

This commemorative book is dedicated first to those whose history we have tried to present, the Indians, explorers, trappers, loggers, farmers, resort owners and industrialists who have changed the Montague Area from a great forest to the present day city.

Secondly to the many area residents who have spent their time and talents in the research, preparation and presentation of this book.

To Robert Wesley who designed the book cover, who painted the originals for the historical maps of White Lake reproduced within these covers, whose talented art work is shown in sketches throughout the enclosed pages and for his time spent editing the many historical stories.

To Wendell (Pete) Lipka and Mrs. Marvin (Mayme) Lipka, Sr., for their years of effort in collecting the stories and pictures of Montague History for the Montague Museum from which most of the contents of this book were drawn and to the many who assisted in the research, typing, etc., necessary to prepare the enclosed pages.

To John Chisholm and Norman Karsten who assisted in the editing.

To Walter Hunt and his committee whose sales of book sponsorships made possible the publishing and printing.

To those whose efforts in the future will insure the continued progress of the Montague Area.

John A. O'Neil
President and General Chairman
Montague Area Centennial Celebration,
1967.

PREFACE

As part of the celebration of the Montague Area's 100th Anniversary, it is the purpose of this book to record the historic background of the area as a lasting memorial for generations to come.

Much of the material used in the compilation of history is of recorded fact, much has been gained by local tales and legends. In the presentation of conditions existing in the area before written records were kept, some conjecture has been necessary.

In editing the voluminous collections of historic material for this volume, one over-riding fact became evident. The Montague Area, like most of the World's land has been held in high esteem and love by some and viewed by others as merely another territory to be exploited, raped of its bounteous natural resources and left wounded to die.

Whatever the right or wrong, the History of this area is written in the story of man, the uncomplicated children of nature, the first and original settlers of the area, the Indians; the strong rugged pioneers, foreigners in a strange land. Some guided by dreams of happiness and a better life in a new territory, others by a desire for wealth. These races of man good and bad have left their mark on the Area.

We, the editors, have attempted to arrange the story of the Montague Area in a way designed to present our historic past in an interesting way, and to give to the reader a clear picture of life as lived in those days clouded by the mists of time.

The Editors -

Montague, Michigan - April - 1967

John Chisholm
Norman Karsten
Wendell Lipka
Robert Wesley