

## [The Story of a Year in Missaukee County \(1891\)](#)

*Edited by George S. Stout, 1891. Issued by The Independent, Lake City, Mich.*

Being a Review of the Events of the Year 1891 Within the Limits of Missaukee County, Together with Other Sketches, Biographies, etc., of interest to people of this County.

[This is the earliest known history of Missaukee county, drawing from newspapers and eyewitness accounts. Stout published it as a special booklet in January 1892 as part of his newspaper business. It seems to be a kind of community propaganda, not only for encouraging local reflection, but possibly as an advertisement to attract more settlers. This document later served as a source for other histories, including Mary Reeder's 1902 paper and Stout's own history covering the years 1871-1917. This booklet was reprinted as a series of four newspaper columns in the *Missaukee Republican* in the month of January 1936.]<sup>1</sup>

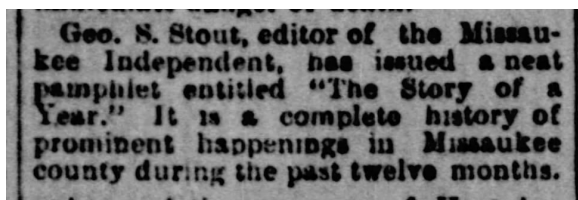
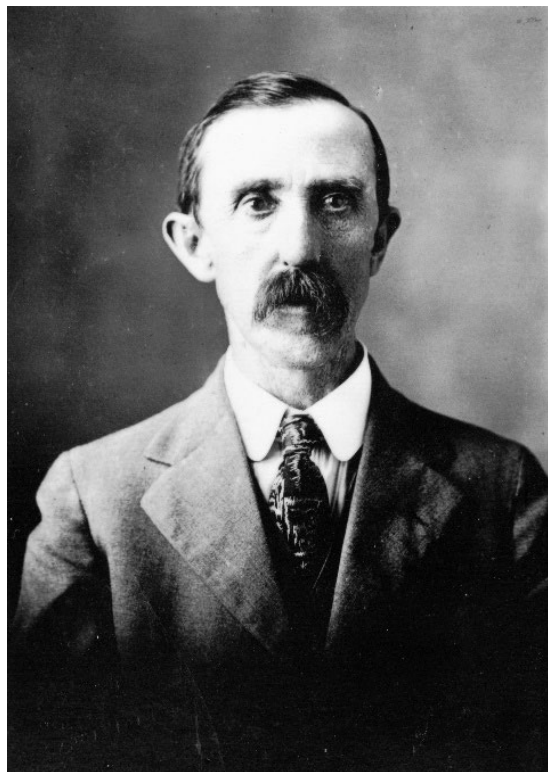


Figure 1: [Grand Rapids Herald, 13 Feb 1892, page 5](#)

### INTRODUCTORY



THE STORY OF A YEAR is not offered to the public as work of great literary merit, nor does it claim to be complete in all its details. It has been prepared hurriedly, and under difficulties. Briefly stated, the object was to give to our readers a brief chronological review of the year 1891, with the scope limited strictly to Missaukee County; together with brief pen pictures of our county and villages as they are today, with such statistics as could be hastily gathered. Not even a pen stroke was made towards the work of compilation until December 24th, 1891, so the work was necessarily hasty done.

In compiling the chronology, the county papers necessarily furnished the dates, most of which were naturally obtained from *The Missaukee Independent*, and the balance from the *McBain Chronicle*. It is believed that what is given is accurate or as nearly so as it can be made, and that the errors are mostly those of omission.

Respectfully submitted, THE EDITOR.

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<sup>1</sup> This edition was updated by Steven Koster in September 2022, based on photos of an original 1892 booklet and photos of the 1936 *Republican* reprint.

## 1891: A Chronological Review of the Events of the Year in Missaukee County.

### January

- 1—H. Owens' resignation as cashier of the Missaukee County Bank takes effect. He is succeeded by A. Stout.
- 5—Board of Supervisors met. Wm. M. Taylor elected chairman to fill vacancy. Geo. E. Nelson succeeds C. McCallum (resigned) as supervisor of Norwich; and C. Gallinger takes the place of P. E. Hollihan (resigned) of Lake. Session closes at noon, Friday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 5—Ice harvest opened. Ice about 14 inches thick.
- 6—Wm. J. Becker bought the Stitt Bros. stock of goods at Stittsville.
- 8—McIntyre & Smith bought H.K. Almes grocery stock in Lake City.
- 10—First marriage license of the year issued.
- 10—Sudden death of Mrs. Alex Decoigne, of McBain.
- 12—Rice & Bradfield, attorneys, locate in Lake City.
- 12—Annual meeting of Agricultural Society. Officers elected: Pres., R.D. Barry; Sec., W.J. Roche; Treas., A. Stout.
- 13—H. Owens and D.M. Witt and families left Lake City for Provo City, Utah.
- 14—Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Allen's silver wedding.
- 16—Mrs. Gustafson of Lake City seriously injured by being struck by a G.R.& I. train, while walking on the track.
- 22—P. of I's. county association elected officers. Pres., R. McDermott; Sec., Andrew Young.
- 23—Case of S. Olson vs. Wellington Cummer, et al., on trial at Cadillac. Judgment of \$800 for Olsen. Appealed.
- 27—Messrs. D. Reeder, Thos. Kelley, Wm. J. Morey, Wm. Doyle and F.O. Gaffney purchase an interest in the Missaukee Co. Bank.
- 27—Sands' mill men strike for higher pay, but are unsuccessful.
- 27—An election held in Richland township to secure an expression of the wishes of the people regarding the licensing of a saloon in that township. Result—yes, 11; no, 57.
- 31—Isaac Burket, of Riverside, painfully scalded by escaping steam in his father's mill.

### February

- 2—Scarlet fever in Norwich.
- 3—Amos G. Tennant, keeper of county poor farm, dies.
- 5—W. Orcutt and Thos. Robinson each receive broken legs by a green hand turning the steam "nigger"<sup>2</sup> in Sands' mill, in the wrong direction.
- 11—Geo. S. Stout and Miss Dora L. Gibson were married.
- 12—Lake City Encampment I.O.O.F.<sup>3</sup> instituted by G.C.P. Owen of Muskegon.

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<sup>2</sup> Clearly an offensive ethnic epithet in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in this 1891 usage it refers to an industrial lever controlling spiked steam-cylinders to turn logs on sawmill-carriages.

<sup>3</sup> The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a non-political and non-sectarian international fraternal order of Odd Fellowship. It was founded in 1819 by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore, Maryland, United States.

- 13—Dr. Nichols locates in Lake City.
- 19—John Van Meter and Jane Hunter of Riverside, married.
- 21—County Teachers' Association meet.
- 22—Geo. A. Jessop and Ida M. Riley of McBain, married.
- 28—Dr. Decker returned to Lake City.

### March

- 3—Lake City village election. A non-partisan contest.
- 4 to 6—Circuit court in session. Four saloon keepers fined for violation of liquor laws. No other important cases.
- 23—C. P. Thomas leaves Lake City.
- 23—Sands logging engine "Flora M. Sands" arrives.
- 25—J. Hardy of Moorestown moves to New York.
- 25—J. Olson killed in Sands' mill.

### April

- 5—Elmer Hewes and Kittie Charter of McBain, married.
- 6—Township elections; Board of Supervisors stands — democrats 6; republicans, 4; independents, 2.
  - Just half of the old board was re-elected; Messrs. Nelson, Bardwell, Roberts, Morden, Taylor, and McBain.
  - The new members are Ingersoll, Ball, Iverson, Boynton, Brace, and Vis.
  - On state ticket, the county gives the Democrats 387, Republicans 418,
  - Prohibition 24. Amendment—Yes 247; No 177.
- 6—Marriage license issued to Wm. S. Pollard and Miss Alice Slade.
- 10—Frank Vorce, who has been operating in the shingle business at McBain, left for parts unknown and attachment suits begun.
- 11—Symes' mill at McBain started up for its summer run.
- 19—Arbuckle Bros.' saw mill at Lake City burned. No insurance. It was rebuilt shortly afterwards.
- 19—Loren, son of Horace Bailey of Forest, died of consumption.
- 20—S.A. Howey buys Focklers stock of furniture.
- 20—Board of supervisors meet. Wm. M. Taylor re-elected chairman, receiving every vote except his own.
- 20—Ice went out of Muskrat Lake.
- 21—William Thorn resigns the office of village Marshal, and is succeeded by William Willett.
- 24—Moses Burket of Riverside, knee broken.
- 25—D. Gibson loses two fingers from his left hand by coming in contact with a saw in Kelly's handle factory.
- 29—John W. Stewart of Moorestown and Miss Lydia Philp of Lake City, married.

### May

- About the 1st inst., J.S. Wilson purchased the Palmer House at Falmouth.

- 1—T.&A. Surveyors at work near Moorestown.
- 4—Fire damaged S. Langley's residence, Lake City. \$100 worth. No insurance.
- 5—Cromwell's roller factory at McBain, started.
- 10—J.H. Buckley of Lake City became violently insane.
- 11—Chas. Kelin's two-year-old boy hurt, at McBain, by being crushed under a stone-boat.<sup>4</sup>
- 13—Forest fires raging. Little damage done in this county.
- 13—Baker Bros.' mill at McBain damaged by fire.
- 14—Adelbert Winters had his leg broken while loading logs on the G.R.&I. R.R.
- 16—Cornelius Lindhout of Falmouth seriously cut by falling on a saw.
- 19—Matthew Exellby died of dropsy of the heart.
- 20—Commercial House, Lake City, damaged by fire. Loss on building and contents \$1000. No insurance.
- 22 and 23—County Sunday School Convention.
- 25—C.W. Cromwell of McBain had his hand badly cut on a buzz-saw in his factory.
- 26—Fred Pilkie was killed by a log falling from a car on Cummer's logging road, north of Lake City.
- Norwich township bought a library this month.

## June

- 1—D.E. Jessop's foot crushed in his mill at McBain.
- 1—Fire set by someone under Mrs. H.N. McIntire's house on Pine Street, Lake City. No damage.
- 4—Wm. Seacord seriously injured at Wm. McDonnell's barn raising, in Riverside township.
- 10—McIntyre & Smith, grocers, Lake City, dissolved partnership, Smith retiring.
- 11—Wm. Jackson, Riverside, barn and contents burned.
- 18—Van I. Witt and Miss Lulu Angeline Barr, married.
- 22—Supervisors met. Thos. McManus represented Pioneer, during the illness of Sup. Bardwell. Miss Georgia Roche was chosen County School Commissioner. Rue P. Lamb was elected examiner for two years and C.L. Goll for one year.

## July

- 4—Mrs. I.J. Symes hurt by being thrown from a horse at her home in McBain.
- 4—Celebrations in all the villages in the county.
- 6—Prof. E. Wood and wife bid farewell to Lake City.
- 6—Winter Carpenter's residence in Caldwell Twp. Burned.
- 8—Mitchell Bros.' Lumber yard, planing mill, and four houses at Jennings burned. Loss \$200,000. Insured for \$139,500.
- 14—Vernon Gerrish becomes conductor on the C.&N.E.
- 21—Circuit court sits, and continues until the 25th. Three saloon keepers fined. Clark's mill cases settled; Sable and Severs each winning their suits against the sheriff.

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<sup>4</sup> A stone-boat is a type of sled for moving heavy objects such as stones or hay bales.

## August

- 2—Van I. Witt takes possession of the drug store in Lake City heretofore owned by Herbert A. Firher.
- 3—Occidental House in Lake City, opened by R. W. Sova.
- 3—Frost does considerable damage throughout the county.
- 11—Geo. Snow of Norwich moves to Bridgeport Centre, Me.
- 11—Adjourned term of circuit court.
  - Riverside twp. Personal tax cases tried. This was a case of considerable importance for the reason that it raised a point seldom heard of. Jas. Cavanagh owned personal property in two separate road and school districts, [both] in that township, and lived in one of them. Property was assessed where it lay. Cavanagh refused to pay tax on one lot, claiming it should all be assessed where he lived. Treasurer did not try to collect. A new treasurer was elected in April, who made former treasurer get a warrant from County Treasurer, and on this warrant tried to force collection, hence the suit.
  - The court held that the warrant was void because [it was] not issued within the prescribed time.
  - No other point passed on.
- 12—The first circus ever in this county (Mat Wixom's) exhibits at Lake City, and at McBain the following day.
- 17—J.H. Eppink's mill at Lucas, burned. No insurance.
- 17—James L. Sharp died in Sands' comp, of heart failure.
- 29—Dr. Yerrington located in McBain.
- 30—Attempted burglary at the McBain Depot.

## September

- 7—John Hadley of McBain had his skull broken by an exploding gun.
- 8—Andrew Young appointed president of agricultural society.
- 13—Bethany Presbyterian church at McBain, dedicated.
- 19—E. D. Moore's family and E. Fagan and wife of Moorestown, leave for Americus, Mississippi.
- 21—Rev. J. A. Kennedy of Lake City and Miss Jennie C. Morrison of Traverse City, married.
- 23—Wm. Reeder and family return from Oregon, to stay.
- 23—Contract for building North Lake City school house let to Jno. P. Liephart. Price, \$726.50.
- 23—John Card, aged 15 years, died at McBain.

## October

- 1—Contract for medical attendance of poor of the county awarded to Dr. Erwin, at \$195.
- 7—F. L. McCurdy, aged 21 years, died at McBain.
- 7, 8, 9—Missaukee County Fair.
- 12—Board of Supervisors met. Adjourned on the 17th inst, making the shortest annual session on record. Hiram Schepers elected Superintendent of the Poor, succeeding Martin Duffy.
- 13—A.B. McIntyre's grocery store, Lake City, closed.

- 20—Mary Belle McBain, aged 22, died at her home in McBain.
- 24—County Teacher's Association met.

### November

- 2—H.K. Wickham, attorney, locates in lake City.
- 2—Daniel C. White of Lake City fatally injured by the accidental discharge of his gun, while hunting. The load of fine shot entered the right leg, near the hip, and passed up into the body. He died on the morning of the 11 inst.
- 4—Delos Spencer returned to Lake City, after an extended prospecting tour in Washington.
- 4—P. of I. Store and John Nelson's dwelling house in Jennings burned. No insurance.
- 18—Dwelling house of John Cowan, McBain, burned.
- 24—County Sunday School Convention.
- 25—Muskrat lake freezes over.
- 26—Mrs. F. H. Chatfield of McBain, died.

### December

- 1—Thos. McManus of Pioneer, moves to Oregon.
- 1—George W. Hughston, postmaster at McBain, died.
- 4—Lake City's street lamps lit for the first time.
- 5—Fire in Occidental House, Lake City, caused by lamp explosion. Loss \$25.
- 8—Circuit court. Adjourned the 12th inst.
- 18—Died, at McBain. Mrs. Sarah J. Souvereen, aged 18.
- 19—Mrs. L. L. Crane of Pioneer died.
- 19—House of Chas. Wanstein of Jennings burned, together with a trunk containing \$900 in cash. No insurance.
- 19—E. P. Liddle opens a store at Stittsville.
- 22—John North and Miss Florence Exelby of Lake City, married.
- 24—Christmas trees in nearly every school house in county.
- 75—E.J. Woodin of Forest moves to Stanton.
- 27—Charles Holmquist, drowned in Crooked Lake, while skating.
- 30—C.C. Follmer & Co., of Grand Rapids lease about 140 rods of frontage, on Muskrat Lake, for ice houses.

### Marriages in '91

During the year, sixty-five marriage licenses were issued from the County clerk's office. Of this number, three were not yet returned, [as of] Dec. 31st. One of the latter was issued some six months ago, and probably not used; the other two were issued late in December.

This leaves sixty-two weddings to be accounted for. Of these, eight couples were married outside of the county, leaving fifty-nine weddings within its limits. Of this number, sixteen knots were tied by various Justices of the Peace, and the balance by ministers. Rev. Jas. A. Kennedy heads the list with 14 weddings to his credit, the tally for the others standing as follows: W.Z. Cole 3; Jas. Berry, 3; W. J. Rainey, 3; J.

Schepers, 3; L. Baroux 3; G. W. Howe, 1; total 46. The remaining eight were married by non-resident ministers.

Of the total of 130 persons licensed to wed, 49 were born in Michigan, 11 in New York, 4 in Indiana, 4 in Penn., 4 in Ohio, 2 in Ill., 1 in Wis., 3 in England, 3 in Germany, 9 in Holland, 20 in Canada, 1 in Denmark, 4 in Ireland, 4 in Sweden, and 4 were reported unknown.

By occupation, they are classified thus: Grooms—farmers 30; laborers, 17; mechanics, 2; contractors, 1; foremen, 2; painters, 1; editors, 1; engineers, 3; carpenters, 1; barbers, 1; lumber inspectors, 1; teachers, 1; clerks, 2; brakemen, 1; clergymen, 1. Brides—domestics, 52; seamstresses, 3; teachers, 9; clerks, 1.

Twelve brides and seven grooms were non-residents. The balance were divided as follows:

	Brides	Grooms
Lake City	8	9
McBain	4	6
Jennings	4	6
Lucas	2	1
Norwich	3	4
Pioneer	1	0
Bloomfield	1	0
Caldwell	6	7
Forest	2	4
West Branch	2	2
Aetna	3	4
Reeder	3	3
Lake	1	1
Richland	3	4
Riverside	4	3
Clam Union	6	4

## Our County as It Is

MISSAUKKEE COUNTY was organized in 1871, and has therefore just closed the 20th year of her corporate existence. It was first attached to Manistee county, and afterwards to Wexford. It now contains 12 organized townships—the east tier of towns each contains two surveyed townships within its limits. This is explained by the kinds of timber and soil, distance from railways, lack of roads, etc. The west three-fourths of the county is dotted with prosperous settlements of farmers, villages, post offices, school houses, and churches. Closely adjoining these are large tracts of hardwood lands which can be bought at reasonable prices on easy terms. The soil of these hardwood lands vary between clay, gravelly loam, and sandy loam. Beneath the last two, a clay subsoil is usually found.

The county owns its own buildings, all paid for, which will accommodate all the needs of public business for several years to come. The court house is a frame structure; erected in 1883, at a cost of \$10,000. The jail is a brick structure, with a neat frame sheriff's residence in front, built in 1886, at a cost of something over \$7,000.

This county contains immense belts of hardwood timber, still untouched, comprising large quantities of bird's eye and curly maple, rock elm, oak, cherry, ash, basswood, and beech, besides quantities of hemlock, cedar, etc. Water is plenty, and of excellent quality; the county containing a number of lakes and several running streams.

That an excellent field is open here for hardwood manufacturing establishments, is indisputable. The raw material lies in endless abundance, at our doors. Anyone wishing any information concerning the county can secure it by addressing either the *Independent*, the *Republican* or the postmaster at Lake City, the *Chronicle* at McBain, or John Koopman at Falmouth.

## Our Villages

### [Lake City]

Lake City is the county seat and metropolis of the county. It is a pretty village of about 1200 inhabitants, picturesquely located on the east shore of Muskrat Lake. The lake is about three miles long by two miles wide, and is justly called the prettiest inland lake in the state. Its waters are plentifully stocked with bass, pickerel, etc.

The village was incorporated by the board of supervisors, the first election of officers being held in March, 1887, having at that time a population of about 300. It was re-incorporated by a special act of the legislature during the session of 1891.

Its business buildings are a substantial character, and indicate the faith of her people in the future of their town. Main Street boasts two handsome brick blocks, second to none in this section of the state.

Louis Sands' mill (declared by many to be the largest and best equipped saw mill in this state of big mills), is located in this village, and together with his adjacent camps, logging railway, lath mill, shingle mill, etc., gives employment to something like 300 men the year around. A planing mill is to be added to the plant soon.



The small mills of Arbuckle Bros. and F.L. Decker, with D.B. Kelley's handle factory, also employ a number of men, and manufacture a quantity of lumber, shingles, broom handles, chair rounds, etc., each year.

Lake City has an excellent system of water works, two railroads, street lamps, a sound banking institution, an excellent graded school, and all lines of mercantile business are well represented. There are three excellent hotels, three doctors, three lawyers, two weekly newspapers, etc.

During the year 1891, several thousand dollars' worth of buildings were erected. In the south end of the village, near Sands' mill, a score or more of his employees have built neat frame cottages. In the north end, among the residences built this year, are those of S. A. Howey, Chas. A. Sands, Jas. M. Proctor, Geo. S. Stout, S. W. McChesney, J. K. Seafuse, Anthony Brightenburg, etc., besides Arbuckle's mill, the North Lake City school house, and various additions, alterations, etc. Figures showing the cost of each are not at hand, but the aggregate runs high up in the thousands.

The present village officers are: President, F. E. Cornwell; Clerk, W. E. Morris; Treasurer, Jas. B. White; Street Commissioner, L. B. Boynton; Marshal, Wm. Willett; Assessor, R. McDermott; Trustees—D. J. Erwin, A. Stout, J.E. Gleason, Wm. Pratt, Wm. A. Minthorn, and Jno D. Ransom.

#### [McBain]

McBAIN is a three-year-old village, with a population of between three and four hundred souls, situated on the Toledo, Ann Arbor, & North Michigan Railway. It lies directly south of Lake City, ten miles distant, and is the same distance from Cadillac. Ever since its foundation, the village has shown considerable push and enterprise, and that it will become quite a hardwood manufacturing town, seems probable, and it is already making a start in that direction.

Its manufacturing establishments comprise Baker Bros.' saw and planing mill, which runs almost constantly the year round; Symes Bros.' saw and planing mill, with a capacity of 25,000 to 30,000 feet per day; C. W. Cromwell's roller factory, an institution established this year for the purpose of making maple roller bolts for export to England, and which gives employment to 15 to 20 men, besides making a market for large quantities of timber. A large set of charcoal kilns are operated by F. Desmond.

The village has one newspaper, *The Chronicle*, L. Van Meter, editor and publisher. The different mercantile lines are well represented.

The educational wants of the place are provided for by a new two-story frame schoolhouse, with an enrollment of over eighty scholars. The Bethany Presbyterian church building was dedicated Sept. 13th, 1891. Rev. W.J. Rainey is pastor.

The village is becoming quite an important shipping point; the average monthly shipments from that station being about 2,300,000 pounds.

#### [Jennings]

JENNINGS is the third village in point of population, containing about 300 inhabitants. It is built on the bluffs of the northwest shore of Crooked Lake, about five miles west of Lake City. It is a typical lumber

town, its population being almost wholly made up of the employees in Mitchell Bros. & Murphy's saw and planing mill, and their families. The burg is certain of a five or ten years lease of life, at least, as the Mitchell Bros' timber will last that long. Before that is gone, something may succeed it which will place the village on a lasting foundation. It has one railroad—the G.R.& I.

#### [Lucas]

LUCAS is probably the fourth village in size and is situated in one of the best belts of farming lands in Northern Michigan. Situated on the T.A.A.&N.M. Railway, eight miles from Cadillac and twelve miles from Lake City, it is quite a shipping point for hardwood timbers, lumber, etc. The annual shipment of cedar, hemlock bark, shingles, etc., is also considerable. Its growth has not, and never will be, of the mushroom, boom order, but backed by a good farming country, will be slow and substantial; and although its nearness to larger places will hold it back, it will make a prosperous country village, in time.

#### [Falmouth]

FALMOUTH is situated on Clam River, ten miles from McBain (the nearest railroad station and shipping point), nineteen miles from Cadillac, thirteen miles from Lake City, twenty-five miles from Harrison and thirteen miles from Marion. It is surrounded by good farming land on all sides; principally timbered with hardwood, and already well interspersed with thrifty settlers, whose farms range from 25 to 100 acres or more of cultivated lands. The early log houses and barns are rapidly giving way to the more attractive and commodious frame buildings.

There is also a fine water power here, which furnishes ample power for saw and shingle mill and a roller process flour mill, which affords a market for most of the logs and grain produced by the farmers. There is a large general store, carrying a good stock of such goods as are required by the surrounding country; also a good hotel, a jewelry store, and a blacksmith and wagon shop. J.B. Sleezer superintends a Presbyterian Sunday school.

A planing mill will be put in during the winter. There are good prospects that the town will soon have a railroad, as the T.A.A.&N.M. railway company have surveyed their proposed Mackinaw extension through, and which will, in all probability, be built next season. The country is progressing, and every year adds new farms and sees the enlargement of the old ones.

#### [Vogel Center]

VOGEL CENTRE is about five miles farther down the river; has a sawmill, general store, hotel, hardware store, and a blacksmith shop. The surrounding country is good farming land, except on the north, where a belt of plains stretches along the north and east side of the river, which it follows to its mouth. The farms are under a good state of cultivation. The settlement is composed exclusively of Hollanders.

#### [Stittsville]

STITTSVILLE, Moorestown, and Pioneer each contain a "cross-roads store," and are all patiently waiting for a railroad to accelerate their growth. A prosperous hamlet will spring up around any or all of them, if lucky enough to secure the long looked-for iron road.

## Churches and Pastors

### [Lake City: Methodist Episcopal]

The first sermon preached in Lake City<sup>5</sup> was in January, 1874, in the old courthouse, by John R. Robinson, a half-breed Indian. He was a local preacher in the M.E. Church, and at that time resided in Grand Rapids, but was here fishing on Muskrat Lake, and was invited to preach by some of the few settlers here at that time.

Occasional services were held from that time on by ministers who were traveling through, or visiting friends. Several attempts were made to make permanent organizations by ministers from some of the towns of the railroad, but it was not until in September, 1883, that the Methodist Episcopal church was organized, by Rev. W.R. Stinchcomb, Presiding Elder of Grand Traverse District, with Rev. I. Eagle as preacher in charge. The first class consisted of eighteen persons. Daniel Reeder was appointed class leader, which position he has held up to the present time.

In September 1884, Rev. J.M. Smith came to the charge, and remained three years. During the first year the parsonage was built, and during the second the church was erected and dedicated August 1st, 1886; the Rev. Dr. Smart of the Detroit Conference, officiating.

In September 1887, Rev. E.A. Tanner came as pastor, to be followed by Rev. J. Steffe in 1888. Then came Rev. G.W. Howe in 1889 and remained two years.

In September 1891, the present pastor, Rev. J. Berry was appointed to the work. He finds a good church building and a comfortable parsonage, all out of debt; a membership of fifty-seven; a good Sunday School, under the superintendence of Geo. W. Wood; a Ladies Aid Society in good working order. An Epworth League was recently organized.

The Church seems to be in a fairly prosperous condition, and is doing something to make the morals of Lake City what they ought to be.

The church building and parsonage are located on the corner of John and Pine streets, two blocks east of Main.

JAMES BERRY, the present pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake City, was born in Brampton, Ont., Nov. 26, 1849. He became a resident of Michigan in 1859. Was admitted into the Michigan Conference of the M.E. church at its session in Grand Rapids in 1875. His appointments have been in the Southern part of the state until 1890, when he was stationed at Harbor Springs.

### [Lake City: Presbyterian]

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, of Lake City, was organized January 15th, 1889, by a committee from the Presbytery of Petoskey, consisting of Rev. F.E. Stout of Petoskey and Rev. Jas. Lamb of Cadillac, with 26 members. Rev. J.A. Kennedy, under the instruction of the Presbytery of Grand Rapids, visited Lake City,

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<sup>5</sup> While Lake City is clearly primary in Stout's mind, the Vogel Center Dutch Reformed community had been meeting weekly for worship from their beginning in 1868, and organized a formal church by 1872.

about the first of September, 1888, and preached his first sermon here on the second Sabbath of the same month, in the old school house. Mr. Kennedy was at this time in Riverside, working for the organization of a church there, which took place December 11, 1888; so visited Lake City once in two weeks, preaching in the old school house until the time the church was organized, and then in the court house up to the time the church was dedicated, on December 8th, 1889. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. Lamb, Cadillac. Immediately after the organization of the church, pastor and members spread their sails to catch the breeze of enthusiasm which was blowing. A subscription list was circulated, and although the people had recently suffered so much from the fire, all responded heartily. Plans for a church building were drawn by Mr. Geo. E. Nelson, and approved by the building committee. As soon as the snow took its departure, work was commenced, and by the heroic effort of the members and people of Lake City, the beautiful church was dedicated within one year from the time of the organization, which shows that the people possessed a good supply of consecration, grace, and grit.

The church building is situated on the corner south from the court house; [it] is built of brick with a metallic roof; [it has] a bell weighing sixteen hundred pounds, stained glass windows which cost \$275, circular seats for 400 persons (which are very comfortable, costing about \$400), roomy church parlor, [and] is heated by a Boynton furnace. The lots upon which the church stands, with the building, cost about \$5,000.

As a number, who promised money and labor, failed for some unexceptional reason to fulfill their pledges, the trustees are still shouldering some debt, and would be glad to see all pledges redeemed. The "Ladies Society," helped by the people of Lake City, are working courageously, so we hope soon to see this church shake off the cloud of financial embarrassment. About \$300 pledged is still unpaid.

When this church was organized, three elders were elected and ordained—J.B. Ashbaugh, A.C. Lewis, and S.B. Ardis, who still fill their office. J.E. Wright and J.U. Arbuckle were elected and set apart as deacons. The present trustees are S.B. Ardis, A.C. Lewis, J.B. Ashbaugh, H.K. Almes, F.E. Cornwell, and William Arbuckle.

From a spiritual standpoint, the work of this church has been of a steady growth. No communion has passed since the church was organized without some new members uniting. Its membership at present is 51. All is moving along in Christian harmony; in connection with the church there is a flourishing Sunday school, over which J.E. Wright watches with commendable zeal, and has since the school started. There is also a Young Peoples' Society, Ladies' Society, and Missionary Society, all doing good work.

J.A. Kennedy, the present pastor, was born in County Antrim, Ireland, and received his early education in the place of his birth. The last three years were spent in London England, where he finished his education in 1887. [He] Landed in this country September 8 of same year. Took charge of a church in East Aurora, N.Y. for a time, and from there come to Northern Michigan, August 8, 1888. Was at Riverside and a few weeks later came to Lake City.

[Lake City and Falmouth: Roman Catholic Circuit]

[Roman Catholic priest] LOUIS STEVEN ALEXANDER BAROUX, [whose territory includes Missaukee,] was born March 25, 1817 in the department of Sarthe, center of France. The following is a brief outline of the more important events of his life as told by himself:

*During the course of my studies in 1837, the influenza was an epidemic very prevalent, and I neglected to care for myself, and for many years subsequent, my health was very delicate, and my studies were finished with difficulty. I was ordained [a] priest May 21, 1842.*

*Three years later, I resolved to devote my life to foreign missions; but on account of my poor health, my Bishop refused me his permission, and not until two years later did I gain his consent. July 2nd, 1846, I embarked at Havre, in company with Rev. Father Sorin, the founder of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. [We] Landed at New York, Aug. 12th, reached Notre Dame, Ind., Aug. 22nd. I spent six months there.*

*March 14th, 1847, I went to Pokagon, now called Silver Creek, in Cass County, Michigan. I had 300 Indians of the Pottawatomie tribe, who were converted some ten years before. My lodging was a little cabin twelve feet square, covered with bark, without either a chair, a table, a lamp or light of any kind; with no floor and no latch or lock of any kind, for two years. After two years, some Irish families settled near, but they were very poor for several years. I had a log church that was full every Sunday; I was happy and contented.*

*In December, 1849, the orphans of Notre Dame lost their house by fire. Rev. Father Sorin begged of me to go to France to collect money to rebuild. I was sick with pleurisy, and so weak I did not feel able to undertake such a journey in winter, but as the keeping of the orphans depended on my answer, I resolved to go. Left New York, Jan. 3d, 1850. To try to collect money at that time in France, seemed an absurdity; there was such misery and distress. I understood the difficulty. I preached to explain what brought me over the sea; told them I did not want to bother them, as they were bound to provide for their own poor first. I would not call on them, but would receive only what they could spare and bring to the parish priest. This way of begging pleased everyone. I returned to America in May, 1851, with \$3,700 for the orphans.*

*I then expected to live and die in America, but I was sadly disappointed. In September 1852, I was appointed to go to Asia to establish a mission in eastern Bengal. 500 miles east of Calcutta. I had built at Silver Creek a comfortable little house; it was like a palace to me after leaving my small hut. I was so much attached to my Indians, our separation was painful. I went to France in September, 1852; thence to London, England. There I paid \$300 for passage to Calcutta, via Cape of Good Hope; but in the Bay of Biscay we met with a terrible storm that lasted several weeks and compelled us to return to Plymouth, England, at the end of eleven weeks. I had a fever, was unable to continue the voyage, forfeited my \$300, and returned to France.*

*September 22d, 1853, I embarked at Marseilles, going via Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Aden, and Ceylon, reached Calcutta, Oct. 31st. Nine days later, started for Dacca, reaching there Nov. 17th. The 21st we left for Noacolly, the place of our destination, arriving on the 24th. I remained there until May 1st, 1854. I*

*had there about 600 Catholics. My house was small; was built of bamboos and covered with grass. I had no church, and on Sundays said Mass under a tree.*

*My next destination was Chittagong, where I found a residence and church built of brick, the latter being 145 feet long by 65 feet wide. I had about 1200 Catholic Portuguese—that country having belonged to Portugal, prior to its conquest by England. I found in that vast territory, about one million Pagans and half a million Mohammedans. On account of the divisions of caste among the natives, we are never admitted to their homes, or permitted to speak to or see their families. We had at Chittagong a Baptist minister who was a very good man and a zealous missionary. He had been there thirty-five years. I never baptized a pagan. Some pretended to want to be received; I told them to come for a while and to be prepared and instructed. I never saw them afterwards. The only religion they wanted was money. I was there in 1857 at the time of the Sepoy insurrection, when so many Europeans were murdered. For three months I never undressed, expecting to be murdered every night.*

*At last I had to leave that mission on account of my failing health. Out of 26 priests, in four years there were two left. I left Calcutta Nov. 1st, 1857. At the mouth of the Hoagly River, I went ashore with the captain and three sailors. On returning our boat was upset, and we were rescued with difficulty. Four of us caught a rope thrown from the ship. I was lowest, and when the others were rescued, I was under water and they thought I was gone, but when the rope was drawn in, [I] was still clinging to it, although insensible. I landed in Marseilles Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1857.*

*I returned to America in Jan. 1859, and came back to Silver Creek. I can find no words to tell the happiness my Irish and Indian congregation expressed on seeing me again after seven years' absence. That was the happiest day of my life. We built a handsome church and house. My health was poor—the result of life in India—but I had missions in four counties, and was often from home 15 days at a time. Half of my Indians moved to Rush Lake, 16 miles from Silver Creek, on account of difficulties with the chief. They had a miserable log church. In October 1862, I went to France, collected over \$1000, returned in May 1863, and built a new church.*

*I continued to attend all these missions until October 1870, but the long journeys broke my health, and I was removed to Ecorse, near Detroit, where I built a handsome brick house. I remained there 12 years.*

*In 1882, I removed to Montague, Muskegon county. I had seven places to attend, while there. Nov. 28, 1883, I was thrown from a carriage and seriously injured, losing the use of an arm for nearly a year. I moved to Muskegon, thence to Manistee, from there to Big Rapids.*

*In 1886 I went to Reed City. I had Evart, Hersey, Chippewa Station, Brinton, Baldwin, Chase, Ashton, Deer Lake, and Luther.*

*In September 1887, I received the charge of Cadillac, but came only twice a month. I was attending also Lake City, Kalkaska, Hobart, Marion, and Falmouth. In October 1888, we bought the house at Cadillac, then built a tower and got a bell, etc. I kept all my missions. I have so much to do that I never have a full week at home to rest.*

*It is 34 years since I left my mission in Bengal, and I supposed I was forgotten there, but learned my mistake two years ago. They had heard my health was very good, and wrote to the Propaganda at Rome, asking to have me sent back there. I worked very hard there, and it is a great consolation to me to know that I have there yet so many faithful friends.*

The Roman Catholics in this vicinity, of whom Father Baroux has the care, number about 100. Services are held in the court room, the last Sabbath in each month.

#### [Stittsville: Methodist Episcopal]

What is now known as the Stittsville circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church, or at least a part of it, was formerly attached to the Lake City charge, but was set off some four or five years ago, the first pastor being Rev. Thos. Tindall. He was succeeded by Rev. W.Z. Cole, and he by the present pastor, Rev. James H. Collins.

Classes are organized at Stittsville, Moorestown, and Excelsior in Norwich township, Pioneer in Pioneer, Cutcheon in Forest, and Star City in West Branch. To the latter an Indian class is also attached. A glance at the list of appointments and location of the same will convince one that the pastor's position is no sinecure. Services are held fortnightly, at each place. The total membership is 59, of which 52 are full members, and 7 are probationers. Sunday Schools have been organized by the church at Stittsville, Moorestown, Pioneer, Excelsior, and Forest. In these schools, the officers and teachers number 34, scholars, 104. An independent Sunday School is in operation at Star City, which will probably be re-organized as an M.E. school, shortly.

On this circuit, the services are held in school houses, as yet. A neat and commodious church building is being erected at Moorestown, which will probably be ready for use early in the summer of '92. Estimated cost \$1,500. The society owns a comfortable parsonage and garden lot, at Stittsville, valued at \$500.00.

JAMES H. COLLINS, the present pastor, was born in Canada of Irish parents. [He] Learned the printing trade, and followed it in many cities, among which may be named Toronto, Can., Chicago, Ill., Chamberlin, S.D., Omaha, Neb., New York City and Buffalo, N.Y. He spent four years in revival work in the provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and in the states of Maine and Massachusetts. At these revivals during this period, 1,000 persons professed conviction. {He} Entered pastoral work in this state in September 1888, and spent two years at Alba and one at Ironton. During his stay at the latter place, he conducted a revival at Hilligos, one of the appointments on the charge, at which 40 persons professed conversion. As stated above, he came to Stittsville in September 1891.

#### [Southwestern Missaukee: Methodist Episcopal]

APPLICATION was made on the 25th of December, 1891, to the pastor in charge of what is known as the Cadillac Circuit (ME), which covers three points in southwestern Missaukee, for material from which to write an article, but no reply was received in time to be used here. For this reason, our sketch is brief and imperfect. The three appointments are at Lucas, Dist. No. 3 Riverside, and McBain. A cozy

parsonage is located at Lucas. Sunday Schools are connected with the church at Lucas and Dist. No. 3. No church buildings. The present pastor is Rev. Robert Batterbee, who took the charge in 1890.

[McBain: Presbyterian]

BETHANY Presbyterian church, is the title of the church at McBain, of which Rev. William J. Rainey is the pastor. The building, a neat frame structure, was dedicated in 1891, and is nearly out of debt. The membership and attendance is good, and the pastor is generally liked and respected. (Material for a more complete description was promised, but was probably lost, en route.—Ed.)

[Dutch Reformed]<sup>6</sup>

In addition to these, there is a flourishing Dutch Reformed church at Lucas,<sup>7</sup> which owns a comfortable church and other property.

The Reformed Church of Falmouth<sup>8</sup> has recently been incorporated, and will build a new frame church early next spring at a cost of about \$1,000. A new parsonage will also be built. Services are conducted by H. Zuidersma, who is presiding elder.

At Vogel Centre there is a Christian Reformed Church of which Rev. J. Schepers is pastor.<sup>9</sup>

The Reformed Church Society has built a new frame church about three-fourths of a mile west of Vogel Centre. The two churches differ little in creed.<sup>10</sup> In addition to the proposed church at Falmouth, mentioned above, the last named church will erect two more church buildings, during 1892, in Clam Union township.

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<sup>6</sup> Similar to his 1941 history, Stout's lack of attention to the Dutch Reformed community, which he confesses makes up the bulk of southern Missaukee, is remarkable in its relative silence, and at points, mockery.

<sup>7</sup> Organized January 1883.

<sup>8</sup> This is the Reformed Church in America congregation of Falmouth. Prosper Christian Reformed Church was organized in 1894.

<sup>9</sup> This is the first congregation to organize in all of Missaukee, first informally as weekly meetings of the first homesteaders in Missaukee, and formally organized in 1872. It also launched the first school in Missaukee. Surprisingly, Stout chooses to place it as almost a footnote at the end of his list. Maybe he felt the Reformed community in general was too ethnically Dutch to be of any social influence for his intended audience.

<sup>10</sup> He refers to what are now the denominations of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) and Reformed Church in America (RCA). They still differ little in creed.





Figure 2: Vogel Center Christian Reformed Church and Parsonage, 1887, the first church in Missaukee.

### Retrospective: A Brief History of Missaukee<sup>11</sup>

PERHAPS a look back into the past history of our county may not be devoid of interest. What is here submitted is taken here and there from various sources, but its accuracy is vouched for in every instance, either by official records or eye-witnesses.

#### Elections

The first board of supervisors met at the "Perley Farm," about two miles northeast of Falmouth, June 6th, 1871. Present: W. J. Morey of Pioneer, James White of Quilna, Daniel Reeder of Reeder, John Vogel of Clam Union, and Henry Van Meter of Riverside. D. Reeder was elected chairman. The salaries of county officers were fixed by this board as follows: Clerk \$500; Treasurer \$250; Prosecuting Attorney \$200, Judge of Probate \$100; Sheriff, \$100. At this session the *Osceola Outline* of Hersey was designated as the official paper of the county.

Of the first election of county officers, the records in the county clerk's office tell nothing. All that can be ascertained is that sometime in the spring of 1871, prior to the meeting of the board of supervisors above mentioned, a special election was held, at which the following officers were chosen: Judge of Probate, John Vogel; Sheriff, Gillis McBain; Clerk and Register, E.W. Watson; Treasurer, Ira Van Meter;

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<sup>11</sup> This historical sketch forms the foundation of Stout's more expansive 1941 history of Missaukee (1871-1917).

Surveyor, Abraham Stout. The circuit judge, T. J. Ramsdell of Traverse City, appointed L. H. Gage of Traverse City as Prosecuting Attorney for this county, there being no attorney here.

The first election of which we have any record, was held April 3rd, 1871, at which votes for justice of the supreme court etc., were recorded. Only 41 state tickets were counted—all Republican. The first general election on record was in November, 1872—the Grant and Greeley campaign. 119 national tickets were polled; Grant receiving 111 and Greeley 8. On the county ticket, Judge of Probate Vogel was re-elected without opposition. For Sheriff, Otto Schaap was unanimously elected. For Clerk and Register, M. D. Richardson received 84 against 49 for E.W. Watson. For Treasurer, Washington Reeder received 76; James Cavanagh, 58. For Prosecuting Attorney, Arlington C. Lewis received 97, D.A. Rice, 19; J.D. Snyder, 2. For Surveyor, B.C. Bonnell, 134; Horace Greeley, 1. Thomas T. Caldwell and Addison R. Smith were elected coroners.

The act of the Legislature organizing Missaukee county provided that the county seat should be located at Falmouth for three years, and that the location should then be decided by a vote of the people. Lake City entered the arena, and the battle was sharp and decisive. Voters were doubtless imported by both sides for the occasion, but the "Muskrat Village" was an easy winner. The election was held June 10th, 1873, the vote standing: Lake City 131; Falmouth 95; center of County, 1; total 227.

The name "Quilna," wherever it occurs in this book, should be understood to mean the territory now known as Caldwell and Bloomfield. The name was changed to Caldwell a year or two later.

#### [\[Otto Schaap\]](#)

Several amusing anecdotes are told of Otto Schaap (pronounced Skop), the second sheriff of this county.

At this time, John Vogel, now of Muskegon, was the acknowledged leader and great man of the Holland settlement in Clam Union. To him they went with all their troubles, and it is said some of them even swore by his name.

During Schaap's term of sheriff, he was present at an election one day, when the whiskey flowed free and some of the camp boys present were getting "happy." One of them came up behind the Sheriff, and with a blow of his hand drove that official's high hat down over his eyes; at the same time administering a vigorous kick. Forgetting his dignity, the sheriff broke into a run towards his patron, yelling, "Yon Vogel! Oh, Yon Vogel!!" at every jump, and never stopped until safe under his protection.

Another time, while Schaap was a Justice of the Peace, he issued a bill of divorce to a couple, who had found marriage a failure. While hearing this case, he brought his fist down upon the "Compiled Laws," which lay before him, exclaiming, "There's a heap o' law in them books!" Whether this divorced (?) couple ever attempted to marry again on the strength of this separation, our informant sayeth not.

#### [\[Pioneer Life\]](#)

While many of the stories of pioneer life are amusing, as told now, many of their experiences were not so pleasant.

The nearest markets and post offices were Hersey on the south and Traverse City on the north. Wagon roads were scarce and nearly impassible. Provisions in many cases were carried 30 to 50 miles on men's shoulders. Furniture? They had little, except what they made. For instance, the writer remembers his childhood home in a log cabin in Richland township, in which all the furniture was made by his father and grandfather; their only tools being an ax, a drawshave, and the Yankee's never-failing jackknife.

An illustration of the pleasures of traveling in those days is submitted. Twenty-three years ago, the 23d day of December 1891, James White, now a resident of Caldwell township, was toiling on his way from Falmouth towards Muskrat Lake, along the almost impassible trail, with his family and household goods stowed in his wagon. When four or five miles from the Lake, his wagon broke down, and he pushed on for help. The inhabitants of what is now Lake City turned out in a body and assisted the emigrants to reach this place, Daniel Reeder carrying one child in his arms, through to his home. That child is now the wife of Richard M. Bielby, the present sheriff.

#### [John Koopman, Pioneer]

To conclude our reminiscences, we present a short biographical sketch of our present Judge of Probate. He was one of the first settlers, and one of the advance guard of the colony of Hollanders who now form the bulk of the population of southern Missaukee. The trials and hardships experienced by him, is a fair sample of those endured by all the early pioneers, who came here in the '60s and early '70s:

John Koopman was born Feb. 6th, 1836, in the province of Groningen, Kingdom of Holland. Was married Jan. 1st, 1869; has a family of six children. In '69 he removed to the United States. After remaining in Grand Rapids a few weeks, he heard about what was then talked of as Clam River, (Missaukee county being not yet organized,) and with three companions set out for this region in the hope of finding homesteads.

They were told it was somewhere north of Big Rapids, but on reaching that town, could learn nothing about Clam River. Being unable to speak English, so after trying different roads which led them astray, they returned to Big Rapids, where they met Hoffmeyer, a German, who told them he lived 30 miles further up the Muskegon river, but the rest of the party were discouraged and would go no farther. After their return to Grand Rapids, he again set out with one companion and reached Hoffmeyer's, a little north of the present site of Ewart. From there they went to Watson's farm and finally to Clam River. In October 1869 he moved with his family to the Clam River, consuming 10 days in the journey.

Being informed there were no more homesteads, he squatted on a piece of railroad land, adjoining to John Vogel's, where he built a log house and store combined, and opened what was probably the first store in Missaukee county. Later, learning there were still homesteads, he took one on section 36, in Riverside township, clearing 50 acres. He lived there till 1879. Was township Treasurer several terms, Supervisor for 3 years, and a candidate for county Treasurer on the first Independent ticket, but was defeated by a small majority.

In 1879 he built a store in Falmouth, and the following year was elected supervisor of Clam Union. In 1881 he bought the village plat, saw, shingle, and grist mill, which he remodeled to run by water power, by putting a dam in Clam River. In 1884, the mills were washed out, but a new flour mill was built on the

opposite bank of the river, which was burned before it was fully completed. A new one was at once built on the same site, and completed during the winter of '85. In '88 he was elected Judge of Probate. In 1890 he built a new saw and shingle mill.

THE END.