingston County Genealogical Society meet. Public is welcome.
July 24, 31, 1-3, Archives filing. Welcome, 810/229-5402 to confirm.