

MEMORIALS

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#264

OF THE

GRAND RIVER VALLEY,

BY

1837-38 Muskegon area
organized by Government

FRANKLIN EVERETT, A. M.

Has Oblivion a right to the Past?

CHICAGO:
THE CHICAGO LEGAL NEWS COMPANY.

1878.

as 1836. In the spring of 1812, it became necessary for Re-collet to go to the military station at the mouth of St. Joseph River, and he made the trip in one day, having swam the Grand and Kalamazoo rivers, and forded the other streams.

Mr. Constant, the father of Mrs. William Lasley, built the next trading post, near the A. M. Allen & Co. Mill, at the mouth, left side, which he occupied in the winter for about thirty years. The next was built in 1830 by Joseph Daily, near the Rogers Foundry, between Market street and the lake, and was occupied by him until 1834, when he sold it to Louis B. Bad-dean.

George Campan also built a trading post in 1833, near the present site of the White, Swan & Smith Mill (lower part of the city), and occupied it until 1835.

The territory embraced within the limits of the present townships of Norton, Fruitport, Ravenna, Chester, Moorland, Casinovia, Egleston, Muskegon, Laketon, Lakeside, and the city of Muskegon, was organized by a provision of section 11 of an act of the State Legislature, approved Dec. 30, 1837. into one township, and called Muskego. The act was passed at the first session after the State was admitted into the Union. This section was repealed in 1838, and the same territory was organized as the township of Muskegon, and the first town meeting was appointed to be held at the house of Newell & Wilcox. At this time, and for several years after, there was quite a diversity of opinion in regard to the correct spelling of the name, as will appear by reference to various acts of subsequent Legislatures. In 1841 an act was passed, by the provisions of which the unorganized county of Oceana was attached to township of Muskegon for judicial purposes; and in 1845 certain territory was detached from township of Muskego and organized into the township of Norton. This confusion in regard to the name ended at the establishment of Muskegon postoffice in 1848.

The first township meeting was held in 1838, when township officers were elected, among whom was Henry Penoyer, supervisor. But little was done in the way of township business for several years, often no taxes being assessed. Township

next
line
area
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In 1844, Charles T. Gibbs and Charles Rose came together; the next winter and spring, — Barringer, — Van Dyke, Uriah Hellums; in 1846, Silas O. and Theron F. Hunter, Ebenezer and Arza Bartholomew.

It was hard living for the first settlers of Crockery. Going to mill was taking a canoe to Grand Rapids. To get some money was to put in logs, or cut cord-wood. Mr. Gibbs cut cord-wood near the river; carried it to the bank on a wheelbarrow; loaded it on a raft of logs, and sold it at Grand Haven for one dollar per cord. Ingenuity was taxed to get something to eat.

The Indians had possession along the river. Some fifty or sixty of them lived at Battle Point, where they purchased about seventy acres of land. The chief was named Magobie (nicknamed Saginaw Coosco—Black Bird). He was a powerful and handsome man; generally called a good Indian. He lived to a great age—was supposed to be near one hundred years old when he died. His son, Ahmoos, was a man of influence among them. At a later day, Joseph Cobmoosa bought land there, and had a farm. He was drowned at Grand Haven. One of their number—old Shiawas—was present and helped at the burning of Buffalo. The Indians of this clan were used at the battle on Lake Erie, and afterwards would go to Toronto for the annuity paid them by the British. They did not consider themselves treated with much respect by those they served in that battle. An Indian, wounded, was thrown overboard; a white man was not.

A good Indian—Nattawas—lived near Hathaway, who always supplied him with game. He was poisoned to death at Grand Haven.

About three miles above Battle Point, was another company of about one hundred. Their chief was Shiawas—a proud, fine looking, keen and powerful man. He and his band went away about 1839.

A few of the Indians are still at Battle Point.

The name "Battle Point" is suggestive of history. As it is pointed out to the traveler on the river he naturally desires to know what was the great event which left its record as a name

son
River

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Band leaves
re in 1839