

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**Early Roads in Genoa Township — Brighton, Brady and King**

Brighton Road, west bound from Brighton, extends into Marion Township to Pinckney Road, about six and one-half miles. It is the main thoroughfare across the top of Sections 30 through 36 of Genoa Township.

Its existence can be located on the earliest Livingston County maps. Rather obviously it was called Brighton Road because it led to Brighton Village. Almost the straightest road in the township, it skirts Lime Lake and Coon Lake. Brighton Road’s cargo of buggies, wagons and cattle drives are in the long past. Hundreds of homeowners in the pastoral landscape utilize it for the nonce.

Two miles west of Chilson, on Brighton Road, one finds Brady Road. One mile long it runs north/south, on the center line of Section 31, between Brighton Road and Schafer Road. In 1875, Phillip Brady, born October 11, 1827, in Ireland, is the owner of two 80 acre pieces, one on each side of the road, which Phillip bought from his father, Matthew, January 3, 1857, who had purchased it January 2, 1847. The 1895 plat map notes “M. Brady et al” as owners.

Phillip arrived in Michigan in time to marry Mary Ann Barron, January 4, 1863, who was born in Michigan January 4, 1845. Records indicate Phillip and Mary Ann had nine children.

Youngest son, Joseph, born January 9, 1886, in partnership with Paul Brogan, operated the grocery at Chilson, serving the railroad and fishermen and campers at Crooked Lake. Phillip, the farmer, died October 26, 1906. Detroit Edison selected that family name when designating addresses to which to send bills for electricity in the 1930s. Brady descendants still reside in the area.

An early 1859 trail south from Brighton Road to the Hamburg Township line ran on the section line between Sections 32 and 33. Not until the Detroit Edison Company extended power to rural areas, c. 1930-35, does one find King Road named on the map.

The 1880 census records indicate James M. and wife Ella M. King (m. October 30, 1878), daughter of Orin Case, were farming on that site. In 1915, Ella is noted as the owner of that property at the north end of King Road. Her father, Orin, was an early landowner in Genoa Township, and had owned that property previously. He had purchased it in 1869. Earlier, Mr. J.M. King was a clerk in the Ira W. Case Store on Grand River in Brighton. The Case store sold dry goods and shoes. The store opened in mid 1856 and went out of business in 1931. James and Ella King moved to their daughter’s home in Highland Park in 1915. Mr. King died February 20, 1918.

(Compiled by Marieanna Bair from: Census records; Plat maps; Case family genealogical records from Stephen Leith; Calvary Cemetery transcription and “Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County” by Milton Charboneau. Additions/corrections requested 810-229-6402.)