

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF PETOSKEY

- 1634 Jean Nicolet, French explorer, discovered Lake Michigan.
- 1671 France claimed this region at a ceremony held at Sault Ste. Marie. At St. Ignace Father Marquette built a church which served this area.
- 1679 LaSalle's "Griffen", the first boat larger than a canoe, appeared on the Great Lakes.
- 1763 This region passed from French to English rule at the close of the French and Indian War. As part of Chief Pontiac's uprising the "massacre" took place at Fort Michilimackinac.
- 1783 Following the Revolutionary War England ceded the area to the United States.
- 1787 Government was established for the Northwest Territory (land bordered by the Great Lakes, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers). Neyas Petosega (Ignatius Petoskey) was born.
- 1805 The Territory of Michigan was established with William Hull as governor.
- 1812-1814 During the War of 1812 this region came temporarily under the control of England.
- 1827 A mission church was built at Harbor Springs by Father Peter deJean; he was followed by Father Baraga.
- 1837 Michigan was admitted to the Union as the twenty-sixth state with S. T. Mason as the first governor. A mission church was built at Cross Village.
- 1847 The Mormons, led by "King" Strang, came to Beaver Island.
- 1852 Andrew Porter established the Bear River Mission School and Farm in June.
- 1853 James J. Strang, while in the state Legislature, united the counties of Emmet and Charlevoix into Emmet County. In 1869 Charlevoix was made a separate county.
- 1859 The Catholic Mission was built on the shore of Little Traverse Bay on what is now West Lake Street.
- 1855 Father Wycamp built a convent at Cross Village and bought Harbor Point from the Indians for \$100.00.
- 1863 Garrett A. Graveraet organized Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Indians of this region. They took part in the Civil War.
- 1865 Hazen Ingalls and family, our second pioneer white family, came to Bear River settlement.

- 1871 The Porter Mission School was closed.
- 1873 Nathan Jarman took over the Mission Farm; his daughter married Reuben Porter, a dentist.
H. O. Rose bought 200 acres of land from Chief Petoskey.
Dr. William Little and brother R. H. Little arrived.
Mr. Rose started a small store at Chief Petoskey's House on West Lake Street. Later the store was moved to East Mitchell and was operated by Fox, Rose, and Buttars.
The first passenger train into Petoskey arrived November 25 on the Grand Rapids and Indians Railroad.
- 1874 From the Porter Mission Farm, Bear Creek Post Office papers were transferred to the east side of Bear River to the newly organized Petoskey Post Office. Dr. Little was appointed the first postmaster. The village of Petoskey was platted. Emmet City, the Hazen Ingalls Sr. plat west of the tracks, was recognized as part of Petoskey. Lime Manufacturing was started by H. O. Rose.
- 1875 The U. S. Land Office at Traverse City began selling land in Emmet County; over 800 parcels were sold in three days. Bay View was selected as a Methodist Camp Ground. "Emmet County Democrat", the first newspaper to survive, was started.
- 1877 This was the year of the coming of the pigeons.
- 1878 The McCormick Fish House shipped 40,000 dozen pigeons; over one million pigeons were shipped during the spring with a total value of \$40,000. The first bank was opened.
- 1879 The village was given a charter by the state.
- 1880 The population of Petoskey was 1824. There were 150 hay feverites.
- 1882 Petoskey had two school houses, the Howard and Lake Street schools. The records show 650 children of school age, with 500 attending school.
- 1884 The first Bell Telephone wires were put up in Emmet County.
- 1892 The first train came into Petoskey on the Chicago and West Michigan Railway. In 1900 the name was changed to Pere Marquette and on June 4, 1947, to Chesapeake and Ohio.
- 1895 Petoskey was incorporated as a city under new charter.
- 1898 Thirty-three men from Emmet County enlisted in the Spanish-American War.
- 1902 Emmet County seat was moved from Harbor Springs to Petoskey.
- 1916 City Manager government was adopted.
- 1917-18 Approximately 500 men from Emmet County entered military service in World War I.
- 1924 The present City Charter was adopted.
- 1940-46 Approximately 1200 men entered military service from this county during World War II.
- 1947 Radio Station WMEN was established.

SIDELIGHTS OF PETOSKEY HISTORY

The region of Petoskey was not the theater of any important events from the time of the massacre at Mackinaw until the war of 1812. The only inhabitants so far known were the Ottawas, and a few missionaries who might have labored among them. Petoskey was a meeting place for all the Indian chiefs. In 1787, they had the largest gathering of chiefs here in history. There were chiefs representing twenty different tribes. In 1813, Louis Cass was appointed governor of the Michigan Territory and in 1835 the first constitution of Michigan was adopted.

The first two counties of Northern Michigan were Tonedagana, and Kishkonko. These two counties originated in 1840. They were changed in 1853 to Emmet and Charlevoix. Emmet County was named in honor of Robert Emmet, an Irishman. In 1853 Beaver Island's Mormon leader, "King" Strang, was a member of the legislature and had the two counties, Tonedagana and Kishkonko, joined under the name of Emmet. For two years St. James, on the Beaver Island was the county seat of Emmet County. Then King Strang's control of the county was broken in 1869, and Charlevoix County was originated as a separate county.

In 1873 Mr. H. O. Rose came to Petoskey. Mr. Rose started a store in Chief Petoskey's office. In 1874 a dock located a little east of the present dock was built by Rose and Fox. At this time his family joined him in Petoskey. When Mr. Rose came, he knew of the lime rock bluffs that were present here and started a lime kiln which burned 35 barrels a day. Mr. Rose was the first president of the village and constructed a building south of the Mitchell Street Bridge to be used as an electric light plant.

In 1874 there were houses for one hundred twenty five persons. The houses had no paint on them and they stood on posts. There were no buildings east of the railroad tracks on Mitchell Street, now the main street of Petoskey. There were no streets; when people wanted to reach a certain point, they took the shortest possible way.

In this year the Bear River Post Office went out of business and the Petoskey Post Office was established.

A newspaper called the Emmet County Democrat was established in 1875. This paper indicated that then the whole village was nothing but some straggling shanties, scattered in all directions.

The first brass band was organized in 1875. In 1876 the first Circus, the Beckett Circus, came to Petoskey, and performed where the Galster house now stands at Lockwood.

In 1876 a Home Benevolent Society was formed in Petoskey and was independent of any church society. The society met at Mrs. Rowan's once a month to pack baskets of provisions and clothing which were distributed to anyone who needed them. A ball was given at the Cushman house so they could raise money for the baskets. The young people

danced while the older people played cards; everybody took part in the games. In 1887 a dramatic club was organized.

In 1878 a public meeting was held to incorporate Petoskey as a village. Officially, Petoskey is 73 years old, having been incorporated in 1879. But the post office called Petoskey existed since 1874, at that time.

The first bank was started at the post office. The money would be sent out of Petoskey. At times, there was so much money that the post mistress would stay there all night. In 1878 a man from Pennsylvania started a private bank. It was the only bank in the county, and in later years became the First National Bank.

Some of the old industries were the Mc Manus Saw Mill at the corner of Bridge and Porter Street, Forbes & Baker Wooden Ware, and a factory at the dam south of the Mitchell Street Bridge.

The first record of our "million dollar sunset" was written by George Gage.

An observation tower was built at 312 Bay Street.

The first fire bell hung in a blacksmith shop near Howard and Waukazoo Streets. The first fire company was organized by J. S. C. Rowan.

In the early days of Petoskey, the system of putting out fires was very different and somewhat costly. When a fire should break out, the first person who sees it would go to the special house that had an iron triangle on a post on the roof of the house and by means of a ladder, would strike it with a small hammer of metal. At the distress bell the villagers would gather up all of the buckets they could find and form a line from the creek to the fire. The person nearest the water would fill a bucket, pass it along, and start another bucket along, thereby forming a human water chain. Water would spill from the buckets as they were passed along; and when the bucket reached the end of the line, it might be just half full and the house would just about burn to the ground before it could be put out. Many houses would be just about lost because they were made of boards and were fire hazards.

A Petoskey resident tells the following story: "Along about 1881 when my grandfather first came to Petoskey, he built a three sided cabin on, at present, Rust Street, just a few blocks from where the high school is now; he, with his family of four children, occupied it. He then thought he had so much room that he took in a roomer."

At that time Petoskey had no church; because they lacked money for a building, the people had their services above a saloon. Every Sunday morning before church the men would move up the piano from the saloon below, and after church they took the piano back down for use during the week.

They didn't have enough money for a jail; and so, on Saturday nights when the heavy drinkers got out of hand, they locked them up in a box car

Messbacks