EGBERT ALBRIGHT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN EARLY BRIGHTON

Egbert F. Albright, b. 1823 in New York (Albright) was 13 when he came to Michigan with his father Amos and Amos’s wife, Harriet. (Egbert’s mother was Olive Wheeler. Amos eventually had four wives.) Amos had been a millwright and miller in New York state, milling flour during the War of 1812. A millwright builds mills and ‘dressers’ mill stones. He built several mills in the Milford area. Many farmers with the Albright name arrived in the county during the 1840s. Settlers often, for their journey to Michigan, came as a group; brothers, uncles, nephews, etc.

In 1846 Egbert is working at Everett Woodruff’s mill on Pleasant Valley Road in Brighton Township, as a millwright as is his cousin, Chester Thompson. There is the story that Chester and Egbert both fell in love with the miller’s daughter, Sarah Cornelia Woodruff. Egbert was the one she chose; they married in 1855. The newspaper was no sign of enmity between the men even tho’ they lived in close quarters. The first of five daughters is born to Sarah c. 1854. By then they were living in the village of Brighton within a block of the Brighton Grist and Flouring Mill. In 1856 Egbert and cousin Chester purchased the mill which stood on the NW corner of S. West and N. North Streets on One Creek from Lyman Judson. (Judson had bought it from Woodruff earlier, who had bought it from Orion Quackenbush, the builder/miller.)

They ran the mill until May of 1883, making various improvements including a steam engine for when the stream was low, and new stones, when they sold the mill to the Hyne Brothers for $175.00. Chester lived in rooms in the mill. In addition to his work at the mill he was noted for his garden and the bees he kept. Fishing and hunting kept the family supplied with meat. Grain, eggs, butter, pork, etc., which Farmers traded for grinding their wheat, in addition to Chester’s vegetables and honey, kept the pantry full. The food was well preserved with ice from the mill pond.

The steady supply of food allowed Egbert and Sarah to care not only for their own family but for the many half-siblings his father sent to live with them. Any elderly person who had no one to care for them came to their open door as did young girls who had no place to have their baby. The Albrights were well known for their generosity. Egbert enjoyed playing the ‘corneman’ in Milford’s first band and later in the Brighton Cornet Band. He loved music and taught his daughters to enjoy it and to dance. Their home is remembered as abounding in hospitality and music.

Egbert took an active roll in the life of the village. When a grade/high school was considered in 1883, he chaired the site/construction committee. The building was completed at a cost of $10,697.50. He also served on the school board.

Sarah died in 1888 and is buried in the Village Cemetery. Upon his death Egbert ordered he was to be cremated and his ashes strewn over her grave. (Compiled by Marleanna Bair from census records; Bill Pless’ supplement to the OAR Records of the Old Village Cemetery; ‘From Settlement to City - 1933-1945’ by Carol MacKenzie; obituaries compiled by Milton Charbonneau; and reminiscences by Leila Dorothea York. Corrections/additions? 810/229-6002 please.)
MEMBERSHIPS

Couples/INDIV: Don & Ricci Bandeau, 4Don Botka, Lois Clerk (Midland), Bill Franklin (Ann Arbor), Ted & Helen Hurst, Judy Marcarik-Lawicz, Ruby & Doreen Meffert, Sue Newman (Saline) John Park (Os Flint), Rich & Judy Parsons, and Phyllis Menzel.

PATRON: John & Barbara Jacoby (Minn.)

New members, Don, Judy and Phyllis are sincerely welcomed. Their support and that of other members is vital to the mission of the Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Ida Belz, John & Janice Field and June Kibler for help in mailing the April issue of Trail Tales.

...Al & Karen Mirth for their donation.

...Donation with dues: Don & Ricci Bandeau, Sue Newman.

...Donation to Friends of Lyon School: Lois Clerk (Midland), Bill Franklin (Ann Arbor), John & Barbara Jacoby (Ann Arbor), Sue Newman (Saline), and Rich & Judy Parsons.

...George & Melanie Moss of the Mackeateers, for their donation of publicity for the Society's history book.

...Dick Welser for the display of the long handled pump, and marking of the corners of the Lyon School property.

...Bob & Pauline Schaffer for possible sale items.

...Jim DeJohn for helping with transport of these items.

...Maureen Lacy (A2) for picture of her grandmother's house.


...Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River for stocking the history book.

...Society members for their patience with the newsletter editor.

GOTHIS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

The restoration of the 1856 Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road, is under way. Following the lead of the Green Oak Township Historical Society board many residents and businesses have come forward with financial, physical and building-supply contributions.

ARCHIVES:
The collection is growing, the inventory is under way and lots of help is needed. Thursdays, 1-3 at the Lyon School. Call 810-229-6402 to confirm.

LYON SCHOOL: Each first Sunday, 1-4, of the month the school will be open for tours, research, etc. Members of Lyon Park Women's League help host.

FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY - Brighton - 1822-1995. This local history book by Carol McMacken has had a fine response. Three Fifth of the first issue have been purchased. This book sells itself. Judging by the number of repeat purchases, available at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River or call 810-229-6402.

NEEDED

...people to take a position as a director or committee chair for a year, i.e. publicity, art fair booth, school site landscaping.

...people to prepare displays for 1st Sunday of the month open house at the Lyon School. 11455 Buro Road.

...Lucille Welser will be in charge of a Society booth at the Farmers' Market one Saturday a month. She could use your help. Call her 810-229-3036. It's fun.

...someone to serve as co-editor or assistant for the newsletter.

...information as to the origin of the area known as Chilson.

...contributions to the printing and/or mailing of the newsletter; utility expenses at the Lyon School; insurance bill for the school and Society board.

An annual fund raiser is the garage sale held at 9185 Silverside Dr., off Silver Lake Road, May 18-21, 9-4 p.m. You will find something you've always wanted at this sale. Contributions of sale items will be accepted thru May 16.

Call Pres. JoAnn Williams, 248/437-8164 or e-mail Jokwilliams@msn.com for information. Your help at the sale is appreciated also. www.GreenOakTownshipHistoricalSociety.com.

PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

NAME ______________________________________ PHONE ________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________ (Please include zip + 4 digit)

Dues: ( ) $250.00 LIFE ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) 2.00 Student

( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $15.00 Individual ( ) $50.00 Sub/Prof.

Be a Friend of Lyon School: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) Other $__

DONATION: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $50.00 ( ) $100.00 ( ) Other $__

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

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

FROM SETTLEMENT TO CITY - Brighton, MI - 1822-1945, by Carol McMacken. Brighton's own history book. Almost 500 pages, over 500 pictures. Members, $50.00 non members $55.00 + shpg.

TILES: 13 local scenes, black/white 8"x8" ceramic tiles. Main Street Cafe, 440 W. Main. $5.00 or $3/$21.


For more information - 810-229-6402

(cont. from p. 1)

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The Missouri was running swiftly and deeply with snow melt from the Rocky Mountains ahead. High, fast waves, strong gusts of wind, and with Chinookone..."...perhaps the most timid waterman in the world..." at the helm, the white proigue, now Rossville of the rushing water, filled within an inch of the top sending precious papers, specimens, food, and supplies downstream. However Saccajawea caught and saved most of the items floating away. Lewis "...we thought it a proper occasion to...cheer the spirits of our men...give each man a gill of spirits."

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

May 12, 10-4 p.m. Wildflower Sale. Brighton Community Center, 555 Brighton St., Brighton Garden Club.

May 30, 10 a.m. Memorial Day services.

June 4, 10-5 p.m. Indian Village Home/Garden Tour, 313/822-1736 or www.HistoricIndianVillage.org Group tours available.

LIFE MEMBERS: Lawrence Autoboy and Promesa.

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS: Advance Craft Homebuilders, Inc. and Linwood Assoc. Associates are welcomed.

The support and confidence these companies exhibit is much appreciated. Give them your consideration please. The support of others in the commercial community is welcome.
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