



At

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Where Science, **History** and Art Connect.

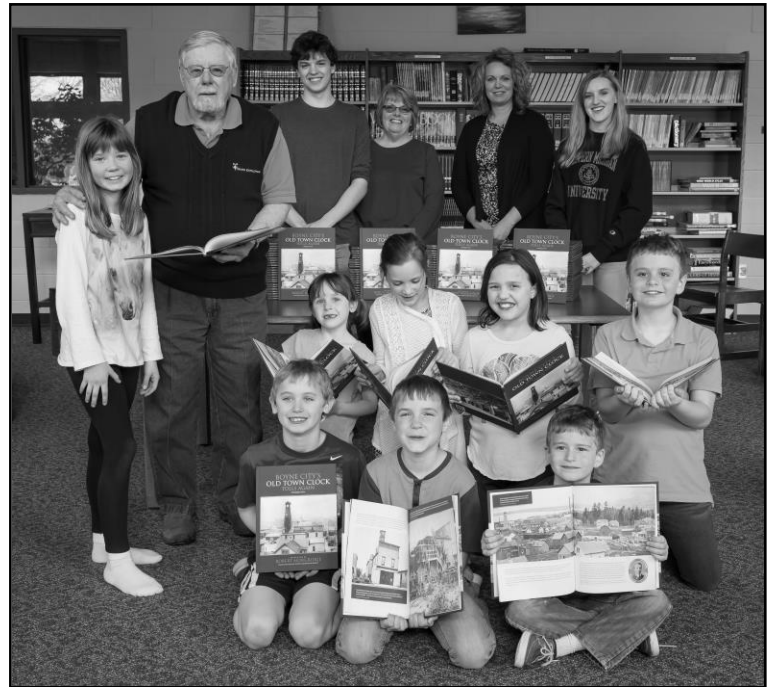


Summer 2018 Newsletter
Volume 14 Number 2

4737 Fuller Road – East Jordan, MI 49727
www.ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org

Clock Book Donation Made To Boyne City Public Schools April 25, 2018

On April 25, 2018 the Charlevoix County History Preservation Society (CCHPS) at Raven Hill presented the Boyne City Public Schools with 150 copies of our recently published local history book - Boyne City's Old Town Clock Tolls Again. Written by retired Boyne City high school teacher and noted local historian, Bob Morgridge, the books will be used on an annual bases in classes at several age levels. With 150 copies being given, each student will have use of their own copy to read and study. Other uses may include gifts to guest speakers as part of Boyne City themed Carnival Baskets; Literature Circle novel selection in the school's US History course; as well as becoming the anchor text used on November 14th each year to commemorate Boyne City's founding date.



[Photograph courtesy of Diane Burke.]



[Photograph courtesy of Diane Burke.]

Students Express Gratitude over Books

Pictured above are:

(Back row, standing, L. to R.): Third grade student, Eeva Rintala; book author, Bob Morgridge; BCHS student, Quentin Nottage second grade teacher, Laura Houser; BCHS Social Studies teacher, Michele Deming; and BCHS student, Kathryn Zucker.

(Front rows, kneeling): Elementary students, Drew Bryant, Ainsley Hertel, Grant Fritzsche, Ana Fritzsche, Chelsea Hertel, Ethan Houser and Gabe Houser.

Special thanks go to Michele Deming for her work to coordinate this effort. Mrs. Deming has been teaching at the Boyne City High School for 21 years and was Mr. Morgridge's replacement upon his retirement.

The book is for sale for \$30.00 through CCHPS at Raven Hill and is also available in Boyne City at the following locations:

Lynda's Real Estate Service, 27 S. Lake Street
Ralph W. Gillett, CPA, 106 E Water Street
District Library, 201 E. Main Street

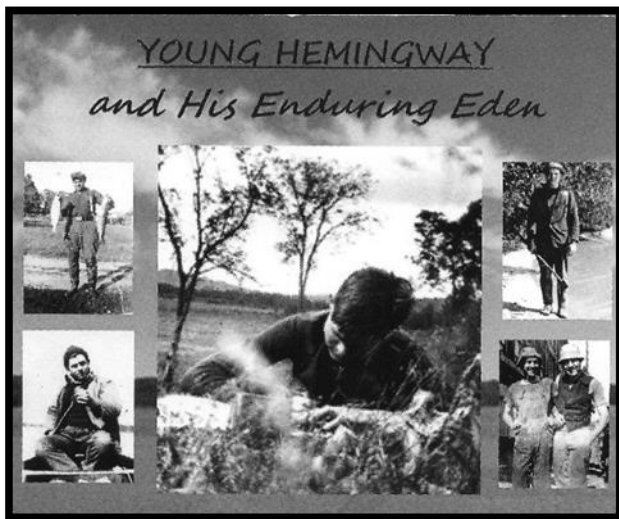
All proceeds go to support CCHPS research and future publications.

Pictured above are:

(Back row, standing, L. to R.): CCHPS co-founder, Georganna Monk; RHDC founder, Cheri Leach; BCHS students, Quentin Nottage and Kathryn Zucker; second grade teacher, Laura Houser; BCHS Social Studies teacher, Michele Deming; and BCHS Principal, Karen Jarema.

(Front row, seated, L. to R.): Book author, Bob Morgridge; Elementary students, Drew Bryant, Ainsley Hertel, Grant Fritzsche, Ana Fritzsche, Chelsea Hertel, Ethan Houser and Gabe Houser.

Mark Your Calendars



August 2018 "HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES"

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018 - 7:00 PM

**Horton Bay United Methodist Church
4961 Boyne City Road in Historic Horton Bay**

PROGRAM:

Premiere Presentation of "YOUNG HEMINGWAY and His Enduring Eden"

Guest Speaker & Documentary Writer, Director and
Producer: Dr. George Colburn

Please join us for this final director's cut – the first premiere in the United States - of the 90-minute documentary which will soon to be released for television, internet and the classroom.

**A donation of \$10 or more will entitle you to a
DVD of the documentary.**

This Program is Free & Open to the Public
Light refreshments will be served
Drawings for special prizes!

**"Meet the Producer" at 5:00 PM at
Morgan's Tavern in the Horton Bay General Store.**

**For more information call:
Dr. Colburn at 231- 535-2440
Or Georganna at 231-883-9867.**

In Response To Your Inquiries...

Programs, projects, and ongoing efforts to research and document Charlevoix County history topics continue to be undertaken by the CCHPS at RHDC. However, these are now being fully funded by donations specifically earmarked: **"CCHPS FUND"**

If you would like to assist us and support our efforts to further the preservation of Charlevoix County's history, contributions can be sent to:

Raven Hill Discovery Center
4737 Fuller Road
East Jordan, MI 49727

Please designate that your donation is for the "CCHPS Fund"

From the CCHPS Archives

As we continue to scan, document and archive items within the CCHPS collection, many interesting items have resurfaced that we feel are worthy of sharing with our readings. This item in particular seemed appropriate, as this location will also be highlighted within the CCHPS Power Point presentation which will be on-going during the RHDC Smithsonian Waterways Exhibit later this summer.

AN EARLY HISTORY OF LAKE CHARLEVOIX'S GAZA BEACH

The following was contributed to the CCHPS by Nancy M. (Harper) Fulkerson (1949-1915) in February 2014.

This informative early history on the formation of Gaza Beach on Lake Charlevoix was compiled by Nancy's Grandmother, Dorothy M. (Joy) Liscum (1902-1996). Among those mentioned within the biography are Dorothy's husband, Dale Liscum (1903-1970) and her brother, Warren Joy. In 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Liscum purchased the Gaza Beach Resort near Boyne City on Lake Charlevoix. They operated the resort for many summers, until selling the property in 1988.



[An early view of the Gaza Beach area along Lakeshore Drive.]

The history of Gaza Beach should start with Mr. George Jamieson of Wayne, Michigan. He was an energetic man who had retired from railroad work, then went into the coal business, then sold that, and looked for something else to do. He came up to Boyne City and found it so beautiful, but he realized it had no facilities for tourists, except the hotel. He dreamed of a group of cottages or cabins to rent, where people could come and enjoy the lovely lake. So he shopped around and found a forty acre farm on the lake shore for sale, and bought it from John Liscum, an uncle of my husbands. The farm had one small cabin on it. Mr. Jamieson called his wife, Rose, and said "Pack up and come up here!" She said, "For a vacation?" He said, "No, I want to live up here!" She was pretty upset, as that would be leaving her home, her children, her church, and all these at [a time] when it was not easy to make such a big change. However, she did it. For a short period they lived in town, until the old house was fixed up enough to live in. After they moved into it, Mr. Jamieson began to buy up empty houses in Boyne City and had them moved out to the farm, which was located about 2 miles from town, on the Lake Shore Drive (this was about 1924). The houses he bought were those empty ones left by people who had no work, and went elsewhere to find employment. The lumber mills had shut down, so there were many homes that went back for taxes.

Gaza Beach Continued...

The city had too many of them and was glad to sell them to anyone... and cheap too! The story was that the houses were moved across the lake. After moving the houses out, he had them set up on cedar posts, leveled, had big porches built, then painted and furnished them. To furnish them he attended all the auction sales for miles around, bought iron bedsteads, dressers, chairs, kerosene lamps, table, commodes, wood heating stoves and cooking stoves. One two-story house he was able to buy for \$14.00. It was a well-built house but had no plaster on the inside walls. This did not bother him. He got some green building paper and tacked it to the walls. His wife was kept busy making covers for the beds, curtains for the windows and finding dishes and pots and pans, cutlery, etc. for the kitchens. She helped all she could, and in the meantime she too began to love the country.

These houses had no bathrooms, no running water, and no electricity. There were kerosene lamps, outside toilets, no rubbish pick-up, everyone had to carry their water from one well. There were no refrigerators, but the places did have ice boxes. However, no ice was delivered, so the tenants had to bring their own ice from town! One wonders now how he was able to attract customers! After living in the small cabin for a few years, Mr. Jamieson built a stone house on the east end of the 40 acres, and rented the small cabin along with the rest of them, at the west end.

He planted an orchard behind the buildings and put in grapevines and a garden. Advertisements in Detroit and Cincinnati newspapers brought answers. Renters came by railroad to Walloon Lake and were met there. Or they drove up and sometimes sent their trunks by rail. At that time, in the 1930's, the smaller cabins rented for \$12.00 a week and the two-story houses rented for \$15.00. Eventually there were 8 cottages in the row. However, in the summer of 1935 a fire started in one cabin and spread to two others. All three burned down. Mr. Jamieson had another house moved out and set in place, a porch was built on it, the whole house was painted and it was ready to use.

[Continued on Page 4...]

PHOTOGRAPH PRESERVATION is a vital part of the preservation of local and county history, as well as a vital portion of the CCHPS mission. It is our heartfelt belief that while volumes of research can be compiled on an individual family or topic, it is photographs which serve to make history come alive to future generations and to today's general public.

Photographs that may once have been considered hopelessly lost to the ravages of time, can often times now be greatly improved upon and restored to their original (or near original) beauty.

DO YOU HAVE Charlevoix County images that you would consider sharing with the CCHPS?

We are not asking to keep these images, only to document, scan and return them to you... while fully crediting you with your contribution.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to assist the CCHPS with the preservation of local history. **PLEASE** get in touch if you can help!

Mark Your Calendars



JUNE 2018 "HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES"

PROGRAM:
**"More to Boyne City in 1902 than Just Lumbering-
The Chemical & Charcoal Iron Plants"**

Guest Speaker: Bob Morgridge
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018 - 7:00 PM
Boyne District Library
Lower Level Community Room
201 East Main Street, Boyne City, MI

At the turn of the century lumber barons recognized that uncut trees in the lumber camps and the slashing on the ground could turn a dollar. Consequently they constructed the Boyne City Chemical Plant in 1902. In its prime the plant's yearly production was 2,000,000 bushels of charcoal, 500,000 pounds of acetate of lime, and 600,000 gallons of wood alcohol.

The plant shipped the charcoal across the street (where The Landings are located today) to the Charcoal Iron Plant. The charcoal was used to smelt iron ore into cast iron bars. The plant had the capacity of producing 28,000 tons of cast iron per year. Both industries closed with the end of the lumbering era.

Join us to welcome members of the White Family Reunion and as historian and author Bob Morgridge reveals the history of two industries that for 20 years played a vital part in Boyne City's industrial history during the lumbering era.

This Program is Free & Open to the Public
Light refreshments will be served

For more information call:
Georganna at 231-883-9867

Gaza Beach Continued...

In 1936 we passed the place and realized the possibility for recreation for tourists and thought it would be nice to own it. We went home, still thinking about it, and then heard that it was for sale. We wrote to Mr. Jamieson asking for details. He answered and we finally made a deal. There was a lot we didn't know about it, and one thing was that there was an awful lot of work just maintaining the buildings and yards. We moved in and took possession in June 1937. It then consisted of 5 houses and 16 acres. There were 6 houses in the row, but Mr. Jamieson had made reservations in the cabins for all that first summer, leaving space for us to live in one. We learned all we could from him that summer and fall, and it was well we did as he passed away in the winter.

Many of our first year's customers were from Cincinnati and continued to come after we bought. They were lovely people, did not complain about the inconveniences, and enjoyed the lake and the clean, fresh air. They had fishing contests and croquet tournaments and most every evening was spent singing old favorite songs around a bonfire on the beach. My brother (Warren Joy) was an employee of the Detroit Edison Company and had many friends there. He was a great booster for our business and we began to get a lot of the Edison men as customers. The year my husband built the first log cabin, my brother was there at the time and floor of the cabin was ready to be laid. He asked husband how many hammers he had. Dale answered, "About 7, I think." My brother said, "I can get 7 men to use them if you will tell them what to do and furnish the beer!" So, that floor was laid in record time! We had no idea when we bought the place, that we'd ever had an electric line out our road. But the government really did us a favor when they allowed the loan that set up the Rural Electrical Association. This happened about a year after we got the place and we spent a lot of time and money wiring the cabins, putting in bathrooms and running water and electric refrigerators, etc. It was a lot of work, of course, but by this time [we] were expecting nothing else! (First taxes were \$25.00 per year for the place, by 1976 I was paying 24 times that for the little that I had left!)

Each time we finished a bathroom in a cabin, we'd celebrate by burning the old out-door toilet! One evening a family name Hargreaves was occupying a cabin and the parents went out fishing, leaving their teenagers on the place. The Hargreaves car, parked on the brow of the hill, beside the cabin, facing the lake, released its brakes and started downwards. It went fast and faster, crossed the road missing the mailbox and the bench and went into the lake! Miraculously, there was no traffic on the road. The car sailed out about 100 feet into the water before sinking. Everyone in the cottages came to the beach to see. A Mr. Edwin Norris, one of the cottages, immediately began operations to get it out of the water, by asking if anyone had tow ropes or chains. He gathered them all up and fastened them together, got into his bathing trunks and wading out to the car, fastened one end of the tow chains to the bumper. Coming back, he fastened the other end to his car. Then he pulled the submerged car to the edge of the beach. The car's owners had returned from fishing at this time. With the help of a big truck which came along, they got the car up on dry land. The car spent one day in a garage and a week in the sunshine, with doors open, drying out.

During the first 10 years we were able to buy back the cabin that had been sold, so then we owned all in the row. However, after a few more years, the work began to tire us too much so we sold about half of the front (3 cabins and 5 lots.)

Since my husband's death I have sold some more of the other half. But still keep some, as it has been such a big part of my life, I would hate to give it all up. On thinking back I would do it all over again. It was well worth the work and hard times. One of our daughters even found a husband, the son of one of our regular customers!

If you ever wondered how the name "Gaza Beach" came about, it was given to the place by Mr. Jamieson. He told us he found a Bible verse which said, "I came to a valley, found it beautiful, and called it Gaza."

You may be interested to hear about one family who came up from Cincinnati to stay with us in one of our cabins. There were Mr. and Mrs. D., two young daughters, and Mr. D.'s sister. Mr. D. wanted to go fishing so my husband told him to go ahead, he could use a rowboat. Mr. D. said, "I don't know how to fix my fish pole to catch the fish." My husband fixed his fish pole with the line, the sinker, the fish hook and the bait. Mr. D. rowed out to the deeper water and anchored and dropped his line into the water. Soon he had a nibble at which he quickly pulled up his line, and surprisingly he had a small bass. So he pulled up the anchor and rowed back to shore and proudly showed my husband the fish. My husband seeing how delighted he was to have caught a fish didn't have the heart to tell him it was undersized and that he should throw it back! Then Mr. D. wanted to show it to his family. When they saw it they wanted it for supper. So, he came back to Dale, asking how to clean it. My husband explained it carefully and Mr. D. did everything as he was told, but it took him nearly 2 hours to complete the job. When he was finished, with the head and tail off, he had to cut it into five pieces and so when it was fired, each one in his family had about one bite each!

During the week they were at the cabin, they asked why all the little buildings were on the lake ice in the water- they had seen a photo. We told them people use them while catching fish. "How can they do that with the ice over the water?" they asked. We answered, "Well, they cut a hole in the ice." "Oh", they said, "then when the fish come up to breathe, they catch them!" It was hard for us to believe that some families, even a few, knew so little about the art of fishing.

One family came up, a man, wife and teen-aged daughter, [and] brought along a record player and one record. They played that one record every day and every evening while they were here. We got very tired of the Beer Barrel Polka! The father was trying to break his daughter's attachment to this record.

