

A History of Good Hart

The area between Harbor Springs and Cross Village, was originally, known by the Indians as “L’Arbor Croche”. The Indians lived in camps all along the shore. Some lived in groups at Cross Village, some at Middle Village, Seven Mile Point and Harbor Springs. When this particular area was singled out, it was called by several names. By some it was called *Waw-gaw-naw-Ka-see* meaning Crooked Tree. Also called *Opit-awe-ing* meaning halfway. It was called Middle Village by the white man.

From: “The Ottawa and the Chippewa” by Andrew J. Blackbird, written in 1887.

Chapter IV, “My own dear father was one of the head chiefs at Arbor Croche, now called Middle Village, or Good Hart, which was the latter named at my suggestion, by the Post Office Department at Washington. My father died in June 1861. His Indian name was *Mack-a-de-pe-nessy* which means Black Hawk but somehow it has been mistranslated into Blackbird so now we go by this latter name.”

Chapter VI, “ In 1827 my father left his subjects at Arbor Croche proper, now called Middle Village in charge of his brother *Kaw-me-no-te-a* which means Good Hearted. The word heart became misspelled somewhere along the way and is officially now Good Hart.”

The National Archives and Records Post Office Department shows that a post office was established at Good Hart, Emmet County, Michigan on December 17, 1874, with Silas W. McNeil appointed as the first postmaster. The Indian agent misspelled Good Heart for Good Hart and the error still stands.

Postmasters:

Silas W. McNeil, December 17, 1874
Gideon Noel, June 10, 1887
Lowel Lamkin, April 5, 1892

Beatrice Lamkin, April, 1933
Clifford Powers , November 13, 1945
Carolyn Sutherland, August 9, 1972

The first settlement was established in the spring of 1741. A mission was built in Middle Village in honor of St. Ignatius of Lyola. The second church was built in 1833. It was dedicated by Rev. Fred Baraga on July 31, 1833. The present church was built in 1889. The current structure is the third church to exist on the mission property, the first two being destroyed by fire.

Middle Village Church - *Apitaweing*, pronounced Apta-wah-ing means halfway, referring to halfway between Cross Village and Harbor Springs.

Tourism is the only current industry in Good Hart. Previous industry included farming, logging and fishing. Good Hart is currently an established resort area. There are many seasonal and year round residents, a specialty gift store, the current St. Ignatius Church, a rustic décor store and a combination general store, post office and real estate office in Good Hart at the present.

