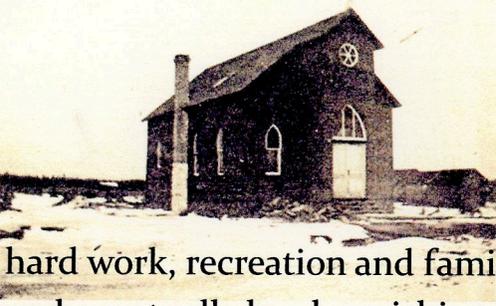


*St. Frederick Catholic Church Sacristy*  
*A Thompson Historical Advisory Committee Project*



Life in the lumber boomtown of Thompson consisted of hard work, recreation and family. Faith also helped to sustain the early settlers of the village, and eventually local parishioners moved services from their homes to newly built churches – the Swedish Lutheran Church in 1895 followed by St. Frederick’s, the Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church.

St. Frederick Catholic Church was built in early 1900 on lot No. 7 in the village of Thompson. The IXL Lumber Company provided the lumber for the entire floor – one-inch clear white maple. Charles Witters and Emery Haskins were the carpenters in charge assisted by three local Thompson craftsmen – Aldred Bouschour, Morton Miller and Earl Hruska. Meta Bouschour was the first baby baptized in the new church. The first funeral in the Catholic sanctuary was for Rena Hinkson. Early priests serving the village included Father Geers, Father Cebul, Father LaForest, and Father Corcoran. The priest traveled by horse from Manistique to Thompson on Saturday afternoon to recite the Rosary. He would lodge with a local parishioner overnight and then conduct Mass on Sunday morning.

St. Frederick served the Thompson community for several years. As the boom years of lumbering declined, the local population also began to wane as people sought employment elsewhere. In the 1930’s the church was sold, dismantled and moved north of the village on Highway 149 to the farm of Joseph Hoholik.

The small back portion of the church, the sacristy, is the only part of the church still intact. Originally, the sacristy housed the sacred vessels and vestments used with Mass and various services.

In 2009, current owners, Mike and Kathleen Haynes donated the sacristy to Thompson Township. Enlisting the help of Vandermissen & Sons House Movers from Escanaba, the historical committee moved the structure from the Haynes property to its current location behind the Thompson Township Hall. This site is in close proximity to the sacristy’s original location which was where the present fire barn now stands.

Future improvements include new cedar siding, new interior, and an interpretational panel. Our deepest gratitude for the help we have received so far from the following— Michael & Kathleen Haynes, Jody Wnuk, Fred Jasmin, Don Zorn, Wayne Groleau, Dan Crosby, Ron & Pauline Frans, the Thompson Township Board and all of the volunteers who work so tirelessly on these historic projects.