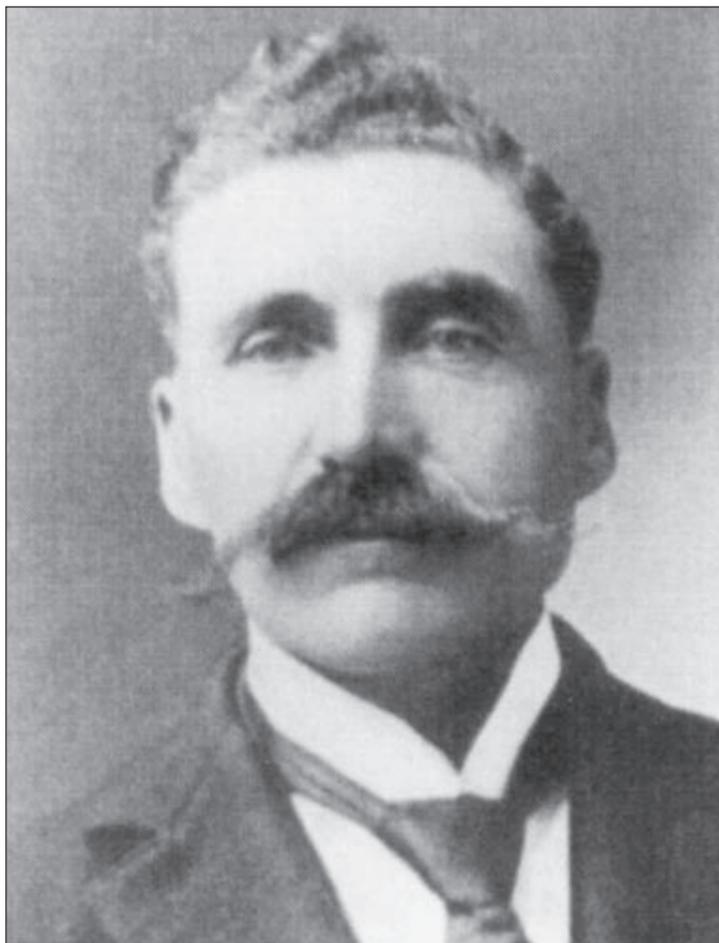


Looking Back...



STEINER GARTHE worked as a woodcutter, railroad man, farmer, Leelanau County Supervisor, and in 1902, Judge of Probate, Leelanau County.

Fortunes found in island timber, then on mainland

The following is story and photos are taken from Kathleen Craker Firestone's "The Fox Islands North and South."

Probably more people have been brought to the Fox Islands, Manitou Islands and Beaver Islands because of the timber than for any other reason. David Gladish in *The Journal of Beaver Island History, Volume 1*, says "Virtually all the islands have contributed to the logging industry in one way or another."

The first recorded land certificate on South Fox was issued to Nicholas Pickard, who was born in New York in 1817. He took out a claim on the southeastern side of South Fox in 1850. This was just before the Mormon settlers arrived. Pickard had already established a wooding station when schooners could pick up cooking fuel, on North Manitou Island in 1846, and Manitou had the biggest wooding port of the islands of Leelanau County. At that time there were no white settlers on the nearby mainland, although boats traveling the Manitou Passage stopped at North Manitou daily. Pickard obviously found this to be a profitable business, extending his wooding operations to South Fox Island, and later to Leland and Northport.

His business "Nicholas Pickard & Company" was owned in partnership with Edwin Munger of New York. Munger was probably a financier of the company. When steamers on the Great Lakes were at their greatest number, between 1870 and 1880, Pickard was well equipped to provide cordwood for their steam boilers and cooking stoves. The hardwoods on North and South Fox, when cut into four-foot-lengths, made ideal fuel for the steamers when they stopped by. During most of these years, Pickard and his wife, the former Nancy Buss, made their home in Leland and on North Manitou Island. Pickard, Roe & Garthe

Nicholas Pickard died in Leland in 1876, at age 59. His death was sudden, listed as a stroke, and his final inventory included "125 cords shipping wood on bank," along with a propeller launch, a Mackinaw boat, wood-cutting tools and farm animals. In the property settlement, the name of Wilder appeared as an heir to Edwin Munger, who had died before Pickard. It is interesting to note that J. Wilder owned property on the north end of North Fox in 1851, at the time of the early Mormon occupation of that island.

Over the next 20 years, Roe bought and resold parcels of property as he cut the wood needed for his own wooding station. Roe sold a piece on South Fox's northeastern shore to Alexander Sample and Alfred Scovil of Chicago. Scovil did not continue his involvement in the island property, and Sample and Roe combined their wooding businesses and bought additional joint property. Roe already had quite a business going before Sample joined him in his venture. Employees of Roe listed on the 1870 and 1880 Censuses for South Fox were William Chase from England, Francis Boyle from Ireland, Andrew Olson and Powel Johnson from Norway, James McGregor from New York and Josiah Boyce. Some of these men are listed as married servants of Roe, but their families were not living on the island. For their labor, wood choppers got 50 cents a cord for four-foot lengths. One person could cut about a cord a day. The wood was then sold to steamers for \$1.50 a cord.

Robert Roe also owned more than a mile of shoreline frontage along North Fox Island's east side, which he registered in 1864. This was the best place on North Fox to operate a wooding station, away from the westerly winds.

Though a wood chopper didn't get rich, his job could keep him alive until he found something better.

Steiner Garthe came with his widowed father from Norway to Michigan, in 1868, and found a job on the Leelanau mainland as a farm hand. He agreed to work for a year for \$150, plus board and washing. Garthe claimed he got the board and washing but not the money. He thought he might do better as a woodcutter on South Fox Island and signed up at one of the wooding stations. His sister Mary went to the island with him, and they lived with another Norweigan, Ole Goodmanson. Presumably, Steiner Garthe received his pay, and experience helped him to clear some 40 acres around 1870, back on the mainland near Cat Head Point. From his first job as a farm hand, Garthe worked his way through woodcutter, railroad man, farmer, Leelanau County Supervisor, and in 1902, Judge of Probate. From such humble beginnings, many settlers in America left their mark as Steiner Garthe did. A common job such as woodcutter could be a stepping stone for an ambitious immigrant.

Perhaps some woodcutters weren't so willing. Stan Floyd of Beaver Island and Charlevoix claimed that his grandfather, John Floyd, was shanghaied to South Fox to cut cordwood. According to the grandson, John Floyd arrived in Milwaukee after the Civil War and got

a little drunk from celebrating. He woke up later on South Fox Island. It's not known which wooding station John Floyd worked for; but he made friends on the island with Mary Palmer and her sweetheart Otto Williams. John Floyd was witness to their 1871 wedding and when Mary Palmer Williams became a young widow or was deserted by her husband, John Floyd married her in 1874. Henry Longfield, who probably was a woodcutter, accompanied Mary and John to Northport, where the marriage took place. After most of their children were born on South Fox, the Floyds were found to be living on North Manitou in 1880s, where Mr. Floyd, most likely, worked in one of the lumbering operations there. The family soon moved to Beaver Island, and descendants became part of that island's community. Another of Roe's woodcutters, William Chase, also married and raised a family on Beaver Island.

Marriage was on the mind of a friend of John Floyd. John Malloy, who was called "Buffalo," was a woodcutter on South Fox with Floyd. Malloy was scheduled to marry a girl from Beaver Island, but it seemed that the tin, spring ice was slow to break-up, preventing travel by boat. Malloy said he would crawl if he had to, to get to his waiting bride. Stan Floyd related that Malloy kept his promise and did crawl much of the way across the melting ice between South Fox and Beaver Island, and the wedding took place on schedule.

5 YEARS AGO September 5, 2013

The new head of Leelanau County's Construction Code Authority has issued a "violation notice" to the presumed owner of Sugar Loaf Resort, and is taking steps that he says could lead to demolition of derelict structures there. Code official Steven M. Haugen sent a letter dated Aug. 23 to the person listed as the owner of Sugar Loaf Resort, Kate Wickstrom.

Organizers of Suttons Bay Floatilla2 are far from confident that the event broke a world record for the number of canoes and kayaks joined together in a raft. However, the event is expected to raise a lot of money — more than last year's mark of \$45,000 — for the benefit of Suttons Bay Public Schools, the primary reason for holding Floatilla2.

Anthony Miller was at a work site in Jackson when he learned of the 9/11 attacks on the East Coast. By noon that day the ironworker from Peshawbestown was en route to Ground Zero in New York City. "I came home. Did my laundry and hugged my kids," said Miller, 57. "I knew it was going to be a dangerous job." When he wasn't working at Ground Zero, Miller, whose hobby is photography, captured the enormity and extent of the catastrophe using a disposable camera.

10 YEARS AGO September 4, 2008

Despite the fact that the number of people who visited the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore appears to be down about 30 percent compared to last year, businesses in Leelanau County seem to have fared well this summer season — especially during the latter half of the summer. "I think a lot of businesses were stung by the relatively cool, wet weather at the beginning of the summer," said David Marshall of the Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Mike Murray hasn't missed many first days of school. But the second-year Suttons Bay superintendent was not there to greet any of the 870 students who were present when the first school bell rang Tuesday. He was at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City undergoing tests following chest pains Monday.

Because one doe near Grand Rapids contracted a disease never previously diagnosed in Michigan, Carl Noonan may not be able to supplement his family-owned gas station in Solon Township with the sale of bags of "deer apples." A couple in Maple City may lose money on their Rocking Redpine Ranch operation because the sale of seven does from their 27-deer herd to a buyer in Antrim County was blocked.

35 YEARS AGO September 8, 1983

Officials of the Northport Area Chamber of Commerce and the Northport Race Association, Inc., said

this week that they're still undecided whether or not there will be a second Northport 200 powerboat race next year. The inaugural version of the national powerboat event was held Saturday on West Grand Traverse Bay, drawing an estimated total of 100,000 to 150,000 spectators.

Even though its tracks now lead nowhere, the Leelanau Transit Railroad Co. is still locked in a dispute with the Michigan Department of Transportation over the \$160,000 grant that allowed the tiny rail line to repair its tracks from Greilickville to Suttons Bay. No train has moved over the tracks in five years.

A presentation of a \$185,000 study to determine a new location for a Traverse City-owned coal storage station in Elmwood Township was given by a Lansing engineering firm during a special meeting of the Traverse City Light and Power Board yesterday. Officials from Snell Environmental Group, with input from a local steering committee, proposed relocating the coal station.

60 YEARS AGO September 11, 1958

Two men were injured slightly and both were arrested in a plane crash Thursday night at 7:00 on Benzonia Trail six miles northeast of Empire. Sheriff Robert H. White and State Trooper Ed Hill were seen checking the crash site. Sgt. William Tobias and Airman First Class Thomas W. Ainsworth both of the Empire Air Force Station were injured in the crash.

Electrical storms, continuing their bombardment of Leelanau, destroyed the William Frost barn on the county line and damaged the Riverside Inn in Leland Wednesday night, then struck again Sunday at the home of Mrs. Louis Overby, five miles southwest of Lake Leelanau. Two calves, several tons of hay and miscellaneous farm machinery were lost in the barn fire.

An insect which caused serious damage to red tart cherry orchards this year in Leelanau and Oceana counties has been positively identified as cherry fruit worm. This insect, which has been a severe problem in the West, never before threatened Michigan cherry crops.

125 YEARS AGO September 7, 1893

A grand ball will take place at the K.O.T.M. hall, on Friday evening next. All are invited.

Carson and Chas. Warner returned to Leland this a.m., from their World's Fair trip.

Leander Peck informs us that he will start his cider mill at Suttons Bay next week.

Mr. Frank Blakemore caught a fine lot of black bass on Monday, some of them weighing four pounds.



COMMUNITY BIBLE EXPERIENCE BEGINS

AT LEELANAU COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sun., Sept. 16 at 10:00 am

Join us for worship and to celebrate a new season in our 120th anniversary year.

We invite you to begin a new program called Community Bible Experience.

Our congregation and anyone interested in the community is invited to begin Community Bible Experience. This 8 week program involves reading 10-15 pages per day, five days a week, beginning September 17 and allows for a group to read, reflect and discuss the entire New Testament together. On Sunday evenings, and/or in various small groups, participants will have the opportunity to discuss, share and grow together.

Read Big, Read Well, Read Together.

The Community Bible Experience

at Leland Community UMC



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