THE BOYLAN S MOVE WEST

Early censuses record a number of settlers to Michigan Territory by the name of Boylan. Several came from Pennsylvania, including Moses M. Boylan. Born November 30, 1805, Moses brought his family to the Territory at an early date. He must have bought a substantial number of acres in Washtenaw County. It is believed he donated land in Ann Arbor as a site for the first courthouse and he is noted as serving as the first sheriff of that county. A photo shows a thin face, and wide, white goatee. Moses died July 11, 1876, his wife in May, 1880 in Ann Arbor.

A son, Charles, who was born in 1830, in Ann Arbor when it was a small cluster of cabins, seems to have lived most of his life in Ann Arbor, dying there in 1905.

Moses’ second son, Arthur S., was born in Ann Arbor August 4, 1835. Growing up in Ann Arbor it was logical for Arthur E. to “learn” medicine at the University of Michigan. During the Civil War, at age 29, he served as a teamster with the 24th Department; March 26/October 14, 1894, 7 months, 13 days. He probably served out of Washtenaw County; he is not found in Livingston County Civil War records. However, he does appear with other Brighton area veterans in pictures of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Arthur met Katie Norton, who had been born December 23, 1837, in Madison, Hamilton County, New York. She had moved to Hamburg in 1864. They married in 1865, moving to Brighton shortly after. Doo, in 1873, served a term as a trustee in the six-year old Village of Brighton. A daughter, Mary Louise, was born to them in 1866. She married William N. Bitten, April 11, 1889, a local boy who had a variety of occupations: among them, a match, butcher and woodcutter. A photo of their children, Bernice, Thelma and Arthur Burchard with Grandfather Arthur E. in a buggy with the horse “Faithful Jon” is winsome.

A son, Arthur M., born December 2, 1868, married local girl Lydia Avis. They had a son Arthur J., in 1915. Arthur M. and Frank Cline had a men’s clothing store at the corner of W. Main and First Street, which appears to have been started in the early 1900s. Their partnership continued until 1934. When Cline had the business himself. (Cline was murdered in his store by the Andrus brothers, April, 1949.)

Doc Boylan died April 19, 1937. Katie came to a tragic end February 2, 1913. Son Arthur M., with her since Doc died, “...was away for a short time and on returning found his mother on the kitchen floor dead. Her clothing and hair nearly all burned off. She had managed to get a paper afire...It is probable death was a result of suffocation.” (obituary) Both Doc and Katie are buried in Fairview Cemetery. (Compiled by Marlenea Bair from obituaries copied from the Brighton Argus and the Fairview Cemetery transcription by Milton Charbonneau; the 1880 History of Livingston County and census records. Call 810/229-6402 with corrections and additions.)

A lot can be hidden in an old building when one first encounters it. Besides actual stuff in a wall, one also gains respect for the long period of time it represents; longer than one's own life time.

It inspires participation in the longer scheme of things and to take history seriously. This is an impossible expectation of a new building.

As Stewart Brand, founder of the Whole Earth Catalog and author, notes when recognizing the preservation movement: “The crucial thing that preservationists have done is to put effective controls on the enormous power of real estate, the enormous arrogance of architects, and the sometimes desperately wrong theories of urban planners. Like, "Let's just erase this part of the city," Preservationists say: “No, you can do it better" and we'll help.”

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY BICENTENNIAL

The recrossing of the Bitterroot Mountains, which they knew only too well, proved to the mind of each Corps member, especially Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Lewis, who saw to the Finly preparations had to constantly guard against the thievery of the Indians. Even while dragging the canoes through the rapids or the portage the Indians were quick to grab an unguarded item. Each village they passed was a repeat of the thievery of the previous. Nor was Lewis’ dog safe. The three soldiers sent to retrieve him were ordered to shoot if necessary. Were the Captains to give in to their anger it surely would have endangered them all; even the completion of the entire expedition. Only the discussion Lewis had with the local people and the continual guarding of their possessions kept the dangerous situation under control. (cont. p.3)

Dates to Remember:

Apr 92: 1-4 p.m. Open House.
1013: 1-3 p.m. Archive Filing. Welcome. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
1412: 7 p.m. Lyon School maintenance.
2024: 6:30 p.m. Society Board meeting. Welcome.
May 97: 1-4 p.m. Open House. Authors’ Day.
6 Lyon School, 11495 Buro Road, Brighton