

## MINI INDIAN AND PIONEER HISTORY OF BRANDON, MINNESOTA AREA

THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS WERE SETTLED ALL AROUND BIG CHIPPEWA, LITTLE CHIPPEWA, DEVILS AND BAUMBACK LAKES WHEN THE WHITE SETTLERS FIRST ARRIVED IN THIS AREA. THE CHIPPEWAS WERE PEACE LOVING AND GOT ALONG WITH THE WHITE MEN.

HENRY GAGER OPENED A STAGE STATION IN CHIPPEWA IN 1859. IT WAS ON THE FAMOUS RED RIVER TRAIL. DOUGLAS COUNTY RECEIVED ITS FIRST BOUNDARIES IN 1856 WHICH LATER BECAME FORT CHIPPEWA IN 1862. THE FORT WAS LATER NAMED CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP SEPT. 3, 1867. AFTER THE RAILROAD WENT THROUGH IN 1879 THE SETTLEMENT WAS MOVED TWO MILES SOUTH, CLOSER TO THE RAILROAD AND THEN WAS NAMED BRANDON. THE ABOVE DATES WOULD INDICATE THAT CHIPPEWA OR OLD BRANDON WAS IN USE FOR AT LEAST 20 YEARS.

IN APPROXIMATELY 1862 THE SIOUX INDIANS FROM THE DAKOTAS STARTED TO TRY TO MOVE INTO THIS AREA. THE SIOUX WERE WARRIORS AND WANTED TO DRIVE WHITE MEN OUT. THEY EXPECTED THE CHIPPEWAS TO HELP THEM. THEY DID NOT GET ALONG WITH THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS AND THERE WAS A GREAT WAR. MANY OF THE WHITE SETTLERS FOUGHT WITH THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS AGAINST THE SIOUX. MR. EMERSON WHO OWNED THE FARM WHERE MARVIN WAGNER NOW LIVES WAS ONE OF THE WHITE MEN WHO FOUGHT WITH THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS. THE CHIPPEWA WON THE WAR AND THE SIOUX WENT BACK TO THE DAKOTAS.

THE GREAT INDIAN WAR WAS FOUGHT AT THE FORT CHIPPEWA SITE. THIS LAND WAS LATER OWNED BY RICHARD PEPPER WHO SOLD THE LAND TO ELIAS LUND, THEN WILLIE LUND, THEN DENNIS LUND AND NOW MONTE LUND. WHILE RICHARD PEPPER OWNED THE LAND HE WAS CUTTING DOWN LARGE WHITE OAK TREES. IN ONE TREE ALONE HE FOUND 13 LEAD SLUGS, WHICH WERE 50 CALIBUR. THESE WERE MORE THAN LIKELY FROM THE GREAT INDIAN WAR.

IN 1856 THERE WAS ANOTHER INDIAN UPRISING AROUND THE STOCKADE IN ALEXANDRIA. CHARLES VAN DYKE WHO LIVED FOR MANY YEARS ON THE VAN DYKE ISLAND IN BIG CHIPPEWA LAKE, WAS THE FIRST BABY BORN IN THE ALEXANDRIA STOCKADE. THE FIRST COTTAGE THAT CHARLIE VAN DYKE BUILT ON HIS ISLAND MADE OF STONE. HE WAS GIVEN TITLE TO THE ISLAND BY PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON MAY 21, 1919. IN THE FALL OF 1862 A MILITARY-POST WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE ALEXANDRIA FORT AND TROOPS WERE MOVED IN. PRESENTLY STANDING ON THAT LOCATION IS K & K SPORTS AND MIDLAND.

FOR SOME YEARS AFTER THE INDIAN UPRISINGS THE ARMY WANTED THE PEOPLE TO REMAIN LIVING IN THE STOCKADE IN FEAR THAT IT MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN. ANOTHER PERSON WHO MOVED INTO THE ALEXANDRIA STOCKADE MAY OF 1870 WAS JOHN A. LINNARD, FATHER OF EMIL LINNARD WHO WAS FATHER TO EUNICE LINNARD PETERSON. HE LATER SETTLED JUST NORTH OF BRANDON IN 1874.

THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS TWO HAVEN'S RESORT OWNED BY HARVEY BOLIN, BETWEEN DEVILS LAKE AND BIG CHIPPEWA WAS ONCE AN ISLAND OF ABOUT 15 ACRES. THIS WAS APPARENTLY A WHOLE INDIAN VILLAGE. HARVEY AND HIS FATHER DID NOT DIG UP THE AREA JUST LOOKING FOR THINGS, BUT IN THE COURSE OF BUILDING, THINGS JUST KEEP WORKING THEIR WAY UP THROUGH THE GROUND. HARVEY HAS A GREAT COLLECTION OF INDIAN ARROW HEADS, SPEAR HEADS, STONE HAMMERS, CORN GRINDERS, POTTERY DISHES ETC. ALL FOUND ON THIS

SITE. HARVEY FEELS THAT THE MAIN PART OF THE CAMP ON HIS PROPERTY WAS WHERE REV. GRAGE NOW LIVES BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THE MOST POTTERY HAS BEEN FOUND. CLOSE TO CABIN # 1 IS THE LOCATION WHERE THE BIG CORN MILL WAS FOUND. HARVEY FEELS THAT ALOT OF COOKING WAS DONE IN THIS AREA BECAUSE THERE IS A SOLID LAYER OF BURNED STONES WHICH WAS COVERED WITH 4 TO 6 INCHES OF DIRT WHICH WOULD INDICATE IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG TIME AGO.

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD ON THE JOHN DAAS FARM, THERE WAS A GRAVEL PIT OWNED BY HARVEY BOLINS DAD, CARL BOLIN. THERE THEY FOUND A SKULL WHILE LOADING GRAVEL. THE SKULL WAS SENT INTO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND VERIFIED AS AN INDIAN SKULL. SOME YEARS LATER WHEN RUBEN HENKE WAS WORKING WITH A WPA CREW THEY WERE ALSO DIGGING GRAVEL IN THIS PIT. THEY FOUND ALOT OF POTTERY, ARROW HEADS, SPEAR HEADS ETC. ONE DAY THEY FOUND A FULL SKELETON WHICH WAS SENT INTO THE STATE AND VERIFIED AS BEING AN INDIAN SKELETON. AFTER THAT NO MORE GRAVEL WAS HAULED OUT.

WHEN HARVEY WAS A SMALL BOY HE WOULD HEAR STORIES OF HOW THE INDIANS WOULD CHASE THE BUFFALO FROM THE HIGH GROUND WHERE DR. LOCKWOOD NOW LIVES, DOWN INTO THE LOW GROUND WHERE THE FISH TRAP IS NOW LOCATED. THERE THE BUFFALO WOULD SIMPLY GET STUCK IN THE MUD AND DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO BE SHOT. THIS WAY THERE WOULDN'T EVEN BE A HOLE IN THE HIDE. HARVEY THOUGHT THAT WAS QUITE A STORY UNTIL SOME WORK WAS BEING DONE DOWN IN THIS AREA WITH BIG EARTH MOVING MACHINES. [AND THE ENTIRE SKELETON OF A BUFFALO WAS FOUND.] HARVEY SAVED THE HEAD. HE ALSO FOUND SEVERAL LARGE SETS OF ELK HORNS WHICH INDICATES THAT ELK ONCE ROAMED THE AREA.

ON THE FARM SITE OF MONTE LUND THERE STILL STANDS THE ORIGINAL BLACKSMITH SHOP OF FORT CHIPPEWA. IT CAN NOT BE SEEN FROM THE ROAD BUT IS BACK IN THE WOODS. THERE WERE TRENCHES DUG AND ROUGH CUT BEAMS FOR THE FOUNDATION. THE SIDES WERE CONSTRUCTED OF HAND SAWED LUMBER AND THE FLOOR IS DIRT. IT IS A BUILDING OF ABOUT 8 FEET BY 16 FEET. IT STANDS WITH ALL THE WORK BENCHES STILL IN PLACE. IT WAS AT THIS LOCATION THAT GREG LUND FOUND A HAND CRANK FORGE MADE OF HEAVY CAST IRON. MUCH OF THE FORT WAS LOCATED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PRESENT TAR ROAD.

CHIPPEWA ( OLD BRANDON ) WAS PLOTTED OUT APRIL 1868. IT IS PRESUMED THAT AT FIRST WHEN PEOPLE DIED HERE THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE EDGE OF TOWN AND BURIED. LATER DEC. 6, 1879 AN OFFICIAL CEMETERY WAS PLOTTED AND CONSISTED OF 2 ACRES OF LAND. IT IS REGISTERED IN THE DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT HOUSE AS EDGEFIELD CEMETERY. AFTER CHECKING THE DEATH RECORDS IN THE COURT HOUSE AND COMPARING INFORMATION FROM ALL OTHER AREA CEMETERIES WE ARE REASONABLY SURE THAT THERE WERE 55 PEOPLE BURIED IN THIS CEMETARY. C.J. BLATT WAS MOVED LEAVING 68 (POSSIBLY MORE) THERE. THE CEMETERY IS NOW A DENSE WOODS COVERED WITH TALL TREES, MUCH UNDER BRUSH AND ALOT OF POISON IVY. ONE TOMB STONE REMAINS, THAT OF GEORGE DIMENT JAN \_\_ 1883.

WHEN ALOY KORKOWSKI WAS A YOUNG BOY OVER 60 YEARS AGO HIS FATHER FRANK KORKOWSKI SR. TOOK HIM TO AN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND BETWEEN LITTLE CHIPPEWA AND BAUMBACK LAKES. THERE WERE OVER 50 INDIAN MOUNDS WHICH HAVE LONG AGO SUNK AND ARE NOW COVERED OVER WITH WILD GROWTH.

FRANK GOERING TELLS US THAT WHEN HIS FATHER ANDREW GOERING AND JOHN KOST DROVE CATTLE FROM RICHMOND MINNESOTA ALONG THE RED RIVER TRAIL THROUGH FORT CHIPPEWA, THROUGH THE DAKOTAS AND UP TO WINNEPEG CANADA AND THEN RETURNED HOME WITH SUPPLIES THEY WOULD ALWAYS STOP OFF AT FORT CHIPPEWA. THE TRIP ALWAYS TOOK ABOUT THREE MONTHS. ANDREW GOERING LATER LIVED OUT HIS RETIREMENT YEARS IN BRANDON.

ELDA SLETTO REMEMBERS HER GRANDMOTHER MRS. NELS CHRISTENSEN TELLING THAT THE INDIANS WOULD COME TO HER HOUSE TO TRADE FRESHLY SHOT DUCKS FOR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD. THE INDIANS LIKED THE WHITE MAKS BREAD BECAUSE IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM THEIR OWN. THE INDIANS BREAD WAS MADE OF GRAINS AND CORN WHICH WERE STONE GROUND. THEN IT WAS BAKED ON TOP OF HOT STONES.

GRACE KORKOWSKI REMEMBERS THAT HER MOTHER CLARA LAMBERTZ WENT TO SCHOOL IN DISTRICT 34 IN MILLERVILLE IN 1906. THIS WAS NEXT TO THE PRESENT LEGION HALL IN MILLERVILLE. THE INDIANS USED TO SET UP THEIR TIPS IN THE SCHOOL YARD WHERE THEY WOULD SELL THEIR HERBS AND MEDICINES AND OTHER THINGS TO THE WHITE SETTLERS.

HELEN CICHY STILL HAS IN HER HOME AND USES A WILLOW FLOWER STAND WHICH HER MOTHER MARY JOOS TRADED FROM THE INDIANS FOR FRESH BREAD. MARY JOOS LIVED NEAR TO MILLERVILLE AT THE TIME. HELEN CICHY'S PARENTS WERE PAUL AND MARGARET CICHY. DOUBLE CHECK THIS. MARGARET WAS ONE OF THREE CHILDREN WHO CAME WITH HER PARENTS IN A COVERED WAGON AND SETTLED ON THE SHORES OF LAKE GEORGE WHICH IS NORTH OF MILLERVILLE ON THE URBANK ROAD. HER FATHER JOHN ARKEN STARTED TO BUILD A CABIN BUT WINTER CAME ON TOO FAST. THEY PULLED THE WAGON INTO THE CENTER OF THE STARTED CABIN, TOOK THE WHEELS OFF THE WAGON AND LIVED IN THE COVERED WAGON FOR THE FIRST WINTER. JOHN DUG A GREAT HOLE IN THE CENTER OF THE STARTED CABIN. HE PUT LARGE TREE STUMPS IN THE HOLE AND STARTED A FIRE AND LET IT BURN DOWN TO JUST HOT COALS. HE KEPT THESE LIVE COALS BANKED ALL WINTER. THE INDIANS CAME MANY TIMES DURING THAT WINTER TO GET LIVE COALS FROM JOHN. MATCHES WERE VERY EXPENSIVE IN THOSE DAYS AT FIVE CENTS EACH. THE INDIAN WOMEN HELPED JOHN AND HIS FAMILY OUT THAT FIRST WINTER BY SHARING THE HERBS AND MEDICINES TO KEEP THE FAMILY WELL. THEY ALSO LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER AND TRADED ALOT OF INFORMATION.

CLIFF LUNDS UNCLE BILL PETERSON, SON OF JACOB AND JOHANNA LIVED IN IDA TOWNSHIP CLOSE TO THE ERICKSONS. WHEN HE WAS 6 OR 7 YEARS OLD HE LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER. EVERYDAY THE INDIANS WOULD COME TO GET THE BOY. THE MOTHER DID NOT KNOW WHAT SHE COULD DO EXCEPT LET HIM GO. THE INDIANS WOULD TAKE BILL FISHING ALL DAY AND RETURN HIM HOME IN THE EVENING. EACH DAY WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY WOULD WANT TO TRADE FISH WITH HIS MOTHER FOR BREAD OR MEAT. THEY WERE GOOD TO BILL AND TAUGHT HIM TO BE A GOOD FISHERMAN. HE LEARNED TO FISH ACCORDING TO THE WEEDS AND THE WAY THE WIND WAS BLOWING.

ERIC AND HILDA ERICKSON LIVED FOR MANY YEARS ON THE SOUTH END OF BIG CHIPPEWA LAKE. THEY FARMED AND OVER THE YEARS THEY FOUND ALOT OF POTTERY, ARROW HEADS ETC. WHEN THEY MOVED OFF THE FARM THEY SOLD OR GAVE AWAY MOST OF THE THINGS THAT THEY HAD FOUND. HILDA DID SAVE HER FAVORITE SPEAR HEAD WHICH SHE HAD MADE INTO A NECKLACE AND STILL WEARS UNTIL THIS DAY. THE MN. STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST HAS THIS AREA LISTED AS PREHISTORIC WHICH MEANS THAT THE ARTIFACTS FOUND THERE WERE FROM A

PERIOD OF 1000 B.C.

WHEN THE BRANDON CAR WASH WAS BUILT IN 1969 A LARGE INDIAN STONE HAMMER WAS FOUND.

MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN BRANDON RIGHT NOW ARE THE DIRECT DECENDANTS OF THE VERY FIRST WHITE SETTLERS. IT IS HARD FOR US TO IMAGINE THAT JUST TWO OR THREE GENERATIONS AGO THIS VERY LAND WAS COMPLETELY WOODED LAND AND BEAUTIFUL LAKES, THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE INDIANS. AS THE WHITE SETTLERS MOVED IN AND CLEARED THE LAND FOR THEIR HOMES AND FIELDS THE GRADUAL CHANGE BEGAN. EVEN AS LITTLE OF FORTY YEARS AGO YOU COULD STILL DRIVE ON MOST COUNTRY ROADS AND HAVE AN ARCH OF TREES OVER YOU. NOW EVEN THAT IS HARD TO REMEMBER.

FRANCIS BRENNON WAS PRESENT WHEN CHRIS J. BLATT WAS DUG UP AND MOVED FROM EDGEFIELD CEMETARY TO THE BRANDON CEMETARY. JOHN KNUDSON WAS A VETERAN IN CHARGE AT THAT TIME AND HE KNEW THAT CHRIS J. BLATT WAS A U.S. MARINE. SO TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES, THEY MOVED HIM. ALOY KORKOWSKI SAYS THAT JAKE SCHECKER SHOT CHRIS BLATT WHILE HE WAS IN A FIELD ON HIS MOWER. HE WAS SHOT OVER A LAND DISPUTE CONCERNING THE LAND NOW OWNED BY BEN WAGNER. HENRY SCHECKER TOOK THE BLAME FOR THE MURDER. HE DID THIS BECAUSE HENRY ONLY HAD ONE ARM AND IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO WORK. THIS WAY THE STRONG BROTHER COULD CONTINUE TO WORK. HENRY TRIED TO BOARD A MOVING TRAIN AND LOST HIS LEFT ARM. HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN STILLWATER PRISON BUT GOT OFF IN 8 YEARS. THE BROTHERS NAMES CAN BE FOUND IN BERNIE KORKOWSKI'S ABSTRACT. IN THE DOUGLAS COUNTY DEATH RECORDS CHRIS J. BLATT IS LISTED AS BURIED IN MILLERVILLE, BUT WE KNOW HE WAS BURIED IN EDGEFIELD CEMETARY BECAUSE HE WAS DUG UP FROM THERE AND MOVED TO BRANDON.

WILLIAM DITTBERNER'S FROM GARFIELD GRANDFATHER LIVED IN ALEXANDRIA FORT. BORN 1904. BIG BATTLE THERE WAS ON LAND WHERE BLAKE BY THE LAKES IS NOW.

HILLARD NELSON SAYS THAT IN ABOUT 1850 THERE USED TO BE A FUR TRADER WHO HAD HIS CABIN ON THE LOCATION THAT HILLARD AND DELORES NELSON NOW HAVE THEIR HOUSE. WHEN HILLARD'S MOTHER, LENA HOPLIN CAME HERE IN 1880 SHE SAW WHAT WAS LEFT OF THIS TRADERS CABIN AFTER HE WAS BURNED OUT.

\* MATH & HULDA MATHISON USED TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT KATIE WAGNER HOME. MATH'S FATHER TOLD THE JULSETH'S FATHER THAT HE COULD REMEMBER SEEING MANY DEAD INDIANS WITH ARROWS STUCK IN THEM ON THE FIRST CATTLE CROSSING GOING INTO CHIPPEWA PARK. THEIR SON FRED REMEMBERS WHEN HE WAS A CHILD THAT THE CREEK THAT RUNS BETWEEN DEVILS AND BIG CHIPPEWA LAKES WAS REALLY A SMALL RIVER. THE SURROUNDING GROUND WAS MUDDY. THE INDIANS WOULD HERD BUFFALO INTO THE DEEP MUD AND SLAUGHTER THEM. WHEN HE WAS A KID THE CREEK HAD RECEDED AND THE ADJACENT LAND WAS LITTERALLY COVERED BY HUNDREDS OF BUFFALO BONES. FRED ALWAYS HAD A BUFFALO SKULL FASTENED TO THE TRUNK OF THE TREE IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSE. FRED REMEMBERS HIS MOTHER TELLING ABOUT WHEN SHE LIVED IN GARFIELD ON THE RED RIVER TRAIL. SHE SAID THERE WAS AN ENDLESS STREAM OF COVERED WAGONS GOING WEST, AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. MOST HAD TWO COWS TIED TO THE BACK OF THE WAGON. THESE WERE PIONEERS WHO WERE GOING TO HOMESTEAD IN MINNESOTA AND THE DAKOTAS AND

*I am still trying to get more information on this from the Julseth's.*

THE TRAIL WENT ALL THE WAY TO CANADA. SHE SAID THAT INDIANS STOPPED AT THEIR HOUSE ASKING FOR FOOD AND THEY WERE VERY POLITE AND NEVER MADE ANY TROUBLE.

THE RED RIVER TRAIL THAT HULDA MATHISON SPEEKS OF IS THE GREAT RED RIVER TRAIL WHICH C AME FROM FT. SNELLING IN ST. PAUL, THROUGH ST. CLOUD, ALONG THE SAUK RIVER, FROM GARFIELD, BETWEEN WHISKEY AND BIG CHIPPEWA LAKES, PAST DEVILS, AND LITTLE CHIPPEWA LAKE AND THEN TURNING AND GOING OVER THE HUNT LAKE BRIDGE, ON THE EVANSVILLE.

THE DROUGHT IN THE DAKOTAS IS WHAT BROUGHT THE BUFFALO TO THIS AREA AND THE SOUIX INDIANS FOLLOWED THE BUFFALO. WHEN THE BUFFALO WERE DRIVEN INTO THE MUD AND GOT STUCK, THE INDIANS WOULD NOT GET THE BUFFALO OUT. THEY WOULD JUST GO OVER AND CUT OUT A HIND QUARTER OF MEAT FOR THEIR FAMLIES IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND LET THE REST OF THE ANIMAL STUCK IN THE MUD.

ALOY KORKOWSKI TELLS THAT HIS FATHER USED TO SEE THE INDIANS CARRY THEIR CANOES ON THEIR SHOULDERS THROUGH THE PASTURE. THEY WOULD COME FROM BAUMBACH AND HUNT LAKE, WALK ACROSS THE PASTURE AND THEN GO INTO MUD LAKE WHICH WAS THEN CONNECTED TO LAKE MOSES. THIS COVERED A GOOD PORTION OF SECTION 33 AND 28 IN MILLERVILLE TOWNSHIP. THEN THE COUNTY DITCH WAS PUT IN PLACE IN 1900 AND DRAINED MUD LAKE INTO HUNT LAKE. UNTIL THIS VERY DAY YOU CAN STILL SEE THE SHORE LINE OF THIS ONCE INDIAN TRAVELED LAKE. FRANK AND CECELIA KORKOWSKI-ALOY KORKOWSKI DEED HAS THIS INFORMATION ON IT. FOR MANY YEARS WHEN THIS LAND WAS TURNED INTO FIELD THERE WERE SEA SHELLS FOUND CONTINOUSLY.

GENE OR AUGUST OWN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND???

OLD HOTEL WAS WHERE SHED BLEW DOWN 1945??? WAS IT LOG OR RUFF CUT LUMBER?

HILLARD NELSON'S DAY, HANS NELSON WALKED TO ALEX AND WORKED FOR THE RAILROAD IN 1881. HE WAS THE FIREMAN AND WOULD FIRE THE ENGINE TO ST. CLOUD AND THEN BACK AGAIN. LILA BERG WOULD HAVE THE NAME OF THE RAILROAD AT THAT TIME???

FRANCIS BRENNON LIVED ON THE NOW MORRIS WILSON LAND WHEN HE WAS A BOY. HE PLAYED ON EDGEFIELD CEMETARY AS A BOY. FRANCIS FOUND A TOMAHAWK ON THE CEMETARY AND GAVE IT TO HARLAN JOHNSON OF GARFIELD. FRANCIS ALSO FOULD A SOLID STEEL CANON BALL ON THE CEMETARY WHICH HE FELT MUST HAVE COME FROM THE BATTLE AT FORT CHIPPEWA. FRANCIS ALSO REMEMBERS A STRUCTURE ON THE CEMETARY GROUNDS SUCH AS A STORAGE SHED FOR THE CARETAKER . FRANCIS REMEMBERS THE HOTEL STANDING N W OF THE PRESENT LUND FARM PLACE. FRANCIS' MOTHER ROSE ALSO MADE BREAD FOR THE INDIANS.

THE HUNT LAKE BRIDGE WAS ONCE A WOODEN BRIDGE. IN A BOUT 1937 THE WPA MADE THE PRESENTLY USED CEMENT BRIDGE AND DAMM. DURING THE COURSE OF THIS CONSTRUCTION THEY FOUND A COMPLETE WAGON FULL OF IRON BARS WHICH HAD BEEN SUNK IN THE MUD. THE ONLY EXPLAINATION THAT THEY COULD COME UP WITH WAS THAT THE LEAD BARS WERE HEADED FOR THE FORT AND WERE MEANT TO BE USED IN THE MAKING OF LEAD BULLETS.



DURING THE DRY YEARS MANY BUFFALO SKELETONS WERE ALSO FOUND ON THE DRIED UP SHORES OF HUNT LAKE.

JAMES PIPO REMEMBERS MANY THINGS THAT HIS GRANDPA JOHAN PIPO TOLD ABOUT LIVING WITH THE INDIANS IN 1866. THE FIRST WINTER THAT GRANDPA PIPO SPENT HERE BY CROOKED LAKE HE LIVED IN A DUG OUT BEAR HOLE IN THE SIDE OF A HILL. HE SAID THE INDIANS WERE VERY GOOD TO GET ALONG WITH AND EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD NOT SPEAK TO EACH OTHER THE INDIANS WERE VERY GOOD AT SIGN LANGUAGE. THEY WERE BOTH FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL. THERE WERE ABOUT 250 TO 300 INDIANS LIVING AROUND ROUND LAKE AND CROOKED LAKE. HE SAID THERE WAS ALWAYS ONE INDIAN THAT LIVED ALONE A WAYS AWAY FROM THE REST, LIKE HE WAS THE LOOK-OUT. INDIANS DID NOT LIKE TO GO OUT AT NIGHT AND THEY WERE AFRAID OF THE WOLVES. WHEN THEY HAD TO GO OUT AT NIGHT THEY WOULD ALWAYS DRAG A BIG PIECE OF BRUSH BEHIND THEMSELVES AS THEY WALKED. THIS WAY IF A MAN OR A WOLF TRIED TO GET HIM FROM BEHIND, THEY WOULD FIRST STEP ON THE BRUSH AND THE INDIAN WOULD HAVE SOME WARNING.

IN THE EARLY YEARS GRANDPA PIPO TRAPPED MUSKRATS FOR THE FURS. THAT WAS HIS MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME. THE INDIAN WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THE FURS BUT ALWAYS WANTED THE MEAT THAT HE SKINED OUT. IN JULY 1915 THE GOVERNMENT OFFERED BOUNTY ON WOLVES. GRANDPA KILLED 200-300 WOLVES EACH YEAR. HE USED THE MONEY TO SEND FOR MORE FINISH PEOPLE TO COME OVER TO AMERICA.

WHEN THE U S CALVARY FIRST CAME GRANDPA SHOT 16 ELK SOUTH OF KENSINGTON SO THE SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE MEAT TO EAT.

BY ROUND LAKE AND CROOKED LAKE THERE WERE MOSTLY FINLANDER IMIGRANTS. THEY ALL GOT ALONG WITH THE INDIANS VERY WELL UNTIL THE CALVARY CAME WITH THE PURPOSE OF DRIVING THE INDIANS OUT. GRANDPA PIPO WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE WAY THE INDIANS WERE TREATED. THE US CALVARY WOULD CHARGE THROUGH THE INDIAN VILLAGES WITH THEIR HORSES AND TRAMPLE ALL THE TENTS WITH THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN INSIDE OF THEM. AFTER THIS HAPPENED TO ENOUGH INDIANS, THEY BEGAN TO FIGHT BACK AND THAT IS WHEN THE INDIANS STARTED TO BURN DOWN SETTLERS HOUSES. JOHAN PIPO WORKED AS A CARPENTER IN ALEXANDRIA WHEN IT FIRST STARTED TO BUILD UP. ONE DAY WHEN HE RETURNED HOME THE INDIANS HAD BURNED DOWN HIS LOG HOUSE BARN AND GRAINERY. GRADUALLY AFTER THAT THE INDIANS WERE DRIVEN OUT AND MOST OF THEM ENDED UP IN SISSITON S. DAK.

YEARS LATER JAMES AND HAMIE PIPO STARTED THE CROOKED LAKE CAMP GROUNDS. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE LARGE INDIANS MOUNDS AT THAT TIME. THEY LEVELED OUT TWO OF THEM BUT SAVED ONE FOR OLD TIMES SAKE. JAMES HAS ONE WHITE ARROW HEAD BUT THAT WAS ALL THAT HE SAVED.

\* THE FINISH APOSTOLATE CHURCH WAS STARTED IN 1877 IN MOE TOWNSHIP. AT THAT TIME PEOPLE WERE BURIED IN WOODEN BOXES AND THEY WERE LAID NORTH AND SOUTH IN THE CEMETARY. THAT IS THE OPPISITE OF WHAT IS DONE NOW. THIS WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE THE CASE IN EDGEFIELD CEMETARY.

RUDY GUENTHER SAYS THAT HE CAN REMEMBER THE OLD HOTEL STILL STANDING IN CHIPPEWA ( OLD BRANDON). HE HAS FOUND INDIAN HAMMERS ON HIS LAND. HIS LAND WAS MOSTLY BRUSH WHEN HE CAME. DID'T HAVE MANY TREES TO GRUB OUT. HE REMEMBERS JIM LANDA WHO USED TO VISIT THE INDIANS AT THE

\* (Even great grandpa Ole Holstad who died in 1872 was buried north to south on Martin Olson farm NW 1/4 Sec 4 West Union twp) (A.G.L.)

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CREEK BETWEEN DEVILS LAKE AND LITTLE CHIPPEWA. THEY WOULD EAT MUSKRAT MEAT TOGETHER. IF YOU WOULD EAT WITH THE INDIANS THAT WAS MUCH LIKE SMOKING THE PEACE PIPE. IT MEANT THAT YOU WERE FRIENDS. HE ESTIMATES THAT THIS TOOK PLACE IN ABOUT THE YEAR 1880.

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On the petition of the settlers of that territory, the county board on Sept. 3, 1867, established Chippewa township. It originally comprised what is now Brandon, Millerville, Lund and Evansville townships. The first meeting of officers was held at the home of Geo. A. Freundrich on Sept. 28, 1867, and settlers elected their own slate of officers.

In this territory, Henry Gager is the first settler. The territory and township was named after the Indian name and the river of the same name, however, this was very soon changed to Brandon; this name was picked as the same name of the birthplace in Vermont of Sen. Stephan A. Douglas, so revered by Minnesota for his help in establishing the Minnesota Territory and state.

The first settlement was on the high hill bank overlooking Lake Chippewa. A frontier village was established. However, when the railroad came through later, the settlement was moved two miles south by the railroad engineer Sewell and immediately the present townsite of Brandon sprang up. Some who had a part in the early building of Brandon Village as now were Mary Griffin, Martin Stowe and Halvor Engemoen.

The first site of the original settlement of Chippewa is historic. It was a station on the old Fort Abercrombie stage and mail line. It was in this immediate vicinity that an old Indian village was maintained. Many articles of Indians lore is still picked up as the soil is turned over. It was truly Indian country.

Some of the early settlers other than above mentioned include John J. Nichols 1862, Fletcher Thom 1862, John Simon 1862, Ole Thompson 1861, Hans A. Strom 1863, Halvor Rasmussen 1863, Martin Stowe 1862, Elijah Sandford 1860, Mathilda McIntosh 1862, George Ward 1865, A. A. Noble 1862, Andrew Holes 1862, Hagen Holing 1865, John Sundblad 1865, Lars Nilson 1863, Job Smith 1866, L. Fletcher 1862, Ingebret Peterson 1863, John Nelson 1865, and many others. See what an influx of settlers there was in this county in the "Sixties." They truly were the sturdy pioneers.