AREA FARMS C. 1900

Research of local farms and farmers listed in the Brighton Argus, their background and location continues. M. Burton Francis’ LINWOOD LAWN FARM is this issue’s subject.

The property known as LINWOOD LAWN FARM was partly in Brighton Township and partly in Genoa Township.

The WI N4 of Section 19, Brighton Township (80 acres) was first purchased from the U.S. government in May, 1835, by Ephraim C. Allen of Genesee, N.Y., Mr. Allen appears to have been one of many land speculators as we find he sold later that same year.

The NE1/4 of Section 24, Genoa Township (40 acres) was first purchased by Benjamin J. Bontwell of Wayne in 1836. Altho’ in two different townships the land has been bought and sold as one farm. The east end of the farm was not far from Ore Creek.

Alanson P. Dickinson and wife, Jane, were owners in 1852 but sell by 1859. By 1870 they live in Brighton Village. Dickinson served in the Civil War as 1st Lt., Co. L, 9th Michigan Inf., Reg., enlisting from Romeo, Michigan. Charles and Anna Martha Dorr own the farm in 1870, selling it in 1872. By that time the Grand River Trail (on the border between the two townships) is the scene of daily passing of stage coaches, wagons and buggies. The 1875 atlas indicates a house on the NW corner of Grand River and Crooked Lake (Herbst) Road. A house is still on that site.

In 1895, the farm is owned by Carsten and Adelaide Denhaus, both born in Prussia, Their daughter, Margaret, married M. Burton Francis March 9, 1904. At that time she is a childless widow of Harry L. Bitten. Francis brings his son, Harvey, (from an earlier marriage) into this union.

M. Burton Francis, born 1877, died 1969, is one of three children of Joseph W. and Eugenia A. Francis. Joseph is a veteran of the Civil War, serving as a corporal in Co. I, 3rd Michigan Cavalry from September 5, 1862/June 2, 1863. The Michigan 3rd Cavalry, Co. I, served most of their time in Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. Following the marriage of M. Burton and Margaret the farm is in the care of M. Burton. A total of about 115 acres. Before his death he saw the construction of a dam on Ore Creek and the formation of Woodland Lake, the construction of 1–56 and major changes in land use in the area. (Compiled by Marianna Bair from First Land Owners of Livingston County, Landowners and Settlers of Livingston County and obituaries compiled by Milton Charboneau. Also early atlases and Michigan in the War, 1861–1865. Additions, corrections gratefully accepted. 810/229-6402. A more complete history will result.)

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

The Society is making ready to enter 2002. Sheryl Vignostad will serve as V.P. Mindy Kinsey takes the position of treasurer. (This will give Marje White a bit of a rest. She has recorded the Society’s financial affairs for over 10 years. It is impossible to express sufficient thanks for such long, dedicated service.) Directors elected were Nancy Frederensburg, Carol McMaken and Jim Vichich. Marianna Bair serves as president for 2002.

A dire need exists for a member to serve as secretary to record the proceedings of meetings. A volunteer who is able to attend meetings regularly is most necessary. Call a board member if you can help with this position. If the meeting time/date is holding you back call Bair, 229-6402, so other arrangements can be made.

A 20th anniversary cake, donated by Kroger in Brighton, added to the commemoration of the Society’s organization. Successes of the past 20 years include preservation of the old Town Hall; recognition of local historic sites; transcription of cemeteries and encouraging their proper care; compiling genealogies; gathering early memories and history of the area; promoting archival research; preservation and restoration of early implements and structures especially the functional restoration of Lyons School. All give evidence the Society has been/will be a significant contributor to the sense of place of the Brighton area.

The value of your support as a member, donor, serve on the board or on a project cannot be overstated. Those who believe in its mission will find some way to assist.

Dates to Remember:
Dec. 4, 11, 6 p.m. Lyons School restorations.
6, 13, 1-3 p.m. Archives filing.
810/229-6402 to confirm. Welcome.

"Lyons School, 11455 Budo Road, Brighton."