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## Vilas County notes, 1906. Call Number, Northland SC 28

Currey, J. Seymour

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Evanston Historical Society

(Incorporated November, 1898)

J. SEYMOUR CURREY President  
FRANK R. GROVER Vice-President  
CARLETON H. PENDLETON Secretary and Treasurer

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Wisconsin Historical Soc.

Evanston, Ill., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1906

Mr. R. G. Thwaites,  
Madison, Wis.

Dear Sir:

During a recent visit to Bent's Camp I made a few historical notes which may be of use to your Society. I could send you a map of the region but I presume you have one already.

I have visited the region mentioned many times in the last few years, and it occurred to me that some notes ought to be taken for use a generation or two ahead of us when such information will be very difficult to procure.

I would like to suggest a name for Big Lake if you have it in your power to give weight to the suggestion. Big Lake is a name occurring frequently in the Lake region of Wisconsin. The name I would suggest is Cleveland Lake, in honor of Charles B. Cleveland, a resident of Evanston, who has visited that region regularly three or four times each season for the last ten years. He is well known there, and the name would have much more fitness than many of the names now given to lakes.

Yours Very Truly  
J. Seymour Currey over

I could add some photo views to this account  
if it should be desired.

FILE 11  
Historical Notes of Vilas Co. Wis.

October, 1906.

At a place some twelve or fourteen miles west of State line, Vilas Co. Wis. is situated a resort conducted by Charles A. Bent. This resort consists of a number of log cabins built to accommodate visitors who are attracted by the abundance of bass found in the numerous lakes of that region. These lakes form the headwaters of the Ontonagon river flowing into Lake Superior. Bent's resort, or Bent's camp, is located on the shore of Lake Mamie.

Mr. Charles A. Bent, who was born July 18, 1857, formerly lived at Abrams, Wis. where his father, William A. Bent, was a farmer and hunter. In the spring of 1891 Charles A. Bent established the camp on Lake



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Mamie and built cabins to accommodate visitors, and has since that time gradually added other cabins until now there are some dozen substantial log cabins. During the winters Mr. Bent is engaged in logging operations. The family of Mr. Bent consists of his wife and three children. The eldest, Austin Bent, is twenty one years of age and is now attending school in one of the larger towns of Wisconsin. Two daughters, Elsie and Polly, aged 16 and 13 respectively live with their parents. Mr. Bent employs a school teacher for the winter season at his own expense for the instruction of his children there being no other pupils.

With Mr. Bent came his brother Horace W. Bent, and they worked together in the resort business. In 1894 another

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Camp was established on an island in Tenderfoot Lake some 8 or 10 miles west of the camp on Lake Mamie.

This <sup>the former</sup> was operated as a branch of the latter, ~~with~~ with Horace in charge of it during the season, which lasted from June 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. During the winters Horace joined his brother Charles in the logging business.

About 1900 Charles and Horace separated, Charles continuing the Lake Mamie resort and Horace ~~the~~ the one situated on Tenderfoot Lake. About 1901, Horace married a lady who was engaged in teaching at Bent's camp. They had two boys. Horace was drowned in Palmer Lake Nov. 11, 1904, at the age of 34 years. He and two others, one an employee and the other a visitor, were passing through Palmer Lake on the way to the camp in Tenderfoot Lake, after dark and while the wind was blowing a gale. The

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Canoe in which they paddled was swamped about midway of the lake and all three of the occupants were drowned. Their bodies were recovered about a week later. The body of Horace Bent was buried on a point of land near the shore of Lake Mamie not far from Bent's camp. The widow has since conducted the resort on Lenderfoot lake with success.

Walter H. Bent, 28 years old, is another brother of Charles A. Bent. He is married and engaged in the logging and saw-mill business, and resides in a cabin near Bent's camp on Lake Mamie.

William A. Bent, the father of Charles, Horace and Walter, is still living, a hale and hearty man of some 75 years of age. He stays the



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most of the time during the season at  
Zanderfoot Lake with assisting his  
daughter-in-law, the widow of Horace.

The post office address of Chas. A. Bent  
is State Line, Wis.

The post office address of Mrs. Horace  
W. Bent is Watersmeet, Mich.

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### Other Resorts.

On High Lake is a resort con-  
ducted by Herman Pope and his  
wife. They have no children. This  
resort consists of some half dozen  
log cabins built for the accommodation  
of visitors. This resort is called "High  
Lake Lodge". Mr. Pope's post office  
address is Boulder Junction, Star  
Lake, Wis.

On Wolf Lake is a resort con-  
ducted by John Oxley, consisting of  
some half dozen log cabins built for  
the accommodation of visitors. Mr. Oxley



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was formerly from Canada. A few years ago he was a guide in the employ of a ~~man~~ resort-keeper in the neighborhood. He bought five acres on the shore of Wolf Lake and opened the resort now called "John Oxley's resort." Mr. Oxley is a widower with ~~one boy~~ <sup>a son</sup> named Ralph, about 15 years old, living with him. He may have other children. His post office address is Oxley's, Wis.

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### Names of Lakes.

Lake Mamie. When Charles A. Bent came to this lake in 1891 he found this name in use, though he has no idea of its origin. In later years he heard that it had been known as Gunlock lake which name included the other two connected with it now known as Crooked lake and West Bay lake. He was told this by a man who had formerly been a trapper in those regions.

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Crooked Lake. This name was applied to the lake on account of its shape, <sup>since Mr. Bent's arrival,</sup> there are many lakes of that name in the region.

West Bay Lake. This name was applied to the lake since Mr. Bent's arrival in the region.

Big Lake. A descriptive name very common in the region, and is applied to other lakes. The lake is worthy of a better name.

Morley Lake. Named for Thomas Morley formerly ticket agent of the Chicago and Northwestern R.R.

Lindsley Lake. Named for W. D. Lindsley, former Superintendent of the Chicago & Northwestern R.R.

Palmer Lake. No one could be found who knew the origin of this name.

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Cochran Lake. This lake was formerly known as Big Fish Horn lake. It was re-named in honor of J. Cochran

Jones Lake. This lake was formerly known as Little Fish Horn lake. It was re-named in honor of a man <sup>named</sup> of ~~that~~ Jones whose initials are not known.

Sauborn Lake. Named in honor of S. Sauborn once superintendent of the Chicago & Northwestern R.R.

Morton Lake. named in honor of Jay Morton, a merchant of Chicago, who once visited the region.

McCullough Lake. Named in honor of Hiram R. McCullough, now traffic manager of the Chicago & Northwestern R.R.

Plum Lake. Named in honor of a man of that ~~the~~ name whose initials

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are not known. He is a lawyer of Chicago, and has frequently visited the region.

Dunn Lake. Named in honor of Frank Dunn who died in 1905. He was a member of the firm of Frank G. Logan & Co. of Chicago, and was a frequent visitor to the region.

Tenderfoot Lake. A name applied after a resort had been opened there by the Bent Brothers.

J. Seymour Currey