

## CHAPTER SIX\*

### THE FOUNDING OF EGG HARBOR IN 1855

#### How The village got Its Name

Ten years before Door County's first American settler landed in Little Sturgeon Bay in 1835, an incident purportedly took place that explains how Egg Harbor got its name. As the story goes in the summer of 1825 Attorney Henry S. Baird and his bride were travelling from Ft. Howard in Green Bay to Mackinac Island as passengers on one of four boats of Pierce Roulette, a French fur trader. Roulette's four boats were being "powered" by four voyageur paddlers. Each boat also carried one or two of Roulette's other employees plus a good quantity of furs together with camping gear and a supply of food stuffs. Among the food stuffs was an unusually large supply of eggs.

As they paddled north from Green Bay, Roulette's party hugged the shoreline parallel to the Door County peninsula. On the second day out Commodore Roulette gave the order to put ashore when it was time for lunch. He had spotted a quiet cove that looked ideal for an easy landing and pleasant lunch. What took place as the Roulette flotilla entered the cove may explain how Egg Harbor got its name.

It was customary in such operations for the boat with the commodore on board to proceed to shore in the lead. On this occasion,

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\* Note: Certain of the material in this chapter comes from two excellent histories written by Bill Bertschinger, General Manager and part of the family group owning The Alpine Inn. His The Egg Harbor Story and From The Alps To Alpine (the story of the family owned Alpine Inn, built by his father and uncles) are both well done publications that helped greatly in writing about Egg Harbor that Door County historians have largely neglected in the past.