



Hathaway Lakes

Then, and Again...

West Michigan was part of the wild, untamed Northwest Territory when the first settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Many adventurous souls purchased land with "Government Scripts". These land acquisition certificates were sold at 60 cents per dollar face value and allowed a person of modest means to become a land owner. Early settlers carved out homesteads with the help of the regions first inhabitants. The Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi Indians taught them how to raise crops – mostly squash, beans and corn, forage for wild nuts, grapes and berries, and survive in the densely wooded territory.

Michigan became the 26th State of the Union in January of 1837, and Ottawa County was officially designated one year later. Records show that the township of Crockery was formed on March 15, 1849, its name an unknowing reflection of the pottery created by Woodland period Indians centuries earlier and uncovered by archaeologists a century later.



Logging was introduced as a supplemental industry in the mid-1800's and reached its highest activity during the 1860's and

1870's. Spoonville, a small logging and sawmill community on the Grand River near the mouth of Crockery Creek, was named after John and Dan Spoon who became leaders in this industry.

The first Crockery Township meeting was held at the home of William Hathaway, Jr. who was elected to dual positions as the

township's first supervisor and a justice along with Manley Patchin. Sarah Scott Hathaway, William's wife, was the first white woman to settle in Crockery Township. She lived in the area for 54 years until her death at age 89.

William and Sara embodied the spirit of the area's

founders. As Beulah Holmes Boettcher tells it "The Hathaways were on very friendly terms with the Indians. Sometimes when Sarah would rise in the morning after a cold night, she would find a stick placed against the fireplace signaling that a friendly Indian had crept in, slept on the floor beside the fire and crept off before dawn. The stick, his signal to her to announce his presence." Hospitality, it seems, passes down through generations.

Today, Crockery Township is a comfortable blend of old and new. Nowhere



John Spoon

is this more evident than at Hathaway Lakes, where residents will find the best in new home construction, combined with community features that appeal to their

pioneering spirit – a spirit which seeks a better way of life in an area of natural beauty and community strength.

