

MINI INDIAN AND PIONEER HISTORY OF BRANDON, MINNESOTA AREA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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