GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP WELCOMES THE FIELD FAMILY

Eldad Spencer Field, with brother-in-law Norton Wait, came to Michigan within ten years of the completion of the Erie Canal. (The convenient and economical route over the Appalachian Mountains in New York opened the way for settlers to pioneer in Michigan Territory. Early Livingston County census records indicate a family of Fields in each township.) Even before coming to Michigan, Eldad (born in 1798) and wife Betsy (born in 1797) registered land in Section 29 of Green Oak Township; later buying land in Sections 31 and 32. Field and Wait cleared some of the land and built a log cabin about one mile northwest of Whitmore Lake on Nine Mile (M-36) Road before returning to Detroit for the winter. The following spring 1836, Betsy and the six children were met at the dock in Detroit by her husband and her brother. With a team of oxen, pull wagon with their belongings and supplies (no local grocer or merchant), a tedious journey of two days brought them to Green Oak Township after struggling over a dirt trail, fording rivers and streams, dragging through mud and swamps. When Eldad and Betsy arrived, they were almost 40; not considered young at the time. The six children ranged in age from 1-12 years; four boys (James b. 1824, Ira b. 1826, George b. 1832, Milton b. 1833) and two girls (Anna b. 1830 and Eliza b. 1835). Eldad R. was born after their arrival in Michigan. The boys often found work with neighbors as they grew up; when their dad didn’t need their help.

Research indicates several of the Field men were active in forming local governments (no women’s suffrage yet) and held responsible positions throughout the years – all while continuing agricultural and economic pursuits. The Michigan Pioneer Society, agricultural improvement organizations and churches benefited from their active participation. When School District #1 was established in Green Oak Township, settler Eldad Spencer provided a site; Field School. Eldad died in 1865, Betsy lived to 96 years of age. Both are interred in the Hamburg Cemetery as are a number of others of the Field family.

Son George married Harriet E. Ela on December 3, 1854. The Field, Wait and Ela families were already acquainted in New York. George and Harriet had six children; four girls, two boys. By 1875, George has built a fine home on Ann Arbor Road about one mile northeast of father Eldad’s. (In 2003 this home was moved and shortly after demolished.) George died at 90 and with Harriet is also in Hamburg Cemetery.

George’s son, Ela Milton, b. July 7, 1861, married Carrie Ann Fisher on January 13, 1885, the daughter of neighbor Frank Fisher. In a not heavily populated area, and transportation difficult, neighbor often married neighbor. Of their six children, Irving married Alta Emma Chamberlain; they had four children. Of them, John Mark (great, great, grandson of Eldad) married local girl Janice Sutton and lives in Green Oak Township continuing the tradition of responsible citizenship. (Compiled by Marianne Bair from census records; cemetery transcriptions; 1880 History of Livingston County; Yesteryears of Green Oak; Early Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries collected by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)
MEMBERSHIPS


COUPLES/INDIV: Tilitte Bitten, Judy Coeby & Gary Resettter, Eugene & Judy Dahlin, Phil & Peggy Cagle (SS&M), Lee & Sue Garcia, Jeanette Johnson, Stephen Leith (Kincheloe), Tom Leith, Tammy Meldrum, Tom Reinke (Westland), Doris Singer (Gr. Rpt.)

*Welcome to new member Tammy. It is good, also to list renewing members.

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the address label. If no '07 or '08 etc. is noted or if "Complementary Copy" is applied, dues have not been received. Your support of the mission of the Society will be evidenced with dues payments and/or contributions. As a 501(c)3 organization, the Society is entirely dependent on financial backing from individuals and businesses to maintain its endeavors. To be fiscally responsible, a review of the mailing list must be ongoing.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

.... Ida Bair, Judy Coeby and Sue Skarski for help in mailing the November Trail Notes.

.... Sue Garcia for indexing the Oak Grove Cemetery transcription.

.... Dr. Harry & Carol Davis, Tom & Melinda Kinsey, Harold Leitz, Cleo Moran, Norma Jean Pless and Doris Singer for donations to Friends of Lyon School '08.

.... Tilitte Bitten, Cleo Moran, Rich & Mary Ray and Doris Singer for donations to the Society projects.

.... $3 Bank for their donation of Brighton State Bank archives.

.... South Lyon Historical Society for hosting the cluster meeting in November.

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax deductible organization. Help out the Society and yourself with a contribution

ARCHIVES: Determining how and where to file, for future retrieval, ephemeral of local history continues. The Society scrapbook is being brought up-to-date. Thursday mornings is the usual time. Would another time be better for you to help?

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Continuing filing business addresses. 50-70s Argus are being reviewed. Photos of today's sites are needed.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: We hosted a Cub Scout meeting at Lyon School.

LYON SCHOOL: Winterizing is going on.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 9, 1-4 p.m.

Santa and one of his elves will be here to greet you and wish you a happy holiday.

Cookies, cocoa, etc. will be served.

C. 1920-30s holiday decorations will be displayed.

Got your old sled to bring?

Children can make a small craft or decoration to take home.

Tour the one-room school. What better place to make memories? Info: 810/229-6402.

The Brighton History book, covers, letters, pillows, tiles, etc. will be available for purchase as welcome gifts.

NEED AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2007?

The Historical Society has the long-term goal of upgrading available historical research documentation in order to provide information over the internet. A computer-based system for these records is planned.

The Society is looking for a PC with Microsoft XP. A 27" TV with an integral DVD player would also be appreciated.

If a Christmas gift at your house will replace existing electronic equipment, consider donating to the Society. You will receive an Income Tax deduction. Contact Jim Viechich – 810/227-4840.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

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

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE: ___________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________

(Include Zip and 4 digits) Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( )

New ( ) Renew ( )

Dues: ( ) $50.00 Life ( ) $25.00 Couple

( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $15.00 Individual

( ) $50.00 Bus/Professional ( ) $2.00 Student

Friend of Lyon School: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) Other $ ______

Donation to Society Project Needs: ( ) $ ______

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

$55 FUND Raising PROJECTS: $55

BOOK: "From Settlement to City – Brighton MI 1832-1945" by Carol McMacken, Brighton's own history. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, $60.00, non-members $65.00, plus shipping. Second edition at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, Brighton.

TILES: 6" sq. ceramic tiles, black/white. 13 local scenes. $8, M.T. $21.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS: S / XL - $12.

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS: $1.00 - 1875 maps of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Howell and Oceola. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

For more information, call 810/229-6402.

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

A photo always creates a response. In 2050, a photo from 2007 will be welcome. The area is continually evolving. Needed is someone willing to donate time, film and processing to photograph sites, events and people, to the Society archives. A walk down Main Street, Grand River or any area roads will provide lots of material.

2007 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders; * *Lawrence Autobody; **Patrick Financial Group, ILS; **Promess, Inc.

You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainer of the Society.

Life Member

NOTE PAPER: $2.50/pkg. TOTE BAG: $15.00

PEWTER PLATE: $35. All designed with the Old Town Hall and millpond.

WOVEN AFGHAN: $49 – red, green, blue with nine local sites. Washable.


SIGNATURE QUILT: $10 – Your signature, or another’s, to be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives.

2004 CALENDAR: $4 with local scenes.

Happy Holidays!
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