

REFLECTIONS  
OF  
YESTERDAY  
BY  
JULIANNE E. MEYER

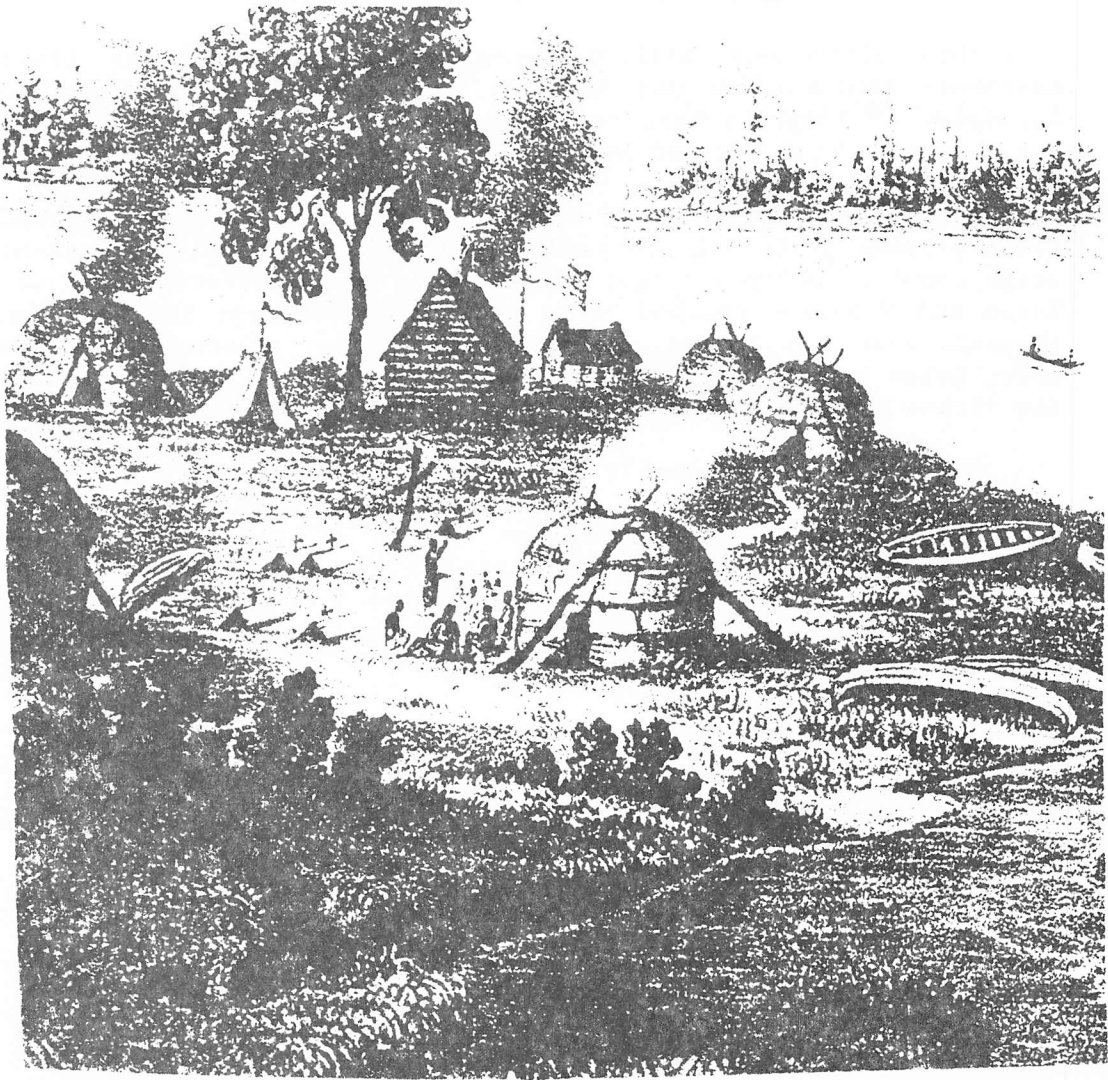
1988

To the memory of those early  
settlers of the Old Mission  
Peninsula and to my husband, Chuck,  
who did the editing for this work.



I would like to acknowledge all those who attended the Community Library's meetings of the Historic Group and whose reflections often appear in this work. I would like to especially acknowledge the following persons for giving of their time to be interviewed: Lois Lardie Steffes, Fran Eaton, Gwen Watson, Dana Ostlund, Tom Hoffman, Oakley Lardie, Bob DeVol, Lester Buchan and Laurence Kroupa. And, to the following a very special thanks is given for permitting me to use their photos and post cards: Laurence Wakefield, Bob DeVol, Gwen Watson, Fran Eaton, Bob Lindsey and Tom Hoffman.

Cover idea by Julianne Meyer, artwork by Mary Keenan.



Chippewa village by Francis Castelnau in 1839

## Geological Notes

The geological history of the Peninsula is complex and covers an unbelievably long period of time. Once, this area was covered with water, the shallow seas of the Cambrian period.

Then about one million years ago, glaciers began their movements southward across Michigan, New York, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Geologists have evidence that there were five of these ice invasions that crushed and ground everything in their paths.

There are differences of opinion as to when the Lakes reached their present state but, in general, Lake Erie reached its present stage about 10,000 years ago; Lake Ontario at 6000 years; Superior, Huron and Michigan reached their present development two to three thousand years ago.<sup>1</sup> And, as any owner of water frontage along the Great Lakes knows, the shoreline is always changing sometimes by a few inches per year and at others by a few feet per year.

There are various soils found on the Peninsula. Those most conducive to the growing of cherries are the Richter sandy loams and the Leelanau soils groupings. Most of the soils on the Peninsula consist of these two groupings. There are some mucks and a great deal of clay. All are interspersed with stones, rocks and boulders. As one farmer described it, the Peninsula might have been formed by a giant egg beater.

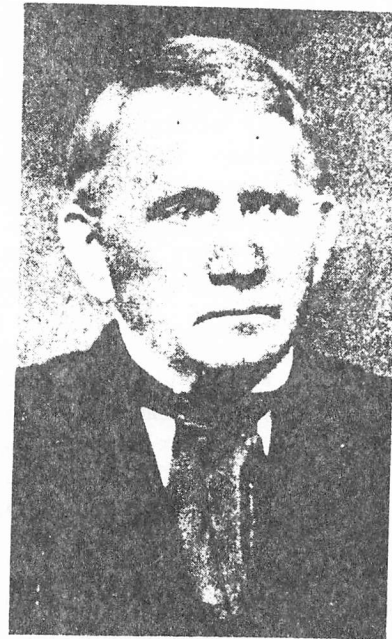
<sup>1</sup>Harlan Hatcher and Erich Walter, A Pictorial History of the Great Lakes, Crown, 1963, pp. 21-29.

### Early Settlements

In March of 1836, United States Commissioner Henry Schoolcraft negotiated a treaty with chiefs of the Ottawas and Chippawas who inhabited sizable villages in the vicinity of the Grand Traverse and other northern regions. The Indians signed away their rights to much of Michigan but were allowed to keep several tracts of land for five years at the end of which time, they were to be moved west to the area of the Missouri River. One of these temporary sites included 20,000 acres on the Grand Traverse Bay.

In return the Indians received monies, goods, tools, livestock, implements, two blacksmith shops, a gunsmith, an interpreter, two farmers and two mechanics. In addition they were to receive for twenty years an annuity of \$30,000, ten times that amount to settle their debts to traders and another \$30,000. Five thousand dollars annually was to be spent for "the purpose of education, teachers, schoolhouses, and books in their own language to be continued twenty years, and as long thereafter as Congress may appropriate for the object," and \$3000 for the maintenance of missions.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Mission decided to take advantage of these grants and to establish a mission. In the summer of 1838 they sent Rev. Peter Dougherty, who was from Newburgh, New York, to choose a suitable site for a mission.



Peter Dougherty

Courtesy of Laurence  
Wakefield

He arrived at Mackinac Island which was the headquarters of Commissioner Schoolcraft in July of 1838. Schoolcraft was in Detroit at the time of Dougherty's arrival but, when he returned, Dougherty asked him just where he should establish a mission. According to Dougherty's diary, "He think(s) the grand Travers(e) as favourable a point as any."

Dougherty departed Mackinac in late July together with a Mr. Buck, two Indians and an interpreter. In early August they landed at Elk Rapids which was a village of sixty men and their families. Its chief was absent so Dougherty paddled across East Bay to a village of Indians which was at the present site of Old Mission where he was "very much an(n)oyed by dogs and children" who appeared "poor and dirty."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Virgil J. Vogel, "The Missionary as Acculturation Agent: Peter Dougherty and the Indians of Grand Traverse," Michigan History, (Fall, 1967), pp. 186-188.

He then set out into Lake Michigan and by August 8 was at the mouth of the Manistee River. By August 14 he reached the Grand River where he met Reverend William Montague Ferry who told Dougherty the Grand Traverse area was a good place for mission work.

Dougherty returned to Princeton, New Jersey, where he came in contact with Reverend John Fleming, his wife and young daughter. In late September both men left for Mackinac arriving there on October 8. Winter would soon be approaching and it was decided to stay at Mackinac until spring. During these winter months Dougherty studied the Ojibwa tongue. He was also able to observe the Indians and how shabbily they were being treated by his fellow Christians. He wrote to his mission board a letter, part of which stated:

"It is enough to make the heart bleed to see the numberless wrongs they have suffered from men who bear the christian name. There must be a fearful judgement in store for those who, instead of giving the gospel in exchange for their fertile lands, have only bound upon them the curse of intemperance. Must not the Church be partaker in the guilt of these wrongs which the Indians has suffered at the hands of our people, when she knows these wrongs, & yet makes no stronger efforts to save the sufferers from being pursued to extermination, by those who are reckless of everything but their own selfish interests.... Why cannot christian families, traders mechanics and farmers enlist in this cause?"

Dougherty and Fleming left Mackinac in May, 1839, in a boat rowed by four Indians. They first landed on the Old Mission Peninsula but found no one there so they went over to Elk Rapids where, with Chief Esquagonabe, it was decided to build a mission. They began to cut logs for a house and school. Fleming received the tragic news that his wife had died so he immediately departed never to return to assist Dougherty.

With the help of his Indian interpreter, Dougherty finished his house. Then, in late June of 1839, Schoolcraft arrived in Elk Rapids. After some discussion, it was decided to move their settlement to the area around the present site of the village of Old Mission. This decision was fortified by the fact that Chief Ahgosa and his band who lived on the Peninsula were unwilling to move to Elk Rapids. They requested that he establish his mission there and offered to build him a house. Dougherty and his goods were carried to the Peninsula and, on June 30, he conducted the first Protestant religious service held in the Grand Traverse region.

In the autumn of 1839, Ahgosa and two Indian families agreed to stay till the sap rose for sugar making time in the spring. Also, in the autumn, John Johnston arrived to work as government farmer.

In the spring of 1840, the log school at Elk Rapids was taken down and transported across the waters. It was reconstructed in the Old Mission Harbor area along the shore and, on May 10, the first class was held with 25 pupils present. Numbers varied as to attendance at the school and depended on the attitudes of the pupils as well as demands made by the families. In the winters many would leave for the hunt and in the spring for maple syrup work. Too, there were trips to Mackinac for trading.<sup>3</sup>

By the autumn of 1841, there were five log structures at Old Mission and the staff had increased to include Henry Bradley, teacher; David McGulpin, farm laborer; George Johnston, government carpenter; Joseph Dame, who would replace John Johnston as government farmer and, finally, Lewis Miller. The latter was the first white settler to come who was not affiliated with church or government. His son, Henry, was the first white child born in the Grand Traverse country.

In 1842, they began to build the parsonage and the mission church. The parsonage still stands today in Old Mission and is known as the Rushmore House or Mission House.<sup>4</sup>



The Mission House



Left: Lewis Miller

Courtesy of Laurence Wakefield

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., pp. 188-193.

<sup>4</sup>Elvin L. Sprague and Mrs. George N. Smith, eds., Sprague's History of Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties (Evansville, Indiana: Unigraphic, Inc., 1903), pp. 228, 229.

By 1847, Dougherty was able to say:

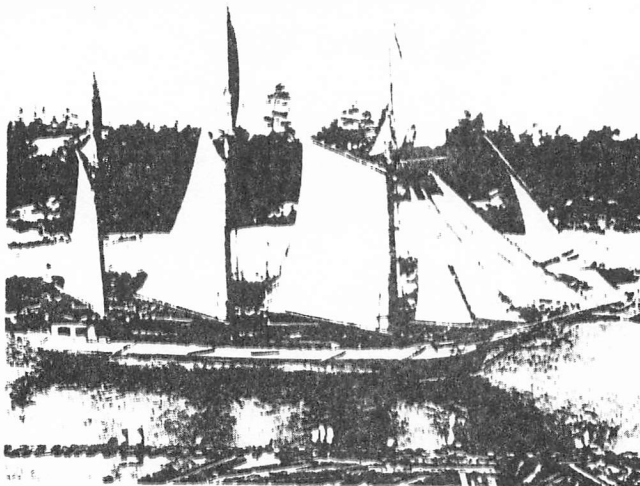
"Six years ago the site occupied by the village was a dense thicket. The village now extends nearly a mile in length, containing some twenty log houses and some good log stables belonging to the Indians. During that period they have cleared and cultivated some two hundred acres of new gardens, besides what additions were made to the old ones. They raise for sale several hundred bushels of corn and potatoes."

Dougherty's work not only entailed the preaching of the gospel, but also writing letters for illiterate Indians and whites, acting as physician for the sick, tending his garden, and assisting with carpentry. He carried on an extensive correspondence with Schoolcraft and others, and contributed greatly to the study of the Indian language. The mission school showed more rapid growth than the church which, in 1844, had only twenty-three members. Dougherty hinted that the church's slow growth was partially caused by the Indians' resentment of the Treaty of 1836.

By that Treaty, the reservations in Grand Traverse were of a temporary nature only and the Indians were to be moved west by 1841. This never took place. As the lands around Old Mission were surveyed and opened to white settlers, it became necessary for the Indians to move.

Some moved to Canada while others used their government grants to purchase land. Michigan's second Constitution, adopted in 1850, allowed detribalized Indians to become citizens and own property and, in 1852 the mission was moved across West Grand Traverse Bay to Omena on the Leelanau Peninsula.

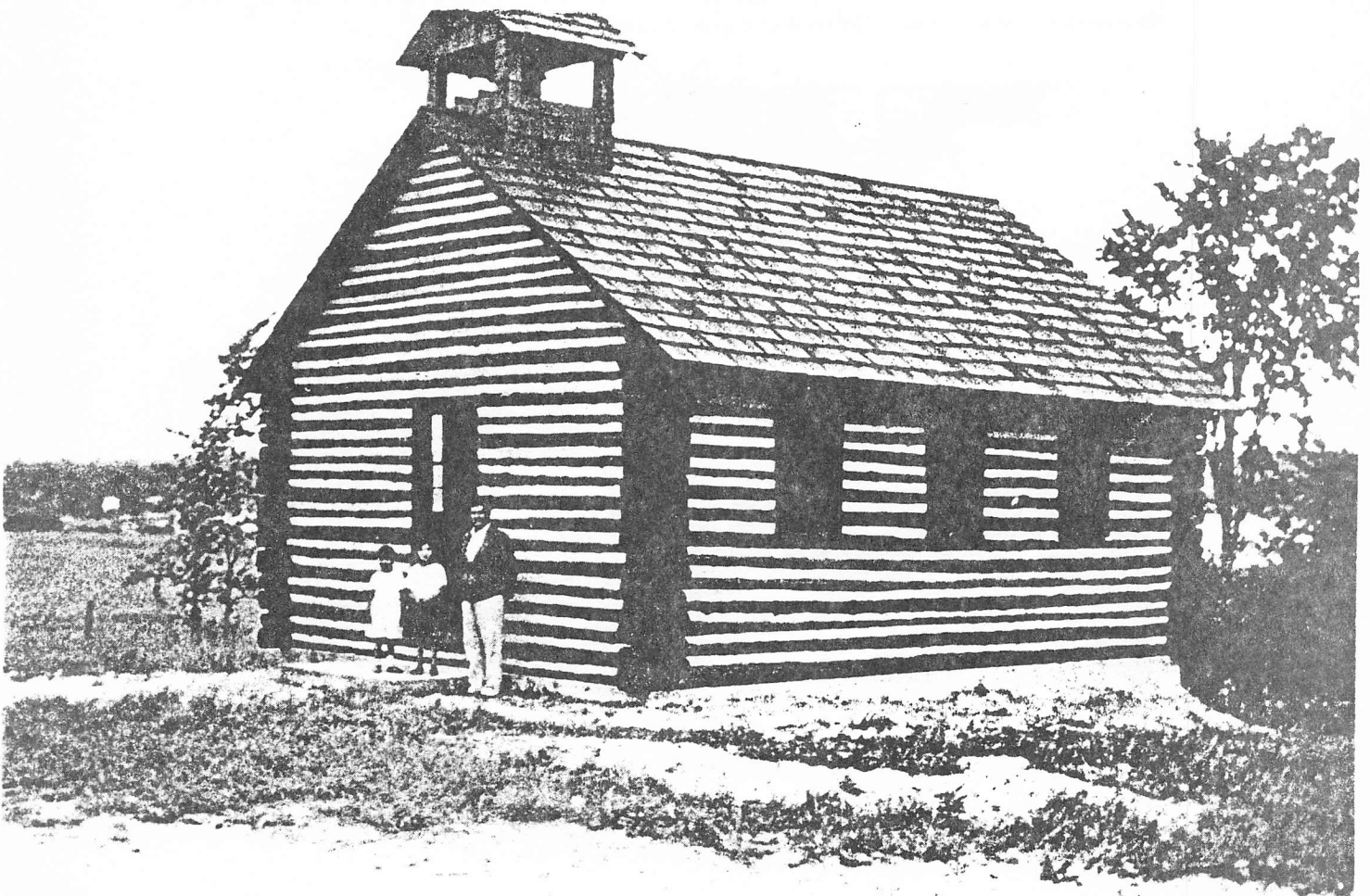
Dougherty encouraged the Indians to become citizens and to save their money so they could buy government land. Some Ottawas and Chippewas of the Old Mission settlement heeded his advice and bought land across West Grand Traverse Bay on the Leelanau Peninsula. Dougherty decided to join them there and thus Old Mission became known as New Mission when it was moved to Omena in 1852.<sup>5</sup>



Left: Early Schooner

<sup>5</sup>Vogel, Michigan History, (Fall, 1967), pp. 195-200.





The Old Mission Church  
as it must have looked  
in 1842.



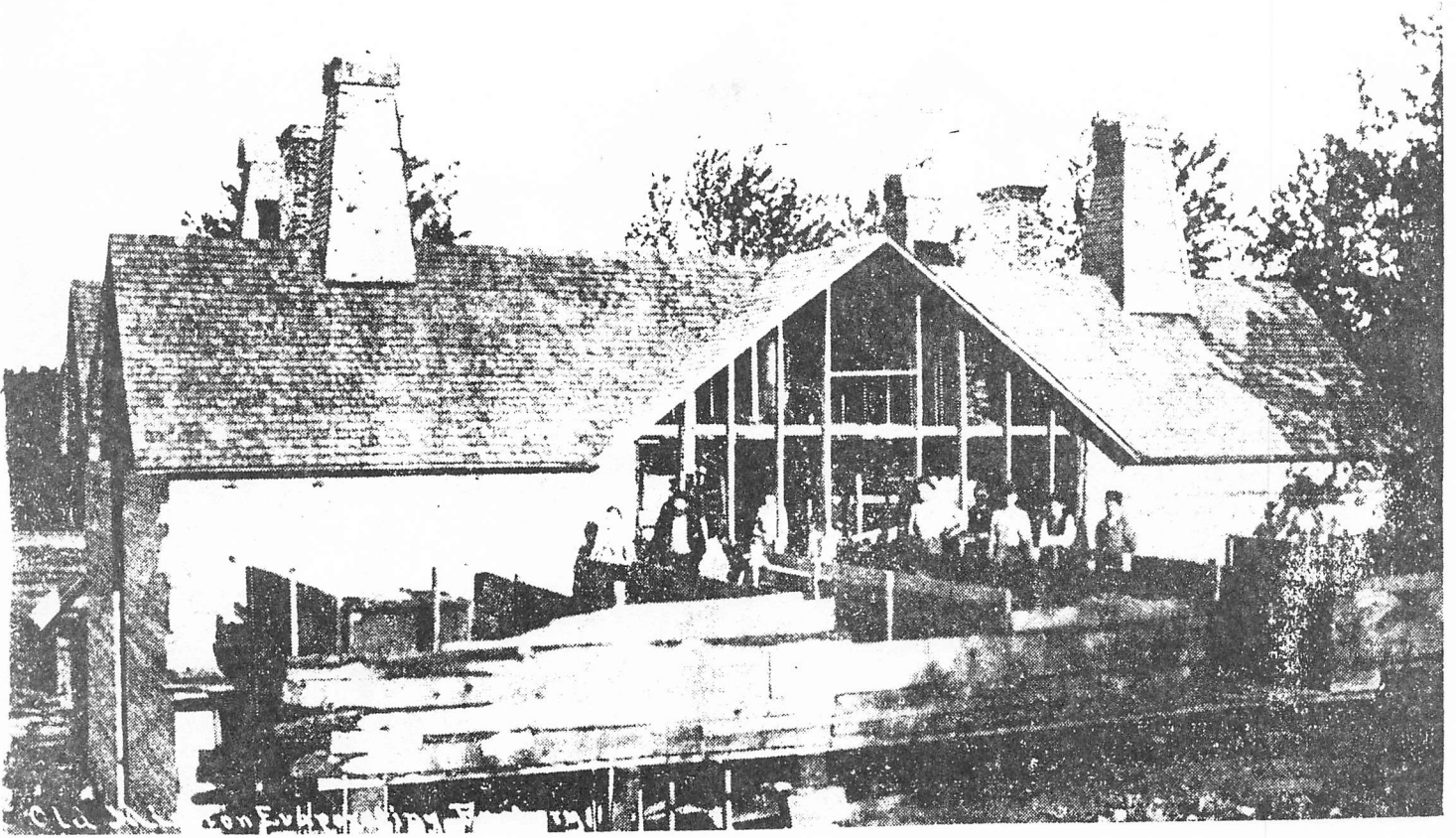
According to Sprague's "Grand Traverse & Leelanau Counties, Michigan," 1903 edition, reprinted for our Bicentennial year, 1976, we read: "The (Dougherty) church has been moved from its original location near the beach, up to front the street, sided up, painted, and put in good repair, and is now (1903) owned and used by the Methodist Episcopal Church, as a place of worship."<sup>6</sup>



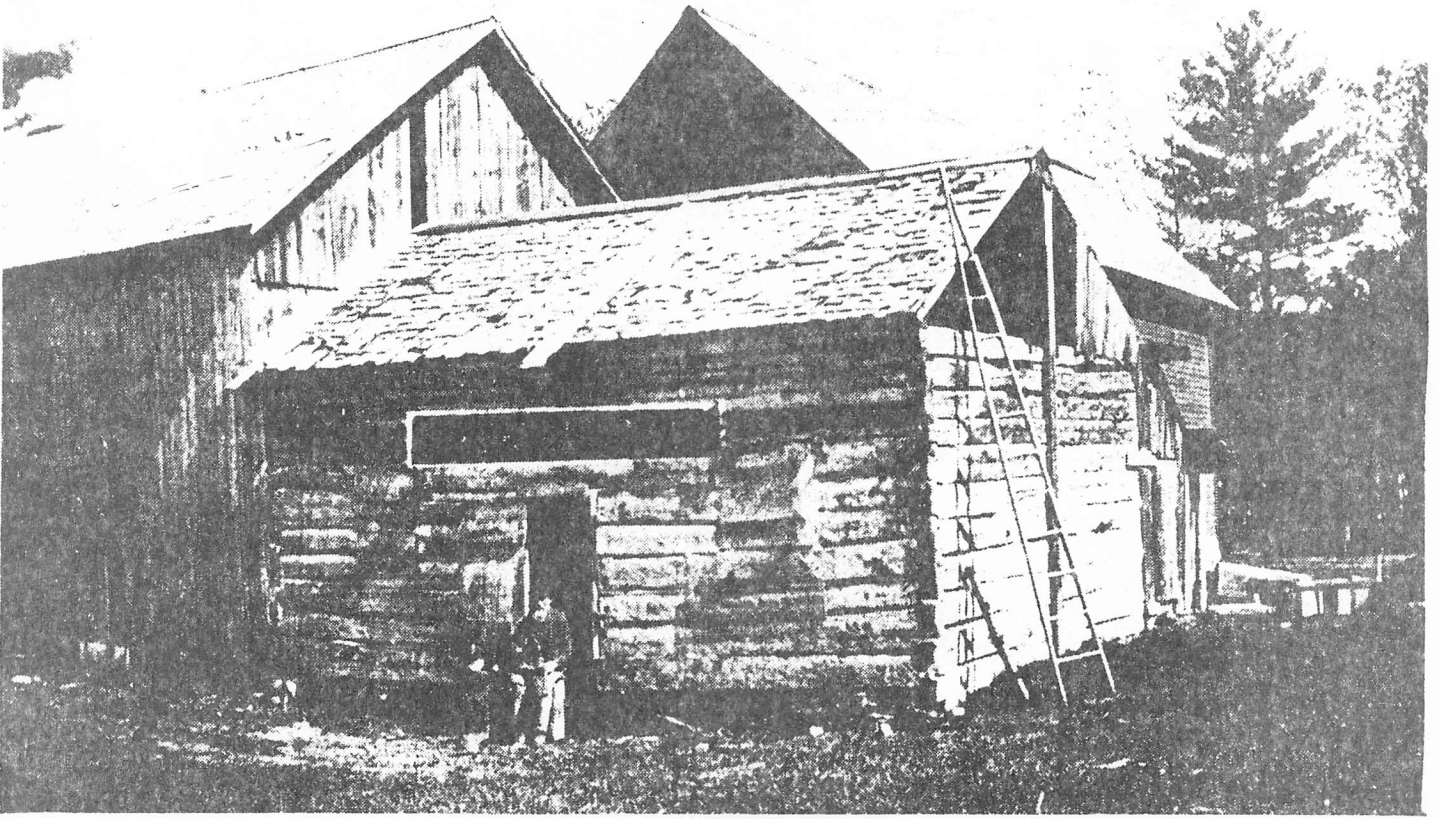
Courtesy of Bob DeVol

The Old Mission Log Church, Newly Sided, and  
Now (1903) the Methodist Episcopal Church

<sup>6</sup>Sprague, p. 229.



Only the cement foundation remains of this old evaporating plant on the Old Mission Peninsula. The plant, which employed about twenty men and women during the peak of the season, processed apples. In those days dried apples were a staple for making desserts in the homes of the early settlers as well as in the lumber camps. The plant was situated north of the Town Hall. The picture was taken in 1896.



On June 13, 1853, H. K. Brinkman opened the first boot and shoe store in the region. It was located at Old Mission and supplied handmade boots and shoes. The picture was taken by S. E. Wait after the old shoe store factory building had been abandoned as such and moved to the Brinkman farm to be used as a stable. Mr. H. K. Brinkman is shown.

## Post Offices

The first post office in the region was called Grand Traverse and was established in the Old Mission Harbor area on April 26, 1850. The post office's name was changed from Grand Traverse to Old Mission on February 1, 1869.

In 1850 Old Mission was the largest village in the region and had the only post office in the Traverse Bay area. At one time the Old Mission Post Office was the connecting link between Mackinac and the southern part of the state. The Old Mission Post Office is older than Traverse City and is located 18 miles north of that city on the beautiful Old Mission Peninsula.

POSTMASTERSDATES OF APPOINTMENT

Robert Campbell	April 26, 1850
Lewis Miller	December 27, 1853
Hugh C. Furman	September 3, 1856
William R. Stone	November 14, 1860
Lanson N. Beers	February 3, 1862
William R. Stone	March 10, 1863
Solon Rushmore	February 16, 1866
George Hedden	February 1, 1869
George Lardie, Jr.	August 15, 1888
Franklin W. Stone	October 14, 1893
Henry M. Lardie	October 4, 1897
Gertrude M. Lardie	November 18, 1940
Helen H. DeVol	September 27, 1963

It is not certain where the first Post Office building was although, generally, the office was found in the postmaster's home. The first known site for the Old Mission Post Office was at the William R. Stone house on Old Mission Road. The mail was kept in an empty raisin box nailed to the wall in the kitchen.<sup>7</sup>

Some years later, a post office was established at Mapleton. It was located in the store which, at that time, was on the present site next to the Peninsula Telephone Company. Mary Kroupa Black Atherton operated a small post office in her store. Actually this store was just a large shed built at one end of the dock at Neahtawanta.

Later, when mail delivery was established, carriers would travel by horse and dray or by cutter if roads were snow covered. One carrier would leave from Traverse City and another would leave from Old Mission. They would meet at Bowers Harbor to exchange mail. The carrier from Old Mission would return to Old Mission, sort the mail, and then deliver it.

During World War II, Irene Chapman carried the mail on the Old Mission Peninsula in place of her brother who went off to war.<sup>8</sup> She was the very first woman mail carrier in the State of Michigan.

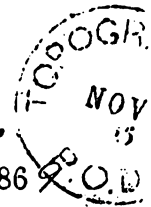
<sup>7</sup> Interview with Bob DeVol, January, 1988

<sup>8</sup> Old Mission Historic Group, 1987

(No. 30.)

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

CONTRACT OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, *Sept 24*, 186*7*

SIR:

To enable the Topographer of this Department to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, the relative positions of Post Offices so that they may be correctly delineated on its maps, the Postmaster General requests you to fill up the spaces and answer the questions below, and return the same, verified by your signature and dated, under cover to this Office.

Respectfully, &amp;c., &amp;c.,

*Hiles Abnath*

Second Assistant Postmaster General.

TO POSTMASTER AT

*Old Mission**Grand Traverse Co.**Michigan*

The (P. O. Dept.) name of my office is

*Old Mission*

\*Its local name is

*Old Mission*

It is situated in the

*north west*

quarter of Section No. 35, in Township

(north or south,) Range 11 west

(east or west,) County

of *30 North* *Grand Traverse, State of Michigan*

The name of the most prominent river near it is

*Boardman*

The name of the nearest creek is

*no creek in the county that I know of*This office is *Eighteen* miles from said river, on the *North* side of it, and is

miles from said nearest creek, on the side of it.

The name of the nearest office on route No. *12656* is *Mapleton*, and itsdistance is *Six* miles, by the traveled road, in a *South west* direction from this my office.The name of the nearest office on the same route on the other side is *this is the end of road* and its distance is miles in a direction from this my office.The name of the nearest office off the route is *Seven miles across the Bay*, and its distance by the most direct road is *thirty* miles in a *South* direction from this my office.

State, under this, the names of all other offices near your office, in different directions from it, and their distances from it by the most direct roads. *This office is situated on a peninsula eighteen miles long and from a mile to two miles wide and the Bay on either side is four miles wide.*

\*If the town, village, or site of the Post Office, be known by another name than that of the Post Office, state that other name here, that it may be identified on the map of the State (or Territory.)

☒ A diagram of the township and sections, (or, where the land is not so divided, a sketch map,) showing the precise location of your office, together with the adjoining Post Offices, towns or villages, the roads, railroads, and larger streams or creeks, in addition to the above, will be useful, and is desired. (See diagram blank accompanying this, to be filled up.)

(Signature of Postmaster.)

*George Hedden*

(Date.)

*October 1, 1867*

### Resorters In the Old Mission Harbor Area

George Roberts was a teacher at the Catholic mission at Cross Village. His brother, Judge James Roberts of Chicago, went to visit him in 1867 and found his brother in poor health. He was quite concerned and felt he must get his brother out of that situation.

On Judge Roberts return trip to Chicago, his steamer stopped at Old Mission. Here, he learned that the John Coughran fifty nine acre farm, home and a great deal of personal property was for sale. This farm was located on Smokey Hollow Road just south of Old Mission Road. The farm house was built on a ridge overlooking East Bay. On September 24, 1868, a deed was drawn up in his brother George's name with the understanding that farm and home would be his responsibility.

Over the course of the ensuing years, the Judge Roberts family would live alternately between Chicago and their ever expanding house in Old Mission. By 1882, they spent most of the year in Old Mission.

Judge Roberts lived until 1916 when he died at the ripe old age of 91. Most Old Mission residents proudly boast that Douglas MacArthur once lived in Judge Roberts home. He was married for a time to Judge and Mrs. Roberts granddaughter, Louise Cromwell.

The home experienced many expansions and improvements over the years. In addition to being called Judge Roberts home by local residents, they often refer to it by names previously given it: Greyhaven and Rose Hall. Currently it has been named Stonewall and is being operated as a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

The Old Mission Point area was originally homesteaded by the families of Parmelee, Stanton, Archer, Waite, Reese and Tompkins. In the early 1880's Dr. Charles Leffingwell purchased a sizeable area in the Old Mission Point region. In 1887 the Old Mission Resort Association was established and it was about this time that families from the Chicago area would come up by steamer to spend their summers. Today this area continues to be a preserved region and is used as a summer resort to many of the descendents of those early resorters.



9

Elizabeth Vaughan Potter, The Story of Old Mission (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1956), pp. 92-112.

<b>FARMERS' DIRECTORY</b>	
<b>SWEETBRIAR FARM</b>	
W. H. and M. S. BREEDEN	
<b>SUNSET FARM</b>	
EUGENE WAIT	
OLD MISSION,	MICHIGAN
<b>THE HOLMES-STEAD</b>	
JOHN HOLMES	
OLD MISSION	MICHIGAN
<b>BURTON HEIGHTS</b>	
OREN BURTON	
OLD MISSION	MICHIGAN
<b>THE JAMES SWANEY FARM</b>	
SHADY FRONT	
JACK SWANEY, Manager,	OLD MISSION, MICH.
NELLIE R. BALDWIN	L. A. BALDWIN
<b>BAY VIEW SUMMER HOME</b>	
THE OLD STONE HOMESTEAD	
<b>"THE CATALPAS"</b>	
C. W. CHASE	
Instructor of Music and Piano Tuning	OLD MISSION, MICH.
MARY A CHASE	
RUG WEAVING	
<b>KINDLY PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS</b>	

Courtesy of Bob DeVol

Who Owns These Now?

The Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational Church compiled The Old Mission Cook Book in 1922. On this page and the several which follow, are the names of those who paid for these advertisements.

## CHERRYCROFT FRUIT FARM

JOHN G. MILLS

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

JAMES LARDIE

## FRUIT RIDGE FARM

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## SUNSET BAY FRUIT FARM

G. L. BURNHAM

ROUTE 1

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

## GEORGE BOURASAW

OLD MISSION,

MICHIGAN

Route 1

## PINE GROVE FARM

MRS. GERTRUDE BRINKMAN

OLD MISSION,

MICHIGAN

## THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

WILLIAM A. MARSHALL

OLD MISSION,

MICHIGAN

BELL PHONE

T. M. KERKHOFF

OLD MISSION,

MICHIGAN

## KERKDALE

TINK TOMPKINS

OLD MISSION,

MICHIGAN

## CLAY RIDGE

## THE W. GOLDEN HOMESTEAD

Owned by

OLIVER M. TOMPKINS

## H. E. MAYCROFT

Present Pastor of Congregational Church

## TONY ZOULEK

BELL PHONE

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## THE JOHN GILL FARM

Owned by

MRS. MATILDA TOMPKINS

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## ECHO-DALE FARM

FRANK STEAVENS

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## W. M. SPRUIT

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## ROBERT H. TOMPKINS

Instructor of the Old Mission Boys Band

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN

## JOHN OSTLUND

U. S. MAIL MAN

OLD MISSION

MICHIGAN



**WAH-SA-GE-SHIK FRUIT FARM**

**W. R. PRATT**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**SHORESACRES**

**LOUIS SWANEY**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**MARSHALL FARMSTEAD**

**MARSHALL J. PRATT, PROP.**

BELL PHONE OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN

**MRS. ABBIE C. LEIGHTON**

**C. A. LEIGHTON**

**MAPLE AVENUE FARM**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH**

**E. L. CRAMPTON**

R. 1 OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN

**CLARENCE LARDIE**

**RELIABLE TAXI DAY OR NIGHT**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**LONE PINE FARM**

**JOHN D. MARSHALL**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**P. A. DEVOL**

**EDGAR DEVOL**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**THE "BEE HIVE" FRUIT FARM**

**Private Orders a Specialty**

**A. M. WILLOBEE**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**DUDLEY GRIFFIN**

**THE BEST OF ALL KINDS OF FRUIT**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**WILLIAM R. JOHNSON**

BOWERS HARBOR, - MICHIGAN

**JOHN FRANKLIN**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**BAY VIEW FARM**

**CHAS. STANEK**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**THE WILLIAM TOMPKINS FARM**

**RALPH McCLUSKY, - MYRTLE McCLUSKY**

OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN

**LOCUST GROVE FARM**

**JOHN McMANUS**

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

**THE RUSSELL RANCH**

**EUGENE RUSSELL, - LIZZIE RUSSELL**

OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN

# THE GUY TOMPKINS ORCHARDS

Apples, Cherries and Pears  
 OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN  
 BELL PHONE

## PORTER HOUSE

A. E. PORTER, PROP.  
 OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

## LAKESIDE FRUIT FARM

W. D. BAGLEY  
 OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

## ORCHARD VIEW JERSEY FARM

PURE BRED JERSEY CATTLE  
 HONEY, MAPLE SYRUP  
 M. L. GORE & SONS OLD MISSION, MICH.

## CHAS. REESE

OLD MISSION CIDER MILL  
 MANUFACTURER OF SWEET CIDER  
 OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN

## THE HAPPY HOLLOW FRUIT FARM

MR. AND MRS. GEO. HARVEY  
 BELL PHONE OLD MISSION, MICH.

GEORGE JARRETT  
 OLD MISSION COOPER SHOP  
 OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN

## JESSE CHRISTOPHER

OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN  
 BELL PHONE

# OVERLOOK FARM

FRANCIS LARDIE

IDA G. LARDIE

## THE ILLINI ORCHARDS CO

FLOYD WILBUR, Mgr.  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## MURRAY TOMPKINS

BELL PHONE  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## SUMMERO

CHAS. HOBERG  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## PEARL HILL

ICE CREAM—SOFT DRINKS—CANDIES  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## F. E. BROWN FRUIT FARM

MAPLETON - MICHIGAN  
 R 1 TRAVERSE CITY

## THE PINES

DR. AND MRS. A. J. PRESCOTT  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## THE LADD FRUIT FARM

EMMOR O. LADD  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

## SOME VIEW FARM

HENRY FOX  
 BELL PHONE  
 OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN

<p>W. G. TOMPKINS GILLCREST PURE BRED STOCK AND POULTRY OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>PERRY FOUCH SPRING CREEK FARM OLD MISSION, - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>TWIN MAPLES WILLIAM DOHM CHERRIES AND APPLES OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>BELMONT HARRY JOHNSON BOWERS HARBOR</p>
<p>ROY DREW Chief Engineer on Steamer "McKinnon" OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>HARBOR VIEW FRUIT FARM GEORGE SWANEY OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>BITTERSWEET FRUIT FARM BELL PHONE M. B. ASHMORE OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>

<p>CRESCENT HILL FRUIT FARM STELLA EDGECOMB</p>
<p>THE HENRY SEEL FARM One Hundred Acres Apples and Cherries OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>E. E. HUNTER BOWERS HARBORS - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>IRONWOOD FARM FRANK W. STONE OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>LEAFY WILD IDA M. REESE OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>FLOYD JAMIESON OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>
<p>FRANK KROUPA ORCHARD SPRING FARM NEAH-TA-WANTA</p>
<p>JOE MULUJAK White Fish and Trout—YUM—YUM OLD MISSION - MICHIGAN</p>





Other early settlers in the Bowers Harbor area were the Emory, Zoulek, Kroupa, Titus, Krampton and Covey families.



<sup>11</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987

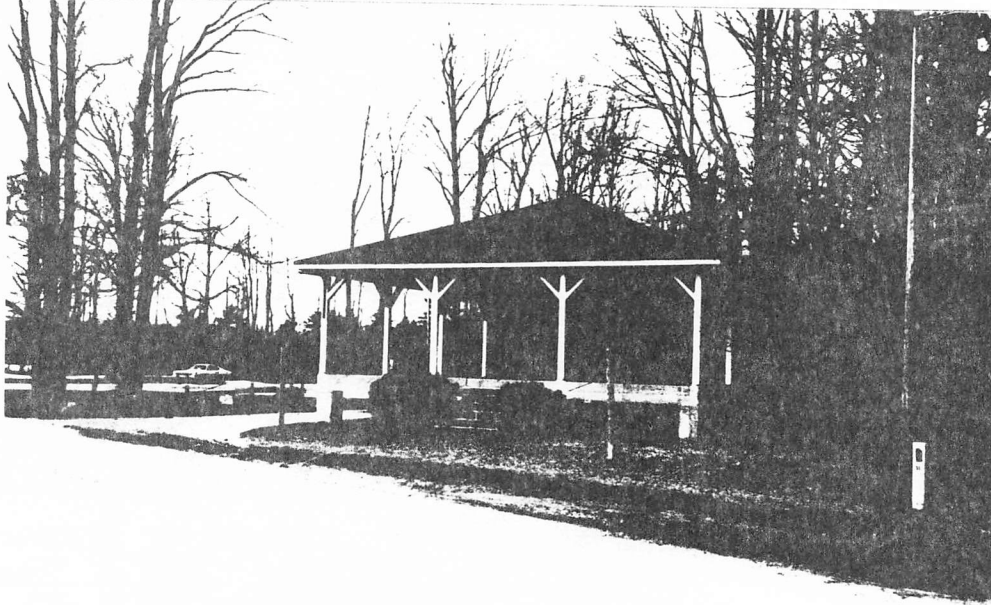
## Harbor Station

The Harbor Station was built in 1929 by Cherry Growers Inc., of Traverse City as a weighing station for cherries. Tons of cement were used in its construction not only to support the weight of the incoming cherries but also the cooling effect of the cement and the covered shelter helped to keep the cherries cool. Its floor, which was open on all sides, was built to accomodate semi trucks.

There were several reasons for its construction. First, many farmers did not own trucks in those days and those who did found they were spending a great deal of time getting their cherries into Traverse City or elsewhere as, in those days, many of the roads were still unpaved and travel on them took much longer than it does today. In the early years of the cherry industry, there were no shakers and few migrant workers. The farmer and his family and help spent long hours in the orchards during harvest time. The farmer would bring his lugs to be weighed and thereafter the large semi trucks would haul the loads to the processors.

In about 1939 Albert Kroupa purchased the Station for \$500. He later leased it to the Frigid Food Packing of Suttons Bay. As the years passed, the cherry industry continued to grow on the Peninsula and, as it did, harvesting practises changed with it. The scales at the Station had been built to accomodate weighing lugs but now cherry shakers with their large heavy tubs were being introduced and the Station simply could not handle these large volumes. So, in 1960, when the cherry harvest was finished, the Station closed.

Laurence Kroupa, grandson of Albert Kroupa, now operates the Harbor Station as a fruit, vegetable and flower stand. It became a Michigan Historical Site on July 20, 1982.<sup>12</sup>



The Harbor Station

Courtesy of Laurence Kroupa

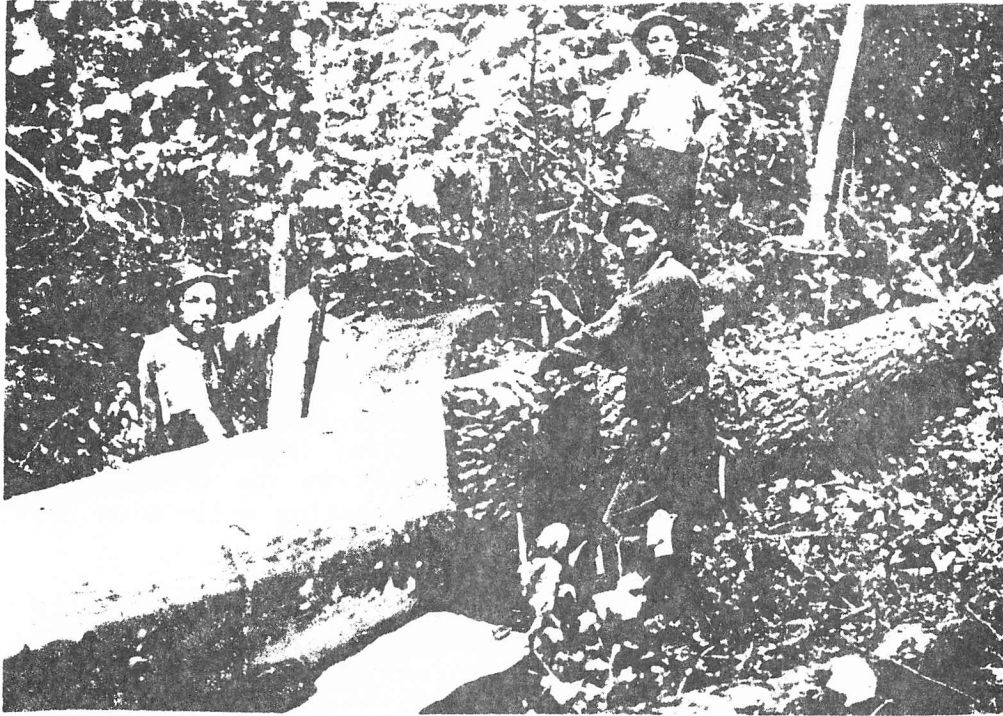
<sup>12</sup> Interview with Laurence Kroupa, January, 1988.



### The Bowers Harbor Store

Charlie Kroupa built the store at Bowers Harbor in the early 1860's. At that time, there were two separate buildings, both of which, were situated on the east side of the road.

During the time Charlie Kroupa owned the store, one of his businesses was the buying of hemlock bark from local farmers which was used in the making of a dye.



Peeling Hemlock Bark

Courtesy of Laurence Wakefield

After Charlie Kroupa sold the business to a man named Doig, the new owner decided to move the store across the road and along the shore. At that time, the two buildings were joined and, until the remodeling which was done in 1987, the store maintained its original appearance.

The next owner was Oakley Lardie who continued Doig's practice of home delivery of groceries as well as serving resorters, tourists and local residents. Lardie sold the business to a man named Weiderroder who, in turn, sold it to Jack Young. Young owned the store until 1987 when it was purchased by Bernard Jackson who did extensive remodeling and added a restaurant and delicatessen.



## Bowers Harbor Inn

In the early 1900's J. W. Stickney and his wife, Genevive, both from Chicago, decided to purchase land along West Bay and to build a summer home there. Oakley Lardie and Maurice DeGraw both worked there during the summer months doing odd jobs. Both state that Mrs. Stickney always had some sort of project going and, because of this, the house kept continually expanding.

One of her projects was making jams and jellies. This endeavor was housed in the now abandoned, large shedlike structure on Devils Dive Road several hundred yards east of Peninsula Drive. It is still called the jam kitchen by local residents. Stickney discontinued this enterprise as it was not successful.

Mrs. Stickney was a proud and vain woman who was somewhat over weight. She purchased a special gilted mirror which, when she looked into it, made her look thin. It was a 'trick' mirror often seen at carnivals. She also had an elevator installed which was the first, and no doubt the only elevator in the Township.

Some say the house is haunted. A woman's apparition was reputedly seen in the aforementioned mirror, noises were heard, and a stuck door apparently, on one occasion, opened by itself. If you are a haunted house aficionado, look up the October 31, 1977, "Record Eagle." It has quite an interesting article on the Bowers Harbor Inn being haunted.

Today the house is a restaurant quite well known for its excellent food and charming atmosphere. The Bowery, which is part of the restaurant and is located in<sup>14</sup> the rear of the main building, was originally the carriage house.

<sup>14</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

## Docks

In order for boats under sail, as well as for steamers to land with their passengers, goods and produce, docking facilities had to be provided. I am not certain which of the large docks on the Peninsula was built first, the one at Old Mission, or the large one at Bowers Harbor. (Bowers Harbor had several large docks but the one which will be later described is the large Emory dock.)

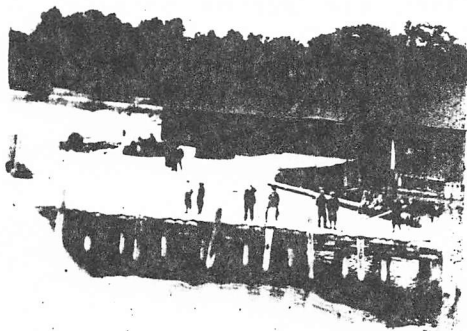
Roy Hooper remembers the dock at Old Mission. He recalls that, in the autumn, three masted schooners would come from Chicago to pick up shipments of potatoes which was one of the important cash crops raised on the Peninsula at that time.

There were two warehouses about forty by sixty feet each located near the dock, and stored in them were potatoes and apples. Men would carry out the potatoes in bushel baskets and dump them into the holds of the schooners. Apples were carried out in barrels. Later, when cherries were developed, boats would come from Northport to pick up the cherries. The last time the dock was used commercially was for the Hasarot Company.

When canneries were built in our area, the boat runs were no longer made and the dock was dismantled in the 1940's. The warehouses had burned down in the 1930's.

Lois Lardie Steffes remembers the 'Illinois' and 'Puritan' steamships. When the children heard their whistle approaching the harbor, they would all run down to watch the ships come in.<sup>15</sup>

Left: Old Mission  
Dock and Warehouse  
Courtesy of Bob DeVol



<sup>15</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

The Emory Dock at Bowers Harbor was built by Captain E. N. Emory. The piles for the dock were driven, some maintain, at least 25 feet below the surface, and were strong enough to accomodate steamers such as the 'Missouri,' the Illinois,' and other ships, which arrived in the harbor carrying resorters and tourists but more often to load potatoes, apples and, later, cherries.

The dock's superstructure and the warehouse had disappeared, but those sturdy pilings remained, some partially submerged, causing havoc with pleasure boats. In addition, the tug, "Ibson," lay submerged in the waters near the pilings. Its hulk, too, posed a constant threat to boats. In the late 1950's, the remnants of the "Ibson" and the pilings were dynamited thus bringing a close to the era of these large docks which served the early farmers and resorters so well.



The picture was taken in the early 1900's. To the left is Captain Emory's "Fannie M. Rose" being loaded. On the dock are wagons waiting to be unloaded.

# THE LIGHT HOUSE



**OLD MISSION LIGHT**, which still stands at the end of the Old Mission Peninsula, has been inactive for many years. When this picture was taken at the turn-of-the century, however, it was still guiding ships into the bay.

One of the more interesting features in the Grand Traverse region is the Old Mission Lighthouse which is situated at the northern tip of the Peninsula. From this vantage point you can see, on your left, the shores of Leelanau County and, on the right, the shores of Charlevoix and Antrim Counties.

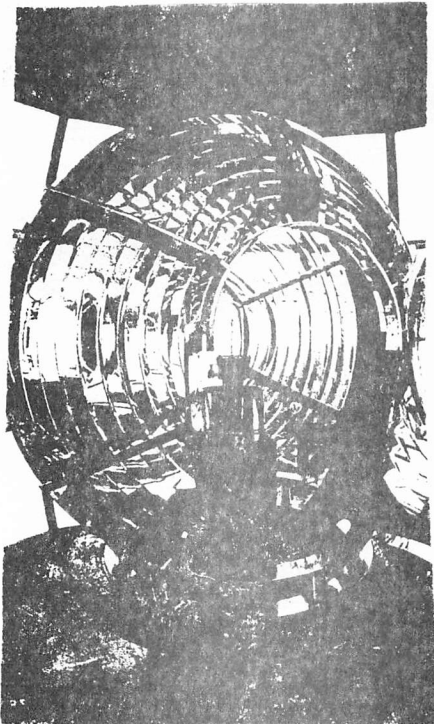
In the 1860's, a rather large ship was sunk on the reef which extends far out from the point. It was because of this wreck that the government approved a grant of \$6000 for the lighthouse's construction. The appropriation was made and the structure was completed and the light installed in 1870.

On the first day of its opening, August 15, 1870, Jerome Pratt recorded the passage of two schooners, two steamers and one bark. The records which this first lighthouse keeper maintained so carefully gives an interesting portrayal of Peninsula history. He recorded weather information and, even more fascinating, his log indicated the steady decline of sailing traffic and the increase of steam powered craft. For example, in October of 1870, there were 69 sailing ships, 53 of which were schooners, and 16 steamers. In 1875 there were 101 steamers and 75 sailing boats. Pratt later patented a tract of land on the Peninsula when he was released from lighthouse duty.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Traverse City Record Eagle, June 21, 1985.

The next keeper was Captain John Lane who, together with his wife, Sarah, began their tenure in August of 1881 and faithfully manned the station for at least twenty four years. The last keeper was Emil C. Johnson who witnessed the decommissioning of the lighthouse in 1933 when the old kerosene lamp was replaced by an automatic light on a steel tower on the shore. Later the light was mounted on an offshore buoy.

Originally the lighthouse consisted of six rooms on the ground floor and a bedroom and supply room on the second floor. Above this was a room in the tower just ample enough for the light mechanism. The tower for the light was at first too low and sometime later, it was heightened and enlarged. The globe was about eighteen inches in diameter and two feet high and was made of high quality glass. At first whale oil was used to light the Fresnel lens beacon which refracted and magnified its modest light source into an intense beam.

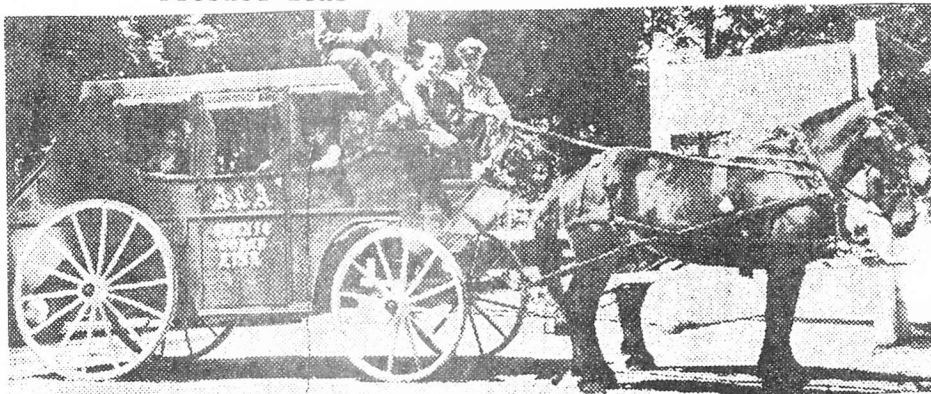


Fresnel Lens

After the lighthouse was decommissioned, a great deal of vandalism occurred. The hand carved mahogany rail which led up the steps to the light was stolen as were the giant prisms. When the community became aware of what was happening to this landmark, they took action and began to repair it. The State established a park adjacent to the lighthouse grounds and a memorial monument was erected and dedicated to Peninsula veterans.

The lighthouse and grounds have been owned since 1948 by the Township. Since then, able caretakers have lived in the lighthouse and, during the ensuing years, extensive remodeling has been done.

Edward Andrus, caretaker for the lighthouse for some years, along with his friend, Harold Aeschilman, built



The Wells-Fargo Coach

this copy of an old Wells-Fargo coach. It took visitors through the 456 acre tract which is adjacent to the lighthouse. The trail used was the same as that

which the Indians traveled in making portages from Old Mission to New Mission.

By the mid 1800's the village of Old Mission had become a thriving community. There were two blacksmith shops, a cobbler's shop, two grocery stores, three inns, an apple drying plant, a cooper shop and a cider mill.



Cider Mill in Old Mission

One of the grocery stores is still being operated in the village of Old Mission. But, originally, this store, known as the Lardie Grocery, was situated along the shore of the Bay and was built there to serve the many packets, steamers and other boats which landed in the harbor. The first owner was William Stone who later sold it to George Lardie. George moved the store to its present location in about 1890. Henry Lardie was the next owner. An addition was built onto the south side of the store in 1909 and the Post Office wing was added in 1919.

It is not difficult to understand why the store is called the Lardie Grocery for Henry Lardie sold it to the next owner, George Lardie! Until 1987 Bob DeVol owned and operated the grocery. His wife, Helen, has been postmistress since 1963. Word has it that the very first mail carrier was an Indian named Ta Pa Sah who was also called Jake. He was hired in 1863 by A. T. Lay to deliver the mail. He traveled on foot through all sorts of weather using Indian trails so familiar to him.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.





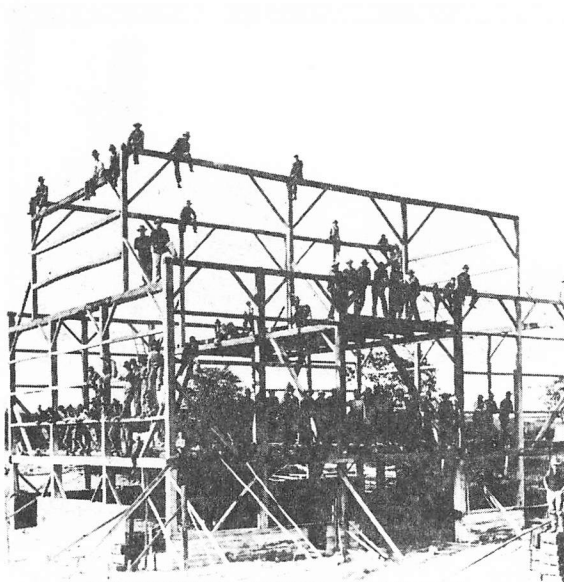
Courtesy of Bob DeVol  
George Lardie in front of the Lardie grocery



Courtesy of Bob DeVol  
The Old Mission Boys Band - circa 1907

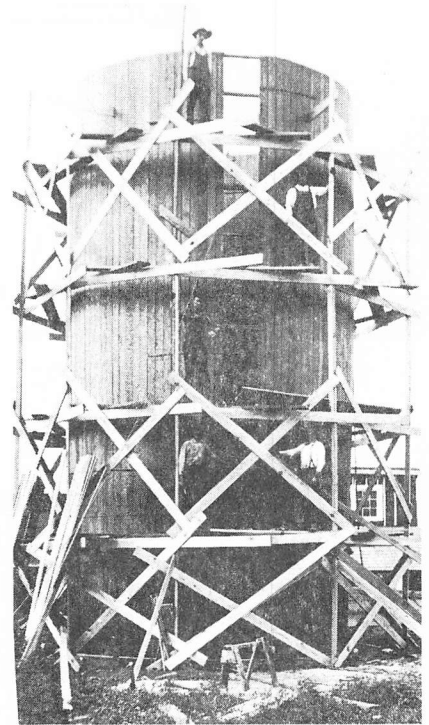


Ta-Pa-Sah (Jake)



Barn Raising

18



Silo Building

19

<sup>18,19</sup>Sandra Sageser Clark, ed., Michigan History, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Michigan Historical Commission, March/April, 1984), pp. 35 and 36.



In 1853 the first public road was opened from the head of the bay to Old Mission. In those early days the residents built the half of the road nearest to them. These early roads were generally two track affairs and were muddy in the spring and snow covered and drifted over during the winter months. Some areas on the Peninsula are wet and swampy and traversing them with a road proved to be difficult. South of the present Peninsula Fruit Exchange lies a low and swampy region. According to Roy Hooper the early roadway going through there consisted of cedar logs which was called a wash board.

As the years passed the Township built more roads and maintained them as well as they were able. In the early thirties the County assumed responsibility for the care and maintenance of all Township roads under the jurisdiction of the McNitt Act.

Many of the roads in the Township now bear the names of some of the early settlers. Montague, Gray, Wilson, Swaney, Brinkman, Nelson,<sup>20</sup> Kroupa, Dougherty, Tompkins, Ladd and Boursaw are some of these.



Snow Plowing circa 1928

Courtesy of Bob DeVol

<sup>20</sup>Old Mission Historic Group

## Remembrances From Old Mission Residents

Before the advent of the automobile, it took about three hours to get to Traverse City by horse and wagon so trips were generally made every two to three weeks. In the winter trips were even less frequent and were made in a sleigh or cutter providing the roads were relatively clear. Gene Wait, who lived in Old Mission, had a sleigh with a stove in it. He would drive his passengers from the old hotel in Old Mission into Traverse City.

An interesting story is told of an old farmer who left a bar and managed to find his way to his horse and buggy which was tied to a hitching post near a street lamp. Lying at the base of the hitching post was a small yellow dog. "Well," said the man, "I know I had a hamburger and I know I had some beer, but I didn't know I had a dog."

During the winter months when East Bay was frozen, it was sometimes easier for those farmers who lived at the northern part of the Peninsula to hitch their mule teams to sleighs and cross East Bay to Elk Rapids to do shopping or to have their wheat and corn ground. The distance from the Old Mission Dock to Elk Rapids was about nine miles. Those leaving from Boursaw Road had a trip of about four miles. They would put brush on the <sup>ice</sup> along the route to act as landmarks so they wouldn't get lost.<sup>21</sup>

Lois Lardie Steffes recalls that her brothers would take off from Old Mission after school and skate to Elk Rapids to <sup>spend</sup> the night with relatives; then skate back home the next day.<sup>22</sup>

In the mid twenties, Les Jamieson sponsored a basketball league. There were five teams which took turns playing each other. They practised and played on the second floor of the Maccabees Hall in Old Mission (now the Legion Hall.)

Much of the social life revolved around the extended family, school friends and the church. Dances were held at the Grange Halls in Old Mission and near Mapleton (now the Township Hall) and also on the second floor of the store in Mapleton which was located next to the site of the present telephone company.

Bill Duckwitz's mother, Dorothy Miller Duckwitz, a concert pianist, would often give concerts for the resorters in Neahtawanta. They would move her piano outdoors and she would play for all who cared to listen. As the music wafted across to nearby houses, many would go to Bowers Harbor in their fishing boats to listen to the concert. Bill Duckwitz rigged up a bootleg radio and would broadcast his Mother's playing to his friend, Bud Kroupa, who would listen to it on his two tube radio.

<sup>21</sup> Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

<sup>22</sup> Interview with Lois Lardie Steffes, November, 1987.



Peninsula Basketball Teams

Courtesy of Terry Wells

1926 Peninsula Basketball Teams  
 Taken at Archie Hall  
 Games Played AT Old Mission Hall and Archie Hall

Old Mission Team (Front Row L-R)

Carl Ostlund  
 Leslie Swaney  
 Walter Ostlund  
 Frank Ostlund  
 Seth Tompkins  
 Roy Ostlund

Ogdensburg Team #2

2nd Row Left Side L-R  
 Howard Fuller  
 Roy Hooper  
 Homer Willoughby  
 Herbert Seel  
 Henry Kitchen

Mapleton Team (2nd Row Right side L-R)

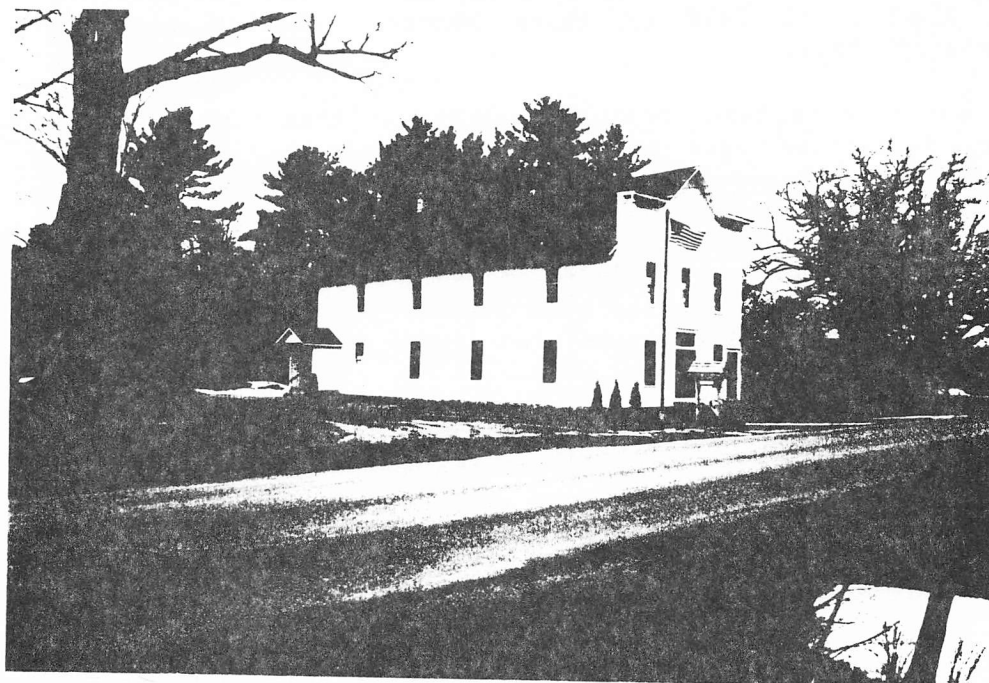
Zeb Fowler  
 Fred Carroll  
 Arnold White  
 Charlie Lyons  
 Tom Hoffman, Sr.

Ogdensburg Team #1

Back Row Left Side L-R  
 Leslie Gore  
 Garrett Boursaw  
 Bud Jamieson  
 Russell Gore  
 Harry Christopher

Archie Team (Back row Right Side L-R)

Robert Seaburg  
 Raymond Seaburg  
 Lester Buchan  
 Elmer McManus  
 Perry Gray  
 Leslie Jamieson, Coach (With Tie On)  
 Harry M. Christopher (With Hands in Pockets)



American Legion Hall (Formerly Old Mission Hall)

During the 1940's and early 1950's, movies were shown to the migrant workers as well as to the local residents. There were two places where the projectors were set up: one at Nevinger's campground area in Old Mission, and the other at Watson's store in Mapleton.

Have you ever heard of a Michigan cellar? These are found in many of the older farm homes in Michigan and were often put in after the houses were built. They were often used to store such things as potatoes, apples, squash and other preserves during the winter. A hole would be cut in the flooring usually in or near the kitchen of the home. A large area would be dug out under the hole always deep enough for a person to stand. Some would line the walls with stone but, often, the walls and floor were dirt. These cellars were not large for, if they came too close to the outer foundation of the house, the walls could cave in. If the soils were of clay, that made a good base and the walls held up quite well.

Prior to the advent of electricity, homes were lit by kerosene lamps, mantle lamps or by battery operated private generators. The Michigan Public Service Company built the original power line onto the Peninsula. Before this was done 147 people had to agree to pay for this service. After the original line was put in, hookups were made to other homes on an intermittent basis. Getting right of ways held things up as did the difficulty in coming up with the money necessary to pay for running a line from an out-of-the-way home to the main line.

Electricity got as far as Eimen Road in 1922; to just north of the Peninsula Fruit Exchange in 1932; and did not get past Old Mission Road until 1946 or thereabouts. Neahtawanta got electricity in 1951.

As was true in most rural communities at that time, medical care and facilities were not as advanced as they are today. Doctors did make house calls but one might have to wait awhile before they could come. Babies were born at home and, if the doctor was not used, the baby was delivered by midwives. Tom Hoffman's Grandmother was a midwife and some women would go to the Hoffman place to have her baby born there. Mrs. Stella Gilmore, Rose Giles and Mrs. Mary Steavens also served as midwives.

When telephones came to the Peninsula, it was an accepted practice to listen in on party lines. Normally, there were from eight to ten on a circuit and, if the phone rang, generally everyone on the line would pick the phone up to 'listen in.' If someone had made a call to the doctor, it wouldn't take long for his phone to be ringing. Everyone would be calling to give advise on how to cure the ailment or illness.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>23</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

Oakley Lardie recalled how they built their well when he was a boy. A 4x4 foot shaft lined with timbers was dug to a depth of about seventy five feet. When a large rock was hit, they would use dynamite to get it dislodged. When water was found, a ceramic tile culvert was lowered into the pit and topped with a concrete cover. Then a pipe was installed with a hand pump. It would take weeks to install such a well.<sup>24</sup>



25



Picking Apples      Courtesy of Bob DeVol

<sup>24</sup>Interview with Oakley Lardie, 1986.

<sup>25</sup>Michigan History, (March/April, 1984), p. 35.

## Churches

In 1880, it was decided by the growing community of Catholics on the Peninsula that a chapel was needed. Land was donated by Oliver Lardie and a 24x30 building was erected in 1881 with Father Ziegler as its first priest. Later, in 1907, the present building was built and, since then, rebuilding and remodeling have occurred. In 1949, an addition was added onto the east end of the church. In 1975, the steeple was removed and the front of the church was reconstructed. In 1983 a parish hall named for Father Devay was completed.



St. Joseph's Church      Courtesy of Oakley Lardie  
cerca 1900



The Archie Methodist Church was located at the present site of Archie Park and served that community. According to Roy Hooper, the Methodist minister would preach in the morning at the church in Old Mission, then travel to the Archie Church to preach there and then return to Old Mission to preach in the evening.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.



At one time there were three Methodist Churches on the Peninsula: one in Old Mission, one at Archie, and one at Ogdensburg. The one in Old Mission was the original log church which Reverend Dougherty used while ministering to those with him at that settlement. The church was later moved to 'front the road' and was turned over to the Methodists who<sup>27</sup> later added siding and made other improvements to the building.



The Congregational Church

Courtesy of Bob DeVol

The Congregational Church in Old Mission was built in 1879 and is the only one of the original seven churches which has not changed in appearance. However, a basement was put under the building in order for a furnace to be installed and to create more space. The church continues to hold services and recently began to do so throughout the year.

<sup>27</sup> Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

The Ogdensburg Methodist Church was named for the city of Ogdensburg in New York state from which a number of settlers had come. This church was still standing in 1955. At that time the parishioners decided to build a larger church for which Henry Gore donated land just south of the Ogdensburg Cemetery. The new church was inaugurated on Easter Sunday of 1957, and the original church was torn down.



The Original Ogdensburg Methodist Church Dedicated in 1893



BAPTIST

The Baptist Church was built by the Swedish community. This group settled in the central part of the Peninsula and built the church at the intersection of Island View Road and Peninsula Drive. Its roots go way back, as originally, the church was of log construction which was later expanded and sided.<sup>28</sup> The church still stands today as a completely remodeled home.

<sup>28</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.



The Ogdensburg United Methodist Church Dedicated in 1957



Courtesy of Bob DeVol

A group of civic minded citizens in Old Mission under the direction of William Gill Tompkins raised monies to have a replica of Peter Dougherty's original church built. It was built by George and Jim Jerrett and other volunteer workers. Today this replica can be visited during the summer months.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Interview with Bob DeVol, January, 1988.

### Cemeteries

The Kroupa/Zoulek Cemetery, also known as the Bohemian Cemetery was originally a private cemetery. It is located on Neahtawanta Road just west of Kroupa Road and is surrounded by an old fashioned wire enclosure. It is not certain just how many are interred here but there are fourteen or fifteen markers all of which are in the same general vicinity. This cemetery is now under the jurisdiction of the Township.

The Lakeside Cemetery is situated just south of Bagley Lake and was founded by Mr. Parmelee on land he had set aside for this purpose. There are a few grave stones left but, due to the high water table in this area, most of those who were buried here were later moved to the Ogdensburg Cemetery.

John Hoffman and Lawrence Carroll donated land for the St. Joseph's Cemetery which is located just north of Island View Road on Center Road. The plot holds grave sites for nearly 900 and most of those interred here were residents of the Peninsula. It is a Catholic Cemetery and was established in the 1890's.

The Ogdensburg (formerly Hillside) Cemetery is a Township Cemetery whose records show that, as the population of the township increased, the cemetery likewise expanded. There was surveyed first Old Yard, then Block 1, then Block 2 then the Third Addition was added and finally the Fourth Addition completed the final layout of the cemetery which is now nearly full. The Township has purchased land on Swaney Road for use as a cemetery.

## Schools

What was it like going to a country school? Lots of things were different in those days. Desks were nailed down and all faced the front of the room where, in the middle, stood the teacher's desk. The blackboard, which was black in those days, usually extended the full length along the front of the room.

There was a Palmer alphabet which was always arranged along the top edges of the blackboard. There were maps that pulled down like a window shade and there, hanging above everything, were pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The cloak room often held more than our galoshes, overcoats, hats and scarves. It was to this room that the 'discipline problems' were sent until the teacher decided the student could return to class. We were finally able to learn to write with scratchy pens and to use those messy inkwells and blotters in about the fifth grade.

At recess time the boys went to their side of the playground and the girls to the other. An imaginary line was always there and few dared to cross it. Boys played marbles, ball or had fights. Girls played jump rope, jacks and other childhood games.

The teacher - who was all knowing - often dispensed discipline with rulers, books, blackboard pointers or switches. She ran an open classroom. If you were in the third grade you might be doing first grade spelling; or if you were a good student in the second grade you might be doing fifth grade reading. Today, more modern techniques in the educational process call this "individually guided education."

On the Peninsula the schools were so placed that no child had to walk more than one to one and a half miles. School hours were from 8:30 to 3:30 and, before kitchens were provided in the schools, ~~the~~ children had to carry their lunch. In winter it would often take the ~~children an hour on~~ so to walk home and it was oftentimes dark by the time they got there. In the early years the schools were heated with a pot bellied stove but later furnaces were provided in the basements as were toilet facilities.<sup>30</sup>

## SPRING TERM

Ending June 23, 1893.

Old Mission School.

LUELLE RICKERD,

TEACHER.

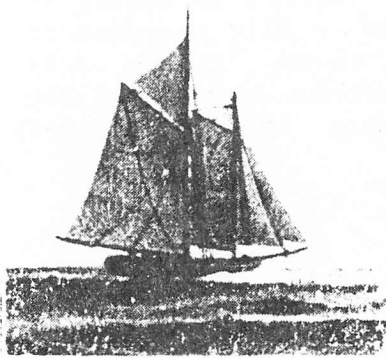
<sup>30</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

In all of the reading and research I have done for this project, I frequently read that the first school established in the region was the one held on board the "Madeline" in 1851. It appears that this was not the first school at all for, in the spring of 1840, the log school at Elk Rapids was dismantled and transported across the Bay. It was rebuilt along the shore of the Old Mission Harbor area and, on May 10, 1840, the first class was held with twenty five pupils present.

The second school was held on the schooner "Madeline," which was anchored offshore in Bowers Harbor during the 1851-52 fall and winter. The teacher was S. E. Wait who was seventeen years old at the time. His students were William, Michael and John Fitzgerald whose descendent, Edmund, would later have a famous ship named for him. Little is known about the fourth student, William Bryce, but we do know that the fifth student, Edward Chambers, was the cook. In that capacity he was relieved from paying the \$20.00 per month in gold pieces to Wait for instruction.<sup>31</sup>

A bronze plaque has been placed along the shore near the approximate place where the schooner was buoyed offshore. It reads:

In memory of S.E. Whittier  
Wait. Born July 21, 1834.  
Died March 17, 1919. Who  
taught the first school in  
Grand Traverse County during  
the winter of 1851 aboard the  
Schooner "Madeline" anchored  
off this point.



The "Madeline"



S. E. Wait

<sup>31</sup> Sprague, p. 258.

## First Poem

With joy we hailed the coming sail  
 As we round the point with speed  
 The "Yankee" or the "Wah-bi-zee"  
 Were striving for the lead,  
 The "Madeline" and "Arrow," too,  
 Would gladly greet our eyes  
 As weekly trips from Mackinaw  
 They brought us our supplies.  
 O, blessed are the memories  
 Before our vision flow  
 Of the days when we were pioneers  
 Sixty years ago.

The Indians were our fellow men,  
 Ahgosa was their chief.  
 And prominent to our memory  
 Comes names to our relief;  
 Of Ah-ka, Ke-sis, Ke-wa-din,  
 Sah-gun and Ge-ganse,  
 Ke-wa-be-skum Kah-bo-ne-ka,  
 Pe-na-she-ge-zhik, Anse,  
 O, these were faithful friends of yore,  
 No Indian was our foe  
 In the days when we were pioneers  
 Sixty years ago.

Our early life was glad and free,  
 Yet dangers closed us round  
 But here among the grand old trees  
 Freedom we sought and found;  
 Oft through our dwellings wintry blasts  
 Would rush with shriek and moan;  
 We care not, they were rude but strong.  
 And then they were our own.  
 O, free and sturdy lives we led  
 Mid verdure or mid snow  
 In the days when we were pioneers  
 Sixty years ago.

But now our course of life is short,  
 And as from day to day  
 We're walking on with halting step  
 And pausing by the way,  
 Another land more bright than this  
 To dim our sight appears,  
 And on our way to it, we'll soon  
 Again be pioneers  
 And while we linger we may all  
 A backward glance still throw  
 To the days when we were pioneers  
 Sixty years ago.

Written by S. E. Wait at Old Mission  
 or possibly in Elk Rapids sometime in  
 the 1850's.



The third school to be established on the Old Mission Peninsula was the Old Mission School in 1853. Originally this was a one room school but, as the area became more developed, a second room was added. Lois Lardie Steffes recalls that about the turn of the century, there were so many enrolled that they had to hold another class. But, there was no space, so Philip DeVol offered the use<sup>32</sup> of the upstairs of his home until the addition could be built.

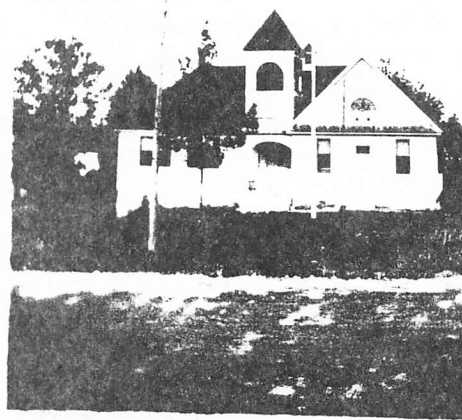
Right: Early picture of Old Mission School



Below: Dedication of new flag and pole, Sept. 15, 1913

Photos Courtesy of Bob DeVol

The Old Mission School



<sup>32</sup>Interview with Lois Lardie Steffes, November, 1987.

Eleven years later, in 1864, the Bowers Harbor School was opened. All of the original seven schools with the exception of the Maple Grove School, have been converted into homes but each of them is recognizable as having been a school. The Bowers Harbor School was located at the corner of Kroupa and Neahtawanta Roads.

In 1865 the Mapleton School was opened. It was at the corner of Seven Hills and Devils Dive Roads.

There was an Archie School located on Gray Road near the present Amor property. The land was given by A. P. Gray and the school may have been built about 1883. The school was attended by some of the early settlers' children: the Grays, Montagues, McMullins, Wilsons, Kellys, Hasskins, Buchans and Kilmurys. This log schoolhouse burned in 1893. The business of education had to go forth so Mr. Frank French donated land at the corner of Montague and Center Roads so that a new school could be built.

This school, Stony Beach, was built with two entrances: one for the girls and one for the boys. By 1908, the enrollment had increased and another room was added onto the west side. This room housed the lower grades. By 1915, the enrollment had dropped and one teacher was employed. Some time after 1918, the seventh and eighth graders were bussed to the Traverse City Junior High.

The Ogdensburg School, located just south of the Ogdensburg Cemetery, was built about 1898. It had two rooms and, as was true of the other schools, served the community and its students notably.<sup>33</sup>

The Maple Grove School was built around 1904. It is located just south of Kroupa's processing plant. According to Township records of 1920, the teacher at the Maple Grove School was paid \$100. a month, but she had to pay \$5.00 a month of this money to the janitor and \$12.50 per month for her room and board.<sup>34</sup> Male teachers were paid 50% more than their female counterparts.

Dana Ostlund was one of the last teachers to teach in these original schools for, in 1954, the voters of the Peninsula approved the issue to consolidate. The Old Mission Elementary School was opened in 1955 and an addition was completed in 1957 to accomodate grades kindergarten through the eighth grades. Later, when the Junior High School was built, seventh and eighth grades were moved there.

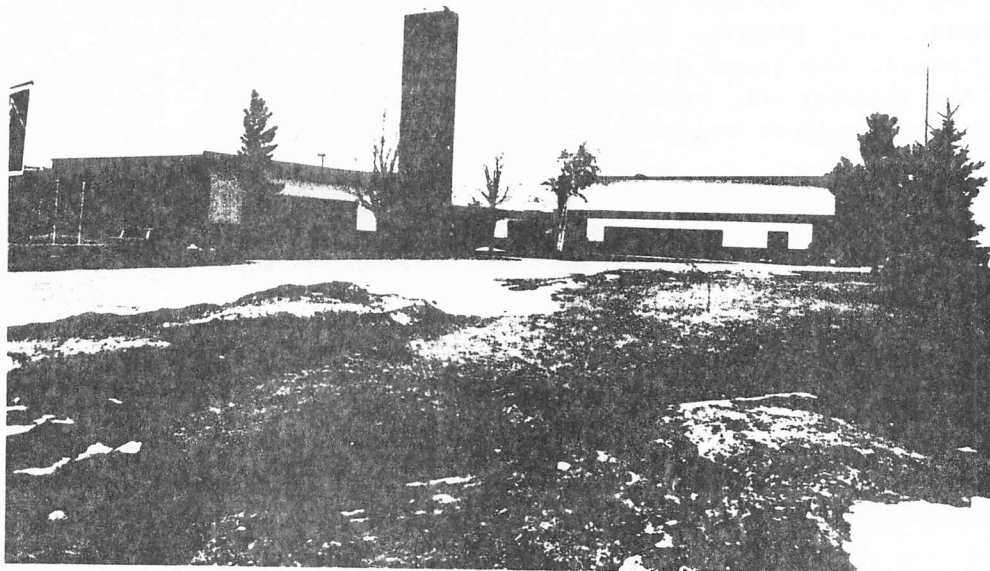
Mrs. Ostlund recalled that she taught for eight years in Old Mission and for five years at the Mapleton School. She taught kindergarten through the third grade and her counterpart taught fourth through the seventh. At that time, the eighth graders were bussed into Traverse City. She was able to combine some subjects such as geography and social studies, but tried to keep each grade separate for reading, math and spelling.

<sup>33</sup>Student Project, Old Mission School, 1964

<sup>34</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

Both schools had kitchens and cooks who would prepare hot lunches for the pupils. The buildings were heated with furnaces in the basements and there were separate bathrooms for the girls and boys.

When the schools were consolidated, Mrs. Ostlund taught at East Bay. She is now retired and is active in the village of Old Mission where she lives.<sup>35</sup>



The Old Mission Peninsula School

<sup>35</sup> Interview with Dana Ostlund, December, 1987.

# REPORT

## OLD MISSION SCHOOL.

Report of George Swaney by months for the  
month beginning June 1 and closing June 17

Whole number of days taught, 20

MONTHS, - - -	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.
Days Taught, - -		20				
Days Present, - -		20				
Days Tardy, - -		-				
Excused Tardiness, -		-				
Unexcused Tardiness,		-				
Perfect Lessons Recited,		75				
Imperfect Lessons Recited,		15				
Rhetoricals, - -		96				
Head of Class, - -		2				
Demerit Marks, - -		-				
Deportment, - -		9.2				
Average Scholarship, -		8.3				
Examination Average,		9.0				

**CHAS. W. McCURDY, Teacher.**

TRAVERSE CITY PRINTING COMPANY

Courtesy of Gerald Swaney

George Swaney's report card for the month of June, 1884.

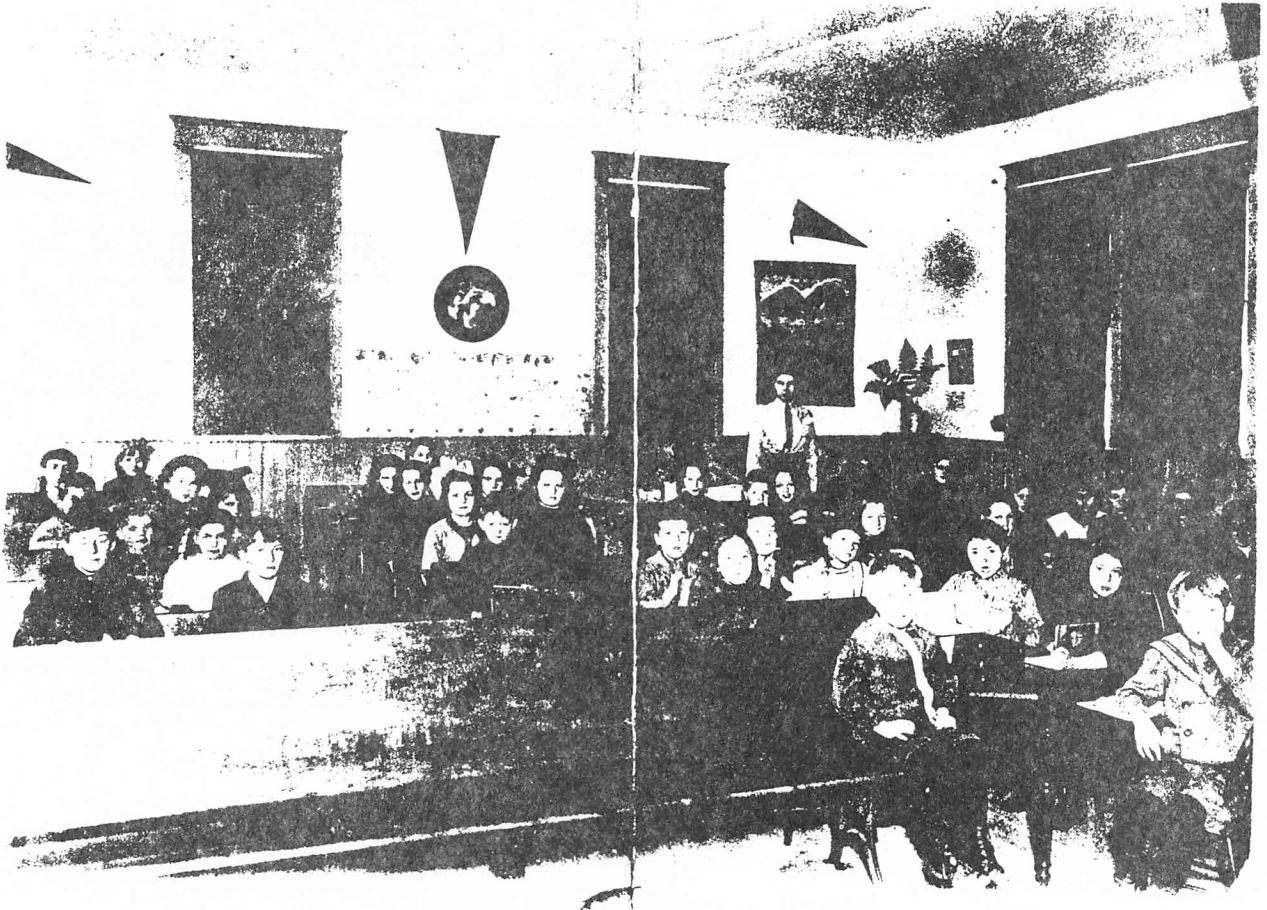


Photo Courtesy of Bob DeVol

This early photograph taken around 1910 shows the lower grade classroom at the Old Mission School. The long bench which appears in the foreground of the picture was called the 'recitation board.'



First Row Left  
 Lorin Rust  
 Willie Marshall  
 Carl Pratt  
 Fida Tompkins  
 Dessie Van Horn  
 Oliver Brinkman  
 Josie Jerrett  
 Katherine Bagley

Second Row Left  
 Harold Lardie  
 Robert Tompkins  
 Isabel Reay  
 Constance Clover  
 Gertrude Lardie  
 Clara Herbert  
 Mae Tompkins  
 Edna Young

Photo Courtesy of Bob DeVol  
 Third Row Left  
 Marie Stone  
 E. H. Wilcox  
 Marshall Pratt  
 Minnie A. Porter  
 Elsie Stone  
 Evalyn Pulver  
 Howard Roush

The Grammar Room  
 Old Mission School  
 Nov. 9, 1908





Photo Courtesy of Bob DeVol

First Row Left  
 Mary Lardie  
 Alice Ostlund  
 Marjorie Mlujeak  
 Walter Franklin  
 Eva Pulver  
 Edna Crampton  
 Opal Hill  
 Lillian Lardie  
 Kenneth Burton  
 Donavan Bullen

Second Row Left  
 Clarence Zang  
 Roy Zang  
 Helen Pratt  
 Julius Marshall  
 Morris Lardie  
 Ralph Lardie  
 Alma Tompkins  
 Gerald Franklin  
 William Galerno

Third Row Left  
 Ethel Brittain  
 Rosa Carpenter  
 Edith Tompkins  
 Roland Lardie  
 Ina Reay  
 Ruby Brittain  
 Ethel Tompkins  
 Frank Ostlund  
 Lawrence Mlujeak

Fourth Row Left  
 Meldon Galerno  
 Ward Clover  
 Donald Emmons  
 Elgin Lewis  
 Leon Brittain  
 Ted Brittain  
 Helen Stillson  
 Anna Pulver  
 George Lardie  
 Carl Ostlund

Primary Room  
 Old Mission School  
 Nov. 12, 1908



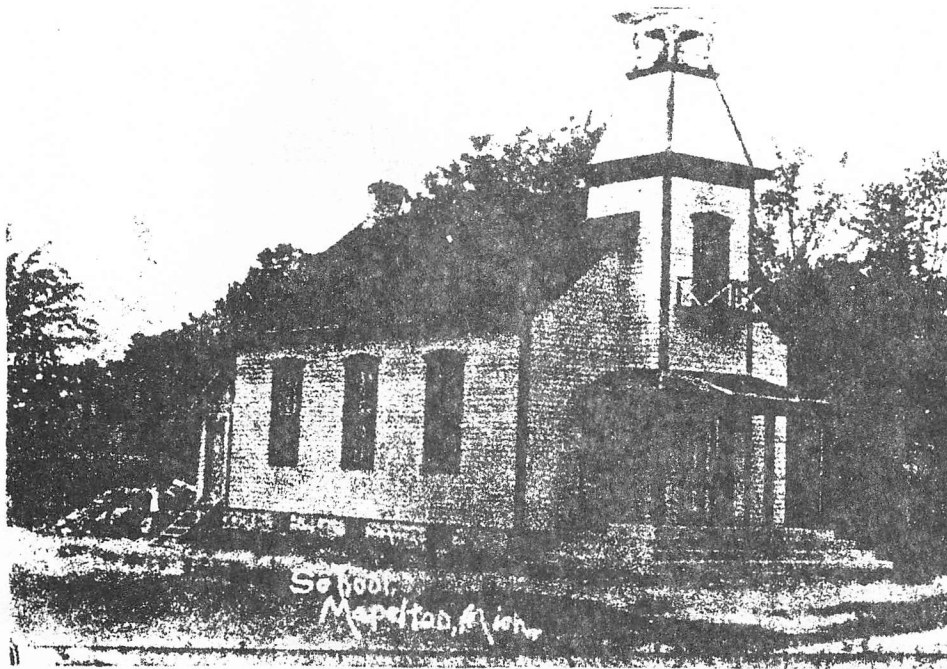


Photo Courtesy of Bob Lindsey  
The Mapleton School



Photo Courtesy of Bob Lindsey  
The Mapleton School With Addition



The Ogdensburg School

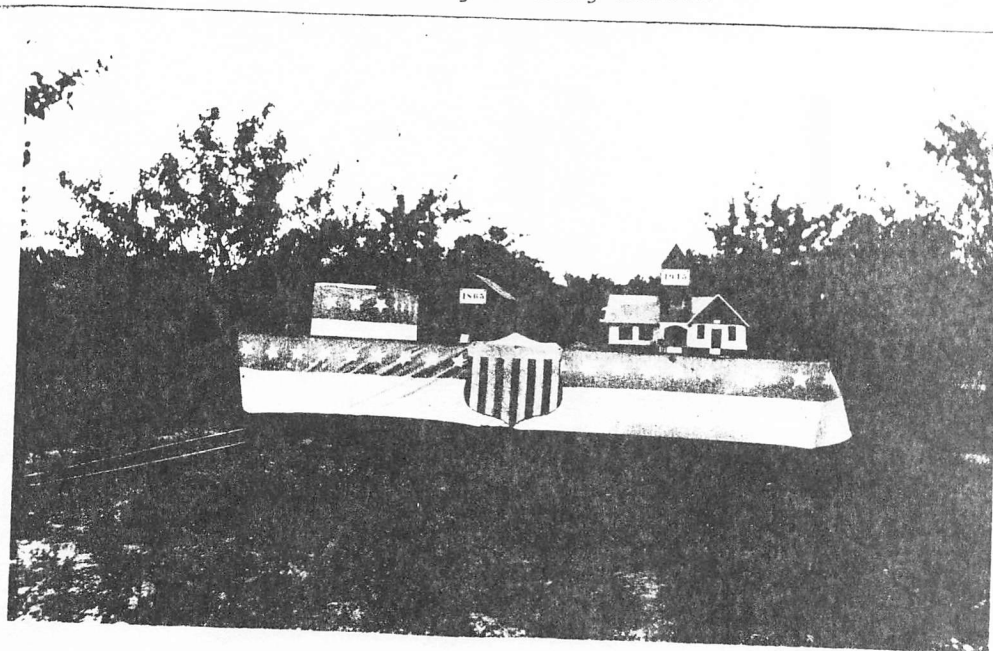


Photo Courtesy of Bob DeVol

1915 4th of July Float Showing the  
Old Mission School - This Won the  
Second Prize



This photo was taken by Charlie Herbert at the beginning of the 1910 school year for the Stony Beach School.

Front row, left to right: James Wilson, Harold Curtis, Marjorie Johnson, Carol Wise, Mildred Gray, Wanda Durga, Dolly Grubb, Helen Montague, and Daisy Grubb

Second row: Tom Johnson, Joe Duffek, Tom Montague, Milo Van Brocklin, Harold Gray, Willard Wilson, Savila Nelson, Patricia Johnson, and Marjori Montague

Back row: Margaret Wilson, Eva McManus, teacher; Beatrice McManus, Helen Richardson Bessie Richardson, Marie Gray, Emma McManus, Arlie McDonald, Millie Widdis, Otto Wise, Anna Duffek, Ralph Duffek, Amos Montague, Isabel Wilson, Alberta McManus and Idella Armitidge, teacher 36



The McKinley School was the last school built on the Peninsula. It is interesting to note that in those early years development occurred from the Old Mission area and moved southward. It was not until much later that the opposite trend took place with development starting at the southern end and moved northward.

The school was named for President McKinley and was built in 1901. The first teacher was Miss Van Vankenberg who is the teacher in the above picture. Names of the children in the picture are not known but there are three Brosch and a few Berg children shown.

According to Mrs. William Tuttle, daughter of an early McKinley school teacher, she recalls her mother telling her that father had said, "I love my children but I brought them up here from Findley (Ohio) to starve." My Mother told him with all the fruit and vegetables we had in the cellar we wouldn't starve. If the threat of starvation faced these early teachers it indicates the poor salaries they must have received.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Student Project, Old Mission School.



## Peninsula Businesses

Mention has already been made of early business enterprises such as those found in the settlement of Bowers Harbor and of Old Mission village during their early years. But it would be negligent not to mention other businesses which, at one time, were viable stores and operations.

The Lardie Grocery in Old Mission as well as the Bowers Harbor Grocery have been covered on previous pages, yet there were seven other grocery stores which were located on the Peninsula in years past.

The Tom Hoffman family have an old tintype which pictures a store which was located near their present home on Center Road. It was undoubtedly in existence in the 1880's.

### P. F. LARDIE GENERAL STORE

Established 1880

MAPLETON, MICH.

Groceries, Provisions, Dry Goods, Shoes, Berry  
Crates, Baskets, Apple Barrels and  
Fruit Holders.

Below: The P.F. Lardie Store, Courtesy  
of Gwen Watson

To the left, is an advertisement taken from an early brochure. This store was located in Mapleton, was under the ownership of several families, the most recent of whom were Claude and Gwen Watson. The store later burned but is still remembered by all who were its patrons.<sup>38</sup>





Photo Courtesy of Gwen Watson

Gwen Watson had a copy made of this picture which was from the original tintype and which belongs to Tom Hoffman. This picture portrays the John and Matilda Hoffman grocery store which was located just south of the present Tom Hoffman residence. Tom's grandfather came to the Peninsula in 1879 to homestead. It is not known when the store was built but part of it was moved to the rear of the present Hoffman house and was used as a woodshed. This was later torn down in the spring of 1938.<sup>39</sup>

WHITE CLOVER AND APPLE BLOSSOM  
**..HONEY..**  
 MRS. JOHN SMITH, OLD MISSION

Left and below: Copies of early advertisements from old brochures.

## "THE PINES"

Ideal Summer Resort amidst the pines.

A. J. PRESCOTT.

OLD MISSION

<sup>39</sup>Telephone Interview with Tom Hoffman, January, 1988.



Photo Courtesy of Gwen Watson

The building to the left was the Alec Lardie store. The dance hall was located on the second floor. The home to the right is now the office of the Peninsula Telephone Company. The photo, taken in 1888 shows Roy L. Lardie, Alex Lardie, Anna Lardie, Nettie Hawkins, Celia Besaw, Josephine Besaw, Joe Besaw, Grandpa George Lardie, Essie Lardie, Grandma Esther Lardie, Belle Lardie and Edward Lardie.



Among other stores located on the Peninsula was the Cory Christopher store which was located at Center Road and Kroupa Road in the general vicinity of the present Elton Dohm place. Many old timers recall its being there but do not recall it being operated.

The Earle Hill store was located at the corner of Mission and Brinkman Roads. Then, there was a store run by a man named Gordman between the years 1933 and 1940. It was located at the corner of Mission Road and Center Road. It is of interest to note that this corner is often referred to as 'Buckeye Corner' as there is a stately buckeye tree still standing adjacent to the home which is located there.

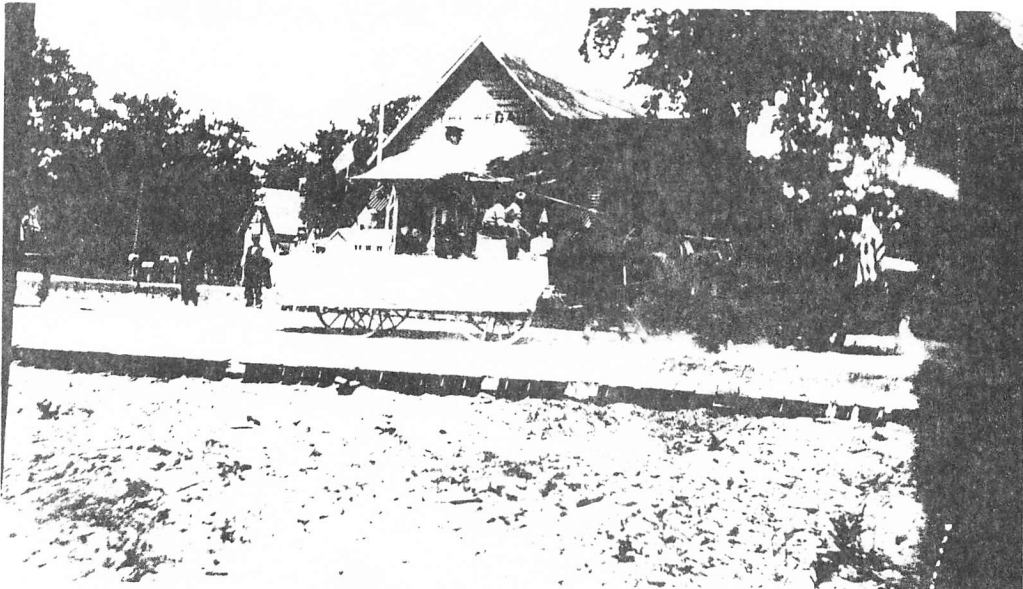
There was a grocery store in the general vicinity of the intersection of Gray and Center Roads. According to Oakley Lardie, Sam Garland built it in about 1867. Mr. Lardie remembers his Dad going to this store for flour and sugar.

And, finally, there was a grocery store located near the present site of the Peninsula Telephone Company. It was built by Alec Lardie and, as has been previously mentioned, there was a dance hall above.

#### Telephone Companies

The first telephone company was located in Old Mission and was called The Citizens Company. Then came the Peninsula Telephone Company whose lines ran from Carroll Road north to Mapleton. It later absorbed The Citizens Company as the latter could not afford to put in new lines and poles.

In those days, everyone had a party line and a good story resulted from the common practice of listening in on conversations. There was to be a card party in Old Mission and somebody asked Robb Swaney if he was going to attend. He replied that he was, as he'd been on the phone all day listening to the women talk and nobody had anything to wear. So he was going to go and see the sights <sup>40</sup>



Ice house in Old Mission Courtesy of Bob DeVol

<sup>40</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

### What Did You Say Its Name Was?

Islands are, have been, and no doubt always will be sources of romanticism, of reclusion and of beauty throughout man's history. I can think of quite a few which can be described with the three preceding adjectives and two of them would be Marion and Basset Islands.

Marion Island has had many different names which I shall deal with later. It has 200 acres and is about 1½ miles in length. It is heavily forested, is managed, and is under the jurisdiction of Grand Traverse County. The island is a popular haven for picnickers, hikers and boaters who stop along its shores. At one time, it is said to have had every species of trees native to Michigan growing on it.

Many legends are associated with the island including one which says that no Indian will spend the night there as it is haunted. Another legend is, for many years, Indians put pipes and tobacco on the island for the lost spirit of an Indian chief's bride who disappeared while canoeing with him.

Years ago one name ascribed to the island was 'Hog Island' so named because Indians took their hogs over to fatten. Some called it 'Eagle Island' as a pair of eagles lived there for many years.

Since it is interesting to learn of the varied ownership and other names given to the island, I shall begin with McKinley Wilson who, in 1850, homesteaded it. In 1864, during the Civil War, T. Archibald Buttars owned one third of the island and a Daniel Benton owned the rest. They later sold it to Albert Bacon who sold it to Walter Bacon who sold it to William Thomas. Finally, in 1872, Frederick Hall bought the island and consolidated it under his ownership. In 1881, he officially named the island 'Marion' after his daughter. In 1905 the Chicago Yacht Club purchased the island.

Then, in 1917, Henry Ford bought the island for \$100,000. It was rumored at the time that Ford planned on building a million dollar stone mansion there but nothing came of that idea. At that time, the name was changed to 'Ford Island.'

After Ford, ownership changed several times. In 1944, the F. L. Jacobs Company purchased the island and did extensive lumbering there. By 1959, Ferris Rennie of the Rennie Oil purchased the island and declared it open to all who loved nature. Around 1976, a big Chicago syndicate was interested in buying the island as a marina site to be placed on the eastern side. Word has it that Eugene Power got wind of this and put up a substantial amount of money to purchase the island which first was transferred to Peninsula Township and later to Grand Traverse County. Power Island, as it is now known, belongs to all of us to look at as we view the ever changing panoramas of West Bay or to enjoy as we hike or picnic there.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Traverse, The Magazine, August, 1981, p.12.

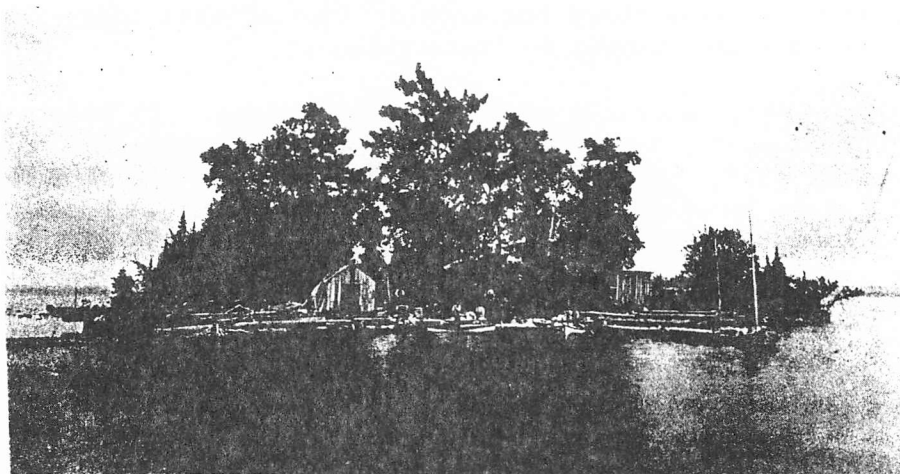
## Basset Island

Perhaps, of the two islands, Basset Island has the more interesting history. True, Power Island is claimed to be haunted as well as laying claim to many names. But Basset Island, so far as we know, has always been called that as it bears the name of the so called hermit who spent about twenty five springs, summers and autumns there. His name was Dick Basset, a fisherman by trade and a hermit by choice. In the winters, he moved into town and lived somewhere in the vicinity of Fourteenth Street. He planted apple trees, a vineyard, and had a small garden on the island.

Basset knew and loved the Indians with whom he often fished. The poem, "The Indian's Lament," which is on the next page, was taught to Lester Buchan by his father, Frank Buchan who, in turn, learned it from Dick Basset. Lester Buchan remembers Basset as he knew him when he was a young boy. Mr. Buchan believes that Basset left this area around 1905 to fish the waters of Puget Sound and, to his knowledge, was never heard from again.<sup>42</sup>

In 1905 Basset sold the island to the Chicago Yacht Club which, in 1906, sold it to a local group known as 'The Bay Line.' They built a 50x100 foot dance pavillion on the island and a dock able to accomodate large boats. A steamer would carry passengers to the island for a fee of twenty five cents which included the ticket to get into the pavillion. The days of dances and gala parties were numbered for ten years later both islands became the property of Henry Ford.<sup>43</sup>

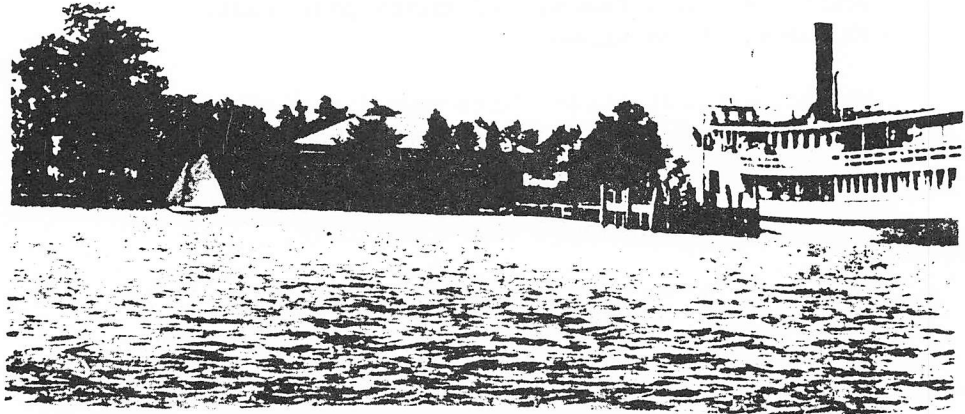
Today, a sandy causeway leads from the larger island to Basset. If you ever visit the islands, take time to reflect on all of the fascinating events which have taken place there and be grateful that the forest, beaches, quiet paths, and clear waters can be enjoyed by all.



Basset Island About 1900

<sup>42</sup>Interview with Lester Buchan, December, 1987.

<sup>43</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.



Courtesy of Laurence Wakefield

Dock, steamship and  
Pavillion on Basset  
Island

## THE INDIANS LAMENT

The Indian sat in his little canoe  
 As he paddled it over the water so blue  
 He thinks of the time when this land was his own  
 And those pale faces, and those pale faces  
 Had never been known.

Oh, when first those white men did visit our land  
 We used them like brothers; we gave them our hand  
 We know they were weary; we gave them repose  
 Little dreaming those white men, little dreaming  
 Those white men would ever turn foes.

Oh, when first those white men did visit our soil  
 We lived in our wigwams without care nor toil  
 We hunted the otter, the beaver and the deer  
 For we knew in those wildwoods, we knew in  
 Those wildwoods there was nothing to fear.

Now on our rich prairie their farm houses stand  
 And in our fine forests they builded their towns.  
 Our tall pine and cedar, their axes laid low  
 And the red deer they have driven, and the red  
 Deer they have driven far over the snow.

Oh, where are the graves of our forefathers now!!  
 They are roughly gone over and torn by the plow  
 They have caused us poor Indians in sorrow to go  
 And the fires round our wigwams, the fires  
 round our wigwams no more brightly glow.

Now the Indian said to his family one day  
 We will go out west and there we will stay.  
 We will go out west and there seek repose  
 Where no more where those white men will ever be foes.  
 Where no more those white men will ever be foes.

Recited by Lester Buchan when he was 96 years old. This poem  
 was taught him by his father, Frank, who learned it from Dick  
 Basset who lived with the Indians on Basset Island when Lester  
 was a young boy.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup>Interview with Lester Buchan, December, 1987.

### The Friedrich Tower

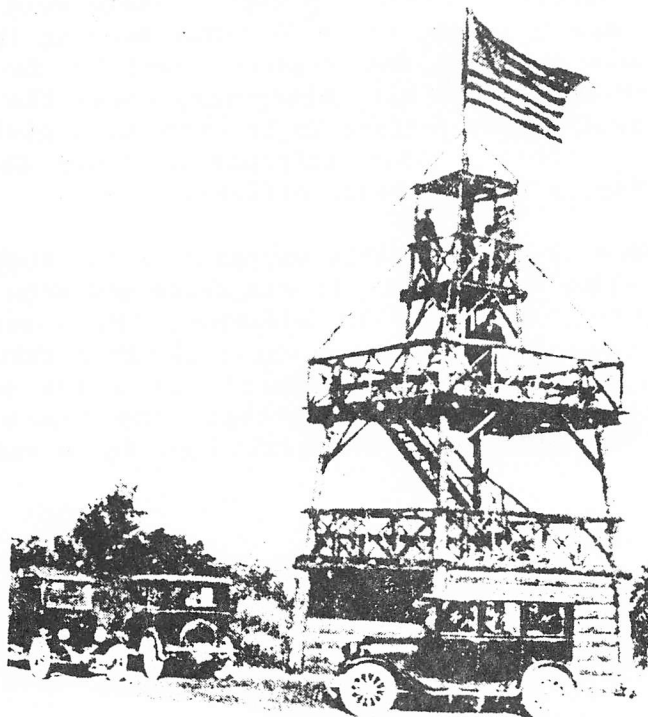
Albert Friedrich was a Traverse City businessman who, in the early twenties, recognized the potential of tourism in this area. He, along with several businessmen, put some money together to build an observation tower. They arranged with Charles Carroll, a cherry farmer, to build the tower on his land which was located on the east side of Center Road just north of Nelson Road.

In May, 1923, the cedar tower was constructed. It was 28' high and had two observation platforms and a covered third deck. Its first name was "The Grand View Observation Tower" and was opened to the public in June of 1923. By August a ceremony was held to rename it after its sponsor and it thus became known as "The Friedrich Tower."

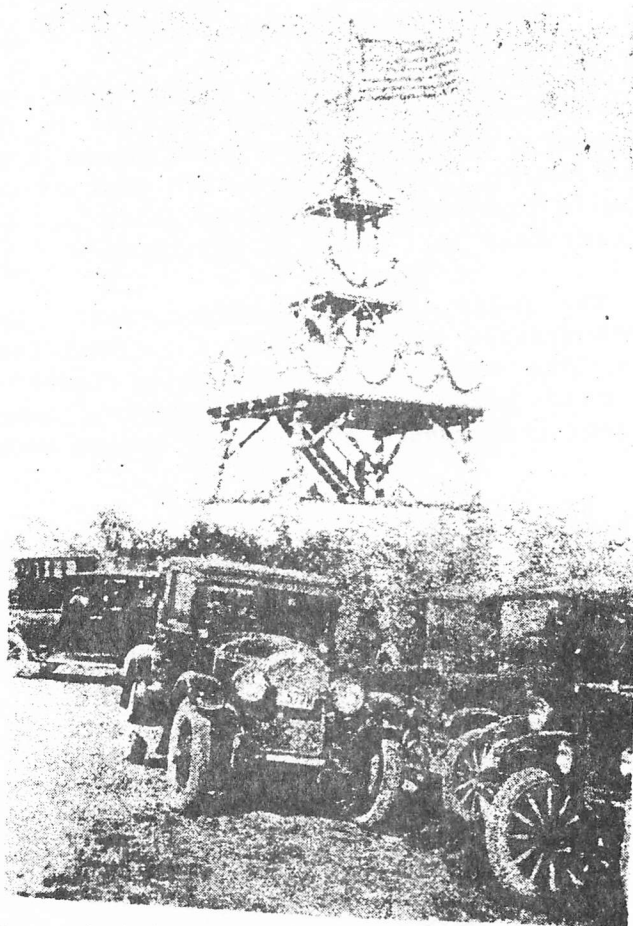
Friedrich was correct in his analysis that such a tower would become a popular tourist attraction. Henry Ford's name is included as one who signed the visitor's book. At the base of the tower was a concession stand which sold post cards, souvenirs and locally grown fruits and vegetables.

On several occasions the tower was covered with garlands and other ornate decorations as the tower had been chosen as the official site for the celebration of the Blessing of the Blossoms.

During World War II, the tower was used by volunteers to watch for enemy aircraft and was one of a nationwide network of such observation sites. These volunteers were a vital part of the Civil Defense System which had been established soon after the war began.



The Friedrich Tower



The Friedrich Tower Covered With Garlands

A telephone was installed on the top deck. There were about two dozen volunteers, mostly women, who took turns manning the six hour long shifts. When a plane was sighted night or day, one volunteer would follow its flight with binoculars while the other would telephone the Civil Defense office in Traverse City giving as much information as possible. This information would then be relayed to the Grand Rapids Civil Defense offices.

After the war there was a noticeable decrease in the number of visitors who came to climb the tower. It was aging and soon would be in need of extensive repair. In addition, there was the possibility that someone might be injured while climbing resulting in a law suit. So, in 1958 Bernard Carroll and a few of his friends dismantled the tower. And with that, the era of the observation towers of the Old Mission Peninsula came to an end.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.



### The Golden Tower

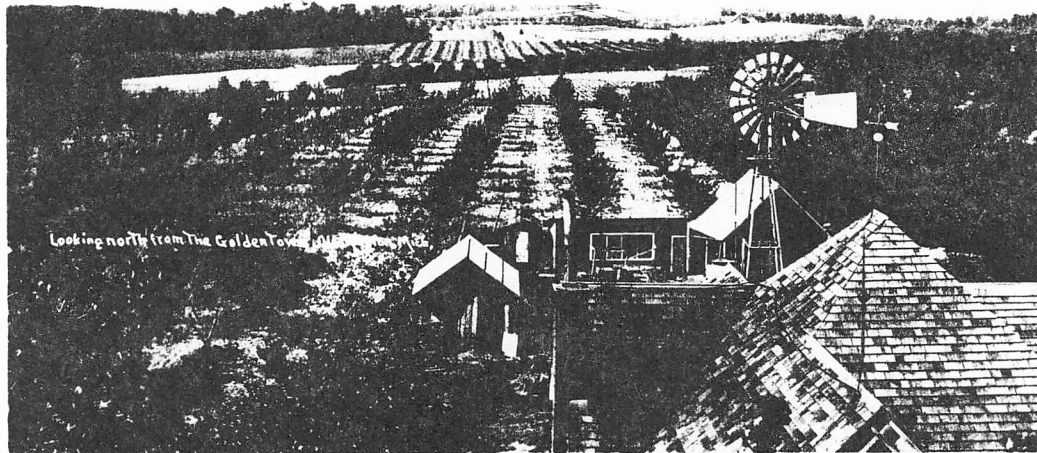
One of the early pioneers on the Old Mission Peninsula was Windsor Golden who arrived by steamer from Ogdensburg, New York in 1855 to acquire an 80 acre tract of land under the Homestead Act. Upon his death in 1907, his three daughters shared in his inheritance. His daughter, Ida, received fifteen acres fronting along the northerly right of way of Eimen Road. This land happened to be one of the highest spots on the Peninsula.

Undoubtedly influenced by the popularity of the Friedrich Tower, and to honor the memory of her father, Ida and her husband, Frances Lardie, decided to build an observation tower.

In the spring of 1924 the Golden Tower was erected. It was 35 feet high, had three platforms and was built around a poplar tree.

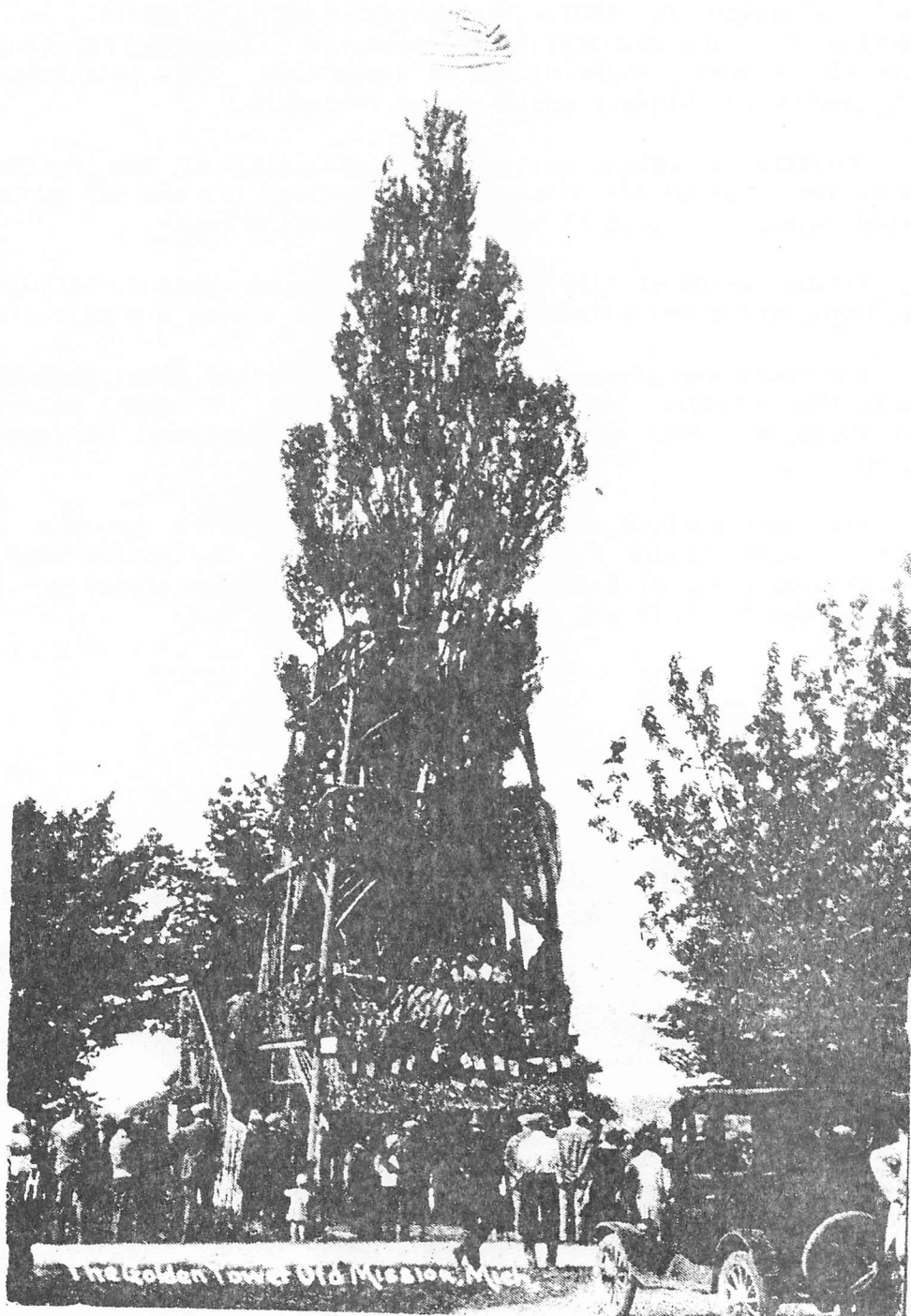
The tower was popular with both tourists and local residents. Those who climbed the tower were asked to make voluntary contributions. Most of the money collected was used for general upkeep.

The construction was of cedar logs, which by the late thirties, were showing signs of deterioration. The poplar tree was also showing signs of decay so, in 1941, the Golden Tower was torn down by John Marshall and a few of his friends.<sup>46</sup>



The View From Golden Tower      Courtesy of Fran Eaton

<sup>46</sup>Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.



The Golden Tower

## NEAHTAWANTA

In May of 1861 Hiram Emory purchased Government Lot 6 in Section 20 under a patent whereby the United States government sold public lands. At that time and for many years thereafter, this area was known as 'Emory Point' and would, much later, become known as 'Neahtawanta Point.'

After several land transfers within the Emory family during the next few years, which were recorded in quit claim or warranty deeds, the Emorys sold all of Government Lot 6, in Section 20, and all of Sections 29 and 30, as well as twenty acres off the south part of Section 19 to the Traverse Point Association on November 15, 1889.

The following year, on March 13, 1890, the Traverse Point Association conveyed the above described lands to the Universalist Resort Association which was a branch of the Unitarian Church. According to that deed, the President of the Universalists was a Mr. Hunt and the Secretary was E. A. Treadway. Then, in August of 1890, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Treadway representing the Universalist Resort Association, had a plat drawn up changing the name of the Resort Association to Neahtawanta. This plat, which was drawn up in Detroit, remains in its original form on Township tax maps and records. In about 1892 the Traverse Point Plat was created.

The Treadway cottage was the first cottage to be built after Neahtawanta Plat was created and was completed in 1890. Judson L. Miller built the second cottage in 1891. Mr. Miller was a resident of Cadillac and he had the lumber for the construction of his cottage shipped up from Cadillac.

Fran Eaton's grandfather, John Gates, with his friends Perin Langdon and Victor Price came from Cincinnati, Ohio, to the Harbor Springs area in the late 1890's to look for a resort like setting. They didn't like that region for some reason and were on their way home on the train when someone asked them if they had looked at the Grand Traverse area. So, they turned around in Grand Rapids and returned to this area. They were so impressed that they bought cottages in 1898 and their families began coming to Neahtawanta in 1899. And it remains so today that the Neahtawanta area is inhabited by resorters who come from Cincinnati.<sup>47</sup>

Someone in the resort association must have been familiar with the language of the Ottawas and wanted to use the Ottawa expression meaning "I'm going to visit for awhile" (Nee ah wa da taa) as a name. However, when the plat was drawn up, the spelling became Ne ah ta wan ta which means "calm or still waters." So, in both instances, both Ottawa words are indeed appropriate to the naming of this lovely point of land. Possibly, even more appropriate might be the Ottawa word for "snake head" for, if you look at a map of the Old Mission Peninsula, this land mass jutting out to help form Bowers Harbor does indeed look like a snake's head!

<sup>47</sup> Interview with Fran Eaton, November, 1987.

In the early days, resorters came from Cincinnati by train as far as Traverse City and, thence by small steam packet to Neahtawanta where it would tie up at the large dock. Trunks and other paraphenalia would then be carried to the various cottages.

Both large steamers and smaller packets would land at the dock. Captain Emory had a boat called the "Fanny M. Rose" which he sailed from the Bowers Harbor area to other ports of call. One story has it that a group of deer hunters decided to go by Captain Emory's boat to the Upper Peninsula to do their hunting. Soon after boarding the boat, they began drinking. By the time they were half way to their destination, most were quite drunk. This infuriated Captain Emory so he proceeded to turn the boat around and returned to Bowers Harbor. The men, by this time were asleep and, upon awakening, asked Emory when he was going to begin the trip. Emory kicked the lot of them off the ship.

Sometime between 1895 and 1900, a three story hotel was built on the top of the hill where the cottages of George Fabe and Elliott Morrison stand today. This hotel burned down in November of 1913. If you look carefully, you can still see the sidewalk that used to go to it. Its loss was felt by all of the resorters as it not only housed their guests and friends, but was a meeting place for all. Moreover, most resorters would eat their lunch and dinner at the hotel. The hotel also had a pigeon hole mailbox where resorters could pick up or mail their letters.

At the corner of Kroupa and Neahtawanta Roads, there is a red house which, at one time, had been a schoolhouse. Just west of this structure is a house which, years ago, was called "The Links." It was so named because a nine hole golf course was built just behind it. The house is a log cabin which was later covered with siding. There was a second golf course belonging to the Neahtawanta Resort Association which was just west of the other one. It was later used as a landing field for light planes and Jack Gates was the first to use it as a landing strip. Later others used it including Jack Minor. Both the air strip and golf courses were abandoned and, today, the area is planted in beautiful pine trees.

The resort provided work for many teenagers who lived in the surrounding region as baby sitters, yard boys, maids, housecleaners and even as chauffers. Today, the descendents of those early pioneer resorters reside during the summers in the lovely old cottages and continue to add much to our community.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Interview with Fran Eaton, November, 1987.  
Old Mission Historic Group, 1987.

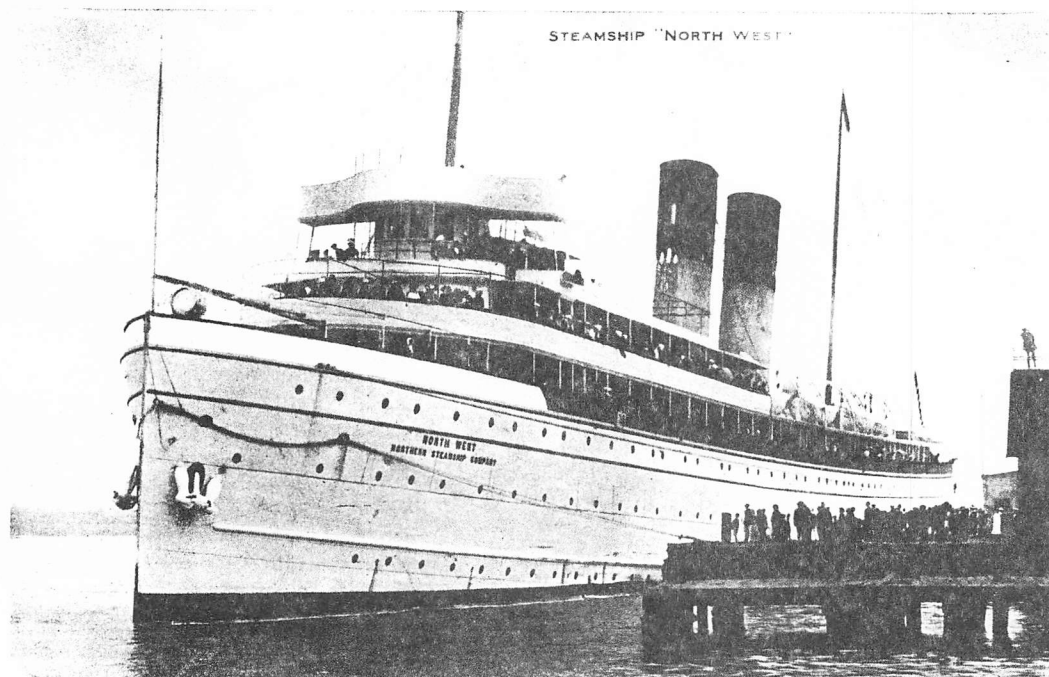


Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

Steamship "North West" at the Traverse City dock

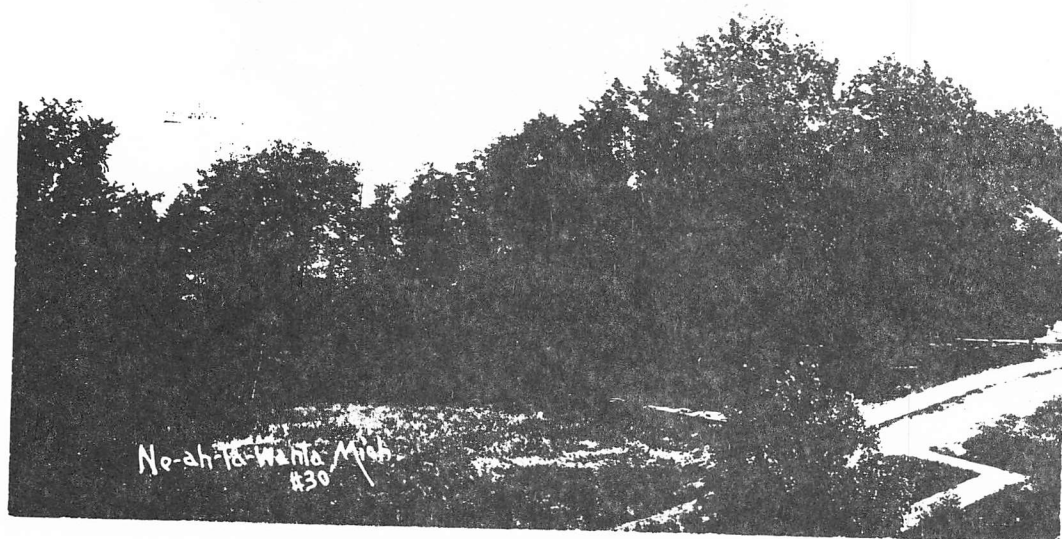


Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

Steam packet sailing toward Neahtawanta Point

## A TRAVERSE BAY HARBOR.



Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

Steam packet at the Neahtawanta Point Dock

Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

Steam packet at the Neahtawanta Point Dock



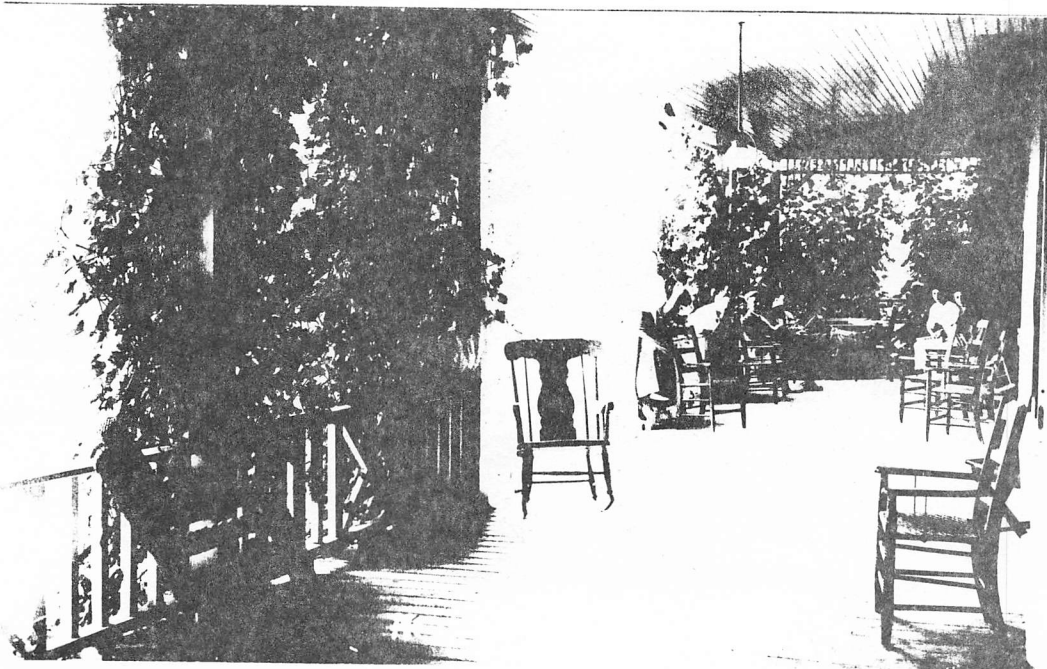
Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

Mary Atherton's store and dock at Neahtawanta





Resorters entering the dining room at the original hotel in Neahtawanta. Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton



The veranda of the original hotel at Neahtawanta Photo Courtesy of Fran Eaton

The veranda of the original hotel at Neahtawanta

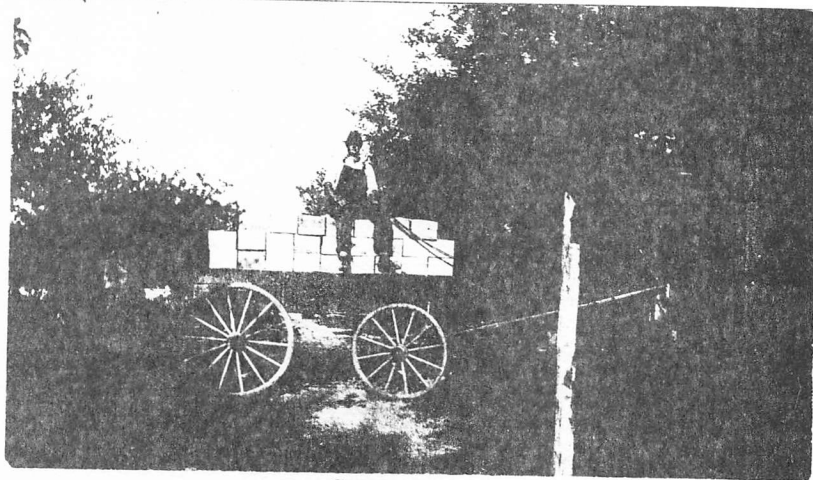




Clearing the land

49

Right: Horses pulling the wagon filled with cherry lugs.



Courtesy of Bob DeVol



Left: The first truck owned and operated on the Peninsula

Courtesy of Bob DeVol

## Fire Department

As was true in most rural communities, there was little or no provision made for fire fighting equipment on the Old Mission Peninsula. If nearby neighbors would get to the site of a fire, they would help with bucket brigades to do what they could to put out the fire. But, generally, little could be done and many of the early farm homes burned to the ground. In 1914 resorters in Neahtawanta worked hours with a bucket brigade dousing the trees near a cottage which was burning. They were unable to save the cottage, but their efforts kept the fire from spreading to nearby structures.

The original Lardie farmhouse across from the Heller home was destroyed by fire as was the original Holmes farmhouse. The Holmes family later built a cement block home on the same site and it still stands today. The original hotel in Neahtawanta burned in November of 1913. Rumor had it that the fire was purposely set to collect insurance - or at least that was the story which was told.

About 1940 spraying machines used by the orchardists began to be equipped with large pumps which could pump 50 to 75 gallons a minute. These machines were excellent for putting out fires. However, they were put away in winter when most of the fires occurred and they were very slow. So, Ray Heller suggested that a fire truck be built which had one of these spray pumps. A committee was formed at one of the meetings of the Cherry Central Grange and funds for the fire truck project were collected. The Cherry Central Grange, now known as the Township Hall, was a very popular meeting place at the time.

The first purchase was a truck chassis. They got a tank from Harold Lardie and a Bean pump. John Lardie and Ben Hager put this apparatus together at the Mapleton Garage and the Peninsula Fire Department was officially started in 1944. With this truck, history was made for it was the first self contained fire truck to serve in a rural area in the State of Michigan. It worked so well that the Bean Company sent their engineers to the Peninsula to look at the spray truck which the men assembled. The engineers returned to their drawing boards and designed a truck which they later sold to rural areas.

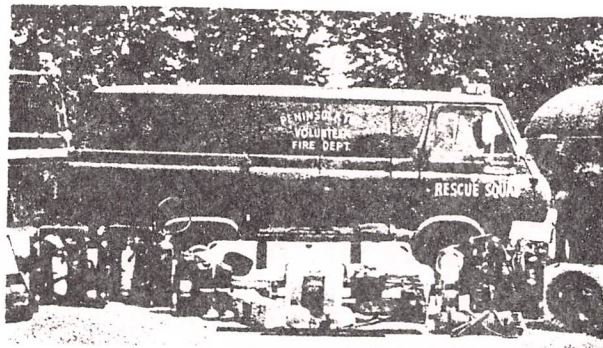
The main problem which the first Fire Department volunteers had with the original fire truck was that it was not large enough. Also, when the tank was filled with water, the truck would not go very fast. But it worked well for a period of time and put out quite a number of fires.

Now that the Fire Department had a truck, some provision had to be made to house it. At that time, the churches on the Peninsula had sheds which at one time were used to shelter horses of parishioners while they were attending services. However, the sheds were no longer used for that purpose and the Old Mission Congregational Church either donated or sold its shed to the Fire Department. The structure was moved by Grange members to a site across Center Road from the Peninsula Telephone Company. The site was chosen so that, in case of fire, the Telephone Company would be notified and it, in turn, could call the volunteers.

The first Volunteers were Ike (Isador) Lardie, Stan Wood, Arnold White, Roy Hooper, Claude Watson, John Lardie, Ray Heller, and Chief Stanley Wood, Sr. When it came time to get better fire fighting equipment and to build a second fire station at the lower end of the Peninsula, there was little opposition to voting millage for the Peninsula Township Volunteer Fire Department.<sup>50</sup>



The First Volunteers  
With the First Truck



Rescue Truck  
Twenty Years Later



Fire Equipment  
Twenty Years Later

# Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department

POST OFFICE BOX 7

OLD MISSION, MICHIGAN 49673

To: Chief Vandermey, Executive Board, Department Members:  
Fm: Paul A. Burton, Fire Examiner  
Re: 1987 Response Report

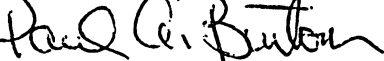
In 1987 the Peninsula Fire Department reported the following responses:

Medical Calls:	076	1986: 076	-0-% Difference
Rescue Calls :	022	1986: 014	+36% Difference
Fire Calls :	034	1986: 024	+29% Difference
Misc. Calls :	062	1986: 049	+20% Difference
ALL CALLS :	194	1986: 165	+15% Difference

As with last year's report, I have charted the trends in our responses. This year I am only going to compare 1987 with a trend from 1977 to 1987. Those members wishing to compare these responses with the 40 year history of the Department may feel free to refer to last year's report.

Again, I hope to present this information in such a way that it will help in the Department's fire prevention, suppression, educational, medical and rescue responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Burton  
Fire Examiner  
01/31/88

## Peninsula Fire Department

Reported Fire Calls

1987 - 34	1982 - 36
1986 - 26	1981 - 26
1985 - 27	1980 - 20
1984 - 28	1979 - 15
1983 - 35	1978 - 24
	1977 - 20

291 Reported Fires (1977-1987)  
 26.5 Average Fire Calls - Years (1977-1987)

Reported Medical (Ambulance) Calls

1987 - 76	1982 - 21
1986 - 76	1981 - 75
1985 - 74	1980 - 69
1984 - 47	1979 - 52
1983 - 59	1978 - 36
	1977 - 50

635 Reported Medical Calls (1977-1987)  
 57.7 Average Medical Calls - Years (1977-1987)

Reported Rescue Calls

A Rescue Call will be considered an action where a person is incapable of removing themselves from a dangerous situation without the help of our fire or medical personnel. Included in this definition will be auto accidents resulting in personal injuries, industrial and recreational accidents. Excluded will be calls to residents (i.e., heart attacks) for they are included in the medical calls section.

1987 - 22	1982 - 21
1986 - 14	1981 - 22
1985 - 14	1980 - 28
1984 - 21	1979 - 19
1983 - 22	1978 - 18
	1977 - 17

218 Reported Rescue Calls (1977-1987)  
 19.8 Average Rescue Calls - Years (1977-1987)

Miscellaneous calls

A Miscellaneous call will be considered an action by the Department in response to a request by a citizen, police or Federal agency, etc. Examples could include: weather alerts, wash downs, traffic control, welfare check on the elderly, educational activities, civil defense work etc.

1987 - 62	1982 - 13
1986 = 49	1981 - 13
1985 - 08	1980 - 09
1984 - 11	1979 - 19
1983 - 15	1978 - 15
	1977 - 24

238 Reported Misc. Calls (1977-1987)  
21.6 Average Misc. Calls Years (1977-1987)

Total Reported (all) Calls 1977-1987

291	Total Fire
635	Total Medical
218	Total Rescue
<u>238</u>	Total Miscellaneous
1382	Total ALL Calls

125.6 Average ALL Calls - Years (1977-1987)

Report prepared by Paul A. Burton, Fire Examiner 01/31/88 <sup>51</sup>

Early farmers on the Peninsula gained their livelihood by general farming. Cows, chickens, hogs, and oftentimes, sheep, as well as beef cattle, were generally found on the farms.

Several large poultry barns can still be seen on the Peninsula but they are no longer being used as such. Three of these large barns can be seen as one drives north on Center Road. The first is the large white structure on the right just before Homestead Court. Just past McKinley Road on the left is the second one and a third is found near the corner of Center Road and Gray Road.

Foxes were raised by a few farmers and some farmers raised mink. Fox pens and mink cages were occasionally seen. The mink industry came to a complete stop when the farmers could no longer compete with the Norwegian mink farmers who were able to raise them more economically.

Mice, gophers and moles abound on the Peninsula. Foxes, rabbits, groundhogs, porcupines, skunks, raccoons and woodchucks are frequently observed. Deer were more abundant than they are today but, every now and then they can be seen especially in the northern part of the Peninsula. About fifteen years ago two bears were found roaming around on the Peninsula. They were tranquillized and carried to a more remote site in upper Michigan.

One of the duties of the Township Supervisor was to be responsible for the dog census. This job was assigned to the leader of each rural township as it was important to know dog ownership. Sheep, calves and chickens were occasionally killed by dogs and oftentimes, it was the Supervisor who had to settle disputes which arose as a result of such actions.

Residents of the Peninsula are very fortunate to live on this unique geographical entity and one extra bonus they receive each spring and autumn is the observance of Canada geese as they migrate.





## Women's Clubs

Over the course of the passing years there were a number of women's clubs founded on the Peninsula. They were usually a part of a church group, an offshoot of a school activity or, as will be expanded more fully here, a group of women living in a certain geographical area.

The first of these clubs to be founded was the Archie Women's Club. Its founding date was June, 1914, at the home of Mrs. Emm McMullen and Mrs. Walter Prussing was elected its first president. The name Archie was chosen as this was the name of the Peninsula district in which the members lived.

It was a service oriented organization whose members knitted warm mittens, sweaters, scarves and socks for those serving in the military in World War I. During the Depression, they made sixty five quilts for local needy families and they sponsored the first float from the Peninsula in the Cherry Festival parade. During World War II, and even before the local USO was functioning, the club set up a canteen in the Park Place lobby and served cookies and doughnuts to servicemen. This club is no longer in existence.<sup>52</sup>

The Bowers Harbor Women's Club was organized in 1927 and its members were ladies who lived in the vicinity of Bowers Harbor. As was true of the Archie Women's Club, this group was service oriented and it, too, was disbanded several years ago.

The Old Mission Women's Club was organized in 1931 and is the only one of the three clubs which continues to meet. Its first president was Mrs. Carlton Ladd. One of its community projects was to help in the raising of funds to construct the replica of the Old Mission Church (originally built by the Reverend Peter Dougherty). Bimonthly meetings are held from October through May.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>52</sup>Records of the Archie Women's Club, Peninsula Community Library.

<sup>53</sup>Annual Program Booklet, Old Mission Women's Club.

## Peninsula Township Firsts

- 1839 The first church service was held in Old Mission.
- 1840 The first school session was held at the school in Old Mission.
- 1842 The first frame house was erected in Old Mission (Mission House).
- 1842 The first wheat was sown and harvested.
- 1850 The first Post Office was established in Old Mission.
- 1859 John Garland raised the first peach crop.
- 1863 The Federal Government opened land on the Peninsula for home-steading.
- 1867 George Parmelee established the first fruit center.
- 1869 The Old Mission Dock Company was formed.
- 1870 The lighthouse was built.
- 1905 Cherries became a major crop.
- 1912 The first canning factories were built.
- 1917 The first cherry pitter was invented.
- 1923 The first "Blessing of the Blossoms" was held.
- 1926 The first Cherry Festival was held.
- 1944 The Peninsula Township Volunteer Fire Department was established.
- 1959 The first mechanical harvester was used.

## TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

## Treasurer

James Swaney	1890-1892
John J. Lardie	1893
F. L. Johnson	1894-1895
George H. Jamieson	1896
Peter F. Lardie	1897-1898
William R. Pratt	1899-1902
Olof Benson	1903-1907
George F. Swaney	1908-1910
William R. Johnson	1911-1913
C. F. O. Nelson	1914
E. O. Ladd	1915-1917
John Lardie	1918-1919
George F. Swaney	1920
Luella Johnson	1921-1922
Anna R. Garland	1923-1924
Rose Boursaw	1925-1926
C. J. Colerick	1927
George F. Swaney	1928-1929
Ralph Helferich	1930-1932
Will Hoffman	1933-1938
Isma Hoffman	1939-1949
Raymond Carroll	1949-1953
Lena Griffin	1953-1955
Pearl Langworthy	1955-1957
Nell Carroll	1957-1961
Pearl Langworthy	1961-1974
Donald Breadon	1974

## Supervisor

S. Franklin	1889
E. S. Wait	1890
F. E. Brown	1891-1899
E. O. Ladd	1900-1912
William Gray	1913-1929
W. M. Spruitt	1930-1932
George Swaney	1933-1937
Roy Hooper	1937-1953
Raymond Carroll	1953-1976
Harold McManus	1976-

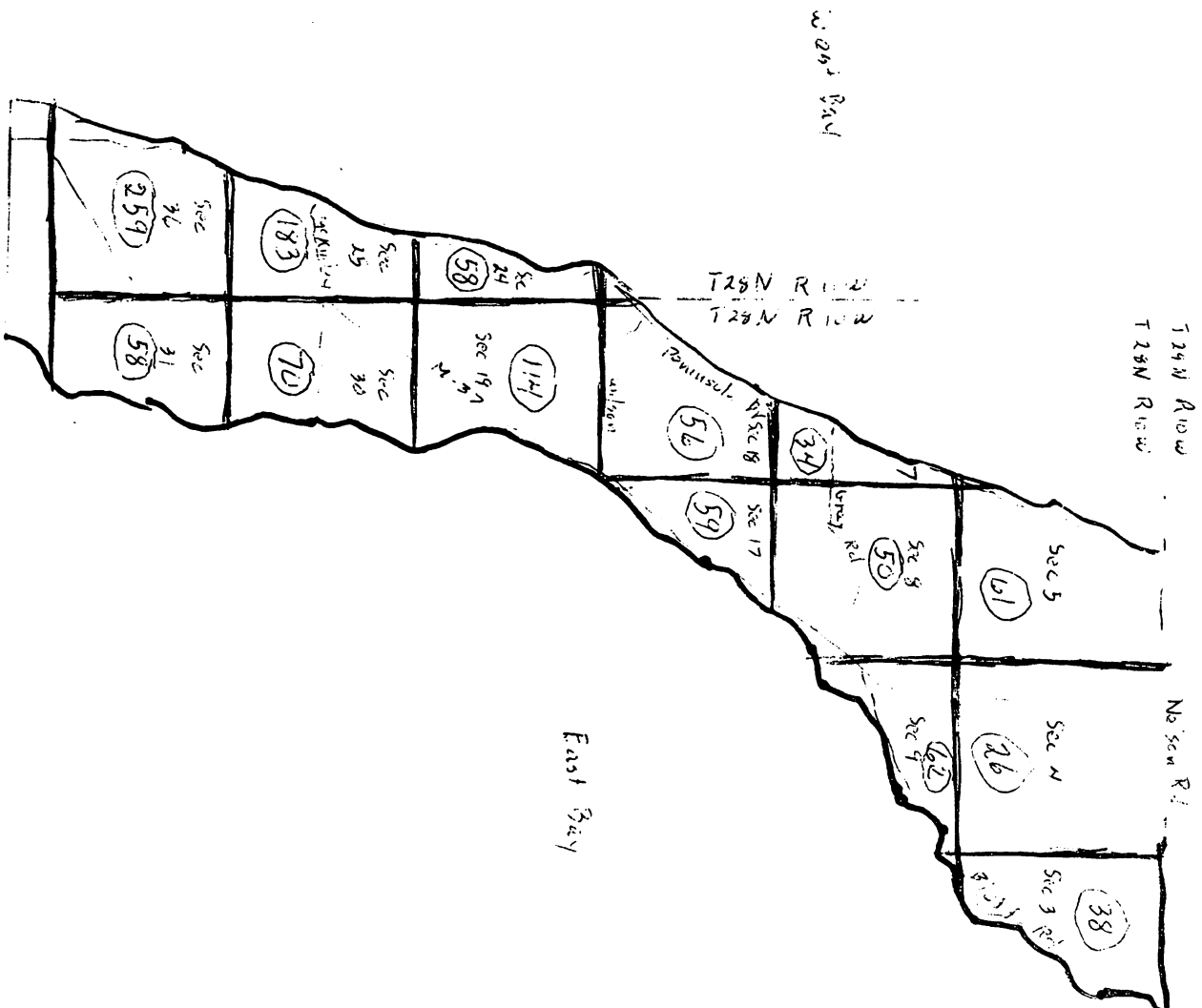
## Clerk

C. D. Phelps	1891-1892
A. E. Porter	1893-1899
F. L. Johnson	1900-1902
Peter Lardie	1903
John Lardie	1904-1909
W. E. DeGraw	1910-1915
Alex Carroll	1916-1929
Marshall Gleason	1929-1935
Otto Chase	1936-1939
Fay Dohm	1940-1949
Harry Heller	1949-1976
Mary K. Belding	1976-

Homes, Mobile Homes, Condos, Townhouses thru 11-86

	<u>Section</u>	<u>Homes</u>	<u>Mobile Homes</u>	<u>Condominium/Townhouses</u>
South of Gray Road <u>Since 1980</u> Homes: 114 Condos: 27 Total: 141	003	38		
	004	26		
	005	61		
	006	3		
	007	33	1	
	008	46	4	
	009	60	2	
	017	59		
	018	56		
	019	113	1	
	324	37	1	
	030	69	1	20
	031	58		
	325	131		52
	336	202		57
<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>992</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>129</u>
North of Gray Road <u>Since 1980</u> Homes: 128 Condos: 0 Total: 128	102	24		
	103	18	1	
	104	21		
	108	1		
	109	20		
	110	20		
	111	23		
	114	12	1	
	115	34	4	
	116	13	2	
	117	34		
	119	6		
	120	51		
	121	66	2	Lands in PA 116 = 3792 acres
	122	18	1	
	123	23		
	126	16		
	127	31	2	On the following two pages there are maps which indicate sections.
	128	47	1	The number of homes, condominiums, mobile homes and townhouses in each section is circled.
	129	7		
	130	7		
	132	19		
	133	25	1	
	134	41		
	222	2		
	223	1		
	224	0		
	225	3		
	226	9		
	227	12	1	
	228	30		
	233	30		
	234	19	1	
	235	114	5	
<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>798</u>	<u>22</u>	
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>		<u>1790</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>129</u>





## PENINSULA TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ASSETS

## GOVERNMENT

Form: Township \*

Taxes and rates: 1987 State Equalized Value: \$107,820,650  
'87 Millage: 43.70 School District 95

Assessment policy: Level II Assessor employed by Township as required by law.

Zoning: Part-time Zoning Administrator (Mon.-Tues.) Ordinance in effect.

Building codes: Addressed by County Construction Code.

## SERVICES

Fire Protection: Fire Station #1

1 pumper  
1 tanker  
1 ambulance  
1 rescue truck  
1 portable hydrant

Fire Station #2

1 pumper  
1 tanker  
1 ambulance

Peninsula Township Fire Department is comprised of volunteers who devote untold hours to the service of their community.

Police Protection: Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department. Deputy Beiser and Lt. Barr act as liason between Township and the Sheriff Department. State Highway M-37 patrolled by State Police.

Refuse Disposal: Compact Station located on Devil's Dive Rd. (Wed.&Sat.8:00-5:00)

## POPULATION

1987 Census: 4,423

## HOUSING

		Homes	Other
Construction Starts	1983	49	60
	1984	30	49
	1985	58	62
	1986	59	57
	1987	75	79

Number of residences as of December, 1987:

<u>Homes</u>	<u>Mobile Homes</u>	<u>Condos/Townhouses</u>
1854	36	132

\* See Page 4 for Boards and Commissions.



**HEALTH CARE**

Number of doctors, dentists: No practices in the Township  
Hospital facilities: None

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

None

**UTILITIES**

Water: Churchside Village and the Congregational Church receive water from the City. Phase I of Port of Old Mission also receives water from the City in lieu of taxes. A 12" water main has been installed in the Huron Hills area for future Township water needs.

Telephone: Michigan Bell services south of Nelson Road  
Peninsula Telephone Company services north of Nelson Road

Gas: Peninsula Drive northward to a point halfway between Wilson & Gray Road  
East Shore Road northward to Center Road  
Center Road northward to Montague Road

Electric: Consumers Power and City Light and Power

**CHURCHES**

Congregational Church (Old Mission)  
First Congregational Church  
Ogdensburg Methodist  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Bed and Breakfasts: Neahtawanta Inn, Stonewall Inn  
Campsites: Nevinger Campground 29 campsites  
Hotels: None  
Motels: None  
Meeting facilities:  
Fire Station #2 Community Meeting Room  
Town Hall used exclusively for governmental unit meetings

**SHOPPING**

Shopping Centers: None  
Distance to Regional Shopping: 1 to 18 miles

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Theaters: None  
Music Performances: None

**CULTURE AND RECREATION**

Libraries: Peninsula Township Library  
               Staff 2 Volunteers 21

New Patrons: 97  
 Story Hour Attendance: 197  
 Circulation '86-'87: 27,866  
 Books: 10,788  
 Art Prints: 62  
 Puppets: 49

Records: 143  
 Compact Discs: 61  
 Period. Subscriptions: 49  
 Laser Discs: 97  
 Audio Cassettes: 40  
 Filmstrips with Cassettes: 99

Parks: Township Owned

Haserot Beach  
   Restroom  
   Boat Launch  
   Picnic Table  
   Swimming  
 Lighthouse Park  
   Restroom  
   Grills  
   Picnic Tables  
   Trails for hiking and skiing  
   Swimming  
 Archie Park  
   Restroom  
   Picnic Area  
   Water frontage access  
 Bowers Harbor Park  
   Restroom  
   Playground  
   Ball Diamond  
   Volleyball  
   Tennis Courts  
   Grills  
   Picnic Tables  
   Pump

State Owned (DNR)

East Shore Fishing Site  
   Boat Launch  
   Restroom

Bowers Harbor Fishing Site  
   Boat Launch  
   Restroom

Marinas: Bowers Harbor Landing  
               48 Slips

**POSTAL SERVICES**

Old Mission Post Office Zip 49673  
 Rural mail delivery for Zip 49684

**NEWS MEDIA**

Newspapers: None  
 TV and Radio: None

**EXISTING BUSINESS:****Kinds of Industries:**

Big Jon Inc.: Manufacturing of downriggers and fishing equipment  
 Chateau Grand Travers: Vineyard & Winery  
 Ogdensburg Co., Inc.: Cherry Processing  
 Peninsula Fruit Exchange: Cherry Processing

**Commercial:**

Bowers Harbor Landing: Grocery  
 Cluff Well Drilling  
 Lardies Grocery: Grocery  
 Mapleton Market: Grocery  
 Underwood Farm Market

**Restaurants and Taverns:**

Bowers Harbor Inn & Bowery  
 Bowers Harbor Landing Cafe  
 Mapleton Roadhouse  
 Old Mission Tavern

**TRANSPORTATION:**

BATA Bus Service Throughout the Peninsula.

**EDUCATION:**

Old Mission Elementary School is situated in the Township but all millage supports Northwestern Michigan College, Intermediate School and Old Mission School District #95.

Board or Commission	No. of Members	Term	Nominating or Appointing Authority
Town Board	5	4 Years	Elected
Planning Commission	7	3 Years	Supervisor with board confirmation
Board of Appeals	5	3 Years	Township Board
Board of Review	3	2 Years	Township Board
Park Board	6	4 Years	Board appoints provisional members only; thereafter elected (non-partisan)
Library Board	6	4 years	Elected

**OTHER STATISTICS:**

Acreage in Township: 19000 M/L  
 Acreage in Agriculture: 11000 M/L  
 Acreage in PA 116: 3750 M/L 10/87  
 Miles of Shoreline: 50 M/L  
 Number of Subdivisions: 73

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