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THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY AND ITS EMPLOYEES IN MICHIGAN 1814-1851  
WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WALTER DRAKE, U. S. FARMER in Grand Traverse Area

Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
in Cooperation with Michigan Week, May 20, 1964

by Helen Wallin, President

OUR FATHER, we are not very wise, but we have eyes to see the good way.  
WE SHAKE HANDS WITH YOU IN OUR HEART. We are your friends and obedient  
children. Message written by Penashe and the Kenewais from the Little  
Rapids, Sault Ste. Marie, July 20, 1842 to Robert Stuart, Superintendent  
Indian Office, Detroit by Rev. W. H. Brockway.

This copy reserved for Mrs. Esther Loughlin, in Charge of the Michigan  
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THE INFORMATION & EDUCATION SECTION OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION for their kind indulgence during my year as President of the

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING  
1963-1964

Mrs. Helen Wallin, President

. . . ABOUT THE AUTHOR. . .

MRS. HELEN WALLIN, PRESIDENT OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING 1963-64--is a native of Owosso, Michigan. For the past ten years she has been public information specialist with the Information & Education Section of the Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing. Her state service has included work with the Western Michigan Division Laboratories of the Michigan Department of Health, Grand Rapids, beginning in 1929; the Planning Commission and the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing.

Previous to State employment she worked on the Owosso Argus Press, the Lansing Capital News and the Lansing State Journal. She is affiliated with the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, serving as editor of TOWN CRIER for several years; she is a member of the genealogical societies of New York, Detroit, and Flint and a contributor to MICHIGAN HERITAGE, published by Dr. Ethel Williams, Kalamazoo.

Mrs. Wallin has a son, Charles Curtis Wallin, III, who is married and resides in East Lansing.

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THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY IN MICHIGAN 1814-1851

Its Employees, with special emphasis on Walter Drake, Grand Traverse Area

The Annual Report of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING, May 20, 1964

By President, Helen Wallin

I welcome you to this, our celebration of Michigan Week and the annual meeting of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING, in the friendly greeting of the Indian Chiefs to the White men used in the Territorial days of the state--I SHAKE HANDS WITH YOU IN MY HEART.<sup>1</sup>

The subject is the organization of the Superintendency of the Indian Agency in Michigan 1814-1851 in general and the story of a United States Farmer--Walter Drake--appointed April 8, 1844, as instructor to the Indians in the art of agriculture to the Ottawa Indians of the Grand Traverse Area.

These records were read, primarily from microfilms of the original letters, records and reports of the persons employed by the Michigan Indian Agency and are on file in the National Archives in Washington, with microfilm copies at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. There are 71 volumes of film involved. They were written by hand--some faded, words lost in the folds, pages missing, showing signs of being rain-soaked--all giving evidence of the hardships endured by the messengers who carried them from the Territorial outposts to the main agency at Detroit. Eventually they were sent to the War Department in Washington where they have been kept as a permanent record.

Letters and reports were to and from Lewis Cass, Henry Schoolcraft, and Robert Stuart and other superintendents of the agency as well as all the employees of the superintendency, and to and from the War Department in Washington.

American settlement of Michigan began with the arrival of the territorial officials headed by General William Hull, who was appointed Territorial Governor and arrived in Detroit shortly after the fire of 1805 which completely destroyed the City. The War of 1812 brought further disaster upon the City and it was surrendered August 16, 1812 to the British.

Lewis Cass who headed the Ohio Militia which was sent to the port of Detroit in June of 1812, conducted the war through defeat and ultimate victory and his service was recognized by his appointment as Governor of the Territory October 29, 1813.<sup>2</sup>

The situation required a government agent with a great deal of patience and tact and one who thoroughly understood the Indian character and who should have a genuine and sympathetic interest. Lewis Cass possessed these qualifications in a marked degree, and in his capacity as Indian Agent as well as Territorial Governor, he rendered exceptional service to the state in negotiating the treaties with the Indians to make the settlement of the state possible.

#### EXTENT OF AREA UNDER GOVERNOR CASS

In describing Michigan at this time, Governor Cass said:<sup>3</sup> "Our population extends from the Mouth of the Maumee to Fort Gratiot a distance of 150 miles and this population is not yet 8,000. Our friends are at a distance and our enemies near. The country is severed by swamps and lakes from the inhabited part of the Union to which it must look for aid. A morass known by the name of the black swamp is unequalled in any part of the republic in degree and extent, and through which is the only approach by land.

"Our remote military positions at Michilimackinac, Green Bay, Chicago and Prairie du Chien are highly important. They guard the principal avenues of commerce to the interior of our western World . . . they are insulated

points in the heart of the country."<sup>4</sup>

The only way to get to these outposts was by boat and these remote frontiers were cut off six months or more of the year when winter made navigation impossible.

"During the whole period of the war & for more than two years succeeding its termination, the Territory of Michigan was in a state of absolute exhaustion. The events were at first so disastrous, and the contest for the possession of the Country was so long and severe, that its resources were soon destroyed. Its reduced population, totally inadequate to the production of their own supplies, were dispirited and their exertions paralyzed by the insecurity of the situation & by the atrocious scenes, of which they were the daily witnesses. Under these circumstances, it can excite no surprize to learn, that every article of life was dearer than in any section of the United States. The most extravagant (prices) were asked & given."<sup>5</sup>

In speaking of the Indian population, Governor Cass said, "From the Atlantick the immense tide of our population has rolled steadily and irresistibly to the west, sweeping before it the feeble remains of a wretched people. In every position where reservations have enabled them to resist the pressure upon them, their population has decreased or disappeared, their moral and physical condition has become worse, and those distinctive traits which had given energy and respect to the savage character, have been blotted from their escutcheons . . . the law of nature upon the subject is invariable and irresistible."<sup>6</sup>

Reporting on Detroit for the years 1814, 1815, and 1816, Cass said the Detroit was Indian Headquarters and that "all the eyes of the Indians North of the Ohio and East of the Mississippi were fixed upon it. Al who could come--men, women and children, remained as near there as the circum-

stances and times permitted."<sup>7</sup>

He estimated the average daily number of Indians in the City did not fall short of 400. The principle men must be invited to his table--an attention they had always received from the British authorities as well as our own and the expense was almost more than he could bear. His family had been driven from one extremity of the house to the other by them.<sup>8</sup>

Money for public expenditure of the Department was procured by him from the interior of the country (probably Chillicothe, Ohio, as a land office was located there at the time). It was brought through dangerous and exposed frontier--more than \$200,000 was expended by him in the three year period of which he was writing and he was greatly concerned of his possible ruin because there was no insurance against loss of these large amounts of money.<sup>9</sup>

The Indians were aware that the United States would be in possession of their country at no distant future and saw that the White settlements were fast gaining upon them. They began to feel the necessity of making permanent provisions for themselves and children and reservations were becoming desirable to them. Governor Cass hoped this would constitute a corner stone to their improvement.<sup>10</sup>

With the opening up of the Territory, the government was faced with the problem of extinguishing the Indian titles to the land, and military protection for settlers, so that one of the first duties of Governor Cass was to begin the surveys of the state, starting with Detroit. There had been a land office established in 1804 and another in 1818 under Cass. By 1821, more than 2½ million acres had been surveyed and by 1836, land offices had been established in Monroe (1823), White Pigeon (1831), Kalamazoo (1834) and Flint and Ionia (1836).<sup>11</sup>

Treaties held in connection with the buying of the lands from the Indians were held by Cass and other governmental officials. These records contained letters regarding the preparation for them which took many months. Instructions came from the War Department; invitations were sent to the Chiefs involved, presents, gifts and payments were ordered and the place of delivery established. Rations for food were obtained and delivery planned. The place of the treaty agreed upon and eventually Government officials and Indians proceeded to the treaty grounds. An example of the cost of a treaty is shown by the cost of the Treaty of Chicago which was \$20,000.00.

#### ANNUITIES

Annuities were the outcome of these treaties and were paid at specified places throughout the state, usually in September. These were paid in silver as the payments were distributed per capita and it was simpler for the Chiefs who received the whole amount, to make the distribution to their people.

#### CENSUS

Prior to the annuity payment a census was taken of all Indians present as the total number was used as the divisor.

Gifts and presents were reserved only for the Chiefs and Indians who had performed some unusual service for the government. Salt was also used as annuity payment along with goods such as blankets, guns, pots and pans, kettles, yard goods, bridles and other items useful to them.

#### LOCATION OF AGENCIES

Agencies, at the height of the administration of the Michigan Superintendency, were located at Detroit, Piqua, Ohio; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Chicago, Illinois; Sault Ste. Marie; Upper Sandusky, Saginaw and Mackinac Island. Boundaries were definitely defined and agents were responsible for their own area.



## AGENTS PREVIOUS TO CASS ADMINISTRATION

Speaking of the duties of the interpreters and agents, Cass said, "It is at best a slavish and laborious life, surrounded by drunken and naked and hungry Indians, the execution of their duties is always attended with labour and difficulty and frequently with danger."<sup>12</sup>

The men already employed as agents and interpreters before Governor Cass was appointed, were John Johnson,<sup>13</sup> at Piqua; Whitemore Knaggs,<sup>14</sup> appointed in 1809, as sub agent and interpreter to the Ottawas and Chippewas of the Saginaw area, and Gabriel Godfroy,<sup>15</sup> sub agent assigned to the Potawatomes.

After Cass was appointed he immediately hired Charles Larned as his clerk, interpreter from French to English as well as keeper of accounts, to superintend issue of presents, to council chiefs and warriors and issue provisions and carry on correspondence.<sup>16</sup>

Robert Forsyth was appointed sub agent for Detroit and was to aid in the various duties incident to official interviews with the Indians.<sup>17</sup>

John Kinzie, a veteran of the War of 1812, and who could speak Potawatome and understand Ottawa and Chippewa was appointed to St. Josephs and Chicago and B. F. Stickney was appointed to Sandusky.<sup>18</sup>

In speaking of these men, Cass said, "Only their knowledge of the Indians and the Indian languages would render them competent to conduct advantageously every branch of the trade . . . These are the kind of men through whom all the business of the treaties are conducted and it is their influence and knowledge of the Indian character which has insured success to any treaty heretofore held with the Indians of the North West."<sup>19</sup>

In all there were 22 interpreters, messengers and surveyors by June 11, the second year of his administration. He also employed an armourer to repair

the arms of the Indians and the immense number of public arms "lying injured and useless." He employed messengers to send to the different parts of the country as needed.<sup>20</sup>

Eventually gunsmiths and blacksmiths were employed at the various agencies to mend guns and household articles and fishing and hunting gear of the Indians. Carpenters were employed to help them build houses and simple furniture and farmers to teach them the art of agriculture.

All employees were paid quarterly and duties were listed at great length for each branch of the service. The reason for dismissal was included which was: "any person in the Department deficient in zeal, courtesy or fidelity." Governor Cass figured that two-thirds of his time as Territorial Governor was consumed in work as Superintendent of the Michigan Indian Affairs.

One of the duties of the agents and sub agents was to grant licenses to traders and they were responsible for their behavior among the Indians.

#### MISSIONARIES

The first missionaries in Michigan were the Catholics in the 1600's but these records of the 1800's, in addition to Catholic missions, records the work of the protestant missions. They requested and were granted permission to send missionaries and teachers among the Indians. Presbyterian, Congregationalist, Quaker and Moravian reports are among them, as well as the Catholic reports, many written in French.

It was interesting to note that in one report from an agency employee, John M. Johnson, he considered "the merchants and missionaries were pretty much alike,"<sup>22</sup> one bartering for trade and the other for souls.

The Indians were consulted as to preference of denomination and a certain portion of their annuities were set aside for missions and schools.

## GAME RESOURCES DWINDLING

In speaking of the resources in his report for 1821, Governor Cass said that, "game was abundant and even until within a few years immense herds of Buffaloes had traversed the whole country west of the Alleghany mountains, but that now<sup>24</sup> the animals whose flesh was used for food and whose fur was valuable for market were now sparingly scattered through the uncultivated country.

"Hunting had almost ceased to be an amusement and had become a laborious occupation. Days were spent by the hunter without anything to repay his exertions. And yet with a fatuity and improvidence difficult to be believed and impossible to be accounted for, they (the Indians) made little provision in a time of abundance for a time of scarcity. No vegetable food was raised along the whole coast of Lake Superior to the heads of the Mississippi thence to the Falls of St. Anthony and even in more favourable districts, where corn was planted the quantity was so small and the cultivation so bad, that the product was of little importance . . . that a scanty and precarious supply was furnished by the chase, and by fishing, and when these failed, as they often did, the Indians resorted to roots and bark."<sup>25</sup>

"An application of a small portion of the national resources to the assistance of these wretched people is equally in consonance with the dictates of policy and humanity," was requested by Governor Cass.<sup>26</sup>

"The reputation of our Country too is embarked with the question. Our whole course is observed with the most jealous scrutiny and happy is he who can detect a fault in the administration of our government. Fortunate will it be for ourselves and for the result of the great experiment, which is committed to our charge, if in the splendid career, which is open before us, we do not sacrifice important and permanent interests to local and monetary

consideration. If we do not weigh temporary expedients against high and advanced feelings and national character."<sup>27</sup>

#### HENRY SCHOOLCRAFT REPLACES LEWIS CASS

Lewis Cass resigned as Superintendent of Michigan Indian Affairs in 1831 to accept appointment as Secretary of War. He was replaced by Henry Schoolcraft, who was agent at Sault Ste. Marie, since 1822. Schoolcraft immediately moved to Mackinac Island and the Sault Agency was taken over by another agent. The major portion of the work was then carried on at the Mackinac Island Agency with winter quarters at Detroit.<sup>28</sup>

Schoolcraft inherited a splendid organization and with his great interest in the tribes, their language, folk lore, and customs, he wrote about them at great length. His reports are the most interesting and informative of the entire collection.

Even though the reports covered all the agencies in Michigan, for the purpose of this talk, we are limiting it to the Grand Traverse Area, which will be taken as an example of the work done for the Indians at this time.

#### GRAND TRAVERSE BAY

Grand Traverse Bay came under the jurisdiction of the Mackinac Island Agency. Speaking of the Indians of the area, Schoolcraft said, "These Indians--the Ottawas--were more advanced in agriculture than any of the other tribes. They cultivated corn, beans, pumpkins, to some extent had fenced fields and lived generally in comfortable log houses. They made considerable maple sugar which with a limited corn crop, sold in the Mackinac market . . . They had neglected the chase for which the country indeed at that time afforded but little inducement."<sup>29</sup>

The Chippewas cultivated corn and potatoes to a limited extent, but devoted most of their time in quest of food in the chase or in fishing,

manufactured sugar from the rock maple. The tribe exhibited no general improvement or advance in civilization, were warlike, indolent, and impoverished, with a few exceptions, living in mat or bark lodges, which they transported in their migration.<sup>30</sup>

#### LOCATION AND POPULATION OF THE TRIBES

"Both tribes occupied large portions of the margins of Lakes Huron and Michigan which was opening to settlement and commerce was extending itself into the region and causes are in active operation, which in a few years, will render it impossible for these tribes to maintain their positions within the limits of the peninsula.

"The benefits of their annuities are fully appreciated by them . . . and will enable them to get through their several seasons with less suffering than they would otherwise encounter. Their reservations will expire in 1841, four years from the time of this report, after which they possess no further right to the land. Insobriety prevails among them generally and is a bar to the right use of their annuities and to any hope of their permanent advance in civilization."<sup>32</sup>

Schoolcraft listed his employees at this time and the number was quite smaller to Governor Cass' list. However, boatmen were added and two physicians and a keeper of an Indian Dormitory at Mackinac Island.<sup>33</sup>

His reports were in great detail and he indicated he had enclosed maps, showing locations of the bands, their numbers and course and distance from Detroit, sites of the agencies, schools and farming establishments and reserves, the estimated areas of recent purchases from the Ottawas and Chippewas and the census. However, they were not to be found in this record group.

Schoolcraft felt the removal of the tribes to the West was in his words,

"the part of wisdom in the Indians and justice in the government."

Many tribes from the Detroit area had already been removed West to protect them from the evils of the White men and civilization.

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#### MICHILIMACKINAC OR MACKINAC ISLAND, MECCA FOR WRITERS

Schoolcraft, a writer himself, has left some of the finest records we have of the Michigan Superintendency of the Indian Affairs. Writers and artists of the times gravitated to the Island and were entertained there by the Schoolcrafts. In a book, Historic Mackinac, by Edward O. Wood, L.L.D., 1913, we find listed some of the writers of that early period.

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One of the first mentioned was Elizabeth Therese Baird whose story of her early days on the Island 1814-21, are preserved in the Wisconsin Historical Collections.<sup>36</sup> Her father worked for the American Fur Company and her mother was daughter of Chief Kewinaquot, an Ottawa Chief.

Thomas L. McKenney's "Sketches of the Tour of the Lakes", 1826, were based on the expeditions and tours he made with Governor Cass to make treaties with the Indians.

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Reverend Calvin Colton, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, wrote "Tour of the American Lakes," and Dr. Gilman's "Life on the Lakes" was written in 1835.

Harriett Martineaux of Norwich, England, wrote "Society in America," and it was published in Paris in 1837. Mrs. Jameson of Toronto Canada, wrote "Studies and Summer Rambles," in 1837 and a second edition in 1852, was entitled "Sketches in Canada and Rambles Among the Red Men."

Governor Cass and his daughter visited the Island in 1837 and encouraged the study and preservation of the Indian records and requested his agents to report on every phase of their existence and requested artifacts be sent to him. They in turn were sent on to Washington.

Margaret Fuller, a teacher from Boston and Providence, visited the

Island in 1843. She was an intimate friend of Emerson, Hawthorne and Channing and was literary critic for Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune.

In 1843, Rev. John H. Pietzel, Methodist missionary wrote of the Island. Captain R. G. A. Levince of London wrote "Echoes from the Backwoods or Scenes of Trans Atlantic Life" in 1845.

Artist Paul Kane published his recollections of annuity payments held on the Island in 1858. Bayard Taylor in 1860, wrote "At Home and Abroad".

Constance Fenimore Cooper, niece of James Fenimore Cooper, was author of "Ann, the Story of the Indian Agency on Mackinac Island", and was a writer for Putnam magazine and in the summer of 1870, wrote of the fire which destroyed the agency in December.

Schoolcraft reporting in 1838, said there were "4,872 Ottawas and Chippewas in the Upper Lakes and for the Grand Traverse Bay there were 476 souls. A limited number of both tribes could read and write and professed Christianity. The ceremonies of the Meta or Medicine dance was confined to the Northwest bands. He reported the labor done for the Indians and that cattle and agricultural implements had been distributed among them and reported the work of the farmer and carpenters and blacksmiths and missionaries. Twenty-six traders were licensed at seven trading posts in the

36  
area.

He felt that the "trips to the summer agencies of a foreign government was calculated to foster sentiments of hostility to the American Government and that they returned to their villages much poorer than when they set out."<sup>37</sup>

He reported the amount of agricultural products raised and the amount of fish barreled, amount and description of furs and peltries taken; number

of births, deaths, casualties by death, public crime, longevity and average period of life and that the tribes showed a general improvement in their dress and manners and that they had abandoned the war and begging dance and had given up the Indian drum and rattle.

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#### FIRST PROTESTANT MISSION ESTABLISHED IN GRAND TRAVERSE REGION

From the book written by Ruth Craker in 1835, "First Protestant Mission Established in Grand Traverse Region," we find that two missionaries, Reverend Peter Dougherty and Reverend John Fleming, of the Presbyterian faith, set out for Grand Traverse Bay to organize a mission. They had spent the winter of 1838, on Mackinac Island and in the spring of 1839, set out for Old Mission Peninsula by canoe. They arrived at the little Cove of Mission Harbor on Old Mission Peninsula.

A village of bark wigwams peeped out at them from the narrow break in the thick forest and they found only one Indian at home. The others being across the bay. A smoke signal soon brought a canoe full of them back to see what was wanted.

After talking with them, Dougherty and Fleming had to wait for their Chief, Aish-qua-gwan-aba to arrive, for his permission to establish a mission. When he arrived the Indians decided the mission should be established at Elk Rapids on Elk River. They were friendly to the missionaries and accompanied them across the Bay about the 20th of May 1839.

They started cutting logs for their house and school and had brought doors and windows with them from Mackinac and purchasing cedar bark from the Indians for the roof, soon had their house started.

Before it was completely finished, a messenger brought word from Mackinac that Mrs. Fleming had died and Reverend Fleming left immediately, never to



return. This left Reverend Dougherty the only White man in the whole country except a few government surveyors. With his Indian Interpreter, Peter Greensky, they finished the house.

Soon after, Henry Schoolcraft with his interpreter Robert Graverat and Isaac George and Indian blacksmith, came to Elk Rapids in a small boat. After looking the ground over, they decided Old Mission the best place to locate. They were to be located at Bower's Harbor. Isaac George was left in charge and Schoolcraft returned to Mackinac.<sup>39</sup>

Chief Ahgosa of the Old Mission Band, with several of his tribe, informed Dougherty that they were not willing to join the Elk Rapids Tribes and offered to transport Dougherty and his goods back to Old Mission if he would establish the mission there. Dougherty accepted the offer and was ferried back to Old Mission. School was immediately set up in the little bark wigwam that the Indians had furnished for his use.<sup>40</sup>

In August of that year (1839), the government records show that Henry Schoolcraft requested \$200.00 from the War Department to build a schoolhouse for the Indian Children at Dougherty's station. It was to be used to purchase nails, glass, shingles and other materials, and pay a carpenter wages, provided the Presbyterian Board would furnish the timber and the laying it up in the form of squared logs. Schoolcraft said, "he had "no hesitation in recommending this allowance."

The next year Schoolcraft's brother, James, went to the area in May to check on a smallpox epidemic. He took Dr. Rankin with him and had hoped "to prevent the scourge among the natives."<sup>41</sup>

In Henry Schoolcraft's annual report for September 1840, he said, "Under the Act of Congress of 1839, for vaccination of Indians, \$500 has been expended with (in) the year for vaccine matter and vaccinating the bands at various

points when the disease it is intended to neutralize, had appeared or was dreaded. The appearance of smallpox, is at anytime, sufficient to create panic in the Indian tribes, to whom it brings all the fears and when without timely relief, all the fatal consequences of the plague. Their very name for it ~~is~~ ~~MOCK-KIZ-SE-WIN~~ is a term of terror."<sup>42</sup>

James took this opportunity to report on the progress of the area. Reverend Dougherty had erected the schoolhouse and the parents were anxious that their children be instructed and the children equally so to gain knowledge.<sup>43</sup>

Henry Schoolcraft, in his report in September of 1839, to the War Department, pointed out there was a "latent dislike and dissension between the two races who were so different in their leading traits, physical and intellectual--the American Indian and the Teutonic and Celtic races."<sup>44</sup>

He said, that, "the Indians were unable to maintain themselves for any length of time by hunting and that it was impossible to shield the settlers at all points from occasional outbreaks of personal vindication."<sup>45</sup>

#### RESOURCES BEING DISCOVERED

He reported in 1840, that "recent discoveries of the resources of the ~~area~~--prime saline waters, gypsum, bogare (bog-ore--an iron ore from marshy places), slaty coal and shell marl, together with the pineries and the water power of its streams and the facilities of lake navigation, pointed out that the territory South of the Straits was a highly and permanently valuable portion of the state."<sup>46</sup>

"The entire Peninsula has been surveyed into townships up to the ~~vicinity~~ of Michilimackinac and is in process of sub division and will all be reported to the general land office by the end of the year."<sup>47</sup>

"The entire amount for the two tribes assembled at the Island this

year (1840) was \$64,465.00 and \$20,465 was applied to education, missions, provisions, tobacco, salt and agricultural implements, cattle, farmers, mechanics, teachers and other objects to promote their civilization. \$42,000 was reserved and paid at Grand River and the Sault. <sup>48</sup>

"The pay grounds served as so many centers of trade and barter and the Indians' wants were often supplied and his fancy and his appetite not less frequently gratified, the ingenuity of the vendors to exhibit goods, wares and articles of mere luxury were quite common and the use of ardent spirits constituted their chief bane converting that which would be otherwise a season of plenty and good humor into a gloomy and revolting scene of riot and drunkenness followed not infrequently by disease and sometimes death. <sup>49</sup>

"The facility which the Indians part with their money becomes the secret motive of their being advised to call on the agents of the government for wanted funds, and they become dupes of the artful and designing. <sup>50</sup>

"Education and the arts, cultivation of the land and raising stock cannot be rightly appreciated by erratic hunters and warriors who still look to the chase and the war path for all that is glorious, and schoolhouses, and books and farms become as nothing in their estimation when they stand in the way of their selfish gratification." <sup>51</sup>

Schoolcraft felt their only hope was their removal west beyond the reach of evil and said "Permanently prosperous they cannot be, where they now are. A GENIUS HAS STOLEN UPON THEM as it were, which they did not anticipate and for which they are not prepared. <sup>52</sup>

"And while comparatively few and feeble efforts are making for their rescue by the several agents to whom the work is committed, a thousand causes inseparable from the transference of a civilized population into the country

where they once roved and reigned, are actually at work to depress and degrade them."<sup>53</sup>

#### SCHOOLCRAFT RESIGNS IN 1841

Schoolcraft resigned in 1841, and went East to supervise the publication of his books.

He was replaced by Robert Stuart, a former employee of John Jacob Astor and who had managed the Fur Company at Mackinac since 1819. He was also known in history as becoming the first person to find the route from the Pacific Ocean to St. Louis that could be utilized by the wagon trains to settle the West, when he was sent there to establish the fur post at Astoria for Astor.<sup>54</sup>

Stuart retired from business about 1833, and served as State Treasurer until he was appointed Indian Agent; the post he held until 1845.

He too, was familiar with the agency organization and established his office in Detroit and appointed Dr. Justin Rice to the Mackinac Agency.<sup>55</sup>

#### THE GRAND TRAVERSE AREA

Returning again to the Grand Traverse Area, several farmers had been employed there by the Department. In April of 1844, Robert Stuart appointed one Walter Drake of Birmingham, Michigan as United States Farmer which was confirmed by the War Department. Drake was to instruct the Indians at the Grand Traverse Station in the art of agriculture.<sup>56</sup>

Requisites necessary for the appointment were that he was of the same political party then in power; that he be of the same religious faith as the station to which he was appointed and that he was an American and that he could handle the work assigned to him.

#### WALTER DRAKE, U. S. FARMER

Robert Stuart wrote to T. Harley Crawford of the U. S. War Department,

June, 1843, and said that he had tried to get all persons at the same  
meeting if practicable of one religious creed to keep harmony.<sup>57</sup>

#### WALTER DRAKE--PROTESTANT

From Peter Dougherty's Diary, we find that Ebenezer Stoll, Pastor of  
Birmingham, May 22, 1844, certified that Walter Drake was an acceptable member  
of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the Birmingham Circuit of the Michigan  
Conference. A qualification necessary to his work at Grand Traverse.<sup>58</sup>

#### POLITICAL QUALIFICATIONS

Among the records from National Archives were petitions from friends  
and neighbors in the Birmingham Area attesting to the fact that Drake "was  
a man of respectable moral and political character and integrity and a  
close friend of the Democratic party and that the undersigned had no doubt  
that he would discharge his duties there faithfully and to the satisfaction  
of the public."<sup>59</sup>

#### AN AMERICAN

Walter Drake's family was one of the colonial families of America--  
his ancestor Thomas Drake came from England in 1653 or 1654, and settled in  
Dorchester, Massachusetts and later Windsor, Connecticut. Two of Walter's  
ancestors, Robert Drake Sr., and Robert Drake Jr., had fought in the  
Revolutionary War.<sup>60</sup>

Walter Drake was born in Easton, Massachusetts, during the Presidency of  
Thomas Jefferson, May 20, 1808--176 years ago today--he was the son of  
Samuel and Susanah (Phillips) Drake.<sup>61</sup>

The family moved to Orange County Vermont when he was three and when he  
was 13, his mother died. His father remarried shortly after.<sup>62</sup>

His father was a stone mason and farmer in Vermont and Walter worked  
along with his father until he became 21, at which time he left home and

went to work on the Ohio and Chesapeake Canal.<sup>63</sup>

Returning to Shoreham, Vermont the next year, he joined his brother  
Harris in planning to come to Michigan Territory.<sup>64</sup>

They travelled the northern canal at Whitehall and afterwards the Erie  
Canal for Buffalo and took passage on the steamer NIAGARA for Detroit and  
arrived there October 11, 1830.<sup>65</sup>

Walter helped his brother establish a home in Southfield, Oakland County,  
Michigan and then returned to Detroit where he engaged in sailing and  
fishing.<sup>66</sup>

After working in Detroit for a year, Walter returned to Southfield and  
purchased 120 acres and that year married Adaline Hunter, daughter of Elisha  
and Huldah (West) Hunter. The Hunter family had come to Michigan from  
Albany, New York in 1820.<sup>67</sup>

#### APPOINTMENT OF WALTER DRAKE AS U. S. FARMER

Walter Drake must have applied for the position as U. S. Farmer as the  
oldest records regarding him in the National Archives is a letter to him  
from Robert Stuart, written from Detroit April 8th, 1844 and addressed to  
Mr. Walter Drake, U. S. Indian Farmer, Mr. Stuart writes:<sup>68</sup>

"Sir, / Herewith you will receive your appointment as U. S. Indian Farmer  
for Grand Traverse Bay, (situate about 70 miles SW of Mackinac) as the  
season for spring labors is now rapidly advancing, it is necessary that you  
should proceed as soon as practicable to your station.

"As I have conversed with you at large, relative to your duties etc.,  
it is unnecessary now to enter into much detail--your salary of \$400 compre-  
hends all compensation for your services.

"If the dwellings now erected for Farmer, cannot accommodate Mr.  
Walter's and your own family, you can make some addition and get the car-

printer, blacksmith, etc., to aid you, but there is no fund to pay money  
from, nor can any debt be incurred on a/c of the Department.

"Should any small disbursements be necessary you must meet them from  
your own private resources, and at the termination of your appointment, the  
whole property revert to the Government. For any little expense, you may  
incure, must go as an equivalent for rent, etc., as none is charged you.

"Mr. Devenport and yourself may as has been the practice heretofore raise  
such vegetables as you shall need in your family, but neither sell nor give  
away to others, for all your produce, in strict justice, belongs to the  
Indians.

Avoid all species of trade with them and having unnecessary dealings with  
Indian Traders; so as not to excite jealousies among them--you can safely  
consult with the Revd. Mr. Dougherty, whenever advise shall be desirable, for  
I deem him a wise and good man, who has the interest of the Indians deeply  
at heart.

"As the mission and school are designed exclusively for the benefit of  
the Indians, you can aid or exchange labor with them as may be deemed prudent,  
but so as not to interfere with any immediate or urgent employment for the  
Indians.

"I hope that farmers and mechanics will live in harmony, and as brethren;  
your object should be one--the welfare and prosperity of the Indians.

"--altho' you are to labor for and with the Indians, your main object  
must be to teach them to labor, and take care of themselves, you are not to  
be their menial, but instructor and guide; and I trust that the conduct and  
dignified deportment of each person employed by the department will be such  
as shall commend itself both to the Whites and Indians.

You can show this to Mr. Davenport and the Mechanics, as it concerns all. Please to call on Dr. Rice at Mackinac who acts there as Indian Agent, and he will further advise, and probably be able to procure you a speedy message to your station.

I am respectfully Sir, Your Obt. Servant, Robert Stuart, Acting Supt.  
D.R.

#### THE DRAKE FAMILY PREPARES FOR THE JOURNEY

Walter Drake and his wife were both 36 years old at the time of his appointment. They had four children, Cordelia, aged 11; Mary Ann, aged 8; Lucian aged 3, and Melvin who had been born February of that year.<sup>69</sup>

Preparations for the journey began immediately. Adaline's parents, Walter's brother and his wife and Walter's father who had come to Michigan to join his sons, probably all helped the young family in their packing.

That the Hunters helped them financially is shown in the record of Walter's first pay given September 3, 1844, in favor of Mr. Hunter--his pay for the quarter--to pay on a bond for a mortgage which would be forfeited if not paid by the first of October. Dr. Rice who handled the matter said, "It would be conferring a favor on him (Mr. Drake) if it could be arranged so as to pay the money on the order."<sup>71</sup>

#### DAILY VESSELS TO MACKINAC

The weather determined the opening of navigation to the Upper Lakes and reference made by Mr. Schoolcraft in an entry of April 21, mentioned in his diary that he "embraced the sailing of one of the earliest vessels to return to Mackinac." So, we can assume that the boats were running early in the season. It also mentioned at this time steamboats were leaving every other day so the transportation problem was settled.<sup>72</sup>



#### MOVING FROM SOUTHFIELD

Wagons were loaded with their "movables", at Southfield. It is probable that oxen were used to draw them. Their goods would have included household goods, probably a stove, bedding and linens, clothes for the family, food to tide them over until harvest, and seeds for planting. At the station, beef, hogs and chickens were provided. Oxen and farming utensils belonging to the department were there to work the fields.

It is more than probable that both Walter's brother and family and William's parents took them by wagons to Detroit where they bid them goodbye.

Arriving at Detroit, Walter undoubtedly reported to Mr. Stuart and help was obtained in making arrangements for the steamer. The steamer MICHIGAN, a vessel most often mentioned in these accounts, as taking military and Indian supplies, troops, government officials and visitors, may have been the boat they sailed on.

#### THE TRIP TO MACKINAC ISLAND

The family probably stayed in a boarding house in Detroit for the night and were up early to board the steamer which had arrived from Buffalo the night before. Passage was secured and the goods placed on board. As "time and steam waited for no man," they took off with a parting signal which a great bell, swung out from on high, and the magnificent vessel, with flags waving glided over the waters with an easy stately motion . . . The trip took about two full days and a night.

From descriptions of the trip at the time it is said the boat "passed the large and beautiful green island formerly called "Snake"--later known as Belle Isle (named after Governor Cass' daughter).<sup>73</sup>

"About one o'clock they entered the River St. Clair . . . the shores on either side . . . bounded always by the forest . . . broken into bays and

and little promontories and diversified islands.

"Because of the Canadians and Indian canoes and schooners with white sails relieved the green mass of foliage which bounded them. Isolated log shanties and groups of Indian lodges and several clearings and some hamlets and rising villages were to be seen on the shores."<sup>74</sup>

#### LANDING AT PORT GRATIOT

The boat stopped at intermediate landings and moored at a place called Walker's Landing for the purpose of taking in wood for the voyage. It was planned that two hours were necessary, but they were detained four hours though 24 men were employed to fling the logs into the wood hold.<sup>75</sup>

At the entrance of River St. Clair, the Americans had a fort and a garrison—Fort Gratiot, and a lighthouse which was passed in the night.

By seven the next morning, they had advanced about 100 miles into Lake Huron and soon after entered Saginaw Bay where sight of land was lost for the first time. There was another lighthouse on a little Island in Thunder Bay—~~and~~ a more terrific solitude could not be imagined than that of the keeper in that lonely tower among rocks and tempests and savages.<sup>76</sup>

#### ARRIVAL AT MACKINAC ISLAND

The next morning at earliest dawn the family was awakened by the unusual noise and movement on board. It was soon apparent they had arrived at Mackinac and the Captain was anxious to proceed on his voyage and was hurrying passengers and luggage off the boat.<sup>77</sup>

The vessel was lying in a tiny bay, crescent shaped. On the East the whole sky was flushed with a deep amber glow, flecked with softest shades of rose and . . . on the opposite side of the heavens hung the moon . . . melting away before the splendor of the rising day.<sup>78</sup>

The sight of the island rising out of the water like the fairyland that the Indians considered it, was not exaggerated.

From Mrs. Steele's description in a "Summer Journey in the West," written in 1840, we have the description of the Island:

"At the foot of the bluff were strewed the buildings of the town. Among the most conspicuous of these were, the Agency House and Gardens, residence of (Dr. Schoolcraft) Dr. Rice, Indian Agent and the church and mission house. Along the beach were several Indian wigwams, numerous bark canoes, coming and going . . . The United States Fort was in the distance and high above the town, showing the block house and the pretty balconied residences of the officers—the stars and stripes waving over them. The booming of a cannon was firing a salute in honor of the day.

"A few Indians who were encamped along the beaches were bestirring themselves and the women busied themselves about their children, or making fires or soaking or pounding Indian corn in a primitive sort of mortar."

The Drakes hurried from the steamer on to a little wooden pier and were conducted to an inn or boarding house, kept by a half cast Indian woman where they all sat down to an excellent breakfast of white fish, rich cream, eggs, tea, coffee and homemade bread. Breakfast was finished by 10 o'clock, and then they walked along the beach and observed the Indians until a striking hour arrived for Mr. Drake to present himself at the Agency.

#### WINDING ISLAND

Michoud Island was one of the busiest places in the world--during the season of navigation--all the Detroit and Chicago steamers stopped there. But in winter the place was entirely ice bound . . . <sup>79</sup>

Barnett Martineaux, visiting the island the last days of June, 1837, said "This island is chiefly known as the principal station of the Great

Northwest Fur Trade. Others know it as the seat of an Indian Mission. Others, again as a frontier garrison. It is known to me as the wildest and grandest place of beauty that I have yet seen on God's earth. It is a small island, nine miles in circumference, being in the Strait between the Lakes Michigan and Huron and between the coasts of Michigan and Wisconsin."

Mrs. Steele described the scene in her book "A Summer Journey in the West," written in 1840, when she "watched Indians landing and taking down their blanket sail, haul a birch bark canoe about 20 feet long upon the shore . . . erect their lodges . . . a few poles placed in a circle, one end of each stood in the earth and the other met at the top . . . with coarse matting folded around these leaving an opening for the door over which hung a blanket. Matting was spread on the floor inside and the children and moveables were placed inside and the canoe was drawn up

The dress of the women was a cotton shirt, cloth leggins and a dark blanket, necklaces, silver armlets and silver earrings. The dress of the men was very various, cotton shirts, blue or scarlett leggins and deer skin moccasins and blanket coat was the most general. The faces of several were grotesquely painted.

There were rich wigwams and poor wigwams. Whole families ragged, meagre and emaciated and others, gay with dress and ornaments, fat and well-favoured. In the whole these were beings quite distinct.

Unloading or dismantling their lodges took perhaps a half an hour and in dismantling their wigwams the poles of the wigwams were placed on the bows of the canoes, then mats and bundles placed on top of them, serving

DRAKE REPORTS TO DR. JUSTIN RICE, U. S. INDIAN AGENT

About 10 o'clock, Mr. Drake ventured to call on Dr. Rice to report the presence of himself and family. Also, to receive instructions and make arrangements for transportation to Grand Traverse.

A description of the buildings of the United States Agency at that time is found in the story by Constance Fenimore Woolson:

"The Agency was a quaint, picturesque old place, stretching back from the white limestone road that bordered the little port, its overgrown garden surrounded by an ancient stockade ten feet in height, with a massive slow-moving gate in front.

"The stockade surrounding the place was not an unnecessary defence. At the time of annuity payments the Island swarmed with Indians who came from Lake Superior and the Northwest to receive the Government pittance. Camped on the beach as far as the eye could reach, these wild warriors, dressed in their savage finery, watched the Agency with greedy eyes as they waited their turn.

"A great gate was barred, and sentinels stood at the loop-holes with loaded muskets; one by one the chiefs were admitted, stalked up to the office, the wing on the right, and received the allotted sum, silently selecting something from the displayed goods, and as silently departed, watched by quick eyes, until the great gate closed behind him.

"The guns of the Fort were placed so as to command the agency during sunset time, and when, after several anxious, watchful days and nights, the last brave had received his portion and the last canoe started away toward the North, leaving only the comparatively peaceful mainland Indians behind, the Island drew a long breath of relief.

The house was large on the ground, with wings and various additions built out as if at random; on each side and behind were rough outside chimneys clung to the wall; on the roof over the central part, dormer-windows showed a low second story; and here and there at irregular intervals were outside doors.

The windows had wooden shutters fastened back with irons shaped like the letter "Y" and on the central door was a brass knocker, and a plate bearing the words, "UNITED STATES AGENCY." The house was painted green and white.

Within, were suites of rooms, large and small showing traces of workmanship elaborate for such a remote locality, the ceilings . . . decorated with moulding and the doors ornamented with scroll-work, and two large apartments on each side of the entrance hall possessed chimney pieces and chandeliers. There was a blind stairway that went up into a kind of dark well . . .

It had candelabra on its high mantels, brass andirons on its many hearthstones, curtains for all its little windows and carpets for all its uneven grey painted floors. Much cooking went on, and smoke curled up from all the outside chimneys when there was much entertainment going on .

The officers of the little Fort on the height, the chief factors of the fur company and the U. S. Indian Agent, formed the feudal aristocracy of the Island, but the Agent had the most imposing mansion and often the old house was shining with lights its whole broadside of windows and gay with the sounds of a dozen French violins.

The garden--was the pride of the Island. Its prim arbors, its spring and spring house, its flower beds, where with infinite pains, a few hardy plants were induced to blossom; its cherry tree avenue whose early red fruit the short summer could scarcely ripen; its annual attempts at vegetables,

which never came to maturity--formed topics for conversation in court circles.

Potatoes then were left to the mainland Indians, who came over with their canoes heaped with fine, large, thin-jacketed fellows, bartering them all for a loaf or two of bread and a little whiskey.

You could see from the Agency at night--the lights of the vessels in the harbor--the steady radiance of the lighthouse at Bois Blanc showing the way into Lake Huron--the garden cut the view of the village, but overhead you could see the lighted windows of the Fort.

#### MR. RICE ALREADY INFORMED OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE DRAKES

Mr. Rice had already been informed of the arrival of Mr. Drake and his family and preparations were made to store their goods until their departure for Grand Traverse. Mr. Stuart had previously made arrangements for rooms to be available at the agency for himself and other government officials and there is no doubt that the Drakes were invited to partake of the hospitality of the Doctor's home.

Mr. Rice had a large family and a few more children probably were no longer and visitors were welcome in that northern isolated area after the long winter and the latest news from Detroit and Mr. Stuart were most welcome.

From an inventory of the Agency at Mackinac in 1845<sup>80</sup> we find that there was an Agency house, barn and premises and a dormitory building, blacksmith and carpenter shops. The dormitory was a large building used as a repository for Indian supplies and where they received their annuities. Arrangements were also there for them to sleep and cook their meals. It also served as an infirmary.

The office of the agency was furnished with a couple of office tables--

one with pigeon holes, a desk with an ink stand and sand box, an iron safe, three chairs and ten office benches, files of bonds, letters, and records, five Indian flags, 12 pounds of sewing thread, a pile of brick, tent and poles, a canoe, poles and paddles, a cart, a log chain, a saw, jointers, and jack plane and thirty cords of wood for use at the dormitory. <sup>81</sup>

At the time the inventory was made by R. Rice, he wrote to Mr. Stuart saying, "I think on the whole the plan of the Government is the only one that can save a fast sinking race from utter oblivion." This gives us an idea that Dr. Rice was a kindly person and conscientious about his obligations.

#### FIRST PROTESTANT MISSION IN THE GRAND TRAVERSE REGION

No doubt Dr. Rice in his conversation with Walter Drake, told him a lot about the Grand Traverse area which can be reconstructed from Miss Cracker's description:

"Tribes of the Algonquin family lived in the region bordering Grand Traverse Bay. They were Ottawas and Chippewas. The Ottawas came from Canada, East of Lake Huron as far as their trails can be traced. The Ottawas were small in stature but expert in warfare. They were short, with broad shoulders and strong muscles. They were also a very intelligent tribe.

They loved gaudy blankets. The customs, language and traditions of the Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatomies were very similar. In fact, these three formed the council known as "Three Fires" signifying friendship."

#### EMBLEMS OF THE TRIBES

"The Ottawa emblem was the black bear; the Chippewas the seagull, and the Pottawatomies the beaver.

"The Catholic faith was re-established in Emmet County by Fr. Francis Bodin in 1825, the Ottawas were living in aboriginal state of enjoyment.



It was described by Blackbird as the "Golden Age of Arbre Croche," as the region was generally referred to.

"The Indians enjoyed physical comforts. Along the shores of Arbre Croche, they found abundance of wild things growing, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries in great quantity. Blackbird said they were so abundant they perfumed the air all along the coast, when the season was at its height.

"Wild pigeons swarmed in clouds. Passenger pigeons migrated over Lake Michigan--the Red men caught many Mackinaw trout by hook and line. The white fish were plentiful and great quantities were scooped up into their nets with little effort.

"In the fall of 1841, there were five buildings at this mission aside from Indian wigwams--the schoolhouse and all the houses except Mr. Dougherty's were built of logs covered with cedar bark. Their Chief was Ahgosa--the flying hawk.

According to a progress report October 28, 1842, written by Robert Stuart<sup>82</sup>, to T. Hartley Crawford of the War Department: "the two bands of Ottawas at L'Arbre Croche and Grand Traverse are as a body making most gratifying progress in the arts of civilization--much credit is due to the missionaries and school teachers for their untiring zeal and efforts to promote both their temporal and spiritual welfare--I take pleasure also in reporting the good conduct of the Government Farmers and Mechanics now employed--great emulation has lately sprung up among the Indians as to who shall have the best house, furniture, farm, etc. They are also procuring cattle, hogs, and poultry, in short their condition is being improved rapidly as any tribe in this region."

U. S. FARMER'S REPORT, January 31, 1842 from Grand Traverse

Joseph

Joseph Dame was the farmer who held the post previous to Walter Drake.

From his report of January 31, 1842, he gives a description of the conditions at the Grand Traverse Station as far as the farmer was concerned. <sup>83</sup>

He reported that he couldn't rent a house so built on an addition to the one he occupied--this was the blacksmith's house which was 11x24 feet with one room and two small bedrooms. The addition was 15 feet long by 22 feet wide. Reverend Dougherty had helped him raise it and gave him lumber and cedar bark for the house and barn. Mr. Johnson, the carpenter at the station, had given him planks and by re-arranging the lumber he was able to finish off a bedroom and pantry.

He made shingles for the roof, but had boards only for half the floor. But--he had a good roof. He had painted the front--and in all was quite comfortable. In addition to the house was a log barn and a coal house which belonged to the smith shop.

He reported he had hauled produce and logs, had plowed for the Indians, Dougherty and himself; had planted oats, pease /sic/, and potatoes, repaired rail fences (150 rails) and fenced a lot for hay pasture. The Indians had 30 hogs and pigs which got into the gardens and destroyed half of the potatoes and corn, but he had replanted the potatoes. He had hauled logs for the Indians to build houses.

A temperance society had been formed and no drunken Indians had been around since--they were building houses and living like the White people. There were about 27 families and sometimes they all wanted their work done at the same time and if they couldn't have it done when they wanted it--they wouldn't have it done at all.

Doors and sash and window lights were ordered from Mackinac. Other

supplies sent to Grand Traverse from Mackinac were barrels of pork, flour and salt, bushels of corn and pounds of tobacco.

From Mr. Dougherty's report at this time there were 36 Indian children, four French and one mixed blood attending the school. They were different ages and sex. School was kept open from October until March excepting one week the last of December.<sup>84</sup>

On the first of March the families all removed to their sugar camps and the school was necessarily suspended until their return.

Irregularity of the attendance was a great drawback but the confinement and restraints of the schoolroom were irksome to those who had been accustomed to rove unrestrained. The children were left very much to their own will of attendance and the precarious mode of subsisting, much on fishing and hunting, the older boys were frequently called away from school to help.

Reverent Dougherty reported they had fairly commenced a village and had laid out a street and had erected several substantial log houses. What had retarded them was the uncertainty of their location and they had expressed themselves as being strongly desirous of remaining and making it their home by purchase, if they couldn't secure them otherwise.

Several of them had their houses up but were at a standstill not having tools and not knowing how to make window sash and doors and they looked to the minister for aid which was given as other duties allowed.

#### TIME TO GO ON TO GRAND TRAVERSE

Dr. Rice procured passage for the Drakes on a schooner or canoe. Records show the cost of this trip was \$20.00<sup>85</sup>, quite a sum for that time. In fact, one farmer, Mr. Carrier, turned the job down because of the expense involved.

Arriving at Grand Traverse the usual procedure was to unload the goods on the beach and all the people of the village came down to greet the arrival of the boat. The whole population helped them to get their belongings to their house.

The first report that Mr. Drake sent from Grand Traverse was dated May 12, 1844.<sup>86</sup> Dr. Rice had instructed him to send a report of the condition of the cattle and also "what had best to be done with them &c. and in reply to it I would inform you that the cattle as I can judge must be at least 14 years old. They have been strained some time by hard usage. They are now very poor and thin and in no condition to do the work that we have to do with them."

He then suggested they be bled and turned out to grass as soon as they could be replaced. He also said that by fall they would "make very tolerable beef" and that a fair price could be received. He suggested that they get two yoke of cattle, stout heavy yoke, well broke and not unruly or bad about breaking fences which caused trouble to the Indian fields.

He also mentioned that they had to draw logs and saw their lumber as there was none to be purchased. They hired some help about sawing and asked that they send a few boards as the Indian work was pressing and they didn't have time for sawing. They also exchanged work with the mission in order to use their oxen.<sup>86</sup>

His second report dated September 30th, 1844<sup>87</sup>, said that the house was shared with the assistant farmer and that it was too small for two families to live in and it was necessary to make an addition, which he did, of 12x21 feet.

He continued the work carried on by the farmer who had preceded him

and reported he had hawled 378 logs for the Indians to build with and 35 loads of produce from their fields--some corn and some bark to cover their houses and two canoes which they had built in the woods.

They had spent three weeks looking for hay and cutting it and succeeded in getting four tons. They had to go 15 miles to cut it, as there was none nearer and with the corn and oats which they had reaped, they would be able to winter the oxen.

He reported the Indians were improving themselves and needed more ploughing and teaming done. The cart they had, needed mending and it would be necessary to have new wheels for it. He said they would need two bushels of Timothy Grass seed to seed down in the fall and suggested they might obtain some good cattle in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, where he had resided --a Mr. Hunter would be able to supply them as cheap as they could get anywhere (Mr. Hunter was his father-in-law).

REPORT OF WALTER DRAKE FOR March 28, 1845<sup>88</sup>

Report of the spring work was dated March 28, 1845, in addition to 166 loads drawn for the Indians they had drawn timber for two boats and eight troughs for storing sap. They had moved the families to the sugar camp and in some cases where they had been sick or disabled, had assisted in their sugar making.

They had drawn six loads of coal for the blacksmith and spent ten days in getting hay for the cattle.

It had been the custom previously to attend to each call of the different Indians for fire wood as each one wanted it and much time was spent to little purpose in going from one place to the other and Mr. Drake had made a proposal in the fall, that if they would all turn out and get their winter supply of wood, that he and his assistant would help them get

it is and after that, he and his assistant would have work of their own which they could get done.

In this report, he said, he had tried to accomplish the object for which he was sent among them "to work with them, teach them farming to the best advantage, and not to indulge them in idleness by doing their work for them."

As there was no barn he had commenced to frame one--28x34 feet--and had most of the timber hewed and drawn to the spot. He had made 10,000 shingles for the room and thought the barn was very necessary to the farming department as considerable hay and fodder had been lost or destroyed by standing out during the winter.

The farming tools were going to decay by being exposed to the weather and there was no place to thrash the oats. He thought, that by putting up the barn during the spring, it would be ready to put the hay and fodder in the next summer.

He needed boards and planks to finish it off and suggested the Manistee mill as being the nearest place. However, a letter from Mr. Stuart from Detroit April 22, 1845,<sup>89</sup> said the request could not be complied with--he should have built his barn so as to fill in with logs and clay.

#### ROBERT STUART SUCCEEDED BY WILLIAM A. RICHMOND

Stuart was succeeded by William A. Richmond of Grand Rapids, May 3, 1845<sup>90</sup> which necessitated Mr. Drake to obtain petitions from his friends and neighbors in Birmingham to continue his work at Grand Traverse. Two petitions<sup>91</sup> are among the records, and he was retained under the new administration.

#### ITEMS BROUGHT BY TRADER INTO GRAND TRAVERSE

After Mr. Dame left the station as farmer, he engaged in trading and it is interesting to note the items which he brought on his boat to sell

at Grand Traverse.<sup>91</sup> Barrels of pork, lard, flour, kegs of tobacco, powder and bags of shot. A box of tea, two dozen bottles of castor oil and two boxes of soap, two dozen candles and two dozen stove pipe.

#### DR. RICE REPORTS

Dr. Rice reported from Mackinac July 11, 1845, that he had received reports of the farmer, blacksmith, and carpenter at the station of Grand Traverse Bay for the second quarter of 1845. Also report of the Reverend P. Dougherty, missionary at the same place; all of which he had enclosed. He gave as the reason for not sending them earlier that there had been no opportunity to send them from this place.

A footnote from Dr. Rice said: "I think you will find all these reports full of interest, in regards other progress of improvement among the Indians"--and of course these reports were not included in the records.

An order for materials from the carpenter shop at Grand Traverse Bay in 1845<sup>93</sup> is interesting as to the items ordered--besides boards, planks, nails, screws, two dozen table hinges, they ordered 20 gallons of Venetian red, 3 gallons of paint oil, 1 gallon of turpentine, 1 yoke of cattle for the farming department--\$85 to \$90, 1 pair wheels, \$22.00; 1 plough \$8.50, 1 cradle scythe \$2.50 and two grass scythes at \$1.00 each.

By December of that year the assistant blacksmith at Grand Traverse was an Indian by the name of Ah-Ka-O-Say.

Mr. V. H. Stevens wrote to Mr. Wm. A. Richmond at the Detroit Agency January 1846,<sup>94</sup> and said that the Chief at Grand Traverse wanted his young men to learn the carpenter trade--no pay but to learn. The Chief was dissatisfied with Mr. Dougherty as he kept reporting them getting drunk to the Department. By February Chief Ah go sah, wrote that he was well satis-

fied with persons sent to help them that the Indians were busy putting up houses on the land selected by him-Re She go way--and that five or six were already built ~~and that they were already built~~ and that they were trying to get timber for more and that they would have five or six more done during the winter and spring.

Ah go sah also said that there was very little ice on the Lake and that the crossing to the mainland had been almost impossible--that the Lake was free of ice and there was nothing to prevent a steamboat from coming to their wharves and that the oxen could be shipped from Detroit. There was much sickness that winter and the Indians prophesied war--they said they had had a similar winter the year before the last war.

By December of the year 1846 <sup>95</sup> Chief Ah gos ah, wrote to Mr. Stevens, Acting Indian Agent at Detroit, saying they had no assistant farmer and wanted him to know the type of man they wanted. They were having difficulty making themselves understood by the present farmer--Mr. Drake--as he was not acquainted with their language. They wanted someone appointed who could converse with them and whose instructions they could understand. They suggested John Campbell, an interpreter with whom they were well acquainted and who could speak their language very readily and would have been brought up to farming and in every way a suitable person for the situation /sic/ and that they would be pleased to have him appointed.

At this same time there was another report from Walter Drake who sent his statement of work done ending December 31 (1846) <sup>96</sup>.

There had been 176 loads of corn, potatoes and 27 logs drawn for the Indians. Twenty-two cords of wood drawn for the blacksmith to make coal. He had drawn stone and underpinned the barn and laid the floor and made



stalls for the cattle and some time was spent in drawing fodder for the cattle--as there was no team in the Mission.

He also drew stone to underpin the schoolhouse and some timber for them. As he had been alone that quarter he was unable to accomplish as much work as usual but he had endeavored to have the Indians do their own work as much as possible. They were not able to help with their horses much for the want of carts to work them in.

#### WALTER DRAKE RESIGNS

On June 21st, 1847<sup>97</sup>, the next record regarding Mr. Drake is his resignation, in a letter written by Alvan Coe, who was taking care of the mission while Mr. Dougherty and his family had gone East. They were to return in August. Mr. Coe reported that: "Mr. Drake, the farmer there, had informed him that he had sent in his resignation and that he recommended John Thomas of Vernon, Greenhull County, Ohio, as replacement. He ended by saying: "May God Bless your efforts to do the Indians good."

Walter Drake's resignation was submitted June 30, 1847<sup>98</sup> as farmer for the Ottawa Indians at Grand Traverse Station in Michigan. He placed the following property belonging to the Department in the care and custody of Robert Campbell, Carpenter at the station, to be delivered to Mr. Richmond: 2 yoke oxen, 2 yokes, 3 chains, 2 ploughs, 1 cart, 11 pairs of wheels, 1 cradle, 2 grass scythes, 2 scythes, 2 rakes, 2 hay forks, an ax, 2 augers, 2 adz, 1 spade, 1 shovel, 1 cross cut saw, 1 wood saw, 1 sled, 1 iron wedge, 1 with wings, 1 broad ax, 1 drag, 13 teeth.

#### RETURNING TO SOUTHFIELD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The Drake family returned much the same as they had come, they loaded their goods on the schooner for Mackinac Island, changing there for the steamer for Detroit.

The steamer bore them southward and looking back toward the Island they could distinguish the old Agency in its whole rambling length. Eventually the roof of the piazza became lost, then the dormer-windows, and finally only the white chimneys with their crooked tops. The sun sank into the Strait . . . the evening gun flashed from the little Fort on the height, the shadows grew darker and darker, the Island turned into green foliage, then a blue outline, and finally there was nothing but the dusky waters.

AN INDIAN MESSAGE OF THE TIMES HINTING THE CHANCES<sup>99</sup>

. . .but we can see clear sky beneath the lowering cloud . . . we have long since burried deep the Tomahawk and desire to cultivate the arts of peace, to become citizens, to procure for each of us a piece of land and to continue in this the land of our youth and the graves of our Fathers.

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Walter Drake and his family returned to Oakland County. His daughter Cordelia was married in Birmingham in 1859, to Hiram Lucius Lewis Jr., a young New Yorker who had come to Michigan from Malone, New York in 1850.<sup>100</sup>

Walter Drake and his family went to Genesee County in 1860 and resided for five years and then to Owosso where he remained for five years until in 1870, he purchased 160 acres in Rush Township, Shiawassee County, Michigan where he resided the remainder of his life.<sup>101</sup>

His wife Adaline died, August 22, 1881 and Walter Drake died May 5, 1903, at the age of 95. They are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, four miles North of Owosso, on M-47.<sup>102</sup>

Born during the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson and dieing under the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, what a span of exciting years this man Drake was a witness to. Tracing the life of Walter Drake, my great-great grandfather opened up a truly exciting story which these records have revealed.

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