It's Time to Learn About
Our Charlevoix County Waterways!

Did you know that the following rivers, streams, lakes and creeks can be reached within a 30 minute drive from nearly any point in Charlevoix County? Let's see how many you are familiar with.

The Boyne River is created from a multitude of spring fed streams and tributaries. At one point, no less than six roaring brooks unite and enter into the south branch alone! Beginning in Otsego County, it travels through a portion of Antrim and then into Charlevoix County- a distance of 22 miles in all. The Jordan River, which is nearly 25 miles long, begins its life in Antrim County and then spans several townships within both Antrim and Charlevoix Counties.

What about the creeks? Charlevoix County is home to several of these- Deer, Horton, Inwood, Porter, McGeach, South Arm and Advance.

While both the rivers and creeks are noted for their superb trout fishing, the following lakes also make for good fishing: Susan Lake is known for its bass and pike. Deer Lake also produces a fine crop of both bass and pike. Thumb Lake (known by many as Lake Louise) makes for good bass and perch fishing. Walloon Lake has always called out to bass, perch and pike fisherman.

The largest of our bodies of water however, is Lake Charlevoix (formerly Pine Lake). Spanning over 16 miles long and connected with Lake Michigan at Charlevoix, the lake not only makes for excellent sailing adventures, but bass, pike, rainbow trout, steelhead, mackinaw and whitefish all thrive in its waters.

Now that you know the names of our Charlevoix County waterways, let's prepare to learn more about them during the Raven Hill Discovery Center 2018 Smithsonian Water/Ways in Michigan Exhibit coming later this year! Watch for updates and be prepared to mark your calendars!

A beautiful, early photograph of the rustic bridge which once crossed "the old river" in Charlevoix- courtesy of the Patrick McCleary collection. The CCHPS will also take part in this year's 2018 Smithsonian Water/Ways in Michigan Exhibit, hosted by RHDC. Watch future editions of our newsletter for details of what this involvement will include!
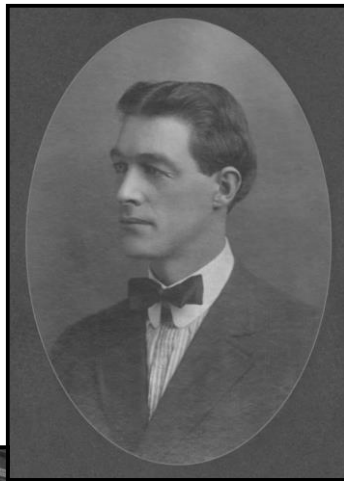
Collections Shared
Help our CCHPS Archives Grow!

It is difficult to explain in simple terms how important it is that the CCHPS acquire access to new collections of photographs, written matter, articles and other items of historical importance. This in no way means that we need to keep the original items. In fact, while the CCHPS continues to maintain a collection of original materials, an even larger archive of scanned materials is what we draw from as we promote our mission statement and assist others with various aspects of Charlevoix County research.

Recently, CCHPS Member Patrick McCleary has worked with several individuals to scan portions of their collections. In some cases this was done to assist them with the preservation of the original items. In others, it was to work with them to get images named or otherwise documented. In all instances the end result is that local historic material is being made available for further study!

Contributors received their original materials back, along with a disc of the scanned images, and (in most cases) a second, digitally restored version of many, if not all, of their photographs. In turn, the CCHPS is given permission to use the materials in future projects, and the original donor receives credit for their contributions! It is definitely a win-win situation for all parties!

[Special thanks goes out to Nancy Holland of Boyne City who shared these amazing photographs of Boyne City barber, Stanley Holland (right), and the barber shop which was once located in the basement of the old Boyne City bank building - on the corner of Park and Water Streets, Boyne City.]
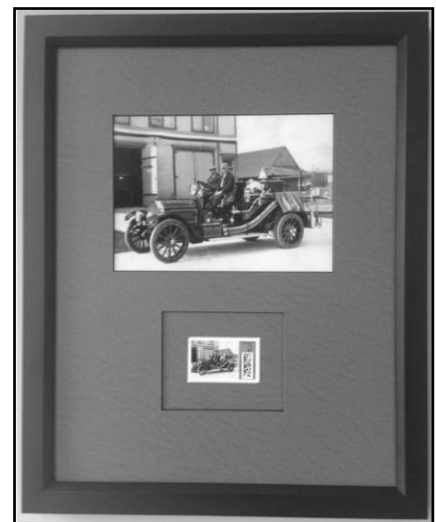

Miller Program A Success!

The CCHPS is pleased to report that our November 2017 program was a complete success, with a "standing room only" turnout! Those in attendance took an amazing journey through time to celebrate the 161st Anniversary of the arrival of Boyne City's first settler's, John and Harriet Miller.

We are greatly indebted to our historian, Bob Morgridge, for delivering a program to remember. Special thanks also goes out to the Boyne District Library who collaborated with us in hosting this event; the Boyne City Historical Commission for making several of the priceless Miller family artifacts available for public viewing; and to Patrick McCleary for preparing the food and dessert trays.

With well over 100 people in attendance, and based on the feedback that we received from many that day, we feel confident that the CCHPS goes into 2018 with strong support from both our membership and the community at large. Thank you!

Boyne City's 1917 LaFrance Fire Engine
Framed Photograph and Stamp
Limited Edition - $100.00 each.
Reserve yours today. Several are already spoken for!

Extracted from:
A Pictorial History of the Boyne Valley Area - 1973
Page 3

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BOYNE FALLS, MICHIGAN

Boyne Falls derived its name from the Boyne River with its falls or rapids at the location. The name was given by "Uncle" John Miller, the first settler near the mouth of the stream that empties into the head of Pine Lake. The town of Boyne Valley was organized in 1873, and in the spring of 1874 the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad began operation. Boyne Falls was incorporated as a village in 1893. William Nelson was the first postmaster of Boyne Falls.

With the coming of the railroad the village began to grow, which marked the beginning of the logging era. Other industries included a lath mill, a shingle mill and grist mill. The town also boasted three hotels: Galster's, Marsh's and MaGee's (The Brookdale). In addition there were a number of general stores operated by L.A. Moon, the Davoll's, Fannings, Jaffee's and the Grobaski's who also had the hardware store. Other businessmen were Mr. Olsen who had the pharmacy, Mr. Quinn was the barber, Mr. Burke owned the livery stable, Mr. Wakeman ran the telephone office and John Porter was the banker. Of course, we can't forget to mention the village also had at least five saloons.

Among the early settlers was David Thompson from West Virginia, a lumberman who lived in the Deer Lake area. His son, Ethan W. Thompson, was president of Macabee's Life Insurance Company and served in the Spanish-American War. Ethan was also responsible for beautifying the cemeteries in Boyne Falls. In 1870, Oscar Marsh came to Boyne Falls as an employee of the G.R. & I. Railroad. He was a telegraph operator whose office was in a box car, as there was no depot. His daughter, Luella (Marsh) Wilson, resided in Boyne Falls summers until her death in 1973.

Enon Wilson came in the 1880's and cleared the land to build a home at 2451 Center Street which still stands today. John and Sarah Cramer came here in 1885 from Indiana by covered wagon and homesteaded three miles east of town. Dan Judd, a Boyne Falls post - master, owned the first automobile in town- a red run-a-bout or "Tin Lizzie." The John Sudman's arrived in 1870 and settled on the shores of Deer Lake. L.A. Moon came to Boyne Falls about 1900 and lived in rooms above his general store with his family. Other settlers were John Paszkiewica, Marshall MaGee, Emerald MaGee, Frank Szczepaniak, W.J. Mears, Mike Sevenski and Albert Kroll.

As of 1900, the township officers were: William Mears-Supervisor; William R. Vliet - Clerk; C.H. Johnson - Treasurer; James Sudman - Highway Commissioner. Villager Officers were: Frank L. Pierce - President; Merritt L. MaGee - Clerk; L. Meaker - Marshall and Street Commissioner; James Thompson - Treasurer; John Galster - Assessor. Councilmen were: Alfred Sudman, M.W. Soule, O.H. Marsh, William L. Ellison and Patrick Doyle.

The Boyne Falls area and Boyne River have long been noted as a favorite fishing destination. Sportsmen now come from all over the country to fish and hunt in the Boyne area, and immense quantities of game are taken each year.
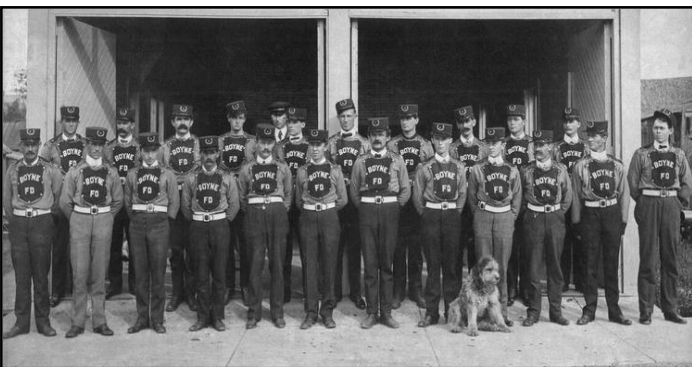
We Need Your Support!
Help us Get the Word Out!!

Without funding and sales of our current product line, the CCHPS will be unable to move forward with its plans for future publications and materials which are of historic interest to many. Not only do we have several of these future product lines and publications already in the works, we have also lined up other groups and organizations ready and willing to collaborate with us in seeing them to fruition.

Our hands in making this happen in 2018 are going to be tied however….simply for a lack of funding. Unless we can count on each of you to purchase yourself or help spread the word. Each of the items within our product line have been positively received, and they do continue to sell. However, we need your assistance in spreading the word and helping us "drum up more sales!"

The Historic Postcard Series (1 & 2) are just the first of many other future topics and themes to be presented in this format. They offer buyers the ability to own QUALITY, DIGITALLY RESTORED local historic images at a very small fraction of what the originals have cost their owners to obtain them for. We are truly grateful to the individuals and organizations coming forward and sharing photographs as they have. Now we need YOU to make a minor investment ($10.00 purchases all 16 images!) and help us show future collaborators that they are justified in sharing and taking part in this "bigger plan."

Historic Postcard Series #1 – Set of 8 Images
Historic Postcard Series #2 – Set of 8 Images

For this venture, the CCHPS has collaborated with the Boyne District Library (BDL) to create two remarkable sets of images that have never before been available for sale! We are proud to have the BDL working with us to preserve this aspect of Charlevoix County history!

Cost is $5.00 for each set- $10.00 assuring that you and your family will own the complete set of the first 16 images in this Historic Postcard Series!!

Don't Miss These Either!

The Story of the Old
Town Clock - Boyne City
A Photographic Archive

Presented by Robert Morgridge, in collaboration with the CCHPS, this book presents text and photographs that outline the rise and fall of this remarkable historic landmark- from its conception by village forefathers to its days of neglect and deterioration. This is also a tale of the thoughtful preservation provided by some in order to make today's restoration a reality.

You will find this beautiful hard cover edition, available for sale in Boyne City at Lynda's real Estate office on N. Lake Street; Ralph Gillette's office on Water Street as well as the Boyne District Library on S. Park Street. Each location is fully stocked and ready to assist you with your purchase! Remember, the funds brought in from this publication will assist in making the second topical publication a reality!

Cost is $30.00 per book.

More Photo ID Work

Special thanks goes out to Tamara Weidlich of East Jordan who shared these gems with our CCHPS Photo Detective, Patrick McCleary. The two were able to combine their efforts and identify the individuals as various members of the DeShane family, early residents of East Jordan!

Do you have early Charlevoix County images, named or unnamed? Let us help!