

Manitou County

SOUTH MANITOU.

Herald Correspondence.

I do not visit you very often, but thought I would venture to offer a few remarks, though they may not be of much interest after I have said them.

First I wish to speak of South Manitou as a place of *resort* and *refuge* from the intense cold and severe weather, of which I have seen so many remarks in the leading papers which I have read since my sojourn here on the above named island. I came here the 15th of November, 1884, and have been acting since in the capacity of teacher of the South Manitou school. I have since found it a very agreeable place to reside, especially through the long winter season with which northern Michigan is so often afflicted. Below I will give a short schedule of the temperature of the weather we have thus far had, as indicated by the thermometer; and also the condition of the atmosphere, as shown by the barometer, since January 1, 1885:

	Barometer.	Thermometer.
January 1.....	29.34	12 above
" 2.....	29.70	6 "
" 5.....	29.5	36 "
" 11.....	28.83	36 "
" 14.....	29.72	6 "
" 18.....	29.49	3 "
" 26.....	28.44	2 below
" 27.....	29.26	6 "
February 1.....	29.40	4 above
" 4.....	29.58	26 "
" 6.....	29.20	6 below
" 10.....	28.80	6 "
" 11.....	29.5	10 "
" 16.....	29.20	2 "
" 21.....	29.52	zero
" 26.....	29.24	25 above
" 28.....	29.10	31 "

The above observations were taken at the U. S. Light House establishment, at 7 o'clock a. m. each day. So I think this a very agreeable place to stop through the long cold winter. Were we entirely isolated from the mainland, without communication, we might be aware of the severity of the weather from the fact Lake Michigan is seen to be frozen over as far as the eye, aided by a powerful glass, from the top of the Light Tower, which is 100 feet above the water, can reach. And also wild ducks which are in the habit of wintering here are frequently found lying upon the ice in an exhausted and starved condition, showing that there can be no open water within many miles of here. The ice between the island and the mainland is frozen to the depth of about two feet and is of the finest quality. Teams are crossing regularly to and fro, from the island to the mainland, and from North Manitou also. The first crossing that was done between here and Glen Haven was by foot path, by myself and four others, the keeper and first ass't of the U. S. Light House establishment (Mr. Martin and Nelse. Knucken), John Gunn and Nelse. Oleson, the 31st day of January. Returning we were met by a severe northwest snow storm, and having no compass we lost our course and wandered around for five hours like lost little children, not knowing whither to go. Owing to night coming on, and the drifting snow, we could not follow our "back track" to Glen Haven. So after a few moments' consultation, we resolved to follow a plan proposed by one of the party, by which we were

enabled to keep a course. There being so many of us, it was proposed that we separate and form a line, each person being about six or ten rods from the other, thus forming a long straight line, the first man taking the lead and the last in the row commanding *right* or *left* as he sees him varying from his course by sighting along the line, which command was carried along the line until it reached the leader. This plan we found proved very effective, as it enabled us to keep a direct course. We therefore set our course, hoping to soon reach Glen Haven or the mainland somewhere in that vicinity. But, favored by kind Providence, we failed to reach Glen Haven as we thought we should, but after about an hour's travel one of the party (who has more altitude than the others) discovered a light in the distance, surrounded by a dark outline. We made for it, and it soon proved to be a beacon light hung aloft in the tower of the South Manitou light house, expressly for our benefit; and the dark outline were the high bluffs which form the shore of the island. Never were five hearts made more glad than when we all grasped hands and shook. For we were much fatigued, and a famine had seized some of us, most terribly too. And what could make a heart beat more happily than the anticipation of rest and food ahead, when you are hungry and tired? For that was our condition that night. But enough of that.

I wish to say a word in behalf of the citizens of the island. I have made the acquaintance of nearly all and I find them to be warm-hearted, friendly and hospitable. They consist of nearly all nationalities. They have been laboring for some years past under a great disadvantage, being without township organization; but by the energetic influence of Martin Knudsen, an organization has been re-established and perfected.

I would recommend the island as particularly adapted to fruit cultivation, being free from pestiferous insects, and protected from the severity of the winter weather.

Before concluding, I wish to call attention to what is being done on North Manitou. I was one of a party of four who recently visited the north island and remained there over one night. Two of our party, Mr. Knudsen and myself, were very hospitably entertained during our stay there by Mr. Boardman, who is starting a nice business in stock raising—cattle and horses, horses particularly. He has some fine specimens of the Percheron Norman breed. Among them is an imported stallion, two years old, weight 1,640 lbs. He intends to make stock raising a business.

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(transcript)