

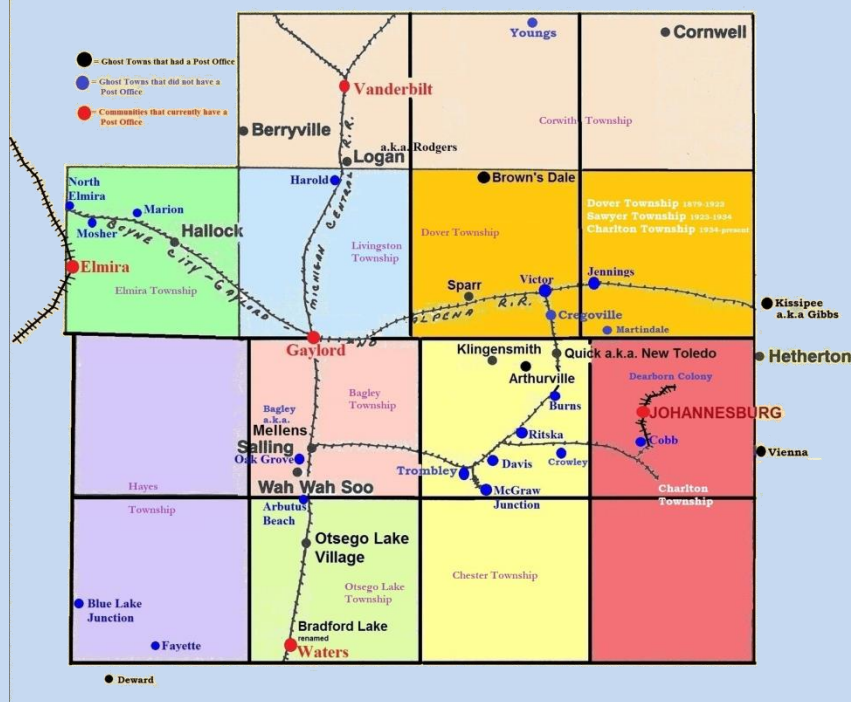
Did you know there have been more than 30 communities in Otsego County that have faded over time or completely disappeared? Commonly called “ghost towns”, these include places such as Quick, Salling, Logan, Hallock, Klingensmith, and Berryville. “Shadow Towns” are similar to ghost towns but they still have homes and maybe a business or two. They include places like Sparr, Vienna, and Otsego Lake Village.

Most of our ghost towns were created during the lumbering era of the late 1800s and early 1900s. When the trees were gone, the lumber companies packed up and moved on to greener forests. Often the railroad tracks were removed which made it difficult if not impossible to get to these out of the way places. With no jobs and no easy access, it didn’t take long for the tiny communities to shrivel up. Fires often destroyed the abandoned building leaving little evidence of the settlements that once dotted our county’s landscape.

Ghost towns continue to generate a lot of interest. It is important to point out that most of these “towns” are located on private property. Be sure to get permission from the land owner before exploring these places of our past.

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1. The map shown to the right was created using multiple sources. Some towns – such as Logan a.k.a. Rodgers - had more than one name. Some weren’t really anything more than a railroad crossing but were given a name. These are noted with a blue dot.
2. This is the only known map that shows the location of Arthurville. (click map to enlarge)
Thanks to Jackie Skinner at the Library for finding the on-line [US Postal Bulletins](#) that solved the mystery.
3. The town of Quick was originally named New Toledo. However, there already was a town in Michigan with that name so it was changed to Quick which was the last name of the town’s founders – Anson and James Quick. The house that is being remodeled by the Gaylord 7-11 was the home of James Quick.



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1. Names and locations of ghost towns in Otsego County are listed in the Otsego County centennial book, “A Step Back in Time” by Bill Granlund, and “Michigan Place Names” by Walter Romig. “Along The Tracks: A Directory of Named Places on Michigan Railroads” by Graydon Meints is another great resource. More information on our [web site](#).
2. Books about Michigan ghost towns include the series by Roy L. Dodge as well as another 3 part series by Larry Wakefield. Reading about ghost towns in other parts of Michigan reminds us that they weren’t unique to Otsego County.
3. Did you know the lumber town of Deward just over the Crawford County border was named for David E. Ward? The town’s name combined his first two initials D. E. with his last name to come up with Deward. Wah Wah Soo on the east side of Otego Lake is said to have been named by Gaylord businessman Earl Bolton and means “walk on water”.
4. Ron A. Roby recently **shared** a copy of his updated 50 page “The History of Hetherton” with our museum. Goes well with “Vienna: The ‘Little’ Village” by Lillian Davis which describes ghost towns on our Montmorency County border.