LOCATIONS OF DRUMLINS IN THE TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE, DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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The drumlins in the Town of Liberty Grove attracted the author’s interest when he made the survey of the Highest Abandoned Beach Ridges in Northern Door County. (Trans. Wis. Acad. of Sc. Arts & Letters, Vol. 38, p. 293.) Door County is in eastern Wisconsin and embraces most of the peninsula that lies between the waters of Green Bay and of Lake Michigan. The Town of Liberty Grove, a political unit, lies at the north end of the Door County peninsula; it extends about 12 miles from south to north; its average width, east to west, between Lake Michigan and Green Bay is about 5.2 miles; and it is located within survey Towns 31, 32, and 33 North of the Wisconsin–Illinois boundary and Ranges 28 and 29 East of the 4th Principal Meridian.

The land facing Green Bay, in general, rises abruptly from the shore line and in several places it rises vertically for over 100 feet. That fact is shown on the accompanying map by the contour line for 650 feet above sea level, the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan being at 578 feet. Note also along State Highway 42 the regions in Range 28 East whose elevations are, respectively, 755 feet on the west line of Sec. 7, T31N; 730 feet at the S.W. corner of Sec. 28, T32N; 736 feet in Sec. 15 and 16, T32N; and a high of 800 feet in Sec. 22, T32N. From those high areas the land slopes fairly gradually toward the south-east to Lake Michigan.

Practically all the land on which the drumlins are located is now or has been cultivated; all the original forest cover is gone. The drumlins, on that account, have undoubtedly been eroded away considerably.

As shown on the map, the drumlins lie in two groups. One group lies south of the village of Ellison Bay and northeasterly from Sister Bay; and the other lies south of the village of Sister Bay.

Those drumlins lying south of Ellison Bay and north-easterly from Sister Bay may also be divided. Those lying in Secs. 26, 27, and 28 constitute one group and those lying in Secs. 33, 34, and 35 constitute the other group, both groups being in T32N, R28E.

The group in Secs. 26, 27, and 28 lies in fields that have been cultivated from time to time. These drumlins are low, none being
over 10 feet high above the surrounding surfaces, and the slopes to the crests are not steep.

The group in Secs. 33, 34, and 35 also lies in cultivated fields and some units are in cherry orchards. The drumlins in this group are, in general, much higher than those of the preceding group. The elevations of three of the drumlins are noted on the map as 732 feet, 736 feet, and 740 feet, respectively, above sea level. The elevation at a highway intersection at the center of Sec. 35 is 690 feet. Thus the three drumlins have crests 40 to 50 feet above the surrounding ground.

The soil in Sections 26 and 27 is classified as Miami gravelly loam. (Wis. Geol. & Nat. Hist. Sur. Bul. No. 52-D, Soil Series No. 10.) It appears then that the drumlins in this area have been eroded considerably and that perhaps they are older than those in Sections 34 and 35. The soil in Sections 34 and 35 is classified as Miami fine sandy loam and it may have been washed from the higher ground in Sections 26 and 27.

That group of drumlins lying south of Sister Bay in Sections 7, 16, 17, and 20 differs from the preceding groups in that the individual drumlins are, in general, smaller and they are not over 10 feet high. Most of them are covered with a second-growth forest.

The drumlin lying in the northwest corner of Section 20, near the intersection of Highways 57 and Q, is conspicuous because on its crest now stand a church with its parsonage and a private dwelling. Furthermore, a part of the drumlin was cut away when Highway 57 was graded.

It is debatable whether the low ridge shown as a drumlin in Section 7 should be called a drumlin, because it is so near the contour of 646 feet, the level of post-glacial Lake Algonquin. On the other hand, the soil in it is a mixture of sand, loam, gravel and boulders.

Drumlins may have been deposited elsewhere in the Town of Liberty Grove, but if they were in regions outside the contour of 650 feet, they would have been destroyed and washed away by waves in the post-glacial Lake Algonquin.