THE GRANT S. BURGESS STORE ON MAIN STREET

Anyone not interested in hard work did not last long in the Michigan Territory. With his mother and stepfather Samuel Burgess's family came to stay. In 1826, with settlements few and far between, they came to Ann Arbor from New York. In 1833 Samuel moved to Putnam Township, Section 6, and purchased 30 acres December 12, 1835, none of which had been cleared of trees. (Only after clearing can farming commence.) When he sold it in 1854 "...every tree had been removed." A sign of great industry. In Handy Township, Sec. 24, NE1/4, he then purchased 160 acres and went to work to clear that land. (Dec. 6, 1854) Samuel owned several yoke of oxen and hired out to 'break' land. His death at age 93, 1861, was cited to have been caused by overwork.

Wife, Lucy Perry, also from New York, had the first of their five children in 1829. Grant S. was the third, born in 1844, for six years, after Samuel died, Grant worked for nearby farmers to help out with family finances. In 1865, at 22, he began clerking for William McPherson in his general store in Howell for 6% years.

McPherson, brother Edward, and Hiram Smith (president of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad) purchased land in Brighton Village west of One Creek out to the Genoa Township border from F.T. Hyne 1970. (Insider information is not new.) Plowing of the Smith-McPherson Addition was instantly underway. By the time the railroad arrived business sites were sold. A general store, two stores wide (SW corner W. Main and Hyne St.) was commenced. Grant Burgess accepted the opportunity to purchase a share of the store and became its manager. In 1888 S.S. Burgess and Co. was on the store's marquee. Ads of the time talk of the "...dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, caps and clothing..." available.

Grant and Sarah Janks were married January 12, 1873, and moved to their new home in Brighton in 1874. Grant sat on the school board for 20 years. In 1900 his tax bill was $75.77. Sarah was one of 13 who organized the Brighton Baptist Church in 1874. One source reads "The (Grant) is liberal in his religious views, but his wife is a member of the Baptist Church." Following an accident while returning from an errand of mercy to a family in Hamburg, Sarah died February 15, 1900. Brighton businesses closed and the church was overflowing with mourners. Of their five children, their only daughter died at the age of two in 1881. The four sons returned and moved to: Ohio, Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Three years after Sarah died Grant sold the store to a S.B. Rice. Mr. S Mrs John Strick became owners in 1920. (For over 40 years the legacy of the general store continued.) The building, over 130 years old is still a viable reminder of Brighton's past. Grant was with Luntle in S. D. at the time of his death April 18, 1919. Grant, Sarah and Amelia are interred at the Brighton Village Cemetery. (Compiled by Marlenea Bair from 1860 Hist. of Liv. Co.: census records; 1891 Big Photo Album; 1965 Homecoming booklet; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonneau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/291-6402.)

The essence of stability is a common perception experienced in the Brighton area. Much of this can be attributed to the existence of historic resources. To safeguard these historic resources local historic district commissions can be established.

Citizens of a governmental entity, i.e. Brighton, Genoa and Hamburg Townships and Brighton City must make their desires for historic preservation known to their governments requesting the appointment of a historic district study committee. (Green Oak Township has an historic district commission in place.) Following extensive research these historic resources are identified. These can include architecture, archeology, culture, etc.

The perception of the traditional aspect of living in this area can only be insured by the enactment of historic district designations. One does not have to own an older structure to care about the preservation of early buildings and other historic features. Their destruction, inappropriate changes, etc., affect the entire community in which we live.

The protection of existing historic properties requires regulations controlling changes as to construction, addition, alteration, moving, etc., of these resources. Also included are the removal of distinctive architectural features, inappropriate additions, or inappropriate color schemes, etc., all of which can affect the value of your property. Establishment of historic districts is definitely to the advantage of those owning properties in the area.

The seemingly wanted, ongoing destruction of historic resources in the area is alarming. Demolition by neglect is just as damaging, and can as adversely affect a resource, as outright demolition. Establishment of an historic district can prevent demolition of an historic resource.

Dates to Remember:

**Public Welcome**
Aug. 16: 7 p.m. Dedication of heritage tree.
**20:27:** 7 p.m. School restoration/maintenance continues. Welcome.
**14:21:** 10 a.m. Archives filling. Welcome.
**85:29:** 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.
**47:** 7 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

Lyon School, 11455 Buna Rd., Brighton