THE INDUSTRIOUS JOHN L. CARTER COMES TO MICHIGAN

A mother gave birth to her only child October 10, 1820, in Ireland. Not long after she died. Her husband, Julian Carter, emigrated to the United States, settling in Oswego, New York, the following year. The child, John L., was raised in Ireland by his grandparents. He attended school until he was 18 and then joined the 'constabulary,' working in this police force until 1845. At that time, age 25, he also emigrated to America to work with his Father for three years. Julian was a farmer, merchant and lumber manufacturer; not a poor or lazy man. While in New York, John met Jeanette Lambie who was born January 30, 1827, in Scotland. (It is also possible they were acquainted as children; both Families were businessmen.) The Lambies, John and Jane, came to America in 1831. Lambie died in 1834.

In 1848, at 28 years, John L. went to Michigan, probably via the Erie Canal, to look for a place to begin his own business. For two years, in Milford, he worked at a flouring mill. He and Jeanette were married April 19, 1849, when he bought 80 acres in Oakland County and farmed until 1855. By 1859, John owned 160 acres in Section 11, Brighton Township. Pleasant Valley Road runs through the far eastern portion of the property and the acreage is bounded on the south by Hynes Road. (A two-page spread in the 1895 History of Livingston County displays an elegant two-story Italianate, hip-roofed house on the east side of Pleasant Valley Road, as the home of John L. Carter. Wood fences enclose many barns and fine looking stock.) In the ensuing years the Carters own 400+ acres.

Besides farming, John accepted civic responsibilities. Prior to being elected to the 27th State legislature January 1, 1873, he had served as Supervisor of Brighton Township (1865-68, 1871-72). He had earlier served as Justice of the Peace in 1863. One must realize that serving in a township office is both a requirement and an advantage to be aware of trends in commerce, business, education, agriculture, transportation, etc.

John and Jeanette had seven children. Martha, b. March 13, 1850, married the son of neighbors, Ebenezer A. Ross. The Rosses were also large land owners. Margaret, b. April 5, 1852, did not marry. Helen, b. December 5, 1855, married Oliver Tenny, another nearby neighbor. Son John L., b. 1859, married Luella Hynes from the west side of the township. Frances, b. 1866, married Frank Lindsley, in 1890 and lived across five miles from home in Highland Township. The other two children were twins, who died in 1854. As was too often the case, it appears they died not long after birth. John L. died October 3 1902 and Jeanette April 17, 1903. Both are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Oakland County, as are the unamed twins. (Compiled by Marileena Bair from the 1800 History of Livingston County; census records; atlases; cemetery transcriptions; obituaries copied by Milton Cherbonau. Additions/corrections welcome. 810/229-6402.)

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TRAIL TALES
Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

ORAL HISTORY - WHAT? WHY?

Oral history is the recording of an interview with one who has a connection to you, your family or your community. It can include memories about organizations, events, people, education, transportation, occupation, sports, religion, military service; the list is endless.

Government leaders can tell how local government is/ was conducted. Educators, bus drivers, farmers, football players, barbers, preachers will be honored to answer your questions. Be prepared to ask and record them. Parents and grandparents all have a story to tell. An oral history will increase the value of your family album.

To learn how best to conduct an interview an oral history workshop will be scheduled. A minimum of 10 persons is required. There is a charge of $25.00. Contact 810/229-6402 by March 15, so a workshop date can be set.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

During the dreary, rainy days of winter at Ft. Clatsop, Capt. Marileena's lexicon regularly in his journal. While Lewis described plants, birds, animals and Indian ways, Capt. William Clark worked on his maps. February 21, 1805, a map of their journey from Ft. Mandan to Ft. Clatsop was completed. This, and his map of the lower Missouri, was the first chart that fully brought the eastern and western United States into one nation. After reviewing the Captains are sure they have "...found the most practicable and navigable passage across the Continent of North America." Unfortunately it confirmed the fears there was no easy water route across the country - no passage to India - no short passage from the Missouri to the Columbia. There is no comparison of eastern mountains to the heights and distances involved with the Rockies and coastal ranges. The next issue would be getting back (cont. p.3)

Dates to Remember:
FEB. 2, 16, 23: 1-3 p.m. Archive filing.
Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
15, 22, 29: 7 p.m. Lyon School Maintenance.
You can help.
27: 6:30 p.m. Society board meets.
Welcome.

@ Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road, Brighton