

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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IN REMEMBRANCE

William Coy, a valued Board member, passed away May 26th from a long battle with lung cancer. A golden heart stopped beating that day, to the loss of us all.

Bill was born on August 23, 1935 in Belding, Michigan which is near Lansing.

He joined the National Guard in Warren, Michigan in 1955. Bill and his family moved to Grayling in 1979 where he continued in the Guard until 1986 when he retired. During his years with the Guard, Bill worked as a diesel mechanic and also worked at the armed missile sites.

The family lived in Maple Forest Township in Frederic where Bill was a Supervisor and the Assessor. He later became a Crawford County Commissioner and was on the Planning and Zoning Board. Bill was also the As-

essor for Lovells Township for twelve years.

For twenty years, between 1982 and 2002, Bill and his wife, Mary, who is the Treasurer for the Historical Society, consecutively owned and operated two book and gift shops. The couple took great pleasure in meeting and conversing with customers and many friendships were formed over the years.

Bill was a member of the Masons and the Eastern Star. He was also a reserve officer in the Crawford County Sheriff Department and volunteered for the Red Cross.

Bill was also a volunteer at Hartwick Pines and later at our Museum. In 2003, Mary became our Treasurer and Bill was in charge of Maintenance. He got things running in the spring which enabled us to open and, in the fall, Bill took care of things

to completely shut the Museum down for the winter. In between, he was glad to help in whatever way he could.

Bill was a true family man. He took his wife and two daughters on vacations, fishing, picnics and camping. He would rather spend his time with his family than with the guys. Bill's family came first in his life.

We, at the Museum, suffer at our loss. It was always a joy to see Bill every Wednesday. His quiet and easy going manner brightened the day and Bill had a very comforting way about him. His goodness will always be remembered

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary and to their daughters, Jerrene and Janelle, and to their families.

May the Lord fill you with His comfort and peace.

TAPS

Day is done, gone the sun from the lakes,
from the hills, from the sky.

All is well, safely rest.

God is near.



NEW BOOK



The Historical Society has a new book now on sale at the Museum! *David Shoppenagon & The Place Between the Rivers* by W. E. Tudor is a 148 page paperback book which describes the intriguing life and times of the Chippewa native.

Shoppenagon lived during a time of great change in Michigan and he spent the last 35 years of his life in Grayling, becoming well known as the expert guide, hunter and trapper that he was. Shoppenagon

became famous by appearing with Rasmus Hanson and Ernest Salling, lumber barons of Grayling, at various business functions in Saginaw and Detroit and by lending his image to their marketing effort.

The place between the rivers includes Crawford, Otsego and Roscommon counties. The book is interwoven with both local and state history, making it an exciting and informative read.

The Roscommon author became interested in writing the book

after speaking with a State official regarding the historical marker for Shoppenagon located along the Au Sable River. Mr. Tudor was told the files were lost. However, his book provides new information about the native that he discovered from a variety of sources.

David Shoppenagon & The Place Between the Rivers sells for \$20 plus tax. The book contains photos and easy-to-read text and print that readers of all ages can enjoy.

HATS OFF TO . . . CLARA SORENSON!

*Happy 90th
Birthday, Clara!*

Clara Lottie Atkinson was born May 6, 1918 in Grayling. Her parents, Lottie and Marshall, were born in Kawkawlin, near Bay City. They met at a public garden where members of the community could grow vegetables. Clara's grandparents came from Ireland. Clara married Robert "Bud" Sorenson; they were married for more than 50 years and had 4 children.

Clara's parents moved to Grayling in about 1915 and bought the South Side Grocery Store which was on State Street.

There was a large, 10-room house connected to the store by a long hallway. Clara says, "I was raised in the grocery store. I could wait on customers before I could see over the top of the counter. I could run around and wait on people. We made home deliveries; back then, it was a natural part of grocery work. To my parents, everybody that lived on the south side of Grayling was like family. They loved the kids. It was a good life."

When Clara's mother died, ownership of the store went to Clara.

She managed the store while her husband, Bud, worked as the head clerk of the post office for 37 years. Clara sold all groceries but could not sell alcohol; there was a small Free Methodist church nearby. Clara made many changes to the store. However, trying to juggle managing the store and caring for her family became too much for Clara and, in 1962, she and Bud sold the store. Unfortunately, it later burned down.

To be continued . . .

TIDBITS



"There will be a Grand Masquerade at the skating rink on next Friday evening. The extensive improvements now being made by the proprietors will be fully completed, except painting, by that time and spectators and participators will on this account enjoy the

entertainment more fully than heretofore. Admission 15 cents. Refreshments served at reasonable prices, if required."

Crawford Avalanche, 5/7/1885

"Grayling's new steamboat, the first of a line between here and

Lake Huron, returned from her trip down the river on Monday. It is said to be a complete success. The owners, Messrs. Hadley & Clement, are to be congratulated."

Crawford Avalanche, 7/30/1885

HISTORY'S NUGGETS

August 14, 1925 Camp Hanson

"Dearest, We did not fire today. There was a large forest fire here today. It started on the 182nd F.A. range. It had about a mile start before we spotted it. I happened to be on O.R. looking around with my glasses when I saw it. We phoned to the 182nd and reported it. They sent out their entire Battery. They have not got it out yet. I suppose we will be called out before morning.

Well, I had command over the 2nd Section Gun Crew today. I gave them standing gun drill.

There's one guy in my Section that I am going to murder if he doesn't snap out of it. The poor guy is half asleep most of the time. Yesterday, he washed one spoke on the gun limber wheel for a full 15 minutes. Can you beat that? I give him all the extra Duty I can. My, but he gets sore at me. If it wasn't for my stripes, I believe he would kill me.

I don't feel any too good yet but I am on Duty just the same. I do not dare take a deep breath because it pains me in my left

side. I spit blood all day long."

August 15, 1925 Camp Hanson

"Dearest, I got hurt today again by firing our guns. For the first time in my life, I rode a gun when it was fired. There was about 2 feet of space between the trail and trail log before we fired. I wasn't set just right and the whole gun came back. The wheel hit me in the back and one of the tie rods got me on the right leg. It sure does pain me tonight."

To be continued . . .



SKINGLEY REPLICA

Barbara Aardema, editor of *Miniature Collector*, a world-famous miniatures magazine, stopped by the Museum the year before last to see the replica of the Skingley farmhouse. Barbara was so impressed with the reproduction that she wrote an article about it, complete with pictures, in the December 2007 issue of the magazine.

Shown are John Robert and Bertha Skingley, the couple who

came from England and built the large house in 1901. Also shown is the original farmhouse which had several porches, gables and a turret. Other photos include different rooms of the replica.

The article details many items in the model, all exact duplicates of items from the farmhouse. The replica was appraised at \$15,600 in 1989.

Mentioned are several descendants of the Skingleys including the granddaughter who commissioned the reproduction and a granddaughter (now in her eighties) who lives a short distance from where the farmhouse once stood.

The December issue of the magazine is now on sale at the Museum for \$6.00 plus tax. It's a great keepsake, revealing part of Crawford County history.

*Visit the Museum
and see the replica
firsthand.*

SPONSOR



The Crawford County Historical Society would like to express its gratitude to Riverland for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

**Crawford County
Historical Society**

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Help your museum continue to grow. We need your help today and any donation will be accepted. Memberships are good for one year. We look forward to adding new members.

DUES:

\$5.00 Senior Citizen
\$10.00 Single
\$25.00 Family
\$50.00 Supporting Member
\$100.00 Memorial Plaque (one or two names inscribed)

Please make checks payable to:

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Your questions, comments and ideas are welcome.

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