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Walter Hastings Nature Museum
NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP
Interlochen, Michigan

HOW THE PETOSKEY STONE GOT ITS NAME

Lone Wolf Bidasga was his name and he ruled over the area from Frankfort to Harbor Springs. The word "Petoskey" is the English approximate of "Bidasga" and means "Rising Sun". The Indian chief was a most unusual person, liked by everyone who came in contact with him. When the first settlers arrived in 1852, they liked Lone Wolf so much that they named the town "Petoskey" along with the famous stone which is nothing more than fossilized colony coral (Hexagonaria: Percaninata, Sloss). This coral grew about 320,000,000 years ago in the geological period known as the Middle Devonian. It is known as a small coral or sea animal which has made up the great limestone formations so characteristic of the area. The land that we know today was covered by a great salt sea and the coral grew then as it does today in the warmer waters of the more southernly salt seas. These stones are found today along the shores of Lake Michigan from Frankfort to the north of the present day city of Petoskey and also inland as far south as Cadillac around the shores of inland lakes, gravel pits, and along the roadside wherever gravel is to be found. For a great many years people would treasure the Petoskey stones as lucky stones and they were very much sought after. They were often spoken of as "Good Luck Stones" and even today there are some people who still treasure the stones as good luck pieces.

"Petoskey Stone" (Coral
from Petoskey mich.
along Lake
Michigan
named by
Indians.