

PART I

THE LONGLAC STORY

(As presented in a talk to the Thunder Bay Historical Society,
Prince Arthur Hotel, Port Arthur, April 3, 1964) by ALK Switzer

INTRODUCTION

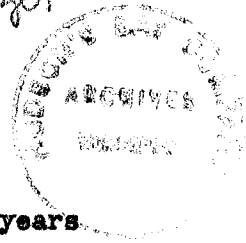
My presence here this evening should be explained.

I am very much an amateur historian who discovered just a few short years ago what a rich and exciting history Canada has and to my surprise, that the little Woodland Community where I have lived for the past twenty-six years has played a small but important part in the over all mosaic of Canadian History, just as I am sure every district in Canada has if the whole story could be known.

What little I have learned is only a part of the story. Future amateurs like myself will be able to build upon what has been learned to date and add to the Store of Knowledge as they come across additional manuscripts and printed works or find old remains in the earth and read the story these have to tell. I know of several references that I have not read and there are many, I am sure, about which I have no knowledge at all.

I would like publicly to express my appreciation to the Hudson's Bay Company for permission to read the micro films of the old Hudson's Bay Diaries in the National Archives in Ottawa. I am allowed to use the information in short talks but special permission must be obtained to print any direct quotes from the diaries.

I believe this group will be more interested in the Fur Trade phase of Longlac's story and therefore I shall talk about that. If there is any time left I may give you a quick summary of the highlights of the over all picture in the community's development.



According to Harold A. Innis in "The Fur Trade in Canada"⁽¹⁾ French traders established a post, Fort de Francois near the forks of the Kenogami and the Albany in 1685. This would be at or near the site of Henley Post, first established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1720⁽²⁾ to counter the competition from the French. Henley House was located near the junction of the Albany and the Kenogami rivers approximately 150 miles west of Fort Albany on James Bay and 150 miles down the Kenogami River from Long Lake.

The earliest original material having a bearing on Long Lake that I have had a chance to examine is the Henley House correspondence for the period 1775 - 1781⁽³⁾. In this correspondence between Mr. John Favell of Henley House and Mr. Thos. Hutchins at Albany Fort there is much urging from Albany Post to make haste with inland discoveries and protestations from Henley House of the difficulties involved. It is apparent that at this time the Hudson's Bay Company knew little about the country above Henley House for references indicate that they knew nothing about the country beyond a point five miles above Henley Post.

Jan. 25, 1776⁽⁴⁾, John Favell, Henley House to Mr. Thos. Hutchins, Chief of Albany Post:

"I sent John Martin & 3 hands the 23 Oct^r (John Hodgson one of the three) up the River to examine how far above Old Henley it is possible to get a loaded or a half loaded Boat. He returned the 26th Idem & informed me it is impossible to get a loaded or half loaded Boat more than 5 miles above old Henley, herein is enclosed John Hodgson's Draft".

Feb. 8, 1776 Mr. Thomas Hutchins, Chief at Albany to Mr. John Favell, Master at Henley House:

"- - -and as you find Boats will not answer, try canoes & let them search the Country about. Observe the communications of Rivers and Lakes, what Canadians or Indians inhabit there. The Lakes specified by the Company should be your first objective if you can procure Guides, if not any other parts where the Rivers or Lakes Lead. - - -"

Among the lakes they were to try and find were "Meshippicoot, which we suppose to be the Lake St. Ann's (Lake Nipigon)⁽⁴⁾

"- - -and where from the best information I can receive there are two English Settlements belonging to the Fedlars - - -"

If this country was not well known to the Hudson's Bay Company at this time it was to the French, for as early as 1684 Jean Péré⁽⁵⁾, a French Fur trader from La Rochelle was on the Albany River and this stream was called the Péré river on maps for many years.

A second lake, Favell was charged to locate, was We-piss-ke-wa-cow. On June 14, 1776 he despatched John Martin, accompanied by John Hodgson and David Moore

"- - -to go up the North River in search of Lake We-piss-ke-wa-cow - - -". This is a bit confusing since there is a map of the Long Lake area made in 1816 by James Tate and on this what we now know as McKay Lake is shown as Wipiscuacow. Had Favell said south instead of the north river his statement would have been a little clearer.

In a report dated August, 1814⁽⁷⁾ by John Davis, Master of the South River District he states:

"- - - There are two posts settled above Henley House the one at Long Lake and the other at Wapescuacow. The former at the height of the Country

whose waters run into Jame's Bay the latter is situated on the other side of the height (sic) of land whose waters run into Lake Superior by the Peak (Pic) (a N.W. established post).

Diaries at Henley House thirty years later indicate that parties were still trying to find this lake and at that time the area referred to is without much doubt, McKay Lake just to the east of Longlac.

A serious event happened at this time to curtail exploration which is recorded in correspondence of May 9, 1777⁽⁸⁾ between Henley House and Albany Fort as follows:

"- - -am sorry to acquaint you that on the 27th of April, we were informed of the Death of Ketchentamena and his wife. All their children are safe. It is an unfortunate affair (particularly at this juncture) the aforesaid Indians told us it was the general opinion of the Natives that the Pedlars conjur'd him to Death for guiding Mr. Jarvis to Meshippicoot, as it is morally impossible to remove their superstitious notions, I greatly fear it will be an inconceivable obstruction to Indians accompanying Us in future on any Inland Expedition - - - -".

There is a map in the Archives dated 1763⁽⁹⁾ that indicates that Long Lake was at least partially known at that time. This would lead me to conjecture that the Coureurs du bois were familiar with Long Lake, for the North West Company and its forerunners did not appear until after this date.

The diaries of Henley House Post for the period of 1798 - 1816⁽¹⁰⁾ have been read. They are most informative and tell of trade, of exploration, of starvation, murder, cannibalism, of the daily tasks about the Post and so on but this is not our present concern.

Each year the Master at Albany House urged the Master at Henley to get on with the task of exploring the Inland country where the Canadians were poaching on the lands granted to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Sept. 15, 1799 there is a reference to Indians from Flint Lake arriving with furs:

"- - 3 canoes of Indians from Flint lake and one from lake Superior that never was at Old Henley or this house before - - -".

A significant statement is included in a letter of March, 1801 from John Hodgson, Albany Fort to Magnus Birza, Master at Henley House.

"I have another object in view by sending to you in winter for as hitherto we have endeavoured in vain to find out the road which leads to Wipiscuacow, where I am well informed a considerable quantity of Trade can be procured, and where Canadians have been Settled time out of mind. I have come to a determination to endeavour to establish a post in that Quarter - - -".

From 1801 to 1812 the matter of getting a party up country becomes more insistent, Albany Fort getting quite impatient with no action and Henley reciting year after year the difficulties encountered in their attempts -- low water, no guides, no canoes, no provisions, too late in the season, and so on. I do not mean to suggest their reasons were mere excuses. I am sure they were very real and the difficulties were no doubt great.

References to visits from up country Indians, Montreal Indians and Canadians become more frequent with the passing years.

Aug. 5, 1812 there is a reference to one party of three white men and two Indians going to Manitounamaigo and one of three men to Flint Lake.

In 1813 a party sent to Flint lake built a cabin but when the North West Company men arrived in the fall they bribed the Hudson's Bay Company men to defect, cabin and all. Some remained loyal and took the word back to Henley.

Jan. 13, 1814 - The first mention of Long lake by that name appears in the following entry: "Thursday Wind S'y warm. Hunting, got 7 partridges. Jacob Daniel and Wm. Morwick arrived from Manitounamaigo in 9 days nothing particular has occurred (sic) there the Canadians have two houses one close and another at Long Lake 1/2 a days journey off".

July 28, 1814, Thursday "Davis dispatched to Wapiscuacow and Long Lakes the following: Mr. McPherson (in charge), Wm. Harris (assistant), J. Daniel, R. Dudley, Edward McKay, John McDonald, Joseph Clouston, Wm. Clouston and Peter Lero (a free Canadian)".

Up until June 15, 1816 there are regular references in the Henley House Post journals of arrivals from and departures to Long lake. The journey appears to have taken 9 days in winter on snow shoes and 7 days downstream by canoe in summer. The Henley House diaries for the next several years appear to be missing for the next one is 1870 and is of little interest to the Long lake story.

The first surviving diary of Long Lake post is the journal for the trading season August 25, 1815⁽¹¹⁾ — 25th June, 1816 by Donald McPherson, Master. McPherson first arrived at Long lake in the late summer of 1814. In these early years it was customary to take up a station at a trading post in the late summer, spend the winter in trade with the Indians then in the spring to lock up the post and take the furs out. When this chore was completed the personnel would return with trade goods and provisions ready for another winter's trade.

This routine was followed by McPherson and on June 23, 1815 he arrived at Henley with five men and fourteen small packs of furs. On June 25th he left Henley House for Albany Factory with his returns and was back again at Henley on July 30 bearing his appointment as Master of the Henley District. He left Henley House for Long lake on August 5 and arrived at his destination August 25.

The Long Lake Post entry for Friday August 25, 1815 reads as follows:

"Wind N. East, clear. This day? I arrived here in twenty days from Henley with Robert Dudley, Jacob Dan^l, William Clouston, Will^m Malone, Thom^s Brahoney, and an Indian (with a supply of Trading Goods; all of which are in good condition) who I was obliged to engage at Henley to adjust the Canoes Interior (sic). I found Edward McKay and John McDonald at the House who I left here in Sum^r they have I can "Say"? five Indians since I left them - In consequence of which they made only 40 M.B^r. The Canadians arrived a few days ago".

McPherson had serious problems to contend with. He had a long difficult line of communications with his base at Henley House, he was in close proximity to a group of tough rivals who were already established in the area, he didn't know the good fishing areas and the best hunting locations, and one would suspect from the diary entries that he wasn't the best manager of men for many of his men (declared by other managers to be good men) defected to the Canadians.

The men had all the normal chores to do that fell to the lot of all fur traders in those days viz:

There were logs to cut and cabins to build. Each year when they returned from having taken down their furs the houses had to be "grassed" and "loamed" and the roofs thatched (sometimes covered with birch rind).

There were fish nets to make, mend, set and tend for if the supply of fish failed it often meant starvation. There were rabbit snares to set and tend.

In season there was the "gathering of pitch", "watap" and "birch rind" for the making of canoes and the actual construction of those ingenious vehicles of transportation; the making of snowshoes and sleds; the making of paddles; the making of trousers, of Indian coats, and rabbit skin blankets; the making of "angling hooks" and awls; the cutting and hauling of firewood; and general repairs to the buildings and chimneys. All of these items are mentioned once or several times in the diaries.

Gardening was carried on too - the growing of potatoes, peas, barley and oats for stock and garden vegetables.

Besides these chores required just to maintain life there were the daily tasks involved with trading and in these early days for the Hudson's Bay Company it meant strenuous efforts to compete for trade such as the following:

"Monday August 28th, 1815 - Fine day wind southerly, Blowing hard, Sent Rob't Dudley, Jacob Daniel, Will^m Clouston, William Malone, Thomas Brahoney & McKay to bring grass to cover the Men's^(?) house, John McDonald and self making, setting & overhauling Nets got 2 fish - - - - the men returned in the evening with 2 Canoes load of grass short time after two small canoes was discovered on the lake, sent Rob^t Dudley, & Jacob Daniel off in a small Canoe to see who it was. The Canadians went off also, but my men having exerted themselves they gained on the Canadians & got to the Indians. But they left their Furs across the Lake hid. One of them went to the Canadians House, the other came here & told me that he had 12 R^{fs} for me & that he had 20 for the other people. I gave him a coat and sufficiency to drink, in consequence of which I got all the Furs, the other

Indian had but 6 B^{ts} which the Canadians got --- sent Jacob Daniel and Robert Dudley to bring the Furrs - - - -".

One further diary quote to indicate some of the problems of the manager

"Thursday August 31st, 1815 - fine clear day Colin, McDonald & self making setting & overhauling Nets got 3 fish the rest of the men covering their House with grass the men lives on Flour which they bought at Albany at present as no fish can be caught from the Nets able to support two men, the whole of the men are very discontented, Jacob Daniel after dark made an attempt to run off to the Canadians, but self perceived his design & followed him, when certain that he wanted to be off I laid hold of him & called Rob^t Dudley to my assistance, we both bro^t him in the house. I threatened to shoot him if ever again he offered to run off --- while taken up with him in the woods, Thomas Bra^y took the opportunity and run off to the Canadians also & self having not a man I could depend on but 3 (namely Dudley, McDonald & Will^m Clouston) I am obliged to let these 2 runagates remain with the Canadians, prudence prevents me from making an attempt to take them on acc't of my men not being contented in which case they may join the Canadians as well as me. One of the Canadians made application to me that he wished to Enter your Honors Service. I made an agreement with him and promised him £40, he is to leave his masters to-morrow, & come here ----".

Over the weeks too, some Canadians defected to the Hudson's Bay Co. and one or two H.B. Co. men who had gone to the Canadians, returned.

You may be interested in knowing a little more about these first Hudson's Bay Co. men to visit Longlac in 1814-15-16⁽¹²⁾:

Donald McPherson	-	District Master	-	Scotland	£50
William Harris	-	Outpost Master	-	Canada	40 (stroked off the personnel list)
Jacob Daniel	-	Steersman	-	Hudson's Bay	25
Robert Dudley	-	"	-	" "	25
Edward McKay	-	Labourer	-	" "	10
John McDonald	-	"	-	" "	20
Joseph Clouston	-	"	-	Stronness "	20
Wm. Clouston	-	"	-	Ireland	20
Peter Pero (Perah)	-	(Labourer) In 1813	-	a free Canadian	20
Thomas Brahaney	-	Labourer	-	Ireland	20
William Malone	-	"	-	Ireland	10

In the weeks that followed the rival posts spied on each other constantly and used every possible trick to get the available furs for their account.

Each day the diary entries record faithfully the number of fish taken, rabbits secured, ducks, geese and partridge shot, etc. In 1815 the number of fish taken each day stepped up noticeably October 16 and the count remained high until October 28 then slacked off. These would probably be white fish. Whereas they had been catching 3 to 10 each day they suddenly started catching 40 to 80 per day.

Food supplies were very short indeed in the early months of 1816.

Tuesday Feb. 6, 1816 - McPherson went to Lesser Long Lake and brought home with him Mr. Davidson, Wm. Taylor and James Finlay whom he is sending to Cat Lake (S.E. side of Long Lake - now Catlonite) with Bob's Dudley because the fishing is so good there. "They had nothing to eat where they were there 3 days but a piece of parchment skin - Mr. Davidson eat his shoes-----".

Starvation was always close at hand in these early days as evidenced by entries at both Henley House and Long Lake.

"Monday (Feb.) 12th (1816 ---- In the evening an Indian arrived from Cat Lake, he reports that one of the men (Jas Finlay) who I sent there, died on the road going --- the Indian can give me no information whatever of the nature of the man's complaint by which he died. I have not the least doubt but the want of food occasioned (sic) his death & being in a very low state since his arrival from Henley".

In both 1815 and 1816 references are made to three or four Canadians and 2 dogs making the trip from the Pic to Long Lake and return. At this time there is no mention of dogs being used for transport by the H.B.Co.

On April 17th, 1816 on the trail from Long Lake to the Fish Camp on lesser Long Lake, Davidson was found dead five miles out from Long Lake. McPherson records " - - - he has not been starving which enables me to affirm he died by the visitation of God - - -".

On June 5th, 1816 the master of the Canadian house together with five of his men brought a warrant to arrest McPherson on what the latter claims vehemently were trumped up charges of theft. In McPherson's words:

"In the evening (Wednesday, June 5, 1816) the Canadian master with 5 men came at my house accusing (sic) me of severall (sic) things that I know not. He had a warrant to take me. I defended myself as long as possible I could against him having only Wm. Clouston at the house along with me at the time, in which case he deserves approbation. they got me now in their house & are in hand cuffs & all going off to-morrow. I am not allowed to take any witnesses with. So in hopes your honors will defend my course, I am now going to Pic and from there to Montreall (sic)(13) - - -".

According to McPherson's own account⁽¹⁴⁾ of his arrest he was taken to Pic and then to Fort William, where the charges were dropped and he was set at liberty and offered employment with the North West Company. He refused the offer of employment and so was obliged to wait to be taken to Montreal. He was at Fort William during August 1816 when Lord Selkirk, the founder of the Red River Settlement, captured the Nor'westers' depot. Acting on Selkirk's instructions, McPherson went later in the season to take care of the Hudson's Bay Company's trade at Lac la Pluie⁽¹⁵⁾

William Thomas, Chief of Albany Inland District writing to Thomas Vincent, Governor of the Southern Department, on August 23, 1816⁽¹⁶⁾ states that McPherson had good men and good equipment and "When it comes to be considered how well this District was arranged having had most of the stoutest and ablest men belonging Albany Inland together with every other requisite and the opposition by no means so strong as in former years, how it should have turned out so unsuccessful can be no otherways accounted for but the want of proper management in those who had the conducting of the business - - - -".

Mr. McPherson was succeeded as Master of Long Lake by James Tate on August 10, 1816. Tate's journals were clearly written and well composed. He had been in charge of Henley House in 1814-15 and 1815-16. In a list of servants for 1815-16 he is shown as a clerk from South Rennoldshire and earning £40 per year⁽¹⁷⁾

He also made, with the use of a compass and estimating distances, a very creditable map of the whole Long Lake district in 1816⁽¹⁸⁾. On this map of 1816 the location of Jean Baptiste Perrault's cabin on McKay Lake is shown. Perreault was born at⁽¹⁹⁾ Three Rivers, Canada in 1761 and entered the fur trade in 1783. He traded for ten years in the Illinois country, was at Fond du lac from 1793 to 1799 and from 1799 to 1805 was stationed in the Pic area.

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? McKay lake
Is this not

Poywashuan
lake.

Terrault's
lake

Whenever Tate travelled he carefully recorded his distances. The following is of interest to us for it gives the relative positions of the H.B. Co. post and that of the Canadians.

(1816) "Sept. 23⁽²⁰⁾rd - - - - N.E. 1 furlong, S.E. 1 furlong to the entrance of Long Lake. The House bearing W.S.W. distant 2 miles, the Canadian House bearing N. from ours distant 1 furlong, a small Island opposite to our house about 200 yards distant on which Mr. Rod^k Davidson is buried, Wappiscuaca river S.E.B.E. distant about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Carp river N.E.B.N. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. Jack river about 8 miles up the Lake on the west side, the lake lies about S.B.W.&N.B.E. is supposed to be 90 miles long - - - there is no river that runs out of this large body of water except the one we have come through."

Tate found the equipment and buildings left by McPherson devastated, only the walls remained - windows, doors, partitions, furniture were destroyed or carried away - also canoes. He suspects the Canadians who had been here the latter part of July and then went to the Pic for supplies.

Solomon Mittleburger was the Canadian Master at Longlac at this time and he and Tate got on reasonably well for representatives of two companies that were virtually at war with each other. Both men were above the average in education. Each man watched the moves of the other's staff and the goings and comings of every Indian, estimating the size of fur packs, etc.

"Sept. 15, 1817 - In the afternoon my neighbor (Mittleburger) sent his servant over with a present of 1# superfine chocolate and 5# of maple sugar - - -."

"Sept. 18, 1817 - - - three Canadians arrived from Pic with a half long canoe very deep loaded. We could not observe the contents as they did not unload till dark - - -."

On Feb. 22, 1817 a letter dated Feb. 17, 1817 was received by Tate bringing him news of trouble at Red River where Mr. Semple, the Governor-in-Chief and 20 men and officers were killed by the freemen, supposed to have been bribed by the Canadians.

An interesting item appears Nov. 10, 1817 "the men making an oven and attending nets". This would indicate, as one might have guessed that fire places must have been used for heating and cooking and an outdoor clay oven used for baking.

Here is a sample catch of rabbits, a fairly staple winter food.

Nov. 25, 1817 - 18 rabbitts

26	"	22	"
27	"	15	"
29	"	25	"
Dec. 1	"	1	"
2	"	10	"
3	"	7	"
5	"	5	"
6	"	10	"

Feb. 15, 1820⁽²¹⁾ - The Master at Long Lake reporting to Davis at Marten Falls states that he has obtained 700 Rabbits to date from snares.

The Journals of Long Lake House for the period 1815 - 1821, if published verbatim with the less interesting days omitted, could make a best seller, for the constant tension between the two rival posts - just 600' apart at this important state in the history of the two great fur trading companies - could be felt in practically every entry.

Dec. 17, 1817 - N. Finlayson and Charles Groux arrived in from Big Lake (Fleming Lake) with 81½ trade beaver. Finlayson reported that a few days earlier at lake Kecky - Soughgaigon he was knocked down and pillaged by a Canadian. On Dec. 29 Mr. Tate wrote to Mr. Mittleburger about the assault and theft conducted on Finlayson by two Canadians Pyette and Lagarde. Mr. Mittleburger replied (he spelled the Canadian's name Payette) that he was following the Prince Regent's Proclamation and felt that it superceded the verbal agreement between himself and Tate that the first man to get his hands on furs would be left in possession.

Jan. 4, 1818 - Sent Jacob Daniel and Wm. Curister at 2:00 a.m. by a secret route in search of Indians.

Jan. 5 - Five of the Canadians searching all day for tracks of Tate's men without success.

Feb. 3, 1818⁽²²⁾ - Tate wrote William Thomas at Albany stating that the Canadians numbering 10 are all capable of trading and conversing in Indian, that they have put the price of furs up unreasonably "they have even forgiven the Indians all arrears - - -".

Speaking of Finlayson's brush with the Canadians Tate writes

"- - - this affair has occasioned some correspondence between me and my neighbour, copies of which I send inclosed (sic) together with a copy of part of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's Proclamation, the mice having eat the other part before it came to hand - - -".

May 11, 1818 In a letter from Tate to William Thomas (Albany Post) this date Tate points out that Long Lake is the post in "Albany Inland" most strongly opposed by the North West Company "the whole of our opponents at present being picked hands". He pleads for more capable men to compete with the Canadians.

On March 25, 1818 an entry indicates Tate is very ill.

Nov. 6, 1818 mention is made that Tate has been very ill for several weeks.

In view of Peau de Chat's association with the Lakehead it is of interest that Alfred Lake on Tate's map was called Cat Skin's Basket and an entry for Dec. 12, 1818 reads "- - - - dispatched Jacob to R.B. Lake (Raw Bone or Esnagami lake) by the way of Cat Skin's Basket to pay Catskin for Furs he bargained with him for on the 20th October last - - -". Could this have been Peau de Chat or one of his antecedents?

To show what trading methods were like in mid 1819 I quote the following:

"May 21st 1819 - - 2 canoes of Indians arr^d at the Canadian House last night. Flett & Curister met them at the Foot of the Lake and was so stupid as not to take their furs from them - - -".

June 10, 1819 - Tate left for Henley House, a very ill man.

The new master in the fall was John Train. In his account of the trip from Henley to Long Lake the usual routine is to break camp in the morning at 4:30 o'clock and paddle until 7:00 p.m. Usually the canoe required repair each night and of course there were meals to get and beds to make - not an easy life.

A letter from John Davis, Marten's Falls, Feb. 13, 1820 to John Train, Long Lake House says in part "- - - should you judge it advantageous to leave two of your people in next summer at Long Lake, William Taylor may be engaged for this purpose, for a term of three years and not to exceed £28 per annum - - -". Henley House was found burned to the ground when two men had arrived in from Long Lake March 15, 1819. This no doubt accounts for instructions coming from Marten Falls House.

Dec. 9, 1820 - Trading in the fall of 1820 was poor as the "Indians have fled to Pic and St. Ann's (Lake Nipigon) on account of the murders that have been committed among them last summer - - -".

First news of the union of the Hudson's Bay and the North West companies was received in Long Lake House June 5, 1821 as recorded in the following entry:

"June 5 Tuesday Fine Jacob & Ritch repairing big Canoe, 17 fish from the nets; an Indian arrived at the Canadian house with despatches from the Pic. In the evening Mr. McTavish⁽²³⁾ (likaly Alexander McTavish who had been at Fort William but in 1821 was stationed in the Pic territory) (Canadian Master) came over & showed me a letter he had received from Mr. Chisholm at Pic, telling of the two companys (sic) joining viz. the North West & the Hon^{able} Hudson's Bay Co^X which I believed to be a mere Canadian trick".

An entry the same day indicates that Mr. Train had been unwell since June 2nd. He died enroute to Henley House, June 17th and was buried two days journey above Henley at the foot of the "Long Portage" in "the prettiest Burry's place between Long Lake and Albany".

The Journals from 1821 to 1828 are missing.

The first mention of dogs being used by the H.B. Co. at Long Lake appears November 23, 1828⁽²⁴⁾ as"- - - Tillier hauling firewood with the dogs", although the Canadians were using them at least as early as 1815.

Reference is made to the Kenogami River as the English River in 1828 and the Kenogami also is referred to as the English in the C.P.R. survey of 1871.

The staff in 1828 was only 4 men compared with ten or more in the days of Competition with the Canadians.

The records over the years give the dates of arrival and departure for geese, ducks and other migratory birds and record dates of freeze-up and break-up in the lakes.

A significant change shows up in the 1828-29 Journal and would possibly show in the lost Journals too if they were available and that is that the easier Pic route is the one now used instead of the difficult route by the Kenogami River to the Bay.

A bit of philosophic rhyme starts off the 1832 Journal

"One year is gone, another come,
All this for our Instruction tends,
But many that sees it begin,
Death will not let them see it End.

An interesting item of Wednesday Jan. 11th, 1832 is ⁽²⁵⁾ - - - at sunset the Perdrix Blanche and Peau du Chat arrived from the Pic with letter & c".

The entry of Jan. 21st, 1832 mentions the arrival of the Winter Express from Nipigon and a relay picking it up and continuing on to the Pic.

A similar entry for January 27, 1835 reads in part "- - - Two men arrived from Nipigon on Express Bearers of Dispatches from Governor Simpson for Montreal and Moose Factory - - -".

Another significant change that appears in the Journals following the Union of 1821 is the lack of mention of liquor. Whereas earlier it was required for competition now it is no longer spoken of a great deal.

An entry for Feb. 22nd, 1835 ⁽²⁶⁾ states "- - - Messrs Alex^E Simpson ⁽²⁷⁾ and William Swanson arrived from Nipigon en route from Red River to Moose Factory accompanied by 3 men from Nipigon and 21 dogs". They were delayed in Long Lake

for lack of a guide and also due to bad weather until the morning of Wednesday Feb. 25th. This would likely have been the brother of Thomas Simpson the Arctic explorer who was also the secretary and confidential clerk of Governor George Simpson, the cousin of Alexander and Thomas. Alexander Simpson had accepted employment proffered by his cousin the Governor in October, 1825.

Although Pitt saws were listed in the 1811-12 Henley House inventory the first reference noted to one at Long Lake House was Friday, March 20, 1835.

"- - - Lahonca and McDonald made a saw pit - - -". This was used to saw planks for a new house 18' x 22' that was being erected.

On Saturday, April 11, 1835 another important traveller arrived at Long Lake House enroute from Michipicoten to Nipigon. He left for Nipigon Tues. April 14. This was James Anderson⁽²⁸⁾ and was probably the same company officer that in 1855 with James Stewart descended the Great Fish River to discover the remains of the Franklin expedition on Montreal Island following John Roe's discovery from Esquimaux that this is where Franklin and his men starved to death.

Two firsts in the Journal appear as follows:

Saturday Oct. 20, 1860⁽²⁹⁾ - men whitewashing the house

Saturday Sept. 28, 1861 "I with Morin was altring the Pertishin in the house and putting up the stove in the house.

Most of the Journals from 1821 on are missing. Those read were:

1828 - 1829

1831 - 1832

1834 - 1835

1835 - 1836

1859 - 1862

Officially none of the Journals subsequent to 1870 are available for examination except in special circumstances. Unofficially I have read the Journal for 1879 - 1881 - in fact the original came in to my keeping and I turned it in to the Hudson's Bay Company. I have read too the Journals for the period June 1, 1931 to May 31, 1937.

In 1906 Revillon Frères set up a post on the east shore of Long Lake and about a mile from the mouth of the Kenogami River. They ceased operations about 1918.

Freighting up the Pic River ceased in 1905 and subsequently came in from Jackfish on the C.P.R. over a winter road to the south end of Long Lake and then by sail canoe to Longlac. The road was built⁽³⁰⁾ by Jos. Mercier (he had a hotel later in Port Arthur and one in Nipigon) for the Grand Trunk Pacific to freight to the north line. Before that time there was a trail from Jackfish to the Express Mine - to Owl Lake - to Cat Lake - to Long Lake.

When freighting started for railway construction a steamboat, the "Kenogami of Fort William" was built (1912) and operated until 1914. It subsequently sank in winter lay over and the remains may still be seen in a quiet bay about ten miles south of Longlac.

In 1921 the Hudson's Bay Company post was moved from its original site to its present location by the railroad.

About 1918 two more stores and fur buying depots were established viz. Mathé & Duphney and the Great Lakes Fur Trading Company. The latter company was formed by two men - an Englishman John Herbert, a former accountant with the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort William and Mr. E.R. Bingham, a land surveyor from Fort William. This firm operated for 10 or 12 years and was bought out by the Hudson's Bay Company about 1930 or 1932 upon the death of Mr. Herbert.

What was formerly the manager's house of the Great Lakes Fur Trading Company was purchased by Mr. Don McKillican, moved a short distance, resurfaced and is now Mr. McKillican's home. Mathe's establishment closed down on or about 1930.

After the railroad came through in 1914 there were free fur traders who came and went. Currently as in 1821 there is but one fur dealer - The Hudson's Bay Company.

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PART II

GEOLOGY

Every area I suppose has been influenced to some extent by its geological history. At Longlac this is very apparent. In very early times indeed, nature in the cataclysmic processes of rock formation locked valuable minerals into the precambrian rocks of the district. Some of them have been discovered and have contributed much to the area's economy as the gold mines of Geraldton on the west and the copper, lead, zinc and silver of Manitouwadge. Extensive iron ore deposits have been proven by Anaconda and Can-Fer on the north and to the south west Zenmac is developing massive zinc deposits. In this area too are lead, copper, molybdenite and other valuable minerals. It is a reasonably safe guess that the future will see many more mines develop in the area.

Something over ten thousand years ago the whole region was covered by the waters of lake Algonquin when walls of the massive Labrador ice sheet fenced in the waters to the North. Eventually a break occurred to the east, the lake levels fell and what we now know as the Arctic-St. Lawrence height of land appeared. The water trapped between this height of land and the ice wall to the north has been given the name lake Ojibway by Dr. A.P. Coleman. This lake had a long southward extending bay which became the present Long Lake when the waters eventually drained out by the Kenogami river. To-day the outwash plains formed by the glacial waters support rich stands of jackpine and the tills and swamps valuable stands of spruce.

In 1937-39 the Ontario Hydro built a dam across the Kenogami river fifteen miles north of Longlac and dug a canal through a terminal moraine on the height of land to the south so that to-day these formerly arctic waters are developing power at the Agiasabon power plant and Niagara and transporting pulpwood to the Terrace Bay mill.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT

Following the last retreat of the glaciers, vegetation clothed the land and men moved in - most likely the Ojibway or their forbears for they were here when the first white men visited Longlac sometime prior to 1763.

By 1800 the Northwest Company had an established outpost at Longlac subsidiary to the Pic post. The Hudson's Bay Company established in Longlac in 1814 and are still there.

The first missionary to make regular trips was Father Dominique du Ranquet who came in 1864. The first Roman Catholic church was built in 1884, the logs for which were cut in 1880 by Father Joseph Hébert and Father Gagnon. The first Protestant church was built in 1947, although services had been read for 20 years previously.

In 1860 Dr. Robert Bell was through Longlac on a Geological Survey and in subsequent years there were many parties surveying the geology, topography, mines and resources.

Topographic Surveys were conducted by Herrick in 1862, Beatty in 1871, Gamsby in 1877, the Grand Trunk Pacific to the north in 1903 and the National Transcontinental just north of this in 1905.

The year 1906 saw a post of the Révillon Frères established at Longlac and this continued until about 1919 when the business was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company.

The period 1909 - 1914 saw surveys and the construction of the Canadian Northern Railwa whose first passenger train ran through to Port Arthur in June, 1914.

Forest fire protection services were inaugurated in 1914 when a gas car patrol was begun along the railway. A Chief Rangers Headquarters was established in 1923 and now is represented by a fine establishment there with all new buildings.

Postal service was inaugurated Nov. 1, 1919 and after a succession of privately owned offices a federally owned building was opened for business September 8, 1962.

Another railway boom occurred in the period 1922-24 when after the formation of the Canadian National Railway a cut-off was built from Longlac to Nakina to join the Canadian Northern Railway on the south with the Grand Trunk Pacific on the north and thereafter the transcontinental trains were routed from the east to Longlac thence to Nakina and west.

The first organized school began teaching in October, 1922. In December, 1945 an Indian school was opened. In January, 1950 a Roman Catholic Separate School went into operation and to-day Longlac has a five-room Public School, a five-room Separate School and a four-room Indian School.

Your former mayor Charlie Cox was briefly once a Longlac business man. He acquired the cutting rights to the timber on Indian Reserve #77 and sold his timber to the Detroit Sulphite Company. The timber was extracted in the period 1929 - 1940, first by the Oscar Styffe Company and later by Matti Kauppi.

When the Little Long Lac mine find was made in July, 1932 by Oklend and Johnson the news was sent out to the outside from the Longlac station. The years 1932-40 saw considerable prospecting activity and this marked an important stage in the region's development.