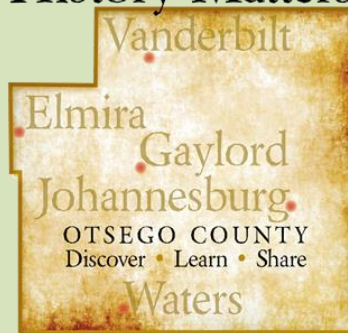


# History Matters

Update # 16



April 20, 2018

In the previous editions of the History Matters Update we have been invited and challenged to discover, learn and share about various topics ranging from: the Northern Michigan Tuberculosis Sanatorium; ghost towns of Otsego County; railroad history and even the group of volunteers excited to be part of the History Team of Detectives. In this edition we have the opportunity to learn a bit more about one of these History Detectives.



**Edith Lennox**

## ◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

Edith Lennox was born in Windsor, ON but, at age 12, she and her family moved to Detroit, MI. Later they moved to Ionia, MI where Edith completed her high school education. She married her husband, Bill and they settled in Freeland, MI, where they raised their two sons and one daughter.

While in high school, Edith seriously pursued both vocal and piano training. Later, her artistic bent moved her toward drawing and painting. She took art classes and, what began as a talent for and love of art, became a successful business. This business grew and, after her husband retired, they worked in this business together before both retiring in 1999. The couple moved to the Thunder Bay Resort in Hillman, MI and, sadly, Bill passed away in 2004. Edith then turned her attention to a new venture--the Brush Creek Mill.

## ◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

The Brush Creek Mill is a non-profit corporation that operates the Brush Creek Mill facility in Hillman, MI. In 2006, Edith joined the Board and assumed the role of Coordinator/Director in 2007. She served in this role for the next ten years. Edith describes the purpose of the Brush Creek Mill is to "save the history of Northeast Michigan." One project that the group implemented sought to preserve the history of the area by videotaping memories of some of the area's citizens--people who have lived their lives in Hillman, Lewiston and the surrounding areas.

In addition to preserving history, the group reached out to promote history learning by sponsoring field trips for area Fourth Grade classes to visit the Jesse Besser Museum and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI. Another popular event for the area children is the yearly Christmas gathering held in the Brush Creek Mill. In addition to preserving and promoting area history, the Brush Creek Mill has become a community cultural center hosting, among other events, artists' displays, "open mic" nights and various classes.

## ◆ Discover ◆ Learn ◆ Share

Upon moving to Gaylord, in the Fall of 2017, Edith reached out for opportunities to volunteer and to meet new people. With her commitment to preserving history as well as her vast experience, becoming a history detective seems a perfect fit. Specifically, Edith expressed interest in learning more about Otsego County's Lumbering Era; Life in Otsego County prior to Interstate 75; and Otsego County's Pioneers and Founders. Undoubtedly, with Edith Lennox's help we will all discover, learn and share more about Otsego County.

*This week's History Matters Update was written by Colleen Keysor*