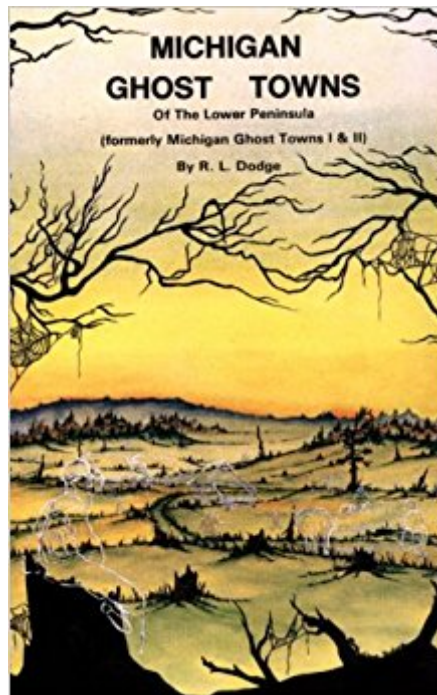




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Michigan Ghost Towns Of The Lower Peninsula



Synopsis

Michigan: the way it was. Michigan Ghost Towns compiles settlements and communities that have faded into Michigan's history and legend: Bamfield and Bryant were stations or stops on the AuSable & North Western Railway, a narrow gauge track extending from AuSable to Commins, in Oscoda County. In 1908 Charlie Cote, a Frenchman, was the only inhabitant of Bryant. Orral A. Wardlow, now living at Glennie (1970), said Charlie could feed and sleep half-a-dozen people and his place was ""modestly"" famous for his pea soup. Wardlow said Harry Garrett and Ray Rose were supervisors on the railroad. ""The train, which made one round trip daily, was made up of 20 to 25 bunk cars for hauling logs, and whatever boxcars were needed to haul freight, which was not much. The daily arrival of this train at Glennie was something to look forward to, and greeted by the whole town."" ""Billie Ellis, the conductor, would go into Joe Solomon's general store and help himself to a smoked herring that was always handy on top of the counter,"" Wardlow said. ""I don't remember that he ever paid for one, and Joe never complained. It seemed to be a matter of course that Billie had his herring."" Averill: The former village of Averill, famous during the early logging days of Michigan and the Saginaw Valley, lays in a built up business section bordering old US-10 highway between Sanford and Midland. Present day signs advertising a lumber yard, cocktail lounge, and other business places named ""Red Keg"" are the only reminders of the notorious saloon with a whiskey keg mounted on a pole and painted red that inspired lumberjacks to call the place ""Red Keg."" Located on the Tittabawassee River, and later the terminus of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad, Averill was the gateway to the vast expanses of white pine timber in the world's most famous lumbering center, the Saginaw Valley. Red Keg was made famous in legends and songs of the lumberjacks. The Valley's most notorious fight between Silver Jack Driscoll and Big Joe Fournier occurred in this saloon, first operated by Billy McCrary, who was no slouch as a riverman and rough and tumble fighter. Later the Red Keg was run by Edward Francis, who moved to Michigan from Canada. After the big fire that destroyed most of the village in 1875-76 Francis moved to Sandford where he opened another hotel. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Born in Lansing, Michigan in 1918, Roy L. Dodge was a descendant of Michigan pioneers. He started investigating Michigan ghost towns in 1954. He was a well-known writer, with many articles appearing in leading newspapers around the state. In 1970, he wrote the first of what would become his extremely popular series on Michigan ghost towns. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Very informative on Michigan's towns of the past. It gives knowledge about the remnants of towns that were once thriving places.

History of (esp. logging) northern Michigan towns abound.

Lots of info about towns in upper half of lower Michigan but nothing about bottom half of the state of Mich.

Thank you.

really like it

Very nice book

This book was a little disappointing. It mainly lists old towns determined by post office opening and closing dates. It gives little detail about the history or facts of that ghost town. The Ghost Town books by Larry Wakefield are much more interesting. His vol 2/3 is easy to find. Volume 1 took me about two years of searching to find.

This book is really interesting. It captures local Michigan history around the state that might otherwise have been lost. I have really enjoyed reading this.

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