

Thompson the result of mill construction

The town of Thompson was founded as a result of the construction of a mill in 1880.

One of the early landmarks in Schoolcraft County, the Chesborough Mill at Thompson, was dismantled and shipped away, according to an announcement made by J.B. Fitch of Moriah, N.Y. who arrived in Thompson to superintend the work in May 1924. He had been the master mechanic at the Chesborough Mill prior to its closing.

The mill was closed because the timber supply of the company had been exhausted. The mill had been erected and had been in operation almost continuously for 42 years.

It was erected by the Delta Lumber Co. with E.L.

Thompson president, hence the town's name of Thompson. The original company failed in 1893 and the business was taken over for about six years by the F&F Co. (Frank and Friant). After this it was idle for several years and then started again by the Thompson Lumber Co. which was backed by local capital.

The North Shore Lumber Co. also operated it until it was finally sold to A.M. Chesborough of Toledo.

Mr. Fitch, who was well known in the county, was continuously employed at the mill from the time it was founded until it was closed in 1923.

An April 1929 edition of a local newspaper reports, "Thompson's old landmarks are now a thing of the past as a result of a fire on Tuesday

which destroyed three buildings owned by Henry Vosine, of this city. At one time one of the buildings was the busiest center of Thompson. John Patterson built it for a store and later it was used for a church. It was also operated as a saloon for several years by Sam Bouschor and after the adoption of the 18th amendment it was again converted into a store."

In 1881, S.Q. Perry of Chicago started a mill about 1½ miles west of Manistique River in Thompson Township. A little settlement grew up there that was first called Perrysville and later, South Manistique.

The township, home to the state Thompson Fish Hatchery, was established March 6, 1882. Joseph Walsh was the first supervisor. Thompson

Township was formed by dividing Hiawatha Township, and changing the boundaries

Simon J. Bouschor and his wife, Harriet, claim to be the earliest settlers in the township. The Bouschor farm, located on Little Harbor Road, was declared a centennial farm in 1960, when it was owned by Leslie Bouschor and his wife, Lydia. At the time, the farm had been in the Bouschor family for 100 years.

Another centennial farm in Thompson is the Harry Hastings farm on U.S. 2, the former Hursh family. Mr. Hastings' wife, Elaine, was a Hursh and is a direct descendant of the Hursh homesteader.

Thompson Township's state equalized valuation is \$8,781,213 and the township has 337 registered voters.