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### 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 W $\frac{1}{2}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  OF SECTION 19, BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP (80 ACRES) WAS FIRST PURCHASED FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN MAY, 1833, BY EPHRIAM C. ALLEN OF GENESSEE, N.Y. MR. ALLEN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF MANY LAND SPECULATORS AS WE FIND HE SOLD LATER THAT SAME YEAR.

THE NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  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 SEEMS TO HAVE 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, ARE 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 MARIA 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 DENKHAUS, 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 3, 1862/JUNE 2, 1865. 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 I-96 AND MAJOR CHANGES IN LAND USE IN THE AREA. (COMPILED BY MARIEANNA 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.)