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PETOSKEY IN 1884 SEEN BY EARLY WRITER

INTERESTING FACTS GIVEN IN "TRAVERSE REGION" BOOK 35 YEARS AGO

Writer Also Praises Ignatius Petoskey for Whom the City Was Named

An interesting description of Petoskey and in its surroundings, as viewed in 1884 by the writers of an historical book entitled "The Traverse Region" is contained within the pages of that volume, and the following are excerpts from the subject matter.

Village of Petoskey.

"The situation of the village site is peculiarly interesting and is contemplated with feelings of admiration by all visitors. From its curving bench paved with corals and agnates, a vast amphitheatre rises by a series of terraces to a distance of 200 feet above the lake. The village climbs from the water's edge in a southeasterly direction up the graceful heights from the summit of which the view is beautiful beyond description. Over the entire village the eye sweeps across the bay to the lake beyond, gathering in a greater variety of natural beauty than is often found. One writer describes the site as follows:

"If we are out in a boat on the bay and look in toward the land, we perceive that Petoskey occupies a series of picturesque undulations that spread out on either hand and rises in the form of an amphitheatre. A lofty lime stone cliff flanks the town on the west. Its top is crowned with trees, among which are discovered the tents of many vacation tourists who are camping out. Behind them rises as overtopping eminence dotted with pretentious villas of wealthy residents. From the verge of this cliff the outlook is superb. Across, five miles distant, is the ridge of hills that line the opposite side of Little Traverse Bay. These sweep around in a asymmetrical line to the head of the bay two miles to the right and then follow the hither shore until they rise and terminate in the cliff on which they stand.

" 'All along in that direction, as far as sight can reach, we can trace the white line of the pebbly shore, lined against the green of the hills; and then from the base of our cliff in a sweep of two miles or more to the left in the form of a crescent ending in a wooded point. Tree covered hills slope gently back and upward from the beach, and pretty cottages peep out from among their branches. The principal part of the town lies in the bowl of the amphitheatre, from which is a practical road leads through a ravine to the long pier which

projects from the hollow of the crescent into the bay. This pier gives additional character and life to the scenery.’

“The rapidity with which the village lies matured is one of the remarkable features of its history, which had its beginning in the year 1873. The buildings are substantial and tasty, and the whole village wears the finished appearance not usually acquired in so short a time. The romantic beauty of its location and the healthfulness of its climate has brought the place into proud peace as a summer resort and every season the village and vicinity are visited by thousands of people in pursuit of health and happiness.

Ignatius Petoskey.

The village was named in honor of one of the original proprietors of the soil and who had spent more than four score years of his life in this vicinity. In the year 1787, he was born at the mouth of a little creek where the city of Manistee now stands. His father, Nee-i-too-shing (the Early Dawn), with the others of his tribe went down the lake shore into the south country hunting and trapping, as was their custom. On their return, well laden with skins and games, they camped at Little Creek near the mouth of the Manistee river. Here was born the “patron saint” of the village. Nee-i-too-shing put back the deer skin door of his rude lodge and looked up at the morning sky. Bright shafts of sunlight shot up like streaks of flame lighting the eastern woods. Just then the first cry of his newborn child came to his ear, and he named him Pe-to-se-ga, which translated as “The Rising Sun”.

“The home of the Chippewas was the region about Little Traverse bay, the lodge of Nee-i-too-shing was about seven miles north and west of the present village of Harbor Springs.

When Pe-to-se-ga was 22 years old he took for his wife a daughter of a near neighbor, Keway-Ka-Ba-Wi-Kwa. They planted an apple orchard, the remain of which may still be seen. The missionaries gave him the name Neyas, and he was afterward persuaded that Neyas was an abbreviation of Ignatius and thus it became Ignatius Pe-to-se-ga, and later, when a village was to be named, the last name was changed to Petoskey.”