

A History of Newfield Township

Taking the north half of Greenwood territory the Township of Newfield was organized as an independent township in 1866 under its present name. The Village of Hesperia is partly in Oceana and Newaygo County, the portion in Oceana County is Newfield Township. The main street of Hesperia is the county line.

As the White River flows through the township, millions of feet of logs from upstream, as well as those cut in Newfield Township, were floated down the river to the mills in Whitehall and Montague in the 1870's, 80's, and 90's. There were also three or four old time logging camps within the township.

The North Branch had its source from McClaren Lake and runs through the township. In the 1870's into the 1890's, pine and later hardwood logs were cut and hauled onto the ice at McClaren Lake. When the ice melted in the spring, the logs were floated down the North Branch through Ferry into White River and then on down to Whitehall and Montague. In order to move all of these logs it was necessary to build dams across the Branch. In Newfield Township, four were built and operated by the White Rive Boom Company. The first was the Heisel Dam, about a mile down from McLaren Lake and a mile further was the Bennett Marsh Dam. Another mile and a half down was the Mossback, and one half mile further was Peck's Dam and Peck's Pond. Peck's Pond was used as a holding place for logs. At the present time very few logs and timbers remain of these structures.

The Newfield Town Hall is located in the Village of Hesperia. It was built as a Methodist Church in the early 1870's. The township bought it and it was moved to its present location in 1900.

The township has 15 lakes and portions of two more and also 3 trout streams.

“Old Tyme Plat and History of Oceana County”

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