

HISTORY OF CRYSTAL LAKE TOWNSHIP, BENZIE COUNTY.
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By Harold Saffron, Sr.

The pioneer! who shall fittingly tell the story of his life and work?

The soldier leads an assault; it lasts but a few minutes, he knows that whether he lives or dies, immortal renown will be his reward. What wonder then there are brave soldiers; but when this soldier of peace assaults the wilderness, no bugles sound the charge; the forests, the wild beasts, the savages, the malaria, the fatigue, are the foes that lurk to ambush him, and if against the unequal odds he falls, no volleys are fired above his grave; the pitiless world simply sponges his name from the slate. Thus he blazes the trail, thus he fells the trees, plants his rude hut, and thus he faces the hardships and whatever fate awaits him; his self, a contented soul keeps its finger on his lips and no lamentations are heard. He smooths the ragged fields, he turns the streams; and the only cheer that is his, is when he sees the grain ripen and the flowers abloom where before was only the frown of the wilderness. When, over the trail that he has blazed, enlightenment comes joyously, with unsoiled sandals, and homes and temples spring upon the native mold that was first broken by him, his youth is gone; hope has been chastened into silence within him, and he realizes that he is but a back number. Not one in a thousand realizes the texture of the manhood that has been exhausted within him; few comprehend his nature or have any comprehension of his labors and sacrifices. But he is content. The shadows of the wilderness have been chased away; the savage beast and savage man have retired before him; nature has brought her flowers to strew the pathway of his old age; in his soul he feels that somewhere the record of his work and his high thoughts have been kept; and so he smiles upon the young generation and is content. May that contentment be his to the end.

But this is the serious side of the pioneer's life. There are others who have said and who will continue to say: What of hardship, when youth and beauty walk side by side? What of danger, when one feels the young heart throbbing in his breast?

Who talks of loneliness while as yet, no fetter has been welded upon hope, while yet the unexplored and unpeopled expanse of earth beckon the brave to come to woo and to possess them. The pioneers were not unhappy. The air is still filled with the echoes of their songs; their bright and homely sayings have gone into tradition; the impressions which they made upon the world is a monument which will tell of their achievements, record their sturdy virtues, and exalt their glorified names.

But I am reminded that I am expected to speak of the early history of Crystal Lake Township, in Benzie county; but as soon as I make the attempt I am also reminded that the qualifications of an historian, call for the exercise of a mind of the highest literary attainments. He should possess, in

a high degree, qualifications that are antagonistic to each other; he should be a profound and correct reasoner and possess a clear and lofty imagination; yet his reasonings should not be so abstract as that the lesson should lose its vividness, nor should the imagination go beyond giving vivacity and picturesqueness to the subject under consideration. He should reason logically from cause to effect and vice versa, but never supply matter from a too vivid imagination.

He should be unbiased and unprejudiced and refrain from casting his facts in the mold of his own hypothesis. Viewing history and an historian in this light, there is no need of an apology from me for not appearing before you as an historian on this occasion. It would be a misnomer to apply the term history, in an exact sense to the disconnected events, facts and circumstances relating to Crystal Lake Township, that I have been able to group together in the limited time accorded to me.

Suppose the history of Crystal Lake township was to be written, where should the historian begin? We call that section new; but the hills with which it abounds, are old, "Old as the hills." Where are there any hills their seniors? Geologists tell us that when the great illuminator of day pierced, at the close of the nebulous epoch, that impenetrable mist that had shrouded the earth from his gaze for ages upon ages like a pall of midnight blackness, on this continent, his first golden beams lighted up the hills in the region of Lake Superior: That the seething, surging restless sea, that had receded from their summits, lashed with angry waves their rocky cliffs, long ages before the lowest forms of vegetable life found a lodgment upon their crumbling surfaces; and yet we call those hills, valleys and tablelands new. These beautiful native forests, bedecked with their glittering, fragrant foliage were no mean saplings when Columbus played the courtier at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, while impatiently waiting the result of his petition to discover a continent and place at their disposal a "New World."

But who of the race of Adam, was its first inhabitants? The antiquarian delving into the depths of the earth, and groping among fossils and mounds has brought to light indubitable proof that our beautiful Peninsula of Michigan was once peopled by a numerous race of men, long since extinct, powerful in frame, and majestic in mien, whose instincts were schooled in the arts and sciences, in many respects, far beyond our knowledge, in this boasted age of discovery, invention and progress. Who, among us, so bold as to doubt that these hills and valleys, and the banks of our beautiful lakes, and meandering streams, were peopled by that same extinct race, and the hum of their industries resounded from hill-top to hill-top and made glad the hearts of its teeming populace? Are we then to boast, that we are the first to occupy these hills, and the valleys that lie between? Why, we have scarcely ceased to turn to the surface with our plowshares, the molding remains of the red man, or to obliterate their winding trails on the hillside, beaten and worn in his chase after the elk and the otter. Passing by the toilsome exploits of Father Marquette, the French Missionary, in his labors among the Hurons and Ottawas and other tribes of the Algonquins, who was among the first of the Europeans to penetrate to the waters of Lake Michigan, and to gaze with wondering admiration upon its broad expanse, we pause only to give a momentary glimpse at the burial place of this devoted, tireless worker.

A number of places along the east shore of Lake Michigan have published a claim to know and to possess the site where Father Marquette died and was first buried. If to know the exact spot or site, has an historic or other value, it may be again mentioned that not a little research has been given to ascertain that fact with certainty, as far as it was possible. It is recorded that he died, May 18th, 1675, while making north along the east shore of Lake Michigan, for "Du Traverse Bay," from his

trip among the Indian tribes of Illinois and Wisconsin, when falling ill from exhaustion, old age and a fever he directed his two Indian companions to put their frail canoe into a stream emptying into Lake Michigan described on the early French Missionary's maps, of that region, as the "Fourth stream," (entering) or emptying into Lake Michigan, south from Du Traverse Bay." This very clearly fixes the place at the mouth of the Betsy river (See 3 Volume, page 105 and note of Wisconsin Historical Collection) which states that Father Marquette "Died May 18th, 1675, and was buried on the bank of the Aux Becs Scies river, near its mouth," and cites an address by the Hon. Judge Law, delivered before the young men's Catholic institute, Wednesday evening, Jan. 31, 1855, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1721, and before his (Marquette) remains were removed to St. Ignace, Mich. For burial, Lord Charlevoix visited the place of the first interment, and noted the fact and expressed it in that reverent frame of mind, with which it impressed him, "That the very waters of the river had receded from his sacred resting place in deference to him." This would accord with the fact or natural phenomena of the action of the waters of all streams emptying into Lake Michigan, on the east shore thereof, in event his remains were buried on the hill or mound of the so called Island, at the mouth of the Aux Becs Scies river; since that Island, (so called) or mound, was then situated on the south side of said river, at its mouth, and all the streams emptying into Lake Michigan, turn to trend to the north and thus wear away the banks on the north side, and deposits silt and alluvium on the south side at their mouths, which would produce the phenomena so observed and reverently mentioned by Lord Charlevoix.

In 1865 or 1866, when Congress made its first appropriation to excavate a deep water channel from lake Michigan into the Aux Becs Scies or Betsy Lake, and to make that lake a harbor of refuge, the government survey abandoned the old or original outlet of the river and surveyed a route or course for such channel, south of the mound or site of the supposed burial place of Marquette, which was afterwards excavated and made the permanent channel to the harbor that we see at this date; the current of the river following this new channel. The winds, aided by the refuse from the lumber sawmills, which have been deposited there, soon drifted the "old channel or outlet" with sand, so that the waters of the river and harbor, ceased to find there an exit. Still the mound or elevated land between the old and new channels is called "The Island" by people in its vicinity, although it now forms a part of the mainland on the north side of the harbor, river, or channel constructed by the United States Government.

Leaving unrehearsed Longfellow's sadly but beautifully told tale of Evangeline's wanderings along the shores of lake Michigan; and onward to the Saginaws in the vain search after her lover, "Gabriel, the son of Basil, the blacksmith" and heeding not the various hunters and trappers, that have explored this region and noted, from time to time, these beautiful hills and lakes, and their surroundings, we find that permanent settlements had been made by European descendants, in many places, in "Northern Michigan" before the first white settler pitched his tent on the Territory, now known as Crystal Lake township, in Benzie county, with a view of making that his abiding place.

In the summer of 1850, an active young hunter and trapper of English descent, launched his canoe at the South Manitou Island, in Lake Michigan, and paddled his way to the main land, then south along the shore on a tour of observation, scanning the high bluffs, the tabled woodlands and sandy beach, passing capes, bays and inlets, until he reached the mouth of a stream, flowing into Lake

Michigan, now known as the Aux Becs Scies or Betsy River. He put into the river, beached his boat and bivouacked for the night. The next morning, he made further observation of his surroundings and was so delighted with them that he there and then determined to make that place his future abode. That person was Joseph Oliver, Senior, who was born Oct. 1821, in Pennsylvania, and the first actual settler on the present site of Frankfort, in Crystal Lake township, and who is still a resident in South Frankfort, although we regret to say in feeble health.

Although he did not carry his plans into effect until three or four years afterwards, still no one preceded him; and in 1853 or 1854, he moved with his Indian wife, family and effects to that place and erected his log house on the point of land at the confluence of the river with Lake Michigan. The site of his log hut is now the open to commons in front of the "Par House" or hotel, on fractional section 21, town 26 north, Range 16 west, according to United States survey afterwards made. For more than two years, Mr. Oliver pursued his calling of trapping, hunting and fishing, with no neighbor nearer than Herring Lake, on the south and the South Manitou Island on the north. During the interim of Mr. Oliver's first tour of observation and his settlement at the mouth of the Aux Becs Scies River, an incident occurred, although casual its nature, which set in motion a train of circumstances that led up to the founding of a harbor and village at Frankfort, and the settlement of Crystal Lake township, and in a large measure to the development of other portions of the territory embraced in what is now Benzie county.

It was this: In the early years of the fifties, the extensive commercial and manufacturing firm or house of Tiffit & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., was carrying on a heavy commercial trade between Buffalo and Chicago and points between, along the chain of great lakes; and for that purpose they had a number of sailing vessels in their service, transporting products of exchange. Among other duties enjoined upon the masters of their vessels, they were charged with those of making exact observations of everything that was, or would likely become, of value for investments; such as sites for cities for manufacturing purposes, commercial harbors, and centers of trade, valuable timber and agricultural lands and the like, and to keep a record of the same, and report the same to their employers, which records and reports were carefully reviewed and preserved by the Tiffit Company.

On the return trip from Chicago, of one of their sailing vessels, at the time mentioned (in 1853 or 1854), in a heavy sea on Lake Michigan, while off the mouth of the Aux Becs Scies river, a coast then unknown to the master of the sailing craft, the vessel lost its rudder and became unseaworthy to such a degree that the master saw he must be dashed on shore before the injuries sustained could be permanently repaired. He scanned the shore with his glasses and saw a depression in the land and concluded there must be an inlet or marsh, and determined at once to head his vessel before the wind and sea and allow their forces to drive him inland as far as they would, rather than to be beached against a bold precipitous bluff. All on board were directed to bend their energies to improvise a rudder, which was thrown overboard and managed so as to head the vessel for the lowlands and with all sails set, each man stood at his post to await the result. With the Captain's hand on the helm, with the furious speed from the impelling force of wind and wave, they dashed along and entered the mouth of the river, and to their amazement and delight shot directly and unharmed into a deep-water-land-locked-bay. Sails were lowered and anchor dropped at once and they were at rest and unharmed in the placid waters of Aux Becs Scies or Betsy lake.

A boat was at once lowered and accurate soundings of the harbor were made and recorded; measurements of the extent of the inland lake were taken and extended up to the river proper; then on shore, the land, timber, character of soil and of the surface waters were examined and recorded. While their observations and explorations were being made, the ship's carpenter was repairing the vessel, and when the wind had shifted to the east, all were ready to continue their voyage; anchors and sails were hoisted and without mishaps, they smoothly glided out on to the broad expanse of Lake Michigan, and on to their home port, there to discharge, without loss, their cargo and to report their find.

Tift & Co., acting at once upon the vessel master's report, interested themselves to have Congress and the department of the Interior, at Washington, D. C., to cause the lands in the vicinity of the lake and river of the Aux Becs Scies, surveyed and placed on market for sale, and preemption, which was accordingly done. Mr. Orange Risdon, since deceased, who was the father of Robert Risdon, late of Manistee, Michigan, also deceased was the U. S. surveyor, who surveyed the lands. As soon as the lands were surveyed and land-office opened for their entry, Tift & Co., who had not been idle, but had anticipated the Government's action in surveying and offering the lands for pre-emption, had secured a large quantity of soldier's land warrants, granted by the U. S. Government to soldiers of the wars of 1812, of the Mexican and Indian wars, and as soon as it was announced by the Government that these lands were open for entry, Tift & Co. presented their land warrants at the U. S. Land-office, and pre-empted nearly all the lands lying between the Aux Becs Scies river on the south and Crystal lake on the north, and from lake Michigan on the west to, some distance east of the outlet of Crystal lake.

About the time these lands were being secured by Tift & Co., George S. Frost, of Detroit, since deceased, who was a brother of Eugene B. Frost, now a resident of Frankfort, became aware of the location and value of their lands and of the great natural advantages of the water-ways in their vicinity, and of the desirability of the present site of Frankfort, for a commercial and manufacturing city, combined with other capitalists of Detroit, among them Nelson H. Wing and Henry K. Sanger and Mr. L. O. Medbury and some others, who located other tracts of land in the vicinity not covered by the Tift Co., and then made a proposition to Tift & Co to purchase all the lands they had pre-empted, with a view of founding a colony upon them; but Tift & Co. held their interests, in the said lands so high in price that a deal and transfer was not made at that time.

About two or three years later, and during the widespread financial panic of 1859, Tift & Co. becoming financially embarrassed, sent word to George S. Frost and his associates, they were then ready to sell them said lands, on the terms they had offered to pay two or three years before. Mr. Frost was dispatched at once to Buffalo and consummated the purchase and from that time on the lands in question were known as the property of the Frankfort Land Co. Although the company was not a corporation, nor yet a co-partnership, the lands being owned in severalty, yet George S. Frost was made general agent for all the owners, and manager of the enterprise of platting the town, and founding a colony according to their original plan projected some three or four years previous.

In 1855, Joseph Robarge, of French descent and since deceased (several of whose descendants survive him, and are still living in South Frankfort; among them are five daughters, Mrs. Joseph Oliver, Sr., Mrs. John Greenwood, Mrs. Daniel Buchanan, Mrs. Couse and Mrs. Frank Martin), was the next to settle with his family, on what was to become the site of Frankfort and became a

neighbor to Mr. Oliver, locating two fractional lots, in section 27-26-16, embracing nearly all of the platted grounds of the present site of the village of South Frankfort.

The same or next year, Mr. John Dora, also of French descent, who is still living in South Frankfort with his family, settled on the north side of Betsy lake near the present site of Bellows Bros. steam sawmill. In May 1858, Charles Lavaux came from Chicago in a sail vessel to Herring lake to assist in lumbering operations being carried on by a Mr. Harrison Averill, and soon after visited the Robarge family on Betsy Lake.

Notwithstanding the efforts made by George S. Frost and his coworkers to found a colony at Frankfort, as the location had now taken that name, the spring of 1859 still found Mr. Oliver, Mr. Dora and Mr. Robarge and their families, the only residents at the mouth of the river and Lake Aux Becs Scies. But they had not long to wait, for in the early summer of that year, Louis A. and Henry G. Doaby, two young men without families, came on with a contract with the so called "Frankfort Land Company" to improve the outlet of the river so as to admit lake vessels and to construct permanent piers at the channel. They erected for a boarding house the two story frame building now standing on the corner of Second and Main streets in the village of Frankfort, and drove the first piles in what was known as the "Old Piers" at the original outlet of the river on the north side of the so called "Island."

The first fourteen blocks of the village of Frankfort having been platted and recorded in August, 1859, William H. Coggsall (who died in Frankfort in 1888), with his family moved from Glen Haven, Leelanau county, Michigan, and was the third to settle on the north side of Betsy Lake, and the first to purchase lots in the recorded plat of Frankfort; and afterwards erected the two-story frame building, now situate on Forest avenue between Second and Third streets, and occupied by him when he died. Before erecting their dwelling, the Coggsalls occupied the Doaby boarding house, boarding them and their men, while constructing the piers and channel between Lake Michigan and the harbor, Wm. N. Coggsall becoming the first U. S. postmaster in Frankfort.

In the spring of 1860, the first town meeting of Crystal Lake Township was held at the "Doaby House," in Frankfort; the township at that time comprised all the present territory of Benzie county and was then a township of Leelanau county and attached to Grand Traverse county for judicial purposes, and men came from what is now Almira, Platt, Benzonia, Blaine and Gilmore, to vote. Among the voters at that first town meeting as appear on the records still extant of Crystal Lake Township, appear the names of John Bailey, Charles Eliphalet Bailey, Horace and Elijah Burr, Pitt Barnes, of Benzonia, Harris Abby and James Ayers, of Almira. Louis A. Doaby was elected supervisor, William H. Coggsall, treasurer, and Charles C. Adams, clerk.

In the fall of 1858, Alvin S. Dow and family, formerly of Pennsylvania who is still residing in South Frankfort, came with a contract and with machinery, sent by the Frankfort Land Company, to erect and construct a steam saw-mill on the site of the one now owned and operated by D. B. Butler, which was afterwards destroyed by fire, September, 1875.

In the fall of 1859, John Greenwood and Frank Martin sons-in-law of Joseph Robarge and two or three other families settled in South Frankfort; in April 1860, Mr. Richard Ball came with his family from Cleveland, Ohio and settled on Sec. 16, where he now resides.

During the spring and summer of 1860, the steam sawmill was completed by Mr. Dow, also the channel and piers to the harbor, by Messrs. Doaby, but no new or further additions to the population for permanent settlement were made. The transient workers on the piers and mill had completed their work and gone. The spring of 1861 (Dora, Oliver and Dow, having moved to South Frankfort), found Mr. Coggshall, Charles Lavaux, (son-in-law to Mr. Coggshall) and Mr. Ball and their families the only occupants of the north side of the lake and river, when twelve months before they were cheered with the prospects of a rapid and permanent settlement and improvement. The war of the Southern Rebellion, having burst upon the American people, turned the attention of all toward the south, rather than founding colonies and cities in Northern Michigan. During the next succeeding seven years, Mr. Coggshall and Chas. Lavaux remained the first and only purchaser and settler on the first recorded plat, of the village of Frankfort, which plat embraced all the land lying between the harbor on the south to the bluff on the north, and from Fifth street on the east to the park on the west.

In 1865, the war having closed, the ownership in the lands possessed by the so called "Frankfort Land Company," having changed in part and Mr. George S. Frost having become the controlling owner and manager, active measures were taken by him to renew the project of colonizing the town and of building up the contemplated commercial and manufacturing city of Frankfort. Congress was memorialized to make the Aux Becs Scies Lake a "harbor of refuge." The petition was granted and an appropriation of \$98,000 was made for the purpose and to open up a new channel on the south side of the so called "Island." The contract for excavating such channel and constructing the piers was awarded to Hon. D. C. Whitwood, of Detroit, since deceased, and Thos. Hubbell of Saginaw, who commenced work under the contract in 1866 with Edward G. Chambers, who is still living in Frankfort, as U. S. Government Harbor Master, and inspector of the works under the contract.

In 1866, Jacob E. Voorhois, since deceased, was sent to Frankfort as local agent by the Frankfort Land Company to look after their interests and to encourage settlements and improvements, who in 1867, was succeeded by Eugene B. Frost, who, as before stated, is a brother of George S. Frost, and who is still residing with his family in Frankfort.

In 1867 and 1868 the tide of settlers tended towards Northern Michigan and mechanics and artisans, traders and settlers, ex-soldiers and land speculators came pouring in from every quarter, and in such hurried confusion, and in such numbers that the mechanics and builders could not construct buildings or provide accommodations fast enough to meet the pressing demands of the hour. Not only was Frankfort being settled and built up, but the government land throughout the county was being rapidly located and settled until, by 1869, it was difficult to find a forty acre lot in the county that was not pre-empted as a homestead or purchased for agricultural or speculative purposes.

The succeeding years have been reasonably prosperous for the people of Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township. During periods of business depressions, we have had to slacken our pace and some of our people have become dissatisfied with the prospects of Frankfort and Benzie county (and we regret to count among them, sometimes, some of our most esteemed citizens), and have gone to other sections of our country in the hope of bettering their condition, until almost every state and territory in the union, has or has had, its representatives from Crystal Lake Township; and after wandering for a time, feeding upon husks, some have returned quite content to remain;

while from others who have not returned, the word has come back from them: "Don't come to this place or country; you are better off in Benzie county."

Geographically, Crystal Lake Township is the west central township in the county, and embraces a portion of the sections of land in town 26 north, in ranges 15 and 16 west, according to U. S. survey, and is bounded on the north by Lake township, and a beautiful sheet of water about nine miles in length and nearly three miles in width bearing the same name as the township; on the east by Benzonia township; on the south by Betsy River and Gilmore Township, and on the west by Lake Michigan. In extent of surface, it embraces as near as may be fourteen sections of land, many of its sections being fractional, owing to much of the land bordering on the Betsy River and the contiguous lakes. As previously stated, when Benzie was organized as a county, Crystal Lake was the only organized township in its limits and in territory co-extensive with the limits of the county. As other townships have been, from time to time, carved out of its territory it has become reduced in extent to its present limits. The surface is rolling or moderately hilly between Betsy River and Crystal Lake, and in some places the bluffs on Lake Michigan attain an elevation of 400 feet above the level of the lake. The soil is varied, but the sandy gravel loam with a clay subsoil predominates in all uplands, while considerable tracts of muck or peat lands are found along the river bottoms and at points near Crystal Lake.

The prevailing native timber here, as throughout the western half of the county, is maple, beach, hemlock and cedar with a sprinkling of white and black ash, oak, cherry and birch. The land when cleared of its forests and under cultivation, as a large portion of this township now is, is found to be well adapted for all farm crops grown in the lower peninsula of the State and especially for all kinds of fruit including the peach and grape, pear, plums, cherry, as well as apple and all the small fruits, that formerly was thought could only be successfully grown in more southern districts.

The modifying influences of the open waters of Lake Michigan during the winter (Lake Michigan never freezing over) upon the temperature owing to the prevailing winds from the west, are so marked, that a uniform temperature is maintained on land but little below the freezing point during the winter months, and even during the cold waves that are general throughout the State, mercury uniformly registers 15 degrees to 20 degrees colder at Lansing, Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo than at Frankfort.

The adaptability for fruit growing of all these lands contiguous to the east shore of Lake Michigan in what is known as the "Fruit Belt," has induced most of the cultivators of the soil to engage in that industry, to supply the markets of Chicago; Milwaukee, the mining regions of the Upper Peninsula and other western and northern districts with fruit.

The population of Crystal Lake township as given by the census of 1894, was 1,604; at date hereof (1897), is estimated to be 2,000 or more, which is largely centered in the incorporated village of Frankfort, situate on the north bank of the Betsy river at its confluence with Lake Michigan.

The first settlers in Crystal Lake township were nearly all American born, who came here largely from Southern Michigan, the New England States, New York, and Ohio, and that element predominates at this date, although there has since come a sprinkling of Germans and Norwegians.

The education of the young received early attention by organizing and establishing schools under the system of the State, and the first teacher of a public school employed in Frankfort, was Miss Minnie Gillott, who became the wife of N. W. Nelson, an attorney, who settled in Frankfort in 1866-7, both of whom died recently in Manistee. From the first, careful attention and liberal patronage has been given to maintain efficient schools with competent teachers. After the township became reduced to its present territorial limits, it was organized into a graded school district, and has since maintained a Central High School with ward schools annexed. In 1893, the district erected the present three story, ten room brick, central school building, finished and furnished with all modern improvements and appliances for school purposes, and employs eleven teachers, including the superintendent. The school population of the district as per school census of 1896 was five hundred and twenty-two. In 1870, the "Frankfort Literary Society" was organized by the adult portion of the community for advanced study and the discussion of practical subjects, and founded a library of several hundred volumes of valuable books covering a wide range of practical and useful subjects; having for its bases, Appleton's American Encyclopedia, Worcester's Dictionary, and other Lexicographic works of reference, and maintained weekly meetings to the acknowledged benefit and advantage, not only of the participants, but to stimulating the community in educational subjects and to the betterment of public affairs; which society and library is still in existence and doing practical work.

In 1867, the Congregationalists organized the first church or religious 'society in the township, and erected a frame church edifice at the corner of Forest Ave. and Fifth St., in Frankfort, (which they have lately improved by constructing under it a substantial brick basement) and installed Rev. A. H. Fletcher as first pastor, who officiated as such until 1874 when he was called to another field of labor, and has since died. Mr. Fletcher is revered by all who knew him for his labors, reformatory and educational.

Subsequently other religious societies organized and erected church buildings and have since maintained church services, viz., and in the following order: Methodist Episcopal, Norwegian Lutheran, Adventists, and Catholic. The Congregationalists and Methodists have been and are today the dominant societies. Other societies, charitable, social, reformatory and beneficial have been organized and are existing and flourishing at the present time; prominent among which may be mentioned: Masonic Societies (Master Mason and Royal Arch), Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic, Knights of the Maccabees-Ladies of the Maccabees, Independent Order of Foresters, Sons of Temperance, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Royal Guards, and the Ladies' Literary Society.

The natural advantages and accessibility of Aux Becs Scies Lake at the mouth of the river for a harbor, having been observed and reported to the government by the early U. S. surveyors of the east shore of Lake Michigan, it was designated by Act of Congress in 1866 as a "Harbor of Refuge" for the commerce of the lakes; and annual appropriations have since been made by Congress for its improvement as such, and also for erecting and equipping and maintaining a Government Light House, Fog Bell, and Life Saving Station and Weather Signal at the entrance of the harbor, until it is now counted one of the best harbors of refuge on the east shore of lake Michigan; the harbor also being designated a port of entry, a Dept. U. S. Collector of Customs is also stationed here.

Four miles north of the harbor on the shore, is located the Point Betsy U. S. Lighthouse, and also another U. S. Life Saving Station, both of which are well manned with trained crew, who are equipped and on duty during the season of navigation.

The earliest methods of communication by water between Frankfort and other ports and places along the shore was by small sail boats called "hookers" and by crudely constructed row boats called "Mackinaws" and canoes, the latter were mostly used by the Indians, hunters, trappers, fishermen, who frequently visited Frankfort from Leelanau County, Manitou, Fox and Beaver Islands to sell baskets and other wares of their construction, and also berries in their season. Later and about 1866, a small steamboat called *the Barber* plied along the shore from Manistee and as far north as Glen Arbor, touching at Frankfort, which was then regarded a great improvement on the former methods of travel by water, and a great convenience to the early settlers who came from Detroit and points east via "Northern Transportation Company" propellers, that at that time plied between Ogdenberg, N. Y., on the St. Lawrence river and through the Welland Canal to Chicago and intermediate ports, stopping at Glen' Arbor for wood supply, landing passengers and freight at that place, which were taken by the Barber to Frankfort.

In 1866 or 1867, the *Fountain City* and *Mohawk*, two large lake propellers plying between Buffalo, N. Y. and Chicago, began making fortnightly stops at Frankfort on their trips up and down the lake, alternating so as to give Frankfort a boat each week, usually, that greatly facilitated travel, traffic, and communication, "outside," as it was commonly called from the closed in, or confined, feeling experienced by each new comer after leaving the boat and watching its departure, who had been accustomed to living where there was ample railroad facilities for travel and traffic.

In 1869 the "Frankfort Furnace Company" (a corporation having its principal office in Detroit) had erected its smelting works in what is now South Frankfort, employing steam barges to bring iron ore from lake Superior region and carry away "pig iron," the products from its smelting works, opened another avenue of communication to points not only on Lake Michigan, but to Detroit and Cleveland, Ohio, where a portion of said products was marketed.

About 1870 the "Englemann Transportation Company" organized by Milwaukee and Manistee capitalists, put a line of steamers on Lake Michigan to run between those two ports, touching at Frankfort, as the passenger and freight traffic had increased so considerably as to induce the undertaking which proved successful. By this time (1870 and 1871) the business of Frankfort had increased to such proportions, by reason of iron works, and the saw mills, coupled with the fishing interests on Lake Michigan and the influx of population settling in the interior, that a considerable fleet of steamers, barges, sailing vessels, and steam tugs were daily seen coming and going from the harbor during the season of navigation; but when that closed, the term, "outside" had an intensified meaning to the inhabitants, since the nearest railroad was the "Detroit, Milwaukee and Grand Haven," at the last named place, fully 200 miles away, which could be reached only by horse and wheel or sleigh travel over unimproved roads, through vast forests of native timber, until the Traverse City branch of the "Grand Rapids and Indiana R. R." was completed in November, 1872, which brought a station within 40 miles. In 1881-82 "The Flint and Pere Marquette R. R." was completed to Manistee which reduced the distance by 10 miles to a R. R. station. After that our R. R. communication with the outside world was not improved until the "Ann Arbor R. R." was constructed west from Cadillac, and the "Frankfort and South Eastern Railroad," from Frankfort east until the two roads formed a junction at Copemish in the fall of 1889.

The county being so long without railroads, the settlers gave early and judicious attention to laying out, building and improving the highways and in constructing bridges, to which end the State contributed substantial aid in constructing in 1869 and 70 two state roads through the county; one extending from Manistee to Traverse City and the other from Manistee along the shore and through Crystal Lake Township to Glen Arbor (in Leelanau county), all of which greatly facilitated business intercourse and U. S. mail service, which, with post offices, were early established throughout the county upon solicitation of the settlers.

While much may be said of Frankfort and vicinity as a summer resort for the tourist, invalid and angler, its delights and beauties and benefits may be better told by the hundreds that annually make their pilgrimage hither, to avail themselves of the advantages they afford in those directions. And while one recognizes those advantages to exist here in a degree unsurpassed by any other section of the state or country, still it is not claimed they are superior to many other places in northern Michigan and Wisconsin; which sections it is believed are soon to become, and are fast becoming, the summer breathing places for the teeming thousands of the sweltering cities and towns in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, as the Highlands of Scotland are to the invalids, anglers and tourists of London and Continental Europe.

Among the special attractions of Frankfort and vicinity may be mentioned, Crystal Lake, two miles north, Herring lake, five miles south, and Betsy River and its tributaries all of which have been stocked by the State Fish Commissioner, from the State hatcheries, through the solicitations and aid of some of its enterprising citizens, with gamey trout and other fine fish which are free to the public in the season of catching; while Frankfort itself, is nestled between two hills rising abruptly to an altitude of 400 feet above the level of Lake Michigan, that are covered with native hard-wood timber, affording inviting retreats that overlook at the same time the harbor, town, and the great lake.

The village is regularly laid out with broad streets and alleys, lighted by electric lights, and has spacious public parks of native forest trees, streets graded and improved, walks safely constructed, with ample mail, express, and telegraphic facilities, and two flowing mineral wells spouting their crystal waters from a depth of 2,000 below the surface, millions of gallons of the same flow that comes from the wells at Ypsilanti and Mt. Clemens in this State, as shown by the official report of the analysis by Prof. Kedzie of the Michigan Agricultural College.

The village owns and operates its system of water works for fire protection and domestic use. Here too is seen the daily practice of the U. S. L. S. crews, the daily departure and arrival of the mammoth car ferries of the Ann Arbor R. R., taking each trip an entire train of cars, loaded with freight, across Lake Michigan, that rivals in boldness of conception and in perfection of execution all similar undertakings the world around. The entire township is rich in geological, archaeological, paleontological and prehistoric finds, with ancient mounds and Indian burial relics, such as flint clippings, copper tools and ornaments, stone implements, etc.

Among the earliest investors in Crystal Lake Township who were interested in or have contributed to its growth and development, that have since died, may be mentioned: Hon. Erastus Corning of Albany, N. Y.; Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Henry Day of the law firm of Lord, Day and Lord, New York City; Hon. Horace Fairbanks, of Fairbanks Scales, celebrity of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; also Sumner S. Thompson, Dudley P. Hall and Benjamin F. Lincoln of same place;

Henry K. Sanger, Nelson H. Wing, L. O. and L. R. Medbury, Geo. S. Frost, Mr. Mills and Hon. Deodatus C. Whitwood of Detroit; Prof. Alexander Winchel, State Geologist, Ann Arbor; Hon. James M. Ashley of Toledo, Ohio, the projector of the T. and A. A. and Northern R. R. and the mammoth Car Ferries across Lake Michigan; and of actual settlers who have passed away: Joseph Robarge and wife Margaret, Wm. H. Coggshall and Margaret, his wife; Mrs. Galusha Ball, wife of Richard Ball; Mrs. Anna Eliza Voorheis, first wife of Dr. Isaac Voorheis; Rowland O. Crispin, John H. Adams, judge of probate for several years; Thomas Cooper, Charles C. Adams, first town clerk; Levi Lee, Hiram D. Keeler, father of Mrs. P. McGregor and Geo. Wm. Keeler; Mrs. John B. Collins, Henry Bellows, father of Bellows Bros.; Dr. Thomas M. Harvey, Solomon and Victory Saterlee, who built and kept the first hotel; F. Wm. Hopkins, Orrin Heffron, Martha Waldron, maiden sister of Mrs. Joseph A. Pierce, Samuel W. Benton, David M. Fish, son-in-law of Eugene B. Frost; Eli B. Lansing, Stephen B. Wallis, Nathan G. Wakes field and wife Anna, parents of Ausborn Wakefield; Warren H. Marsh and wife, Diana Spicer, wife of Hiram M. Spicer; Henry H. Woodward and wife Frances, parents of Geo. C., John H. and E. Tracy Woodward; Jacob E. Voorheis, Abram G. Butler, for many years agent for the Frankfort Land Co; James, Mathew and Anna Gallagher, N. West Nelson and Minnie, his wife, first attorney at law to locate in Frankfort, afterwards judge of probate for Manistee county; John Greenwood, Mrs. Isaac Carver, Daniel Marble, Joseph Oliver, Scotch stone mason, and his wife, Mrs. Charles Crittendon, Rev. A. H. Fletcher and wife, Mrs. Edward B. Fletcher, daughter of Levi Lee, Christian C. Curtis and wife Ann, John Sites and wife Alvina, parents of John and Lyman Sites, Albert E. Banks, Thomas C. Anderson, Lucius S. Marvin, Chas. Shepherd, Jerry Marquette, Peter Plont and wife, parents of Frank Plont, Thomas Gregerson, Dr. Alozo J. Slyfield, first keeper of Point Aux Becs Scies U. S. Light House, Riley Carlton, Frank Martin, Mrs. Sarah (Pierson) Sensabaugh, Munson K. Hooper, Mrs. Hugh Lockhart and son William. The names of many others who came to Frankfort later and have since passed away might be recorded if space would permit in this connection.