

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #303
Brighton, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“THE BRIGHTON AREA RECEIVES MAIL”

During the early days of settlement of Livingston County, pioneers knew full well there would be no dependable delivery of mail. In this southeast quarter of the county, as elsewhere, mail delivery was by horseback from Detroit to settlements along the Grand River Trail. One of these weekly riders, contracted by the Postal Department, was Lewis Thompson. By 1838, the center of this part of the county was Brighton Village. Here Post Master Wilber Fisher, after its delivery by Thompson, sorted mail and handed it to settlers when they came to town on business.

Genoa Township is traversed across its northern portion by the Grand River Road. “The stage line was in operation over the Grand River Road...a post office called Genoa P.O. was established”, notes a contributor to the 1880 History of Livingston County. Post Masters were appointed by the Postal Department to serve the rural areas. Chester Hazard received the first appointment in Genoa, at his farm on the Grand River Trail, just east of Hughes Road. Because so much care and detail was involved, after several years Hazard asked that John Weimeister be appointed in his place in 1848. By then Weimeister owned the Dutch Grocery, built by Lawrence Euler, c. 1837, at Kellogg Road, on the Trail. “Old” John Meyers, who lived nearby was appointed Weimeister’s deputy.

After the Grand Trunk Railroad was constructed through Genoa Township, 1871, the post office is moved to Genoa Station and James Bogan is Post Master. Genoa Station was located at the intersection of Dorr and Crooked Lake Roads and the railroad. It was still necessary for the local farmer to go to the post office to get mail.

Green Oak Township pioneers also had to travel to receive and send mail. Northville or Whitmore Lake were the nearest for Green Oak settlers. Robert Warden settled in the northeast portion of Green Oak Township in 1833. He applied to the U.S. Government to have a post office on his farm near the intersection of Silver Lake

and Kensington Roads, called Greenock, commemorating his hometown in Scotland. Application was granted but the name became Green Oak. Brother-in-law Kinsley S. Bingham was appointed the Post Master.

A postal route from Ann Arbor to Pontiac was formed in 1847. The route appears to have followed Rushton Road north from Eight Mile Road. Thomas Dunlap, on horseback, made the weekly trip. Green Oak Mills and Green Oak Station were post offices on the route. By 1859, Anna Hollister was Post Master at a post office on her farm on Winans Lake Road near the south end of Rickett Road. This post office was in operation until October 21, 1862.

The arrival of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad, 1872, across the northeast part of the township, intersected with Silver Lake Road near Rushton Road. A small community, including a store and a boarding house run by the Parker sisters was established; it was logical to locate a “Green Oak Station Post Office” at the site. In operation until July 16, 1906, a number of post masters served throughout the years.

By 1875, the Green Oak Post Office is located in the small community of Rushton, a half mile south of Ten Mile Road served by the Grand Trunk Railroad. A sawmill and a grist mill were built there. Farmers, having occasions to go there for business could also pick up mail. 1884 finds Clark Coe is Post Master; 1888 it’s Frank E. Richards. To be Continued.....

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: 1880 History of Livingston County; “From Settlement to City, Brighton, 1832-1945” by Carol McMacken; “Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830-1930”; plat maps; newspaper clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810-229-6402.)