



# Following in Hemingway's Northern Michigan Footsteps

06/23/23



Most have at least heard of Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway, but some may be surprised that he and his family – parents Clarence and Grace, along with his five siblings – spent their summers at their cottage *Windemere* on Walloon Lake.

Hailing from Oak Park, Illinois, the Hemingways made their annual summer pilgrimage north via steamer from Chicago to Harbor Springs, when they would board the first of three trains that would transport them through Bay View, Petoskey, and Clarion to Walloon Lake, where they would travel again by boat (and then horse-drawn wagon) to finally arrive at their cottage.

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Summers in northern Michigan were magical for Ernest. It was here that his passion for the outdoors was fostered, where his love of writing blossomed and where he set many of his short stories – specifically *The Nick Adams Stories* and *Torrents of Spring*.

The Michigan Hemingway Society is recently updated its self-guided [Michigan Hemingway Tour](#) map of sites throughout Bay View, Petoskey, Horton Bay, Walloon Lake, and the Pigeon River area near Gaylord. Most sites are identified by a 15-inch by 15-inch bronze historical plaque printed with a brief history.

Petoskey claims the majority of these historic sites, including the Pere Marquette Railroad Station (currently the Little Traverse History Museum near the marina, which features several Hemingway artifacts on display) and the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Station (on the corner of Bay and Lewis Streets).

- [The Perry Hotel](#) – where Ernest stayed in 1916 after hiking north from Oak Park, paying just 75-cents for his room
- **The Annex** – now known as [City Park Grill](#)
- **McCarthy's Barber Shop** at 309 Howard Street (now Ruff Life Pet Outfitters) – where Hemingway went for a shave, haircut and likely for use of the public bathhouse in the basement
- **Jespersion's Restaurant** (now [High Five Spirits](#)); Carnegie Library Building (451 E. Mitchell Street) – where he spoke to locals about his time as an American ambulance driver in Italy during World War I
- **Potter's Rooming House** (602 State St., now a private home), where he spent the winter of 1919-1920 to focus on his writing
- **Braun Hotel** at 210 Howard Street – above Mettlers American Mercantile – was added in 2020 and is a noted site from the 1926 book *Torrents of Spring*

In 2017, a bronze statue of Ernest Hemingway was unveiled in [Pennsylvania Park](#), not far from many of the sites he was most associated and acquainted with. It has become a popular spot for those who want to have their picture taken with the noted author and former summer resident.

Horton Bay is also a prime area for Hemingway activity. Two boat launch areas are open to the public, for those who want to paddle in Ernest's wake – including the Lake Charlevoix access at the end of Lake Street in Horton Bay and the Walloon Lake access at the end of Sumner Road. Those who wish to cast a line in Horton Creek can do so as well.

While t  Methodist Church – where Ernest married Hadley Richardson on September 3, 1921 – is no longer standing, you can see Pinehurst

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and Shangri-Law (5738 Lake Street, the first two dwellings on the east side of the road) where the wedding party prepared for the day's events and hosted their reception dinner afterward. The Horton Bay General Store, built in 1876, remains a top tourist attraction for visitors to this area.

Recent additions to the tour include Pigeon River Discovery Center in Vanderbilt – near the “Pine Barrens” that Hemingway later wrote about (dedicated in 2018) and Kalkaska Depot Station – where in 1916, a teenage Ernest followed the tracks north while hiking from Oak Park to Petoskey, likely hopping trains along the way (dedicated in 2019).

The Michigan Hemingway Society is also hosting its Annual Literary Conference, October 7-9, at The Terrace Inn in Bay View. Registration will be available at [www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org](http://www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org).

Those looking to schedule a group tour of Hemingway sites should contact Chris Struble, president of the Michigan Hemingway Society and owner of Petoskey Yesterday at [www.PetoskeyYesterday.com](http://www.PetoskeyYesterday.com). Knowledgeable and witty, Struble is passionate about righting the myths about Papa and will leave you wanting to learn more.

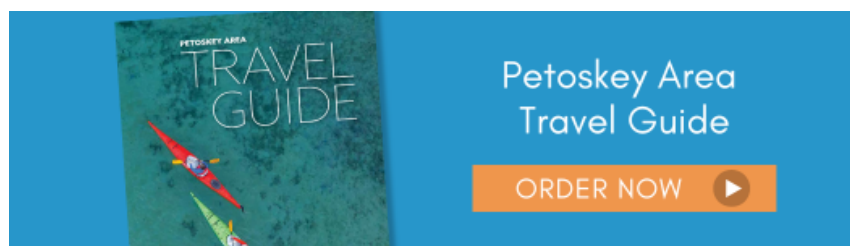
To download the current Michigan Hemingway Tour brochure, visit [www.MiHemingwayTour.com](http://www.MiHemingwayTour.com).

For a variety of books by and about Ernest Hemingway, check out McLean & Eakin Booksellers at 307 E. Lake Street in Petoskey or online at [www.McleanAndEakin.com](http://www.McleanAndEakin.com).

#### About the author:

*Dianna Stampfler is the president of [Promote Michigan](#) and the author of the best-selling books [“Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses”](#) and [“Death & Lighthouses on the Great Lakes.”](#) She loves traveling around the Great Lakes state, with Hemingway country being among her favorite destinations.*

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