

JOHN R FRANK

John R. Frank, 95, the Copper Country's pioneer farmer, who claimed, 'I was never afraid of work,' died this morning in the Calumet Public Hospital where he was a patient the past two months.

He was born in Avon, Oakland County, Nov. 30, 1867, a son of the late Mr. And Mrs. Lucius Frank.

His early education was received in Avon and in the fall of 1888 he enrolled at Michigan State College.

He moved to the Copper Country in 1890 and at first was a school inspector of Duncan Township, later loaded boats for the Hebbard Company in Pequaming and then became a scaler for Hebbard in Lake Linden.

Mr. Frank returned to Avon for a short time before settling in the Lake Linden farm district. He then operated a 40 acre homestead with is brother Hobert.

In 1895 he married Hattie Weaver in Avon and in 1896 purchased 60 acres of the present 380 acre 'Sunnyside' farm on the Cemetery Road. His wife died March 10, 1950.

It was there where Frank established a Guernsey dairy herd, his best cow having a 600 pound butterfat record in one lactation period.

For many years, his son L. Earle Frank, assisted him in the farm work.

Frank believed that he was the first dairyman to own a hand operated Babcock Tester which determined butterfat tests of milk. He was one of the first farmers to own a separator and one of the first to grow alfalfa hay in the area. He also was one of the first to keep dairy records.

Frank was a long time member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, was one of the first directors of the Houghton County Agricultural Society and was organizer of the Second Grange of the Upper Peninsula.

He also helped organize the Farm Bureau and the Houghton County Potato Growers Association.

Never more than 150 pounds in weight, the wiry Frank boasted of never having smoked or having chewed tobacco.

A few years ago he said, 'I have a lot of faith in Houghton County. If the people have fortitude to apply themselves they can make this a prosperous county.'

He was a member of the Octogenarian Club and was a past member of the Lake Linden Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Linden-Hubbell Lions Club.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Clarence (Lucille) Moore of Redford Township Detroit, a son, L. Earle Frank at home, a brother Hobert of Rochester and several nieces and nephews.

The body is in the Pearce Funeral Home where friends may call after 7pm today, 1 to 5pm and 7 to 10pm Wednesday.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 pm, in the funeral home, the Rev. Ralph Guilliat to officiate.

Following the services the body will be taken to the Pixley Funeral Home, Rochester where services will be held Saturday at 2pm. Burial will be in the Rochester Cemetery.

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