

Nanebozo and the Bear
(Legend of Crawling Stone Lake)

Nanebozo was walking in the woods near this well-known lake when he was chased by a big black bear. He had once angered this bear by whacking him over the nose with a stick when he sat asleep under a big tree. The bear remembered the injury and was determined to have his revenge when he again met Nanebozo. His opportunity to do so had come. As Nanebozo ran toward the water, his only avenue of escape from the angry bear, he gathered up an armful of stones. As he stepped into the water he dropped or threw them before him, one after the other, using them as stepping-stones. Over these stones the baffled bear dared not to follow Nanebozo, who thus safely crossed to the other shore and escaped his pursuer. He "made a nose" at the bear.

Some of these stones still remain in position in Crawling Stone Lake in Vilas County and mark the flight long ago of the Indian culture hero, Nanebozo.