



Bayview History Bulletin

Summer 2023

Welcome

This is the first bulletin being produced by the Bayview History Committee to keep the residents of Bayview and the Washburn Area up to date as to what is happening at the Houghton Depot. Members have begun collecting information that will eventually become part of a book about Bayview from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. This pamphlet covers geology of the area, history of Houghton Village, graffiti on the walls and interviews with Bayview residents. We recognize the people who lived here long before Bayview was incorporated.

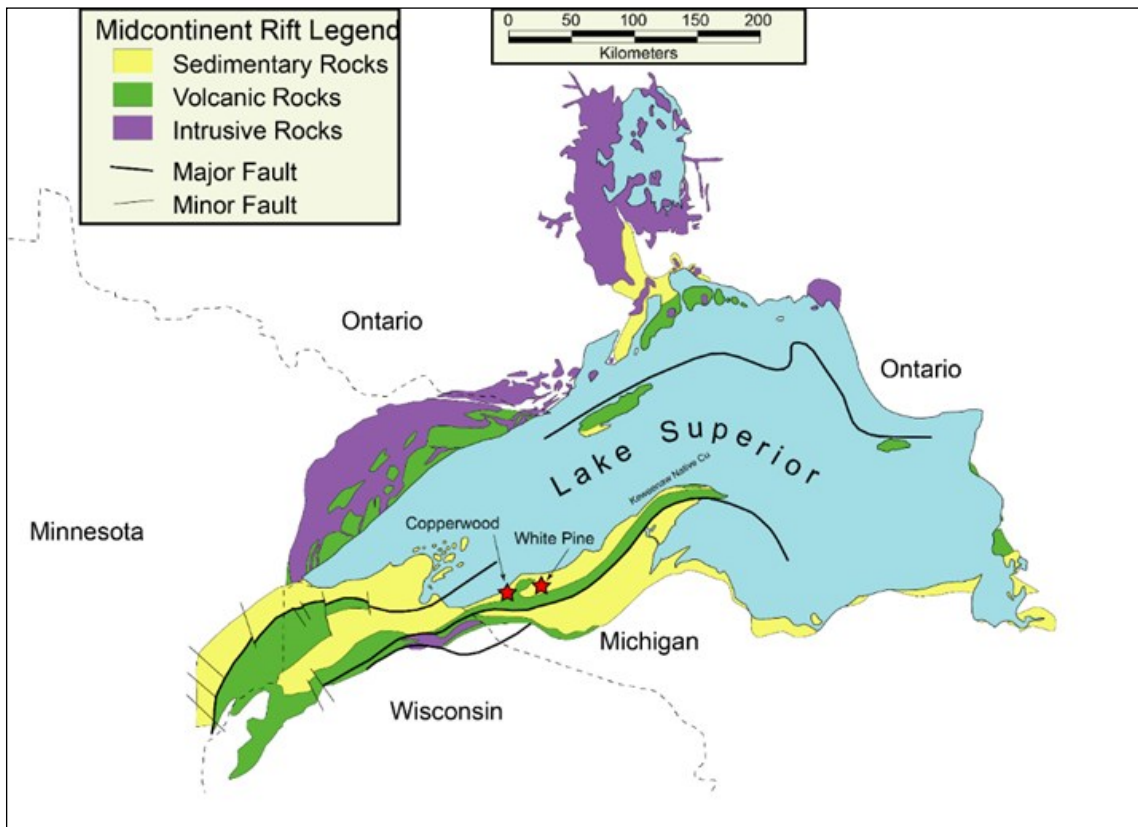
Land Acknowledgement

Bayview Park is located on the ancestral lands that were cared for and called home by the Ojibwe/Anishinaabeg people and, before them, the Huron, Lakota and other peoples from time immemorial. Ceded by the Ojibwe (Chippewa) in the Treaty of 1854 signed on Madeline Island, this land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards. The Bayview History Committee seeks to partner with our Ojibwe neighbors so that we may learn about their history and support their sovereignty and their continued relationship to these lands.

The Geologic History of the Lake Superior Area: Abbreviated

The bedrock of Earth's crust around nearly all of Lake Superior is part of the huge core of North America called the Canadian Shield. In our area, the oldest rocks are about 2.7 billion years old. The Lake Superior region is a part of the southern margin of the great pre-Cambrian shield of northern North America.

The Ojibwe name for Lake Superior is gichi-gami, pronounced gitchi-gami or kitchii-gami in different dialects, meaning "great sea". *General Geologic Map Lake Superior*



Two million years ago, glaciers carved out the basin. Then, ten thousand years ago, as the glaciers started to retreat, an ice mass was blocked and melted. The melted water filled the basin creating Lake Superior. The yellow sedimentary rock on the map is Brownstone, a red sandstone colored by iron oxide in the sediment. It was the reason for many quarries in this area. It was used locally in many buildings and in buildings in the Milwaukee and Chicago areas.



Mission Statement

The Bayview History Committee exists to collect and preserve the history of the Town of Bayview and to make it available to residents and the general public.

The Railroad in the Town of Bayview area and on the Bayfield Peninsula

Think about life before trains and understand the reasons that railroads were highly sought and welcomed. The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad (the Omaha), incorporated in 1880, came this way from Hudson, WI. "Rails laid to Houghton Point entered the community in July 21, 1883," [1] and arrived in Bayfield October 12, 1883, at 4:04 PM," [2]. This railroad expansion increased the capacity of local people to ship their products on freight trains: farmers ship their products, gardeners their produce, and commercial fishermen shipped their catch. Stores were able to receive goods. The "Scoot" shuttle provided passenger service for commuters, tourists, and salesman. Donna Bodin Kramolis said her mother "dragged the kids to the depot to go shopping in town."

When was the build date of the Houghton Depot? A quote from the Washburn News, 12 Sept 1891, under the heading "Houghton Hits," stated: "That wealthy corporation known as the C.St.P.M. & O. Ry. still lets us stand out on a 16x24 platform and freeze while waiting for the train. We all wish

that it would erect some kind of a wind break before winter sets in." The build date has not yet been found. Quarrying began on the Apostle Islands as early as 1870. When the Omaha came through, quarrying came to Houghton by way of several companies. Eight quarries were established nearby, and a brownstone sawmill was built on present day Singer Road. Brownstone was not only shipped to many cities, but also to build the 40 brownstone-built or dressed buildings of Ashland, Bayfield and Washburn. The Dupont Company had over 40 buildings constructed from Houghton sandstone for their explosives factory.

In 1909, Sioux Spur (near Friendly Valley & Kjarvick Roads), with more business, received a boxcar depot. In 1924, the Omaha continued service with 4-4-0s and two coaches. In 1925, a Chippewa pageant at the Red Cliff Reservation starred 400 Native Americans and drew a large crowd that filled the Omaha's coaches. On March 31, 1934 the last regular passenger train ran. Thereafter a coach could be added to freight trains (called a mixed train). Freight service ended in the late 1970s and the tracks were removed. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad (C&NWR) expanded with the merger of the Omaha Railroad. [3]

Today the Houghton Depot has had three lives: as a depot, repurposed as a living room, and repurposed again in 2018 as a classroom. There is a telegraph line that runs from the depot to the paymaster's office. Local fourth-grade school children

enhance their Wisconsin and local history requirement by visiting the depot where they try their hand at Morse code and learn about the movement of lanterns as train signals. They receive train whistles to practice the engineer's intentions, and then blow as needed in the operation of the model railroad that is winched down from the attic cavity in the twelve foot high ceiling. This year we added a restored putt-putt speeder and a flat car, a baggage cart, and the Houghton sign to help the imagination picture both the practicality and the romance of the railroad running through our Town of Bayview.

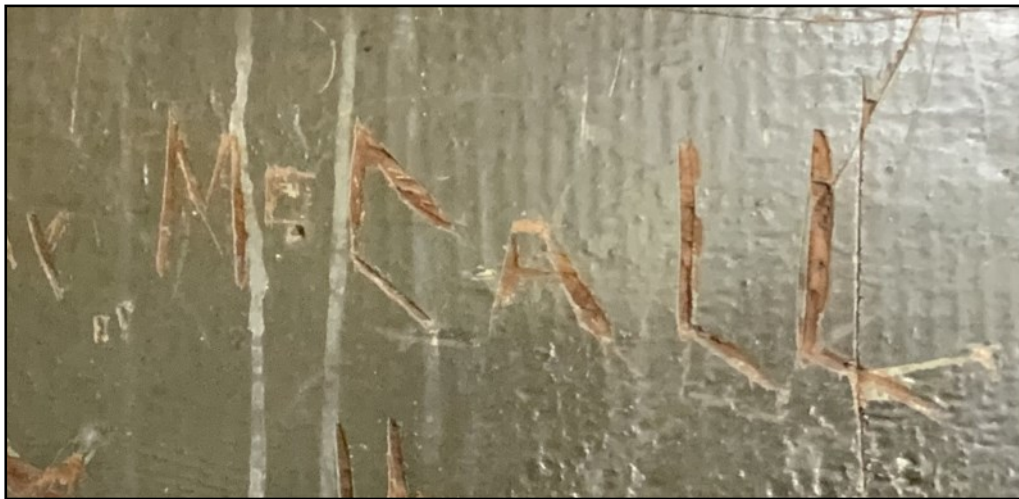
[1] & [2] Railways of the Harbor City Bayfield Heritage Association, Inc, Robert J. Nelson transcriber, January 2015 [3] The Omaha Road (Mukilteo, Washington: Hundman Publishing, Inc.), Stan Mailer, 2004, pg. 64.



Graffiti on the walls of Houghton Depot

Guy McCall

A man of large stature, Guy carried a ready smile, He was known as a kind, forgiving and generous individual. Guy was committed to his family, and he conveyed a sense of stability and thoughtfulness throughout his life. He first appeared in the 1900 Fed Census living in Ashland, WI with his parents and 2 siblings. He was 6 years old being born July 18, 1894 in Wisconsin. In the 1905 Fed Census, Guy is living with his parents and 5 siblings. He is the second eldest at age 11. The family is living in Ashland. Guy's father was French (mother tongue) Canadian, but also had Irish ancestry through both his parents. Guy's mother was born in Germany. Next seen in the 1910 Fed Census, Guy is living with his 5 siblings; his parents had died in the previous 2 years. Guy also lost two siblings over the following five years. He is living in Ashland and working as a janitor in a passenger depot. In 1920, Guy was age 24 and married to Gertrude nee Arseneau residing in Washburn. Their two year old son is named John. They, along with Guy's youngest brother were living with Gertrude's parents in Washburn, WI. Guy is a fireman (coal passer) working for the railroad. His WWI draft registration recorded in 1918 that he was employed by the Omaha Railroad Co. By 1940, Guy and Gertrude are living in Spooner, WI. He is a locomotive engineer employed by a "steam railroad". Guy Joseph McCall died in 1965 at age 70. Gertrude died in 1977. Their only child, John (Jack) passed in 2007. *Louis Schindler, Nephew of Guy McCall*



Elmer N. Bodin

Elmer was born in Ashland, WI in 1897, the second youngest child of Nels and Elizabeth nee Johnson (Johansson), both being emigrants from Sweden. Elmer, age 3 along with his parents and five siblings first appeared in the 1900 Fed Census living in Ashland. Nels was listed as a 'laborer'. By 1905 the family is living in Houghton (Ward 1 of Washburn) and Nels was listed as a fisherman.

Elmer's WWI draft registration dated 1918 lists him living with his mother, Elizabeth in Bayview. In the 1920 census Elmer remains in the household with his mom and 3 adult siblings. His occupation is listed as fisherman. Elmer's father, Nels passed away in 1915. It is in 1920 that Elmer purchases 40 acres from the Bobcock/Smith Quarry Co. along the shores of Lake Superior.

By the early 1920s Elmer and Hazel nee Bergman are married and have begun a family. They had two boys, Rodger & Richard (Dick) during this time. Elmer is working long hours on his fishing boat, the Clipper, and ensuring his fish get to market. He regularly runs his catch to the Houghton Depot for delivery to customers via the Omaha line. During this time he successfully pushes to have the World Champion Logrolling Competition held at the Bodin Brownstone Bowl. It is held there six years from 1925 through 1930 drawing birlers and their fans from across the United States and Canada. The 'bowl' was a 60 foot deep, spring fed quarry on his family's property. Through the 1930 and 1940 Federal Census, Elmer and his family continued living in Bayview. It was in 1938 that Elmer and Hazel establish the Bodin Resort. Elmer remained a successful commercial fisherman until his passing in 1959. *Bill Bodin, Grandson of Elmer Bodin*

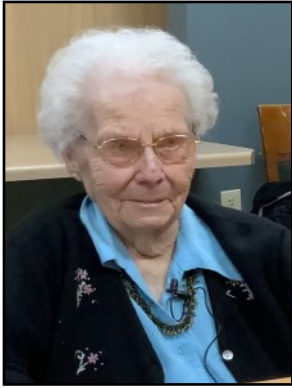




Interviews with Bayview Residents

Over the past three years, members of the BHC have been interviewing residents of Bayview and surrounding communities to capture various aspects of life as it was from the late 1800 and early 1900s when the Omaha train ran from Ashland to Bayfield four times a day.

Elvera Harvey (Maki) Warmuth



“The school was cold. In the winter to go to school, I wore my brother’s knickers. Had them over my bloomers. Mother made our clothes.”
“The depot was just a box to keep out the wind and rain.”

Donna Bodin Kramolis



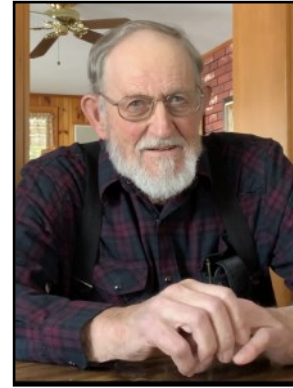
“My dad, John Oscar Bodin built boats starting them in the basement and finishing them in the garage.” “We played Dribble Drabble in the Brownstone Bowl.”
“The train went right in front of our house.”

Wayne Gilbert



“The house was built using salvaged lumber that washed up on the shore from wrecks. They would pick it up, bring it up and that’s how they built this house.”
“Folks along the track gave the engineer a grocery list. He would return the goods to them on his return.”

Jim Dibbell



“Every spring and fall I oversaw a crew that planted 750 thousand trees in Chequamegon National Forest”. “I played music with Harold Maki” “My brother like watching the train in the winter.”

Karen Bodin Johnson



“When we first went out in the water we had this aluminum boat called the Bumblebee ...my sister and I would sit together in a fish box so we wouldn’t fall out of the boat. We would sit on the bottom of the boat in a fish box.” “My sister and I gave cookies to the engineer when he came by.”

Shoddy Howell Weber



“I would help my mother in the garden, canning produce and moving the lawn. My dad would deliver milk to folks in Washburn”.
“When I went to Houghton School, the depot was gone.”