A BUNCH OF PEACHES COME TO GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP

Born in Cambridgehire, England, Joseph, b. 1831 and James, b. 1833, Peaches were the two older of the seven of the ten children of Charles, b. 1807, and Ann Ancor, b. 1815, who made the ocean voyage to America. (The others were Robert, Mary Ann, John, Sarah and Hannah.) Arriving in New York in 1854, the family immediately came to Ann Arbor. Edward was born in the United States. One can assume the family moved from their ancestral home to take advantage of the opportunities for their children in this new country. Perhaps the encouragement of government agents from Michigan, and their glowing descriptions (who were anxious to populate the state) was a factor. (These agents had been sent to many countries in Europe.)

After working in Ann Arbor James came to Green Oak Township in 1858 and bought 80 acres in Sec. 8, on the east side of the Ann Arbor Road (old, old 23) north of the Huron River. Another 50 acres were acquired in Sec. 9 on Academy Drive. (More recently part of the Island Lake Recreation Area.) James was noted for the fine stock and sheep he raised. He became sufficiently wealthy to be able to move several visits to his home town in England. James did not marry.

Brother Joseph also bought in Sec. 8, 80 acres, north of James, on Bishop Road. He married Emmie Dodge January 7, 1853. They had eight children. By 1895, Joseph's son, Orange Phillip, also owned land in Green Oak; in Sec. 15, 80 acres, and in Sec. 21, 32 acres (across from the township hall) and 40 acres in Sec. 22 on Davis Creek.

Orange took Hattie Potter as his wife September 21, 1887. They and their children, Flora, Lamuel and Emmie were very comfortable in their home on Silver Lake Road. Flora and Emmie married local boys, Frank Field and Ken Meek respectively. Lamuel married Edna Dubin, a native of North Dakota. They spent their married life in a hill-top home on Silver Slide Drive. Edna, in 1974, believed strongly in proper recognition and celebration of the nation's upcoming Bicentennial and set about organizing the Green Oak Township Historical Society. She inspired others in the area to support her in this project. Her own memories, interviews of older residents, and her research all provided the impetus in the compiling of a book of Green Oak history. The Society now has new and younger members who also carry on Edna's work. They too believe one can learn from the past.

Take a tour of the Plains (Holden) Cemetery on Maltby Road and you will see the remarkable number of Peaches family members. Along with Charles and Ann, their children Joseph, George, Mary Ann and Robert are also buried in Plains, including grand and great grandchildren. The adventuresome genes of Charles and Ann encouraged several of their children to settle in Washington and California and in other parts of Michigan. (Compiled by Marionna Balf from Census Records; 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album; Yesteryears of Green Oak; John S Janice's field's transcription of the Plains Cemetery; Census Records. Additions, corrections requested.)

March 2004
Vol. XXIII No. 3

PROGRAM SCHEDULING

A schedule of public programs will be prepared Monday, March 22, 6 p.m., at the Lyon School.

Suggestion you might have, regarding the type of program you would attend, should be relayed to a board member. You are invited to that meeting also.

These programs could include a picnic, hot dog roast, ice cream social, show/tell, display and tell about your collection, cemetery tour, program with early photos. There is no point in the board scheduling programs/events if you wouldn't be interested.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

March 9, 1804, St. Louis; Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were on hand, as chief official witnesses, at ceremonies marking the formal transfer of Upper Louisiana to the United States. First a transfer from Spain to France took place. In a heartily endorsed, sympathetic acknowledgment of the French majority of the crowd, the Tricouler waved over St. Louis for one night. The next day ceremonies, including the signing of documents and speech making, ended with the raising of the Stars and Stripes. An unknown, unexplored, enormous territory became part of the United States of America. (cont. p. 3)

Dates to Remember:
Mar. 22: 8 p.m. Society board meets. Welcome.

4 Lyon School, 11455 Bunn Rd., Brighton.