

Thompson Historical Information

The Township of Thompson was formed in 1882 when it was divided and detached from the Township of Hiawatha. Freeholders Joseph Severs, E.A. Tighe and others applied for this separation. The first annual meeting for Thompson Township was held on Monday, **April 3rd, 1882** for the purpose of organizing the township and for the election of officers as required by law. The Board of Supervisors of Schoolcraft County appointed to act as inspectors of the first election, Supervisor Joseph Walsh, John Stark, Alvin Carpenter & Clerk Millard Duell. Meetings of the board were held at the Delta Lumber Co. Hall for \$25.00 per year.

Thompson was named for E.L. Thompson, of Detroit, president of the Delta Lumber Company.

At the first meeting of the Thompson Township Board, the members of the Board of Review were appointed, Alvin Carpenter and Joseph Severs.

On May 20th, 1882 at the home of Hiram Quick, Supervisor of Hiawatha Township, the joint boards met for the purpose of settlement between said townships upon the division of the former township of Hiawatha.

November 20th, 1882. The Committee on Burying Grounds reported to the township board that they had consulted Registe Thomas & Mary Thomas; who was willing to sell 3 acres of land for that purpose (cemetery). **On December 16th, 1882** the Board agreed to purchase the three acres for the consideration of \$60.00. The committee further reported that they had let the job for grubbing, grading and cleaning one acre of this ground to James O'Hern for \$80.00 with the job to be completed on June 1, 1883.

July 14th, 1883. Mrs. Johnson presented a bill to the board "for damages occurred to her horse in crossing a bridge near Thompson Village on a road which hath been layed out the Commissioner of Highways but had not yet been opened or any work done thereon by the township"; said bill on motion was tabled for further consideration and at the **August 4th, 1883** meeting, after due deliberation, said bill was rejected.

August 4th, 1883, a bill of the Delta Lumber Co. for relief of poor for the sum of \$10.00 was allowed.

August 2nd, 1884 – a bill was paid to George Bouchard for taking care of Insane - \$2.50

November 7th, 1885

Supervisor, Eugene Slayton joined the board and offered the following preamble and resolution to wit:

Whereas: the smallpox are raging across the border of our state and in Canada, and are apt to be carried into our Neighborhood, therefore resolved:

That all reasonable and necessary steps be taken by our health officer to prevent the spread of said disease.

Resolved further: that the health officer be and he is hereby authorized to procure one hundred points of good and sound virus from good authority and vaccinate or cause to be vaccinated all persons in the township at the price of Twenty Five cents each and keep a list of all such persons so vaccinated, which said preamble and resolution prevailed.

May 21st, 1886 – Special Meeting

For the purpose of passing resolutions in regard to the closing of Saloons on Sundays and appointing an officer to enforce the same, the full board was present.

Resolved: That we appoint an officer whose duty it shall be to see that the Saloons in this town be shut up at ten o'clock on Saturdays nights, and remain to see that they are closed; and to be on duty on Sundays from nine o'clock a.m. until nine o'clock p.m. for the purpose of enforcing the closing of Saloons, and his duty to commence on Saturday, May the 22nd, 1886.

Resolved: That we recommend such officer to the County Sheriff to appoint him as deputy sheriff.

Resolved: The George W. Bouchard be and he is hereby appointed as such officer.

Resolved: That the sum of \$100.00 of the moneys received on account of Liquor License be set aside for the purpose of paying the salary of said officer and salary to be three dollars for each Saturday night and including Sunday, when actually employed. Motion was made and carried that the Clerk furnishes a copy of the foregoing resolutions to each of the Saloon Keepers.

March 17, 1888, a group of 13 freeholders put a notice to the board that they intended to move at the next board meeting on April 4, 1888 that the qualified voters of Thompson grant and vote the sum of \$700.00 to be appropriated for the purpose of buying a lot and building a town hall.

April 8th, 1888. A Vote held to raise \$700.00 for purchase of lot and build a town hall. 76 Yes, 47 No.

May 26, 1888. The board selected a lot on which to build a town hall and it was agreed that they would buy of the Delta Lumber Co. a lot in the Village of Thompson. Motion was made and carried that a Town Hall be built on above described Lot of a good solid frame 24x52 and 14 ft walls, and a hip roof, and that a building committee of two be appointed who shall make plans and specifications and advertise for sealed bids for said building as soon as practicable.

June 20th, 1888. The Committee on building reported that the bids received for building of town hall were above the appropriation made for that purpose (the lowest being \$750.00) and that they rejected all bids. The board then took the matter under consideration and finally upon motion resolved: that the committee shall try and let the job without finishing the inside of the Hall part of said building, and also make such other modifications in the specifications as to make the cost of building come within the limits of the appropriation.

November 8th, 1888 – Special Meeting. First meeting held in the new Town Hall

December 1st, 1888 – Delta Lumber Co. to the amount of \$40.00 for the payment of Township Hall lot. Board received a Warrantee Deed.

July 10, 1893 At the regular board meeting, on motion of Millard Duell, John Patterson was authorized to rent the Township Hall for such purposes as entertainments and shows when in his judgement they are of good morals and the fee to be not less than \$5.00 for each entertainment.

June 28, 1894 Resolved by the Township Board of the Township of Thompson that consent and permission is hereby given and duly vested in the Delta Lumber Company, a corporation it's successors and assigns to lay and maintain a 2 ½ inch water pipe for the purpose of conveying water from a flowing well situated on the premises of David E. Bouschor and known as the Thompson House premises in said Township. To the premises of said Delta Lumber Company in said Township under and along the following named streets in said Township, Nine Mile Lake Road, Manistique Ave, Front, Pine and Cedar Streets. All the aforesaid streets under and along which said pipe is laid shall be left in like condition as now found as far as may be and all excavations and work of laying said pipe shall be without risk or expense to said township. Consent and permission is further given and duly vested in said Delta Lumber Company, its successors and assigns to make all necessary excavations in said streets from time to time for the purpose of keeping and maintaining said pipe in proper condition and repair.

July 10, 1894

Section 1.

Resolved that no person shall hereinafter be allowed to sell or peddle within the Township of Thompson in Schoolcraft County Michigan, goods, wares, merchandise, refreshments or any kind of property or thing by going about from place to place within said Township for that purpose or from any stand, cart, vehicle or other device in the streets, highways or in or upon the wharves, docks, open places or spaces, public grounds or public buildings. Provided that nothing in this act contained shall include any person who shall sell or offer to sell agricultural, garden or dairy products or any fruit, shade, ornamental tree, plant, shrub or bush, agricultural machinery tools implements or vehicles and all kinds of meat and fish or to any person who sells goods by sample to be thereafter delivered without first paying to the Clerk of said Township the license therefor as hereinafter required.

Section 2.

A license of One Hundred Dollars per year or Eight and 25/100 Dollars per month shall be paid to the Clerk of said Township by every person intending to engage in any business requiring the payment of a license under Section 1 of this provision. No license for a period of less than one month shall be granted except upon the payment of Eight and 25/100 Dollars and no license shall be granted for any period beyond the first Monday in May next thereafter nor shall any license be transferable.

Section 3.

Any person violating the above provision shall incur the penalty provided by law. This resolution shall take effect twenty days after the date hereof. Dated, Thompson, Michigan July 10th, 1894.

September 30, 1898 At a regular board meeting it was moved and supported to purchase culvert material for Pereau Creek. (*This creek is now known as Parent Creek but is still referred to as Pereau by many*).

October 7th, 1900 A bill was audited and allowed for Herbert Mitchell for services – Lighting street lamps (Oct) \$3.75.

April 29th, 1906 At a joint meeting of the Townships of Hiawatha and Thompson a meeting was held for the purpose of a settlement of the property, rights, credits and liabilities of the former Township of Harrison and the apportionment thereof, under and in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, disorganizing said Township of Harrison and apportioning the territory thereof between the said Townships of Thompson and Hiawatha. The total valuation of Harrison Township was \$339,026.00 and personal property was \$47,866.00; Hiawatha Township was apportioned (37 ½%) \$144,729.00 and Thompson Township was apportioned (62 ½%) \$242,163.00.

April 4th, 1910 At the annual meeting, Be It Resolved, that from and after the passage and adoption and publication of these resolutions, it shall be unlawful for horses to run at large within the limits of the Township of Thompson, Schoolcraft County, Michigan. Any person violating the provisions of these resolutions shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$5.00 and costs of prosecution upon complaint being made to a Justice of the Peace.

April 3rd 1911 At the annual meeting, a resolution was offered that all animals be allowed to run except Hogs and all vicious animals. Offered by Sellman, supported by Smith. The Hall was divided with 7 for and 12 against. Moved and supported that resolution be laid on the table.

November 30th, 1915 – At a regular board meeting, moved and carried that Frank M. Gierke be permitted to operate a pool table in Thompson Township for a period of one year.

November 7th, 1916 At the general election the following Proposed Amendments were voted upon:

Proposed Amendment to Article XVI of the Constitution by adding thereto a section to be known as Section 11, providing for prohibition in the State forever of the manufacture, sale, keeping for sale, giving away, bartering or furnishing of any vinous, malt, brewed, fermented, spirituous, or intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal, chemical, scientific or sacramental purposes: Yes – 75 No – 36

Proposed Amendment of Article VIII of the Constitution, by adding thereto a section to be known as Section 30, providing that every incorporated City and Village, and organized Township shall each have the right to determine whether or

not there shall be prohibited therein the manufacture and sale of malt, brewed, fermented, vinous, distilled or intoxicating liquors: Yes – 41 No – 72

January 31st, 1917 The bill of James Loague of \$3.00 for fumigating John Ward's house and William Rogers house was laid on the table pending further investigation. The bill of Dr. D.W. Roas of \$25.00 for attending Scarlet Fever cases at John Ward's and William Rogers was O.K. and same sent to the County Clerk for payment.

The application of Frank M. Gierke for a permit to operate a pool room in the Township of Thompson was granted.

May 1st, 1917 At a regular meeting of the township board, The communication of John A. Johnson asking the township board for assistance in purchasing a horse. His horse valued at \$175.00, he claims was injured in a snow drift on the 24th day of March. It was moved and supported that the bill be refused and said John A. Johnson be notified.

September 4th, 1917 At a special meeting, the Highway Commissioner has reported to the board that the Bridge known as the Town Line Bridge over the Indian River in this Township is in an unsafe condition and not safe for public travel and that a new bridge at said place is an immediate necessity and Whereas, it also appears to this Board that an emergency exists requiring that a new bridge at said place to be immediately built. The Highway Commissioner prepared plans and specifications for a new bridge and has advertised for bids for the construction of same and has received no bid from any responsible person or party willing to undertake the building of the same at this time.

It is now in the treasury for this purpose a sum equal to the approximate cost of said bridge about \$1,800.

Therefore resolved, that this board authorize the immediate building of such bridge in accordance with the plans and specifications therefore now on file and that we secure the services of John McCarthy, County Engineer to supervise and control the work of building and erecting the same and that the Highway Commissioner proceed at once with said work under the order and direction of said John McCarthy, County Engineer.

November 2nd, 1917 Whereas there not being enough money in the Bridge fund to complete the bridge now under construction known as the Town Line Bridge over the Indian River. Be it resolved, that the sum of \$400.00 be temporarily transferred from the Highway Improvement fund into the Bridge Fund.

November 5th, 1918 At the general election the following Proposed Amendment was voted upon: Proposed Amendment to the Constitution relative to granting to women the right to vote at any and all elections in this state.

Yes – 31 No – 22

April 7th, 1919 At the annual meeting the following Proposed Amendment was voted upon: Proposed Amendment to Article XVI of the Constitution by adding a new section and repealing Section 11, in so far as it relates to the importation, transporting, manufacturing, buying, selling, keeping for sale, giving away, bartering or furnishing cider wines, beer, ale, and porter and the possession of same in private residences:

Yes – 23 No – 69

September 1st 1919 At a regular meeting, moved supported and carried that Township Board shall charge the \$1.00 for permit to run bowling alley, pool & Billiard tables for public use and soft drinks emporium of which 50¢ shall go in contingency fund and 50¢ allowed to township clerk.

April 5th, 1920 At the annual meeting the following resolutions were voted upon:
Resolved that a Road repair fund of 50¢ on each \$100 valuation according to the assessment roll of the last preceding year to be levied on all taxable property of this Township as a road repair tax for the ensuing year.

Yes – 19 No – 0

Resolved that a Bridge tax of .08¢ on each \$100.00 valuation according to the assessment roll of the preceding year to be levied on all the taxable property of the Township as a Bridge tax for the ensuing year.

Yes – 19 No – 0

Resolved that the cattle be allowed to run at Large in the Township of Thompson in the year 1920.

Yes – 19 No – 0

April 19, 1922 It was moved and supported tht the wages for current year be as follows: \$4.50 per day for man and \$5.00 per day for man and team.

(It should be noted that the majority of bills that were paid from 1882 and on, were for road & bridge work, fighting fires, services on board, elections, board of review, cemetery, & health officers).

February 3rd, 1923 It was moved and supported that Team and man in road work be paid at rate of \$6.00 per day.

May 2, 1936 - Special Meeting – Motion made and supported that cattle not be allowed to run at large in what is known as the Village of Thompson or in an area of ½ mile in any direction of Town Hall of Thompson without a Herdsman. Motion made and supported that any buildings erected in the Village of Thompson be approved by the Township Board before permission to build be granted. Residence or Business Places.

August 3, 1936 – Motion made and supported that all the property owned by Township in Village of Thompson not be sold or considered for sale except with the voting consent of the people of Twp by ballot.