

## Long Lake Township

Long Lake, the second settlement to be established in what is now Crow Wing County, was enumerated as a minor civil sub-division in the census of 1860, but it is very doubtful if it ever possessed any form of township government. The early residents, reached there, assuredly, by way of the Nokasippi River. S.B.Olmsted, who had located at the mouth of the Nokasippi in 1849, was lumbering as early as 1850 and his operations probably extended along this river, as it drained the southern part of the country. At any rate, the pioneer lumbermen had taken the best of the timber before 1870.

Another cause that may have led to the early settlement of Long Lake, was the fact that it lay on the main route from Crow Wing to Mille Lacs, both of which sections were well populated in the fifties: the former by traders and the latter by Indians. This route was sufficiently well known and traveled to be established as the Territorial Road by an act of the territorial legislature dated February 23, 1856. At that time, the legislature approved the road as explored by Anson Northrup in January of 1856.

When the townsite boom struck this county, Elijah Dunphy, the enterprising promoter and resident of Hennepin County, platted the townsite at the foot of Long Lake. The plat must have been filed by March 19, 1858, because on that date, the state legislature established a state road from Crow Wing to Calais and appointed Elijah Dunphy, Alexander Campbell and Robert Simpson as a committee to locate this road. And a deed filed in Crow Wing County, dated November 17, 1858, shows that Elijah Dunphy and wife, Mary, receive \$4,500 from Alfred Makepeace of Anderson, Indiana for an undivided 1/8 interest in the town of Calais, Crow Wing County, as surveyed by N.P.Aspinwall and recorded with the Register of Deeds, Ramsey County. This interest also included one-half of block 27, Calais, which was reserved for mill and boom purposes. While neither the deed nor the legislative act give the exact, or even approximate location of Calais, a copy of a map, now in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, published in 1860 by S.S. Sewall & C.W.Iddings, located Calais at the foot of Long Lake. On later Maps, this location is marked Burnett's and a glance at the census returns for 1860 easily explains why this name was used.

The census returns for Long Lake, P.O. Crow Wing, are dated June 5, 1860 by the enumerator, Peter Roy. There are eight houses in the settlement, and the total population consists of 17 white males and 23 Indians. The heads of the houses, and the number of inhabitants in each, are: Josette Brunette and three children; Louis Brunette, wife and child; Josette St. Clair and five children, Francois Brunette, wife and five children; T.J.Fox and three mixed bloods; Ezra Briggs and Benjamin Briggs; O.W.Sylvester and three other white men; and in the last house were nine white men, seven of whom originated in Sweden, the other two were A. Ladd, a school teacher born in Connecticut, and Charles Lyol, a Baker born in Russia.

There were ten children of school age in this settlement, but the census report does not show whether they attended school during 1859-1860, but the fact that a school teacher was a resident there would lead one to believe that the children had been given educational advantages.

In the census of 1870, Long Lake is not mentioned, yet Louis Brunette, whose name does not appear in the census, still claims his residence at Long Lake, in a deed dated July 5, 1870. There are three families

enumerated in Aitkin County, two of them being Brunettes, but whether or not they were related to the Brunette families of 1860 living in Crow Wing County, would be difficult to determine.

The 1871 tax list shows there was only one taxpayer listed in this township: Chester M. Martin. In that year, he was taxed \$25.74 on 521 acres of land. The township was still being logged off in 1874, for the Brainerd Tribune reports that three lumbermen were lost in the Long Lake region, and that a man was lost for four days there, and died soon after.

Efforts were evidently made to open this township to settlement in 1875, because the Brainerd Tribune says: William Schwartz has personally interviewed hundreds of Mennonites passing through here and finally got John Hooze to decide to locate at Long Lake. Mrs. Schwartz had accompanied Hooze to Fort Garry to get his family and try to get others of his religion to follow him to Crow Wing County. If the Hooze family settled at Long Lake, they left before the township before they had made any permanent record of their residence.

The census of 1875, however, shows that at least three of the later residents of Long Lake Township were living in the First Assessment District, which consisted of all of the county outside of Brainerd. Andrew Lingnau, later a prominent resident of this township, was living in the house of David McArthur, in what is now Crow Wing Township; Frank Hart, his wife and five children; and J.L.C. Miller, wife and three children. J.L.C. Miller was an early resident of Crow Wing Village, but as he is listed as a taxpayer in Long Lake Township in 1882, he has probably moved from Crow Wing to Long Lake.

Township 44, range 30 was probably a part of the Crow Wing or Fairbanks precinct from the establishment of that precinct until 1881. In 1880, the residents of townships 44 and 45, range 30, presented a petition to the county commissioners asking that a voting precinct, commissioner's district, and town be organized in that territory. This petition was referred to the county attorney and nothing seems to have been done about it, for the following year, 1881, the Town of Long Lake was established as a voting precinct, to contain towns 43 and 44, ranges 29 and 30, and town 45, range 29; the voting place to be at Wadham's; and the judges were Felix Duclos, Oscar Thelander, and N.F. Gurness; Thos. P. Russell and Thos. Cumming were appointed clerks in the election. In 1888, the voting place was changed to T. Paulson's house and a few months later, the township was organized.

One of the first summer camps or resorts in this part of the country was established at Long Lake, for in 1885, A.E. Taylor and C.A. Keyne, both of Brainerd, erected tents at Long Lake and hired a man to care for their fishing camp.

By the late eighties, the timber passed over by the early lumbermen was being cut off for local building purposes. June 7, 1887, the county commissioners granted a license to L.H. Kong and H.H. Lysong to build a sluice dam across the Nokay Sebie and a few months later, the newspaper announces that Hong & Tissing are the men putting in a dam for power for saw and grist mills on Anokasippi at the entrance of the stream unto Upper Long Lake. In 1891, Joel Smith, who had been operating a mill Crow Wing Township, was reported moving in to Long Lake.

The petition for organization of a township was granted by the county commissioners December 4, 1888, the township to consist of town 44, range 30, and no changes have ever been made in its boundaries. The petition was signed by: August Schummeier, Philip Duvel, Peter Dechen, Frank Hart, O. Gelo, Andrew Wohlfater, E. Wohlfater, Herman Goetsch, John Lingnau, Ole P. Nesheim, Albert Lafond,

Thomas Deeros, J.McNicholas, John Moffett, N.J.Nesheim, W.H.Rardin, Ole Anderson, A.G.Col, John Koepl, M.D. Deeks, Peter Wohlfater, Paul Lignau, George Rardin, Bernard Lignau, Andrew Rasmussen, J.Arnestad, P.A.Soderberg, N.D.Reynolds, A.Wohlfater, O.Vanasse, Felix Duclos, WM.Gildart, and John Bouck.

An organization meeting was held December 22, 1888 and I.W.Bouck was elected chairman; D.H.Hughey and Jacob Johnson supervisors; Paul Lignau clerk; Ole Anderson treasurer; John McNichols assessor; Andrew Lignau and Soren Hanson justices; John Keeple and John Sangren constables.

Although one of the most thickly populated townships in the county, there has never been a village or a post office established in Long Lake Township. There are a few summer resorts, but it is almost entirely an agricultural community. The population of 40 persons in 1860 was the first, and last separate enumeration until 1890. In that year, the population was 249; by 1900, it had reached 524; it was 565 in 1910, at its peak; by 1920 it was 562 and in 1930, it had dropped to 519 inhabitants.

Five school districts have been organized in this township, and they are all still active. There is a curious situation in regards to the priority of the first two districts. One would naturally suppose that District 3 had been organized long before District 15, but District 15 was organized January 25, 1886, while District 3 was not organized until December 18 of that same year. But the petition for organization for District 3 had been granted on October 4, 1881, while that for District 15 was not granted until January 5, 1886. After the petition for District 3 was granted, the residents lost interest in the matter of organizing a district. In 1886, Mrs. H.C.Hughey decided that her daughter was old enough to go to school and that a school house should be built. When a group of taxpayers went to the county commissioners, they found that the petition of 1881 was still legal, so they organized District 3. District 30 was organized in 1891; District 68 was organized ten years later, and District 71 a few months after District 68.

Two churches have been organized in Long Lake Township, and both are still serving large congregations. The Bethel Lutheran Church of Long Lake was established in 1881 as the Egelund Norsk-Danish Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Crow Wing County, but changed to its present name in about 1921. The South Long Lake Presbyterian Church was organized in 1914. Both churches are served by Brainerd pastors.

Long Lake Township did not possess a town hall until 1914. Then they bought a small frame building that had been used as a "road house" until Pussyfoot Johnson closed the saloons in this county. The township moved the building about twenty rods north, to its present location on the NE-SE of section 17. A new frame hall was erected on the same lot in 1929, but this was destroyed by fire the first day of the hunting season, in 1936. It is believed that hunters spent the night there and carelessly left a fire. A new hall was erected on the same site, in 1938. The loss of the township hall by fire was a comparatively small financial loss, but an irreparable loss, was that most of the Township records, which had been stored in this building.