

forest, and causing the stunted poplars to shrink away in terror at its violence. The pelting sand has polished the exposed surfaces of the larger fragments of rocks to such an extent that they reflect the sunlight like a mirror. Their surfaces are sometimes worked into furrows, pits and grotesque inequalities in consequence of the unequal hardness of different portions of the stone. The "Bear" proper is an isolated mound rising a hundred feet above this desolate plateau and singularly covered with evergreens and other trees, presenting from the lake the dark appearance which suggested to the early navigators the idea of a bear in repose.

Empire Bluff, six miles further south, presents a section of another hill which attains an altitude of nearly 400 feet, and the hills at Point Bets Scies reach an elevation but little less.

Seen from the lake, the natural cuts presented between Cathed Point and Carp River, at North Unity, Sleeping Bear and Point Bets Scies look like huge accumulations of blown sand, and convey the impression of a sterile and inhospitable coast, which is quite at variance with the indications of the country a quarter or half a mile back from the shore.

From an eminence about 400 feet high, two or three miles inland from Glen Arbor, on the northeast side of Glen Lake, can be seen one of the most varied and beautiful landscapes to be witnessed in any country, and one which is well worth the pencil of an artist. The view is toward the west, and it should be taken when the sky is clear and the atmosphere is pervaded by that softened haze which fuses the sharper angles of the landscape and throws over it a thin veil of inscrutable vagueness. From our hill summit we look down on the tops of the trees which cover the plain immediately fronting us. On the left is a portion of Glen Lake, its nearer shore concealed by the forest, and the remoter one exposing a white and pebbly margin, from which the verdant hills beyond rise hundreds of feet above the watery mirror in which their forms are so clearly fashioned. In front of us the green hills separate Glen Lake from Lake Michigan, and conceal from view the desert sand fields of Sleeping Bear. Not completely, however, for the naked and glistening flanks of the northern slope stretch out to view beyond the forest covered ridge, and embrace the placid harbor which struggles through the intercepting foliage, and blends with the boundless expanse of the great lake, still beyond. Farther off in the midst of the water, rises the green outline of the South Manitou Island, bearing on its head a glistening cap of sand. Still farther to the right rises the form of the North Manitou, which seems trying to hide itself behind the towering bluff of North Unity, that guards the entrance to the harbor from the north. Two little lakes nestle in the rich woodland that spreads its verdure between us and the harbor, screening themselves like wood nymphs behind the thick foliage which half conceals their charms. It is doubtful whether a scene superior to this one exists in the country.

Another enchanting view is obtained from the bluff at New Mission. From this point the beholder has an exquisite view of Grand Traverse Bay with its eastern and western arms dissolving in smoke in the dim distance, and the broad lake seen through the mouth of the bay sinking beneath the northern horizon. An emerald fringe of forest skirts the opposite shore; the softened outlines of the peninsula emerge from the misty embrace of the two arms of the bay, and all around the framework of this scene loom from the background the purple hilltops looking perpetually down upon the picture.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

In 1840 that portion of the state lying west of the county of Omeena and of Grand Traverse Bay, including the Manitou Islands west of said bay, was laid off as a separate county and designated as the county of Leelanaw.

It is claimed by some that the first white settler within the present limits of Leelanaw County was a Frenchman named Nazaros Dona, who lived about two miles south of the present site of Leland, then called Shemacopink. It is not probable, however, that he lived there except while engaged in fishing, or that he could be considered a settler of the county.

In 1847 John Lerue came from Chicago to the Manitou Islands in search of health. At that time there was a pier, or wharf, on each of the two islands where passing steamers used to call for wood; the one on the north island being owned by Mr. Pickard, that on the south by Mr. Barton. On the north Manitou were two fishermen without families. The light-house was kept by a man named Clark.

There were no white men at that time in Leelanaw County. Farther south, at the mouth of the Betsey River, there was living a white man named Joseph Oliver, with an Indian wife, who supported his family by trapping and fishing. There were no Indians living on the Manitous, but they frequently came there to trade.

Finding the climate favorable to his health, Mr. Lerue commenced trading with the Indians, and the next year moved his establishment over to the mainland, locating at what was then called Sleeping Bear Bay, but now Glen Arbor, and was probably the first white settler connected with subsequent history.

The most prominent figure in the earliest history of Leelanaw County is that of the late Rev. George N. Smith, a minister of the Congregational Church who had spent ten years in missionary work among the Indians of Black River, in Ottawa County. Visiting the bay in the summer of 1848, in company with some of the mission Indians, he selected a location on the shore, some distance north of the site of the present village of Northport.

In the meantime, the government gave orders to James McLaughlin, Indian farmer for the Waukazoo band of Ottawas, at Old Wing, Allegan County, to remove to Grand Traverse Bay. In obedience to these orders, Mr. McLaughlin left the mouth of the Kalamazoo River on the 27th day of May, 1849, in the schooner H. Merrill, of which he was owner. There were on board his own family, consisting of six persons counting himself, and that of his brother-in-law, William H. Case, consisting of three persons. Entering Black Lake, the vessel proceeded up to the place where the village of Holland is now situated, and received on board Mr. Smith and family, increasing the number of passengers to fifteen. After a tempestuous voyage, the vessel passed Cat Head Point on the morning of the 11th of June, and entered the bay.

The arrival and the first experiences of the party are related by James J. McLaughlin, now a resident of Elk Rapids, and a son of James McLaughlin, as follows:

"It was a beautiful morning in the early part of June, 1849, that the schooner Merrill rounded Cat Head Point, and stood up the bay. She had on board three families that were to make the first commencement where Northport now stands, James McLaughlin, the owner of the vessel, who was in the employ of the government, Rev. George N. Smith, missionary and teacher among the Ottawa Indians and William H. Case, a brother-in-law of the owner of the vessel. These parties had been ordered by the government to Grand Traverse, then almost unknown to white men, with an Indian mission from Allegan County in this state. It seemed to us, as we gazed upon the beautiful scenery that met our eyes at every turn, that we had found the 'Eldorado.' The forests were unbroken; the axe of the white man had not marred its beauty; the beach of the bay was not strewn with the refuse of the saw-mill, but all lay in the state that dame Nature had kept it, beautiful beyond description. The place decided upon as the point to settle, was near the creek where Northport is. The vessel was