

First Town Meeting Of Farmington Township Was in Log House in 1827

Written especially for this edition

By N. H. Power

For three years after its settlement Farmington was for all political purposes a part of Bloomfield Township and under this name was included the two southern tiers of towns in the County. In the Spring of 1827 several new townships were formed and among them was that of Farmington which included not only its present territory but that now embraced in the towns of Commerce, Milford, Lyon and Novi. An act of the legislative Council approved April 12, 1827 directed that the townships mentioned be a township by the name of Farmington and that the first town meeting be held at the home of Robert Wixom in said township. In accordance with this order the first town meeting was held at the designated place the last Monday in May of that year. Robert Wixom's log house, where the meeting was held was located on Grand River avenue, a little west of the home now occupied by Fred Daines. Amos Mead was chosen supervisor and Robert Wixom clerk. Amos Mead was re-elected in 1828 and again in 1833. Some of the men that held the office after him were Edward Steele, 1829-1832-1834-1835; Daniel Lee 1837; John H. Button 1845 to 1853; Henry F. Cobb 1860; P. Dean Warner 1862 and 1886; Henry R. Mason 1867-1869; Oscar S. Harger 1871; James L. Wilber 1872; Ben Grace 1876 until 1883. C. D. Owen 1884 to 1887. Albert A. Murray was elected April 4, 1887 and died in the following January. He was the only supervisor to die while in office during the town's one hundred years of organized government.

The record for years in this office was held by James L. Hogle, who was elected in 1895-96-97 and 98 and again at a later date.

There was many a hard-fought contest for the office of supervisor between the Republicans and Democrats. The latter, though in a decided minority, often won through superior tactics and able aggressive leadership. The Australian ballot had not come into use. The workers of both parties would personally urge and solicit the voters to support the man whose name appeared on the ticket. This was done at the polls in the building where the election was held. The ballots were in the hands of the party workers. Quarrels between the workers were not uncommon. Loud and angry words were used and physical encounters narrowly averted. The town meeting as once conducted has been superseded by another system. That too, may have its day, and after years give way for some other plan.

LESS THAN ONE-THIRD OF OAKLAND TOWNSHIPS HAVE ADOPTED PRIMARY

Although the direct primary as a means of selecting Township officers has gained rapidly in the past few years, not more than one-third of the townships in Oakland County have the primary at present.

Farmington joined the ranks of those townships favoring the primary within the past year. Others which are holding primaries this Spring are West Bloomfield, Bloomfield, Troy, Avon, Royal Oak, and Southfield.

The struggles for important offices in Farmington Township are being watched by the entire County.

Particular attention is called to the advertisers in this issue, who welcome residents of the Township to take advantage of their varied services. Their "platforms" are good merchandise, courteous service and fair prices.

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