

Sherman Bay

by Henry Scheig

Sherman Bay lies between Lily Bay and Whitefish Bay. It is approximately 1/2 mile across. The central portion is fine sand beach with rock beach at both points. It lies almost entirely in Sec 28, T28N, R27E, the very north (east) portion lying in Sec. 27. The central portion of the bay faces south-southeast.

The shore portion of Sec. 28 is designated as Government Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, with lot 4 being farthest south.

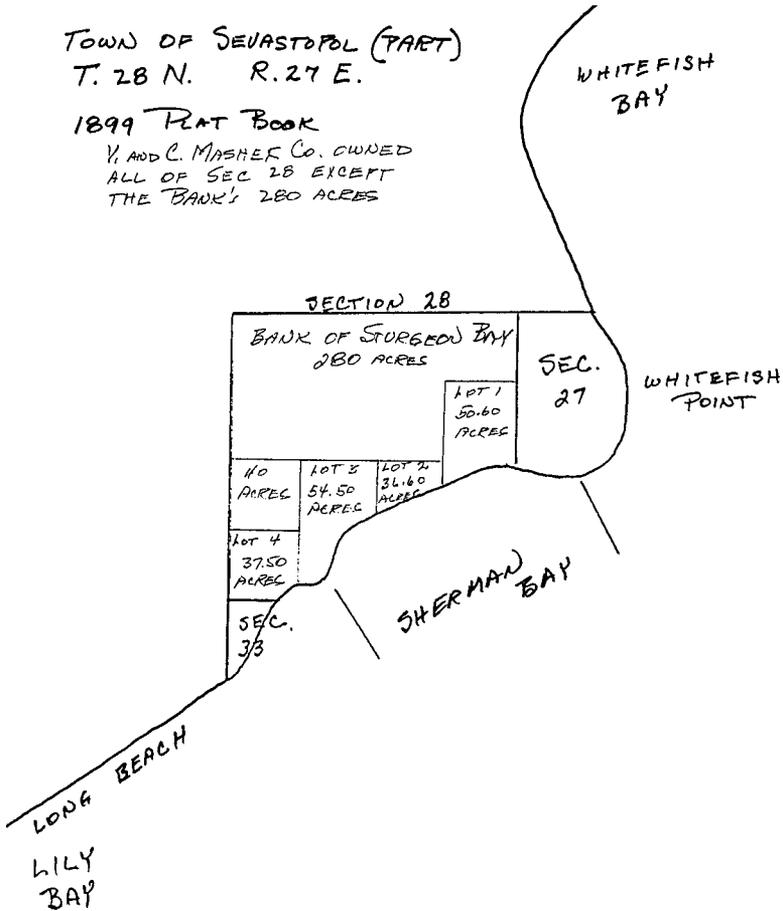
Ewald Schmock referred to this bay as “Sherman Bay” when we bought our property from him in 1958. Long time resident Omer Moeller of Bark Rd. is reputed to have confirmed the name and suggested the bay was named after an old-time owner (prior to 1900). How did it get that name?

Holand and other sources do not refer to any Sherman in the index. It is suggested the authors usually did not include persons who failed to subscribe for copies. However Holand does show a price list for forest products “advertised by Horn and Joseph at *Sherman Bay*” (Vol. I, Pg 84). A search of the records at the Register of Deeds reveals that a Leonard M. Sherman purchased vast amounts of property in the immediate and surrounding area in the 1880’s and 1890’s, mostly at tax sales. Holand (on the page referenced above) states: “When the

TOWN OF SEVASTOPOL (PART)
T. 28 N. R. 27 E.

1899 PLAT BOOK

V. AND C. MASHER CO. OWNED
ALL OF SEC 28 EXCEPT
THE BANK'S 280 ACRES



best of the timber was cut that land was usually sold for taxes to a woodchopper who would keep it for a year or two whereupon it would again be sold for taxes. The early files of the county papers each year show lists of thousands of tracts of land advertised for sale for taxes.”

My guess is the bay was named after Leonard Sherman. However I could not find any evidence that he ever owned shore property at Sherman Bay. He did form a “Lake Grove Improve-

ment Co.” in 1883 (S D 356) apparently to develop some of his land but I could not find further reference to it. He held power of attorney for many people, and a district attorney Dreutzer appears to have been Sherman’s partner in numerous transactions.

There was a sale of lots 1,2, and 3 on June 16, 1841 to John P. Clarke by patent February 1, 1843. Lot 4, 37.5 acres was sold by patent October 28, 1854. Lots 1, 2, and 3 went from Clarke’s estate July 8, 1889 to V. Mashek & wife. On January 2, 1890 they transferred it to V. & C Mashek Co. On January 10, 1907 it was deeded to Reynolds Preserving Co., and November 1, 1912 to W. H. Joyce. By 1937 all of Sec. 33, 28, and 27 were owned by Olive T. Glidden. The 1899 plat map (the oldest one in existence) indicates the Mashek Co. held Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as a great deal of property in the area, apparently much of what had been held at one time by Sherman.

In my research I found a number of other items of related interest:

The names of Ehunfeld (sp?) Sherman of Gibraltar and William Sherman appeared but did not seem to relate to this area.

A map created by Tom Hucek, copyrighted 1991, “19th Century Old Door County Settlements” uses the term “Lilly Bay.” He indicates a settlement of “St. Joseph” existed at the junction of County T and Glidden Drive, later named Lilly Bay in honor of the new owner’s daughter (the new owner was Horn), and that a port existed as a major shipping point during the 1870 - 80’s for lumber shipping but also for nursery products from the nearby community of Evergreen. The settlement

served as a port for Sturgeon Bay also during the winters with the Goodrich boats making regular visits. In 1884 this settlement had a pier, saw mill, telegraph station, blacksmith shop and general store. It had a post office from 1879-82.

Holand's *History of Door County* includes various references to our area. He refers to Wm. H. Horn who "in company with a Mr. Joseph built a pier a few miles north of the canal, which was a large shipping point for forest products in the 70's and 80's. The village that grew up here was called St. Joseph. When the people of Sturgeon Bay and the northern towns were unable to get the telephone line extended beyond Sturgeon Bay, Horn and Joseph in 1882 personally extended it from Horn's Pier (Clay Banks) to St. Joseph, Whitefish Bay, Jacksonport and Bailey's Harbor, at all of which points they installed operators. When the timber cutting came to an end in the late '80s, Foscoro (a settlement south of Clay Banks near the Door/Kewaunee border), Clay Banks, Horn's Pier and St. Joseph ceased to be shipping points and W. H. Horn moved to other parts." (Vol I, page 443)

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