

## 120 Years Ago

*Grand Traverse Herald* ~ April-May 1885  
by "the South Manitou Correspondent"  
(Submitted March 2003 by David E Morris)

Can anyone tell when the ice will leave? We have given up all hopes of it leaving this summer, nearly, and are sorry we went to the trouble of storing it away for summer use. We hate to throw away the labor. Up to date it is good crossing between the island and the mainland, on the ice, not only on foot and by team, but upon skates also. And excellent skating in the harbor.

There will be no need of any one coming here now to evade the law, for we have it here now as well as they have elsewhere. The island of South Manitou is organized into a township of the same name. We held our first township meeting last Monday, April 6th, 1885, and the following officers were installed in their respective offices as follows: Supervisor, Richard Kitchen; Clerk, Thomas Price; Treasurer, August Beck; Highway Commissioner, Thomas Foster; School Inspector, Martin Knudsen; Justices of the Peace, Martin Knudsen, Wm. N. Burton, Richard Kitchen, Thomas Foster; Constables, Wm. Kitchen, Joseph Haas and James Armstrong; Overseer of Highways, Henry Haas. Now take heed and come not here to evade the clutches of the law, for we are waiting for the first criminal that we may to him or her administer justice before a justice and incarcerate him or her in the ... the ... well, the school house. That seems to be the place where capital punishment is administered. (Most leniently.)

Martin Knudsen of the lighthouse, is making preparations for, and will be on hand with his light as soon as navigation shall open. James Armstrong has been appointed assistant light keeper in the place of Barney Evans, who has received a commission as principal keeper of the light house in Pentwater, Mich. It is rumored that several cottages and a hotel for resort purposes, will be put up here this coming season. A good chance for a carpenter.

Quite a pleasant time was had at the residence of George Hutzler, Sr. on the evening of April 8th. A number of young people of the vicinity of Glen Haven came over to the island and Mr. Hutzler opened his house to them and a very enjoyable time was had. Also a very pleasant time was had at Nelson Knudsen's home on the evening of April 3rd. There would probably be more good times but the roads are getting so poor that the boys hate to go and get the girls, and have them on their hands to see after and take home. It's a great responsibility.

The schooner John C Bauer, first vessel of the season, arrived here May 4th for wood. Cleared May 6th for Milwaukee, with 120 cords of sawed wood; price paid, \$1.20 per cord. Farming has commenced and every man is minding his own business.

First disaster of the season: A small schooner named Clara, from Manistee and bound for Manitowoc, Wis., came to our harbor, May 7th, dragged anchor and went ashore, loaded with shingles. The light keeper and assistant went to help and finally got her off and when underway, the vessel being unable to make to windward, went on the beach again worse than ever. The seas broke over her badly, washing all her deck load off. She is now full of water and somewhat hurt. Shingles for sale cheap.

School closed here April 27th, after a term of five months, and we all think we know as much now as before school begun. There is talk of a summer school. There should be, by all means, for there is excellent timber to work in. The scholars are all very diligent and punctual in their attendance. Master Alfred Armstrong attended most regularly, having been there 96 days out of 98. The average attendance by 20 scholars was 17.8. We have not a very handsome school house but through the efforts of the young ladies in attendance it was made very neat and attractive, and they have the thanks of the teacher though they were somewhat timid about receiving them. ☐