

THE PETOSKEY RECORD

~ June 6, 1912 ~

Impressive

Last Thursday was Decoration Day, and exercises for the honored dead of the Civil War and for the veterans who still remain from the terrible struggle, were of the best ever held in Petoskey. The parade in the morning was very interesting, the only part not there, which has always been seen on former Decoration Days, being the school children. This year exercises were held in both the Catholic and public schools on Wednesday afternoon instead of having the children march in the parade.

The line of the parade was formed on Division street and the old soldiers—sixty in number, accompanied by the band, the Women's Relief Corps, the Boy Scouts, Mayor Sly, as president of the day; Henry Sweeny, orator of the day, and Rev. W.E. Graham, marched down Mitchell street and, making a detour around the one block between Petoskey and Emmet streets, arrived at the bridge where the veterans were taken in automobiles to the cemetery.

The exercises were very pretty and touching and were of great interest to all those who honor the old soldiers and those who died for their country in that terrible war of '61-'65.

Those who made the trip to the cemetery were more than well paid in the address of Henry S. Sweeny, orator of the day, who gave briefly the causes of the war and after reviewing the great struggle, spoke of the rapid progress of our nation since the close of the war. He told of the meaning of Memorial Day and of the flag and, in fact, gave one of the best Decoration Day addresses ever heard in Petoskey.

Following the exercises at the monument another interesting part of the program was given when a large boulder, weighing nearly six tons, was dedicated by Pe-to-se-ga chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution at the grave of Ignatius Pe-to-se-ga, the Indian chief after whom the city of Petoskey is named.

The dedication address was made by Rev. Graham, of the Presbyterian church, in which was reviewed the life, especially the latter years, of old

Chief Pe-to-se-ga. Following the address the boulder was unveiled by Mrs. Reusch, organizing regent, and Mrs. J.M. Shields, regent-elect of the chapter, and Mrs. O.L. Ramsdell, outgoing regent, presented the boulder in behalf of the chapter to Mayor Sly who accepted it in behalf of the city.

The boulder was given to the chapter by Mr. Nathan Jarman and was taken from the Jarman farm in the southwest part of the city. Old Chief Pe-to-se-ga undoubtedly often rested beside this boulder while journeying about that section during his residence on this side of the bay, making it a very appropriate monument at his last resting place.

The old residents of Petoskey remember this venerable red man well. He came to Petoskey from Harbor Springs in the early days, having been one of the first prominent converts to the Protestant faith at the mission of Andrew Porter in Petoskey. He was in fact the real founder, the Indian founder of Petoskey, sharing the honors of founding the city with the late Capt. H.O. Rose, who purchased land of him for the first plat of Petoskey. Lot one of this plat is now occupied by the building in which the Northern Hardware is located.

As a boy Chief Pe-to-se-ga was a warrior and fought in many battles in Michigan and Ohio for the English armies. After he grew to full manhood he was won over to the cause of the United States and since that time and until his death, in 1881, he was one of the most influential citizens of this section. For some time he was one of the trusted clerks for the fur traders at Mackinac Island and there learned much of the ways of the white men and it was this training that made him the leader among his people. At the exercises at his grave, last Thursday, was his only remaining son, Enos Petoskey; several grandsons and many great grandchildren.

The Petoskey City Band, which furnished the music for the Decoration Day exercises, rendered an appropriate program of music at the dedicating exercises.



The Chief Petoskey Memorial
Dedicated on Memorial Day, 1912