

HISTORY OF INLAND

The township of North Climax, which was originally a part of Homestead was formed by vote of the supervisors of Grand Traverse county on the 10th of April, 1867. January 23, 1869, the name was changed to Inland.

A few years previous to this it had been one unbroken forest. No human footstep disturbed the profound stillness except that of the Indian in pursuit of game. Its sparkling-waters rippled and danced under the leafy canopy overhead. Cool breezes sighed through the evergreen trees and maple leaves rustled musically in bright sunlight; flowers and ferns lifted themselves skyward; shy, wild creatures roamed fearlessly, and birds carolled their merriest notes.

But civilization brought changes. Then forest fires were unknown, and the ring of the woodman's ax never heard; the tramp, tramp of progress began, and today Inland echoes with her sturdy tread.

Most of the northern half of this township was hardwood land with varying strengths of soil, ranging from that of a light sandy nature to clay loam.

In the central portion, and for a short distance south of that, was a valuable tract of pine, while in the southern part was a strip of hardwood, with better soil than that in the center. The northern portion is well watered by the Platte river, a clean, pebbly bottomed stream, and a line system of tributary creeks, whose banks were covered with a dense growth of hemlock and cedar, interspersed with birch, ash and grand old pines, some of which towered like giants above the surrounding forest one hundred and fifty feet high.

The township is not hilly except where the creeks cut through the surface to lower levels. There are but two or three lakes in the whole township. These are well stocked with fish, and Platte river and all the smaller streams emptying into it are full of speckled trout.

There are traces of Indians in many places. A lady has in her possession two stones found lying side by side on section six and she was informed by an Indian living at Northport that they were probably left by the Mohawks two or three hundred years ago, and that others have been found lying in piles on the banks of different lakes; they were used to remove the skins from their slaughtered game.

The first settlers came in the fall of 1863.

Daniel Sherman started from the state of New York, and passing through Traverse City came by a narrow trail to the township of Inland. He selected a homestead on the northeast quarter of section thirteen and entered it the 27th of November, 1863. By the aid of Messrs. Cleveland, Boland and McIntyre, who accompanied him here, and an old carpenter by the name of Gravel, a house was built. The floor was made from slabs split from basswood logs, smoothed off with an adz; the roof was of the same material. Mr. Sherman returned to "New York but came back the same fall accompanied by Mrs. Slarrow and her son Horace. They started from Traverse City with a pair of ponies at eight o'clock in the morning, getting to their destination at nine o'clock that night, a distance of sixteen miles. The road had to be underbrushed for the last seven miles. The sleigh box was an old wood rack.

Provisions were very high, the nearest trading point being at Traverse City. Their first potatoes came from the potato balls of two years before; they cost one dollar and a

half, and were obtained at Benzonia, fifteen miles away. One hundred dollars was paid for their first cow. Mrs. Slarrow was here two and one-half years before she saw a white woman. Neighbors at first were seven miles one way and twelve the other. Once in a while an Indian would come to trade-fish for bread. Mr. McIntyre took a homestead where Eugene Barnard now resides.

Cleveland located in Grand Traverse county; Boland also took a homestead; Ben Williams came the same fall and settled on the place owned by the late Victor T. Gardner.

The nearest postoffice was Traverse City, and the mail was brought on horseback.

One of the deprivations of that section was lack of water, and Horace Slarrow looks back to those days, grateful that he does not have to carry it a mile as he did then.

Mr. Sherman drove the first team through to Manistee; he had a stage line and carried several soldiers to the latter place; the horses were driven one ahead of the other.

A preacher by the name of Caukins delivered the first sermon in the township at Sherman's house. He is now a member of the Michigan M. E. Conference. A Sunday school was organized and a library purchased. Quite a quantity of those books are yet in existence.

D. R. Latham, superannuate of M. E. Conference at present, came to Mr. Sherman's and preached once or twice. Mr. Isaac Barnard came in the spring of 1864, selected a homestead on section fifteen and entered it April 26, 1864. He owned the first cow. His daughter, Etta May Barnard, was the first child born in the township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barnard have passed away. Quite a number of settlers soon settled in other localities.

A man by the name of Henry Rufend homesteaded the place afterwards secured by Joel A. Gardner; Brooks the Aplin farm; Charlie Rufend the Kent farm, and Reuben Rufend the William Morris place; Clark Barton the place that was afterwards owned by Nathan Jaquish; William Reed had a homestead south of Mr. Moon's; the Old Central House was once owned by a man by the name of Call; James Williams located on the tract of land known as the Platte estate.

A man by the name of Summers owned the Moon place. One of his little children sickened and died, and was buried in the woods. There is nothing to mark the spot except the little mound. For many years the swaying trees have flung their branches above its resting place; storms have swept over its little form, all unheeded, while it quietly awaits the summons from the lips of the Father above to come forth. Perhaps somewhere in the world is an aged mother whose thoughts often turn to that lonely little grave in the wilderness.

Mr. Richards located just across the road from the Simmons place; he was a stone mason by trade.

Uncle Joe Eastman, an eccentric old character, entered a homestead May 10, 1864. He lived by himself and seemed to have an utter disregard for the ladies, not welcoming them to his domicile. His habits were very slovenly and his "den" a veritable museum. His bed was a trough dug out of a hollow log filled with brush and nothing but an old blanket for a covering. He claimed that when Sherman came here in 1863 he was already here as a trapper, and that he gave a war whoop on discovering him; but there is no proof of this.

Mr. Sherman's two sons, Elmer and Clark, came from New York during the summer in company with a family seeking a home.

Judson Andrus moved here in the fall of 1864, bringing a yoke of oxen and a cow; his son, "Dry" Andrus, entered as a homestead the farm now owned by Albert Kent. Mr. Kent came from the south part of the State in 1865 and settled upon the land "Dry" Andrus had first taken. He has the largest farm in the township, having 160 acres under a good state of cultivation. He has five acres of orchard, and is proprietor of a store at Bendon station, and is postmaster there. When he first came here pork was twenty cents a pound and sugar eighteen to twenty cents.

Henry Herron also came the fall of 1865 and settled on the northwest quarter of section eleven. Mr. Herron had but a short time before returned from the arduous duties of a soldier, having served his country in Co. A 189th New York Volunteers. He is still living on his farm, and is a member of the G. A. R.

Wm. McCormick was another pioneer of this date. He settled one mile south of the section where Mr. Sherman located, on the east town line. A sad accident occurred at this place; Mr. Win. Barden's little child was drowned in the swamp near the farm.

Jack Barton and family were among the earlier settlers. He took as a homestead the southeast quarter of section eleven, but sold it to Levi Simmons. One-half of this is now owned by Mrs. Simmons, formerly Mrs. E. P. Aplin, and the remainder by Chandler Adams.

Mr. Barton kept the first hotel, and was also the first overseer of highways. 1-His wife died very suddenly with heart disease a few years after they moved here. His oldest son and Maria Jennings were the first couple united in marriage in the township. Mr. Barton, with two or three men, among whom was a colored man by the name of Hayes from Homestead were fishing from a raft in Green lake, when they discovered monster sturgeon, five or six feet long lying in about four feet of water. The "darkey" immned lately- sprang from the raft and with a knife cut the throat of the fish. He was rewarded for his bravery by securing the prize as own

Mr. Barton also had quite an experience with some wild animals that was not so agreeable. He was coming from Long lake, in Grand Traverse county, on his way to Round lake, when lie heard something scream like a woman. He answered it, but soon mistrusting it was a panther or lynx, he started to run, and for four miles the creature followed him; near Round lake it left him. Mr. Barton's strength was nearly exhausted.

Victor T. Gardiner came in the fall of 1865 and chose for his home the southwest quarter of section twelve, near Daniel Sherman's. He was elected the first supervisor after the township was organized, but being obliged to return to the south part of the State for a while, Henry Downs, a Methodist minister, acted as supervisor the rest of the year. Mr. Gardiner was of a literary turn of mind and wrote a great many original poems; he also taught school. His father, Joel A. Gardiner, located a homestead on sections thirteen and fourteen, but did not live long. He was the man who drew up the petition to have the town organized. His widow afterwards married a man by the name of Johnson. This farm is now owned by Elmer Bowman, who married Mr. Gardiner's daughter. Mr. Michael Murrel, a native of England, came in about three years after Mr. Sherman did, and took a homestead that had been abandoned by Thomas Fisdal; he was the first man elected director. He lived a long life, dying at the age of ninety-one.

Mr. Mason came about the same time, taking a farm that had once been occupied by Mr. Alexander.

Asa Adams and family from Pennsylvania located on the southeast quarter of section eight in 1866. Mr. Adams died about ten years ago; his widow is now the wife of Chandler Adams.

Rienzi Rowley came the same year as the latter, and homesteaded the farm now owned by John Jarret; he lived on it thirteen years and cleared thirteen acres.

John Bradshaw, who enlisted in the army from Jonesville, Hillsdale county, Michigan, serving until the close of the war, came here also in 1866, seeking a home and located on the southeast quarter of section fourteen. He has been quite prominent in the offices of the township, having served many terms in an official capacity. He is a member of the G. A. R.

Quite a little excitement was created by a circumstance that occurred about this time. A man by the name of Ely entered a homestead on section nine. For some reason he removed, with his wife and children, to Bass lake, Grand Traverse county, from which place he suddenly disappeared with all his family, and no trace of them has ever been discovered. Suspicion fell upon a man who lived with them, and who afterwards took a deed to the property to the county register's office for record but without signature. He also claimed all the personal property by purchase.

In August, 1866, Mrs. Dexter, a widow from Indiana, came to this region accompanied by her two children. Although they located in Grand Traverse county, all their interests were in Inland. Miss Alice Dexter, now Mrs. Robert Carpenter, was a charter member of the first Sabbath school established by the Methodists, and also taught the second term of school in town. Mrs. Carpenter remembers when a spool of thread cost 25 cents; mess pork 23 cents per pound, and a yard of print 50 cents.

In speaking of the scarcity of water in the east part of the township in those early days, Mrs. Carpenter exclaims "who of the old settlers will ever forget the old trough at the back of the house with its puncheon shake cover, and the indispensable cloth lying on the end, by which we could separate the water from the 'wigglers.' Mrs. Carpenter's mother was the possessor of two cows, and the first year after coming here their only team was those two cows, well broken to drive. Here occurred the first death in the settlement. Mrs. Mark McMichael was taken ill and passed away January, 1867. Mrs. Carpenter and Aunt Hannah Rowley, mother of Rienzi Rowley, assisted in preparing her for the grave; it must have been a sad burial, isolated as they were.

The northwestern portion of the township was yet a wilderness. The Platte river ran through it, a shallow stream so choked with timber and brush that it was not possible for a person to walk down its bed.

Early in the fall of 1866, Mark Allyn came from Ohio, and landing at Glen Arbor, he made his way to section six seeking a homestead where there was water. He had purchased two sections of land in Manistee county, but finding no practicable route from Glen Arbor, where he had shipped his outfit, he selected the valley of the Platte, and finding a beautiful spring near the river; he decided to locate there although it was not on the section line. He hired a road cut to his chosen home, and in a short time had a little spot cleared of brush and logs, sufficient to erect his first dwelling, a shanty covered with shakes split from the trees of the forest and this sufficed for a shelter until he could cut logs for a small house, twelve feet square.

The nearest sawmill was seven or eight miles distant. All of his furniture was made from material split from pine logs. His wife and child did not come until the next spring.

Almon Vaughan and wife, also O. W. Clark, son of Mrs. Vaughan, by a former marriage, from the same locality in Ohio, were the next settlers. Mr. Vaughan took a homestead lying just north of Mr. Allyn's, and occupied it until four or five years ago, when he died at the age of eighty-two. His widow is now living with her son, although she still retains the homestead. O. W. Clark was only fourteen years of age when he came here. He married a young lady by the name of Passmore from Homestead.

George Davis and his brother Will, soon followed their uncle, Mr. Vaughan. George entered a forty-acre homestead, also on section six, but soon abandoned it and returned to Ohio with the story that grass would not grow in this country, even in the door yards.

Wm. Davis purchased a quarter section of his uncle in the northwest corner of the town.

The south side of the river was still in its wild state, but in the fall of 1868 a man appeared on the south bank of the river, and announced himself as Isaac Dougherty, who had taken a homestead on what is now known as the Roxbury farm, on section eight. He built a log house, and cleared a little, but like many others of the first settlers, soon drifted to other climes.

Mr. C. Roxbury, a son-in-law of Mr. Vaughan, then purchased the farm in 1873 and is occupying it at the present time; his wife died during the present year. John Martin, another son-in-law of Mr. Vaughan purchased the Geo. Davis homestead, but sold it and is now living in Petoskey; Mr. Bishop, the present owner, is a French-Canadian well-known in this county.

Dexter and Chester Albright were early settlers in this part of the township, but have moved away.

Mrs. Mark Allyn, who, after the death of her husband, married Horace B. Pratt, of Almira township, taught the first two terms of school in this district.

This part of the town had also its eccentric character in the person of Wm. Curtiss, who purchased two or three hundred acres of land near the river. He built a small house, but did not occupy it long. He is now in the Soldier's Home in Ohio.

New settlers were still pouring into the eastern part of the township, in what was called the Sherman settlement, and a meeting was called at the house of Nathaniel Barrows, a new settler located on section fifteen, who was also the first postmaster. The object of this meeting was to perfect the organization of the township.

Victor T. Gardner was elected supervisor, Nathaniel Barrows, clerk; Nathan Jaquish and James Reynolds, justices, and Henry Helm, commissioner of highways.

The next step was to organize a school district. A meeting was held August 17, 1867, at the house of Jackson Barton, Henry Helm acting as chairman, and Mr. Barnes as clerk. Henry Helm was elected as moderator, N. Barnes, assessor, and Michael Murrell, director. These all failed to qualify, and the inspectors appointed N. Jaquish, moderator; Levi Simmons, assessor, and Charles Howe, director. A special meeting was shortly called to select a site, and raise funds to erect a suitable building for school purposes. The names signed to the call were Richard Reynolds, E. P. Wilcox, J. P. Reynolds, D. Sherman and Lennan Case.

The first schoolhouse was built of logs, but before it was completed fire destroyed it.

Miss Martha Smith, of Benzonia, was hired as teacher and school was held in V. T. Gardiner's house in 1868. Elmer Sherman, Horace Slarrow, and also Nellie Jaquish, now Mrs. Gilbert Reynolds, were among the scholars.

In the summer of 1869, the old frame school was built on the northeast corner of section fourteen; but that has given place to a large and commodious building, located on the same site and well supplied with everything needful in the way of apparatus, for the advancement of the scholars.

One could scarcely imagine that people could be transplanted from comfortable homes, and all the elements of social and domestic happiness, into a vast wilderness like the country was at this time, and find pleasure in a life so remote from the old associations to which they had been accustomed from childhood. Some of these old pioneers, on being questioned as to what was their earliest amusement, replied that it was the gathering of the young people, in a merry group around the huge log heaps, in the soft summer evenings and amid those wild surroundings was enacted many a drama that blossomed into a lifetime of mutual happiness.

There was a friendliness and warmth in those good old days; everybody was a neighbor in the true sense of the word, no matter if miles lay between. It was akin to a new world; the air seemed so pure and bracing, laden with the spicy odors of the pine and fragrant cedar, the waters so clear and sparkling, and the hopes that reached out into the future of well-tilled fields, and comfortable surroundings, caused the pulses to thrill with anticipation.

Who can forget the great bubbling kettles of sugar that came from the grand old maple trees. Did sugar ever taste so good?

When a new settler needed a house to shelter him, willing hands were ready to assist, and the huge logs of which it was usually constructed were rolled together with a hearty good will; at such times those who desired it, would indulge in dancing to the music of Abner Johnson's or Uncle Jack Barton's fiddles.

In the spring of 1868, Lysander Kenney from Illinois, came to Manistee by boat, and from there followed the old trail through Joyfield, where he spent one night with Mr. Joy, of that town. After arriving at Inland, he selected a homestead on section eighteen and purchased other lands, in all two hundred acres. His wife and children soon followed him arriving the 15th of May.

He rented Henry Herron's house the first six months, moving on his homestead the following October. Mr. Kenney was a Methodist, and was present when the first class was formed. The late George Yonker preached that day. A man by the name of Aldrich was the preacher in charge, but the next year a man by the name of Gilbert was made pastor.

In two and a half years Mr. Kenney was called by the fourth quarterly conference to preach and was granted a license. V. G. Boynton was the presiding elder. Mr. Kenney's first sermon was delivered at the house of Almon Vaughan; a class was formed and prayer meetings established which were well attended. He has since been appointed by conference to several charges, staying at one five years. The first couple he united in marriage were R. B. Reynolds and Miss Clara Jaquish. The first funeral sermon he preached was for an old gentleman by the name of Yonker. He was a delegate to the first

county convention; has held the office of coroner three times, justice of the peace several times; also superintendent of the poor. His wife, always his helpmeet, taught six terms of school, and has held the office of school inspector.

Henry Helm entered a homestead on section ten in 1867, but sickness soon came and he was called to a better country. His widow still lives in the south part of the State. His daughter is a resident of Inland, being the wife of Oscar Kenney.

Nathan Jaquish removed from Calhoun county in this State, in April 1867. He purchased the homestead held by Clark Barton on section eleven, and much to the surprise of the seller, paid him with a five hundred dollar bill. Mr. Jaquish was supervisor all but two years of his life after coming here. He had two sons and four daughters who are upright men and women. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jaquish are dead.

Luman Case came from West Leroy, Calhoun county, at the same time that Nathan Jaquish did, and bought the southwest quarter of section twelve of a man by the name of Phelps.

When Case was coming in on the trail, he found some money in the path and stopping to pick it up said to Mr. Jaquish, "Jake look here." The latter exclaimed, "come on, come on, let us go on where it is thicker."

Mrs. Murphy was riding with Luman Case from Traverse City, with an ox team, over the rough corduroy roads when she caught her arm around him exclaiming, "Mr. Case it is not the love I have for ye but its the fear of falling out."

Henry Downs settled upon the farm now occupied by M. S. Stiles. He was the man who held the office when V. F. Gardner resigned. He was a Methodist minister and his wife taught school. After his death his widow removed to the south part of the State where she died suddenly.

We next reach the history of Richard Reynolds and family. They removed from Rhode Island in the fall of 1868 and purchased the homestead right of Nathaniel Barrows. Mr. Reynolds also purchased one hundred acres adjoining. He was a very careful business man and of that sterling integrity of character that commands the respect of everyone who knew him. He was a Quaker by birth, but for many years was identified with the Methodist church, holding the office of class leader until his death. "Uncle Richard" and "Aunt Katy," as they were familiarly called, were known all over the country for their generous hospitality. In them the poor found friends, and the sick could testify to many tender remembrances, while the church received substantial aid from their hands.

Mr. Reynolds died in 1896, the same day that his youngest son, Gilbert, was laid to rest. Both father and son have been instrumental in building up the business interests of this town and are sorely missed.

R. B. Reynolds, his remaining son has held many offices of trust, and is at present the clerk of Benzie county.

Edward Payson Aplin came the same fall as Richard Reynolds and took a homestead near Mr. Moon's, but shortly afterwards traded it to Levi Simmons in exchange for his place on section eleven, paying nine hundred dollars besides. Mr. Simmons had been keeping hotel and Mr. Aplin continued the business until his health failed. He was deputy sheriff for several years besides holding various offices in town; but it will be when death enters the homes of the people that he will be most lamented,

for he was often called upon to take charge of the last sad rites for departed friends. He died at the age of fifty. His widow has been united in marriage with Levi Simmons.

Mrs. Amidon, now Mrs. Wm. Brundage, came with her children from the state of New York, and took a homestead on section nine, that "Hack" Johnson had entered previously, paying him one hundred dollars for his claim; the farm is now owned by her son, Elisha Amidon.

Mr. Lansing was one of the early pioneers, and opened up a farm on section three, now the property of Mr. Weiss. He also built a sawmill on the Platte river. Both he and his wife have passed away.

During the summer of 1869, an accident occurred that saddened the whole community: three children were passing along the street during a severe windstorm, and when near Richard Reynold's place, a dry stub fell, instantly killing a little girl eleven years of age, the daughter of Henry Yonker, who lived in the adjoining town. Sarah Helm and Johnnie Yonker were with her at the time. The boy saw the tree coming and caught his sister's hand, but in her alarm and confusion she pulled away and thus met her fate.

D. C. Brundage came in the fall of 1869 from Eaton county, and settled on section seventeen. Mr. Brundage knew how to work, and although he had a large family of children, he managed so well that he was in comfortable circumstances at his death, which occurred in 1896, two years after the death of his wife. He and his sons built a shingle mill about eighteen years ago.

There is an old clearing on section three that is called the Abdel homestead. Its former owner used to teach singing school in the early days, but shortly after removed from the town.

Cyrus Helm once owned the farm now known as the Hostetter place. Away over in the southwestern part of the township, Cyrus Maybean was the first to make for himself a home in the wilderness; others have followed his example and the forest has been cleared away by the hand of progress.

Thomas Luther came to Michigan from the state of New York, removing to Inland in 1874. He took a homestead on section nine and was the first man to strike a blow on the street on which he lives. Mr. Luther is now seventy-eight years of age.

Vincent Jarrett came here in 1878. He was a native of Virginia and the father of thirteen children, all living at the present time. He was active in church work and being a fine singer, he added much to the interest of meetings which he usually attended. He died nine years ago, but his widow still survives him.

The railroads in town are the Chicago & West Michigan, running through the southwest corner, with a station called Bendon; also a branch by way of Turtle Lake to the new town of Honor in Homestead.

The Manistee & Northeastern passes through the northeastern corner, with a projected branch down the Platte river to Honor, and also to Empire.

The Toledo & Ann Arbor runs a short distance to the southwest of the township, thus giving good railroad facilities.

There are three postoffices, two or three stores also saw and shingle mills. The first settler in the southeastern corner near Bendon station was an Irishman named Murphy. He was digging a well and had gone down about forty feet, when it showed sign of caving in upon him. His wife, who was watching the proceedings, exclaimed with vigor: "Faith and be jabers, if it should come on ye, you'd hould your homestead sure."

A little village has sprung up at the Bendon station; there are two or three stores, postoffice, express offices, telegraph and saw and shingle mill.

"Turtle Lake," in the center of a large tract of pine, has been a busy little place, with saw and shingle mill, also store and postoffice.

There are seven school districts in the township, and all are well equipped with apparatus. District No. 3 has an organ.

The Methodist Church has held an organization nearly ever since the town was settled. The church society owns a parsonage and is making plans to build a house of worship.

There are two Epworth Leagues, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and their Juvenile Society, the Loyal Temperance Legion, Patrons of Husbandry, and Independent Order of Good Templars.

The last two societies have a "hall" together for their meetings. The Odd Fellows and Maccabees also have societies in the southwest part of town. A branch of the Mormon Church, "The Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints," has held an organization for the last two or three years, and is collecting material to erect a church.

Inland has always been republican in sentiment. Every new "ism" has found followers, but only in a limited degree.

Quite a number of old soldiers are living in Inland: Robert Osborne, Robert Carpenter, A. D. Clary, John Bradshaw, Mr. Blaisdell, Corwin Roxbury, George Anness, John Hogle, Henry Herron, Charles Barton, Mr. Williams, Mr. Wilson and William Sherman. Mr. Platte lies buried in the graveyard. A. D. Clary was only seventeen years old when he enlisted in 1861.

Inland is dotted all over with fruit orchards, and everything but grapes seem to succeed. When the country was new, and before the forests were cut away, peach trees would winter kill, but of late, the trees seem vigorous and produce a fine quality of peaches. The Reynolds farm has six acres in orchard, and the fruit commands the highest admiration of all who see it.