Hemingway's Michigan

A Driving Tour of Emmet and Charlevoix Counties



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The Hemingway Family, 1917.

Researched and compiled by Ken Marek,
Founding member of the Michigan Hemingway Society

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Walloon Lake

Introduction

Ernest Hemingway spent his boyhood summers in northern Michigan. In 1898, the year before Ernest was born, his family purchased land on Walloon Lake. There the Hemingways built a cottage called Windemere, where they spent every summer. Each year, when school ended, family members left their home in Oak Park, Illinois, to spend the summer at Windemere. Young Ernest knew the lakes and woods of the area very well. He visited friends in Horton Bay and would often go to Petoskey. On September 3, 1921, he married Hadley Richardson in a small church in Horton Bay. The couple spent their honeymoon at the family cottage.

As a writer, Hemingway frequently used the deep knowledge of northern Michigan he had acquired as a boy to inform and enhance his work. In particular the Nick Adams cycle of stories drew on memories of Hemingway's boyhood haunts. Nick visits sites Ernest frequented, fishes waters Hemingway fished, and knows northern Michigan the way only someone with long residence in the area could. Nick Adams is not Ernest Hemingway, but much of what Nick knows came from Hemingway's wide acquaintance with the land, ways, and people "up north" in Michigan.

Much has changed since Ernest Hemingway last visited sites from his boyhood. Some structures, such as the church in which he was married, have been demolished. But much also remains the same. The streams, the forests, and many of the buildings familiar to young Ernest remain today largely as they were when he walked among them. We invite you to visit these sites and reflect on Hemingway, his writings, and the importance to his work of the land and the people he knew so well.

The sites noted on this tour are located in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. In visiting sites that were familiar to the young Ernest Hemingway, it is important to remember that many of these locations were, and remain, private property. Although the public is welcome at some of the sites listed in this brochure, others are still private homes. Please be respectful of the privacy and property rights of the owners of sites listed in this publication that are not open to the public.

Horton Bay

1. Greensky Hill Indian United Methodist Church



Location: On Old U.S. 31 N. Highway off the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road approximately one-and-a-half miles east of U.S. 31.

A Michigan historic site, this area is a sacred place to the Native Americans that Hemingway wrote about in several of the Nick Adams stories, including "Indian Camp," "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," "Ten Indians," "The Indians Moved Away," and "Fathers and Sons."[1] Prudence Boulton, who may have been the model for the character of Prudence (Prudie) in "Ten Indians," and/or Trudy in "Fathers and Sons," is said to be buried in an unmarked grave at Greensky.[2]



2. Horton Bay General Store

Location: On the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road in the village of Horton Bay.

Established in 1876, this store has remained the center of business and social life in the village.[3] Hemingway frequented the store as a boy and a young man. He described it in the story "Up in Michigan," and it seems to be the model for Mr. Packard's store in "The Last Good Country." Hemingway photos and memorabilia are still displayed there.

3. The Red Fox Inn

Location: Adjacent to the Horton Bay General Store.



Built in 1878, this structure was one of the earliest homes in Horton Bay. In 1919 it was converted into a restaurant and soon became famous for its family-style chicken dinners.[4] John Kotesky, an area farmer who regularly supplied the inn with fresh vegetables, is remembered for having driven Hemingway and his new bride, Hadley Richardson, from Horton Bay to Walloon Lake as they began their honeymoon.[5] Ernest recalled this drive in "On Writing." The Red Fox Inn is now home to a bookstore that specializes in Hemingway titles and memorabilia.

4. The Township School

Location: A few hundred yards east of the Horton Bay General Store and just west of the Horton Bay United Methodist Church.

The school stands across the road from what was the site of the village blacksmith shop.[6] The school and the blacksmith shop are mentioned in "Up in Michigan," while the blacksmith shop also appears in "The Indians Moved Away."



Pinehurst Cottage in Horton Bay.

5. Pinehurst and Shangri-La

Location: The first two dwellings on the east side of Lake Street as it descends to the bay on Lake Charlevoix.

These spacious "cottages" were the heart of the Dilworth Resort in Horton Bay. As a young man, Ernest often bunked in a shed at the back of Pinehurst so he could see his Horton Bay friends and enjoy "Aunty Beth" Dilworth's great cooking.[7] A wedding "breakfast" was held at Pinehurst following Hemingway's marriage to Hadley Richardson in Horton Bay on the afternoon of September 3, 1921.[8] In Ernest's story "Summer People," Nick Adams appears to be staying at the Dilworth Resort, and "Up in Michigan" refers to "Dillworth's house."

6. Public-access Site and Boat Launch—on Lake Charlevoix

Location: At the south end of Lake Street.

This spot affords an open view of the bay, the woods, and the beach leading to Ten Mile Point, as well as Lake Charlevoix. Hemingway used this bay and its surroundings as a setting for "The End of Something," "Summer People," "On Writing," and "Up in Michigan."[9]

Horton Bay

7. Horton Creek Access #1, Teesdale Nature Preserve

Location: The creek flows under the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road approximately one-half-mile west of the village of Horton Bay. As you approach the bridge over the creek, watch for a small sign on the right (north) side of the road marking the Little Traverse Conservancy's Rufus Teesdale Nature Preserve. Turn right into the preserve, pull into the parking area, and follow the footpath to the creek.

Hemingway loved to fish for trout on Horton Creek.[10] He refers to this creek in "The End of Something," "The Indians Moved Away," and "On Writing," and it appears to be the model for the creek mentioned repeatedly in "Summer People" and in the early pages of "The Last Good Country." Also, in the "fictional memoir" *True at First Light*, Hemingway describes his vivid memories of fishing at the cider mill that was located on Horton Creek downstream from the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road in an area that is now private property and inaccessible to the public.



8. The Charles Farm

Location: A right turn (west) out of the Teesdale Preserve will take you across Horton Creek. In approximately two-tenths of a mile, on the right you can observe the property that was once known as the Charles Farm.[11]

Hemingway had good friends who summered here, and he used this land as the setting for "The Three Day Blow" and for a major scene in "Summer People."

Horton Bay

9. Horton Creek Access #2: Schulz Nature Preserve

Location: Follow the Charles Farm property for three-tenths of a mile to Pincherry Road. Turn right (north) on Pincherry Road, proceed for just under two miles, and watch on your right (east) for a small sign marking the Little Traverse Conservancy's Schulz Nature Preserve. There is no parking area here, but there is room for one or two vehicles to pull off the road.

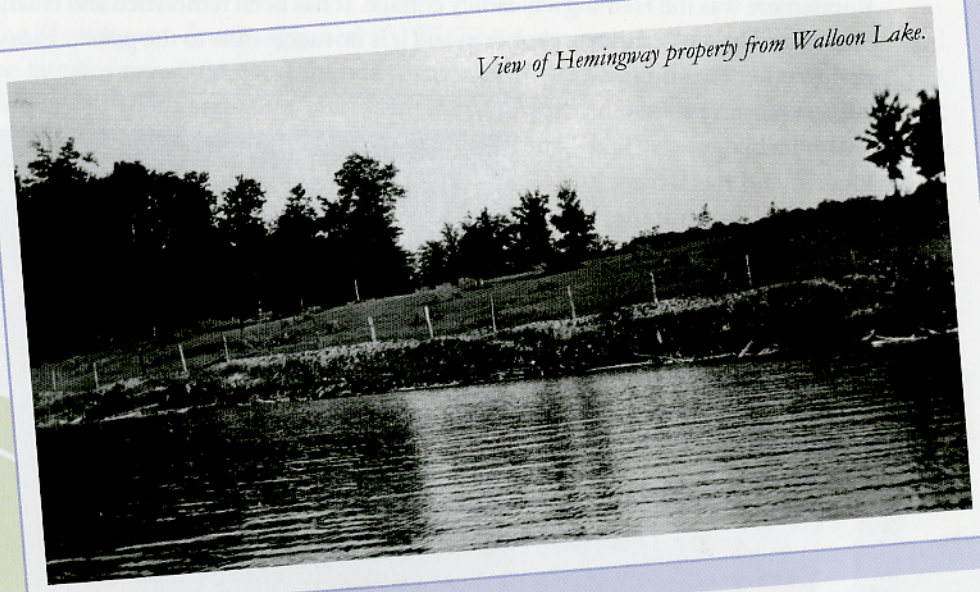
A web of well-brushed-out walking trails takes you through second-growth forest that is representative of the northern Michigan woods Hemingway roamed both as a boy and as a young man. If you continue on the trails that descend to the east, you will come to Horton Creek in a secluded area that is reminiscent of some of the country Hemingway described in "Big Two-Hearted River."

10. Horton Creek Access #3: Horton Creek Nature Preserve

Location: From the Schulz Preserve, continue north on Pincherry Road for seven-tenths of a mile, then turn right (east) on Church Road and proceed for three-tenths of a mile to Horton Creek. Just before you reach the creek, on your left you will see a sign identifying the Little Traverse Conservancy's Horton Creek Nature Preserve. Parking is available on both sides of the road near the creek crossing.

Whether you look upstream or downstream, the creek and terrain are reminiscent of the country Hemingway and two friends encountered along the east branch of the Upper Peninsula's Fox River during the 1919 camping trip that inspired "Big Two-Hearted River."

Walloon Lake



View of Hemingway property from Walloon Lake.

1. Public Access and Boat Launch

Location: On Sumner Road. Go southeast of Horton Bay on the Charlevoix-Boyne City Road for about one mile and then turn left (due east) on Sumner Road and follow it to the end.

This site offers a panoramic view of Walloon Lake. In Hemingway's "Wedding Day," it is the spot from which Nick Adams and his new bride Helen begin their honeymoon by rowing across the lake to the cottage where they will be staying—just as Hemingway and Hadley Richardson did after their wedding.[12]

2. Longfield Farm

Location: Just to the southeast of Walloon Lake's public access and boat launch.

This is where Grace Hall Hemingway had a cottage/studio and the family had a sizeable garden. The dwelling remains, but it is located on inaccessible private property.[13]

3. Windemere

Location: Lake Grove Road.

Windemere was the Hemingway family cottage. It has been remodeled and enlarged. This is now a year-round home on private property, and it is not accessible to the public. Please do not trespass or intrude. The original cottage plays a prominent role in Hemingway's "The Doctor and the Doctor's Wife," "Ten Indians," "The Indians Moved Away," and "The Last Good Country." It is also used in "Wedding Day" and "On Writing."[14]



4. The "Indian Camp"

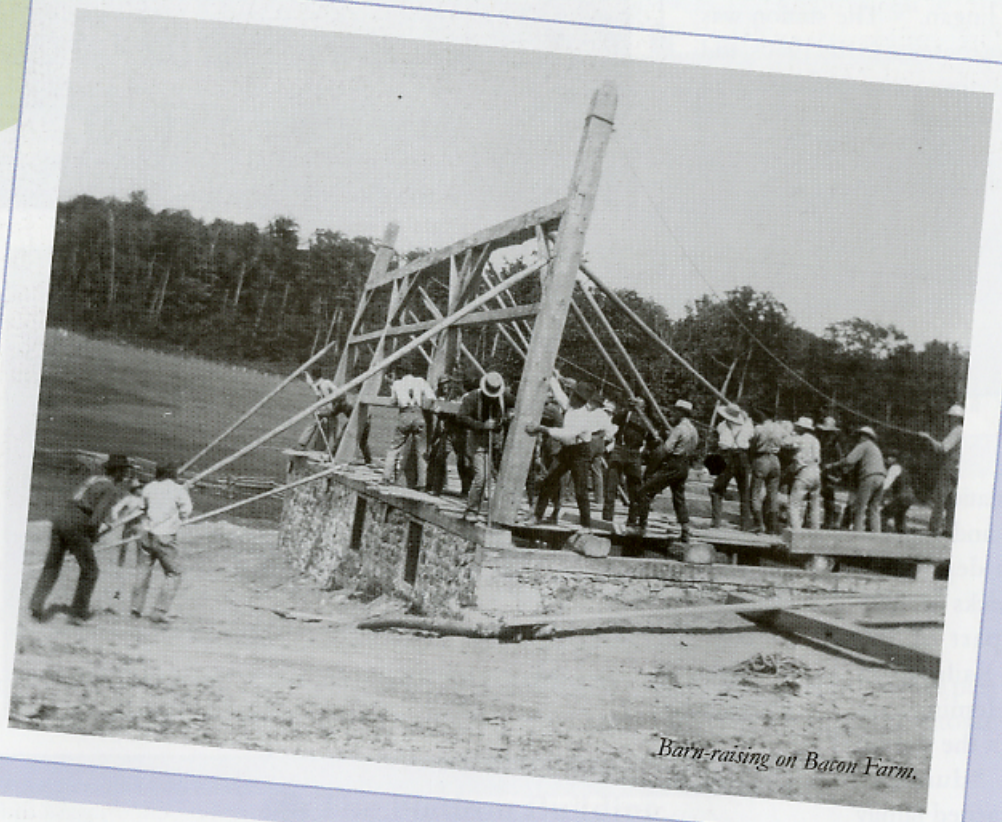
Location: On the north side of Indian Garden Road at its junction with Resort Pike Road near Walloon Lake.

Two parcels of separately owned wooded property encompass the area that once held at least one, and perhaps two, Indian camps. Hemingway drew on this area in creating the setting for his story "Indian Camp." This is private property; please do not trespass.[15]

5. The Bacon Farm

Location: This farm is now a large parcel of land that is mostly wooded and is framed by Lake Grove Road on the south and Resort Pike Road on the east.

The Hemingway family acquired its Walloon Lake property from the Bacons, and the families remained good friends. Ernest used the Bacon farm extensively in "Ten Indians," "Fathers and Sons," and "The Indians Moved Away." Its terrain and buildings also appear to be used in "The Last Good Country." This is private property.[16]



Barn-raising on Bacon Farm.

Walloon Lake

Petoskey

1. Little Traverse Historical Museum

Location: Off Lake Street near the Municipal Marina.

Built by the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad in 1892, this building later served as the main area station of the Pere Marquette Railroad, which Hemingway refers to in "The Indians Moved Away" and his high school story, "Sepi Jingan."[17] The station was converted to a museum in the 1960s, and it houses a permanent exhibit as well as other materials on Hemingway.



2. Penn Plaza Station

Location: Bay and Lewis streets (now an office complex).



An important station on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, this depot was rebuilt with bricks in 1899 and became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1920.[18] The Hemingways passed through the station area on the "dummy" trains, which carried family members from Harbor Springs to their summer cottage on Walloon Lake.[19] When he was living in Petoskey during the winter of 1919-1920, Ernest may have walked to the station to look at the train schedules and dream of trips he might take.[20] It is likely that this station is the model for the train station in Hemingway's *The Torrents of Spring*, a parody set in the Petoskey area.

3. The Perry Hotel

Location: The corner of Bay and Lewis streets.

Built in 1899, the Perry Hotel is the last of the original resort hotels in Petoskey. Hemingway stayed here in 1916 after a hiking and camping trip in northwest Lower Michigan with his friend Lewis Clarahan.[21]



4. Jesperson's Restaurant

Location: 312 Howard Street.

Established in 1903, this Petoskey favorite is noted for its homestyle cooking and delicious pies.[22] Jesperson's was said to be a favorite hangout of Hemingway and Dutch Pailthorp, his friend in Petoskey.

5. The Flatiron Building

Location: 313 Howard Street.

This building was once home to McCarthy's Barber Shop, where the young Hemingway may have gone for a shave or a haircut but definitely enjoyed the patrons' banter.[23]

6. The City Park Grill

Location: 432 East Lake Street.

The City Park Grill is a Petoskey landmark that was constructed in 1879. Hemingway is reported to have enjoyed playing billiards there and watching the bare-knuckle boxing matches that were held in the nearby park during the warm months.[24]

7. The Harold Grant Building

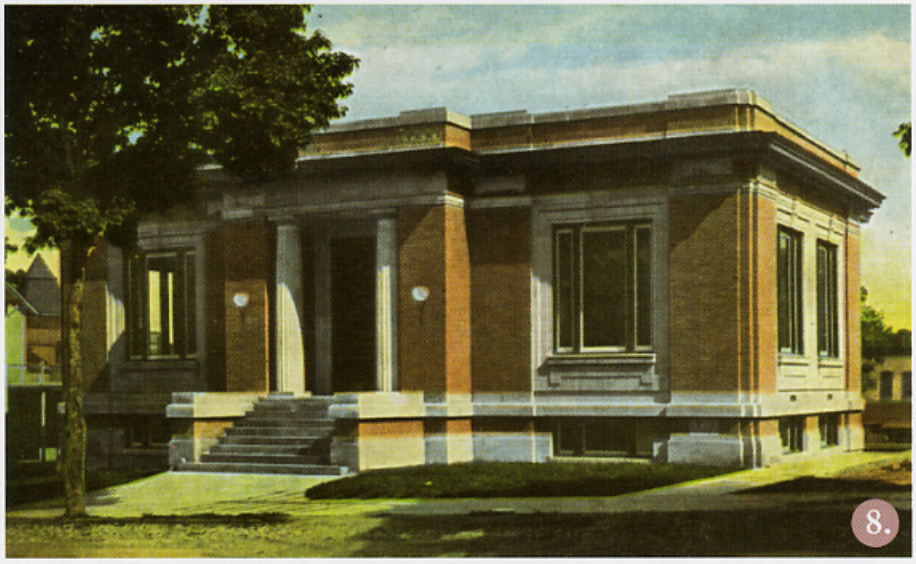
Location: 210 Howard Street.

In the early 1900s this building was home to the New Braun Hotel and Restaurant, which appears to have been the model for "Brown's Beanery: Best by Test" in *The Torrents of Spring*.[25]

8. The Carnegie Building

Location: 451 East Mitchell Street.

For many years this building was the location of the Petoskey Public Library, but now it is physically attached to the Crooked Tree Art Center. The original library was a favorite haunt of Hemingway when he was living in Petoskey during the winter of 1919-1920. In December 1919 he spoke there to the Ladies Aid Society about his experiences in World War I.[26]



9. Potter's Rooming House

Location: 602 East State Street.

Hemingway rented an upstairs room here during the winter of 1919-1920 and worked hard—but without success—at writing fiction.[27]

Bay View

1. Evelyn Hall

Location: On the campus of the Bay View Conservatory.

During the winter of 1919-1920, Hemingway found his writing was sometimes interrupted too much by well-meaning friends. To guarantee his privacy, he is reported to have occasionally "escaped" to a small room (equipped with a wood-burning stove) in Evelyn Hall, a women's dormitory that was unoccupied during the winter.[28]

Harbor Springs

1. Harbor Springs Train Station

Location: On West Bay Street near the Municipal Marina.

When the Hemingway family came north from Chicago by steamship to spend the summer at Windemere Cottage, they disembarked in Harbor Springs and transferred their luggage and other belongings to the nearby train station, where it was loaded on a "dummy" train to begin the journey to Petoskey and Walloon Lake Village.[29]



Endnotes

[1] Tom LaBelle, "A Modern Day Look at Hemingway's Old West State Haunts," *Wonderland: The West Michigan Magazine*, July 21, 1968.

[2] James Vol Hartwell, *The Story of Prudence Boulton and Other Indians in the Hemingway Stories: A 1988 Interview with Ottawa Historian Jay Oliver* [interview by Hartwell, April 3, 1988] (Horton Bay, Mich.: n.p., n.d.).

[3] "The Venerable Horton Bay General Store," *Horton Bay Gazette*, June 1994.

[4] James Vol Hartwell, *A History of the Red Fox Inn* (Horton Bay, Mich.: n.p., 1999), 7.

[5] John Kotesky, "He Remembers Hemingway as 'Polite Kid,'" *Petoskey News Review*, August 21, 1972.

[6] William H. Ohle, *How It Was in Horton Bay* (Horton Bay, Mich.: n.p., 1969), 53.

[7] Ibid., 104.

[8] Ibid., 108.

[9] Constance Cappel, *Hemingway in Michigan* (Petoskey, Mich.: Little Traverse Historical Society, 1999) 111-12, 115, 120.

[10] Carlos Baker, *Ernest Hemingway: A Life Story* (New York: Scribner, 1969) 25, 30.

[11] Ohle, *How It Was*, 104.

[12] Jan Nagel, "They Remember Hemingway," *Inside*, July 2, 1979, 5.

[13] Ken Marek, "'Redtop' at Longfield Farm Proves Fascinating Tour Stop," *Michigan Hemingway Society Newsletter*, Winter 2004-2005, 3.

[14] Cappel, *Hemingway*, 7.

[15] Ibid., 46.

[16] Ibid., 85.

[17] *Petoskey's Colorful Past: A Historical Sketch of the City* (Petoskey, Mich.: Little Traverse Bay Historic Festival Committee, n.d.), 29. Also see Baker, *Ernest Hemingway*, 13.

[18] *Petoskey's Colorful Past*, 22.

[19] John M. Niehaus, "Our Own Rail Era of 'Dummy Trains,'" *North Country Summer Life*, August 12-18, 1977, 4. Also see Baker, *Ernest Hemingway*, 1.

[20] Cappel, *Hemingway*, 152-53.

[21] Jack Jobst, "Gone Fishin'," *Michigan History* 79 (November/December, 1995): 49.

[22] Mike Michaelson, "Adventuring in Hemingway's Michigan," *Great Lakes Magazine*, Fall 1972, 11.

[23] Brad Leech, Petoskey historian, walking tour of Hemingway-related sites in Petoskey, October 23, 1993.

[24] Gerry Volgenau, "Echoes of Hemingway," *Detroit Free Press*, June 13, 1999, G3-4.

[25] Cathryn Jarvis, "On Hemingway's Trail," *Traverse: The Magazine*, October 1990, 39.

[26] Baker, *Ernest Hemingway*, 66.

[27] Cappel, *Hemingway*, 142-43.

[28] Candace Fitzsimons, director of the Little Traverse Historical Museum, interview by author, July 22, 1999. Also see Volgenau, "Echoes," G3.

[29] Ken Parker, "Hemingway Haunts: Tour His Colorful North," *Traverse: The Magazine*, October 1983, 22. Also see Niehaus, "Our Own Rail Era," 4.



Afterword

The selection by the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) of Ernest Hemingway's book *The Nick Adams Stories* for *The Great Michigan Read* program in 2007 advanced the interest in Ernest Hemingway and his northern Michigan roots that had long been promoted by the Michigan Hemingway Society (MHS). The society was formally incorporated in 1993 after many years of informal activity. It works to increase the understanding of and an appreciation for Ernest Hemingway in the state that played a vital role in so many of his thoughts and writings.

To create the Hemingway components of *The Great Michigan Read* program, the Michigan Hemingway Society and the Michigan Humanities Council worked through and with Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library. The Clarke Library holds a significant collection of material related to Hemingway's years in Michigan. The Library has a deep interest in promoting a better understanding of Hemingway and how his literature relates to Michigan. With funding from the MHC and a wellspring of knowledge and talent from the Hemingway Society, supported by the technical expertise of Clarke Library staff members, the three organizations joined forces to create a series of Hemingway-related documents.

This publication is one of those documents. Its origins can be found in the research and writing undertaken by Ken Marek, who is a founding member of the Michigan Hemingway Society and took responsibility for the creation of this "road tour" at the Society's request. The original text of this tour was posted on the MHS website. Funds supplied by the Michigan Humanities Council made possible the publication of the web text, and staff members of the Clarke Historical Library converted the web version of the tour into a printed brochure. We trust many will benefit from this collaborative effort. For more information about Ernest Hemingway's Michigan years, visit the Clarke Library's website, www.clarke.cmich.edu.

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