



The
Tip
of the
Mitt
Journal



Area's First Newspapers

From printing press to the World Wide Web

by **Richard A. Wiles**

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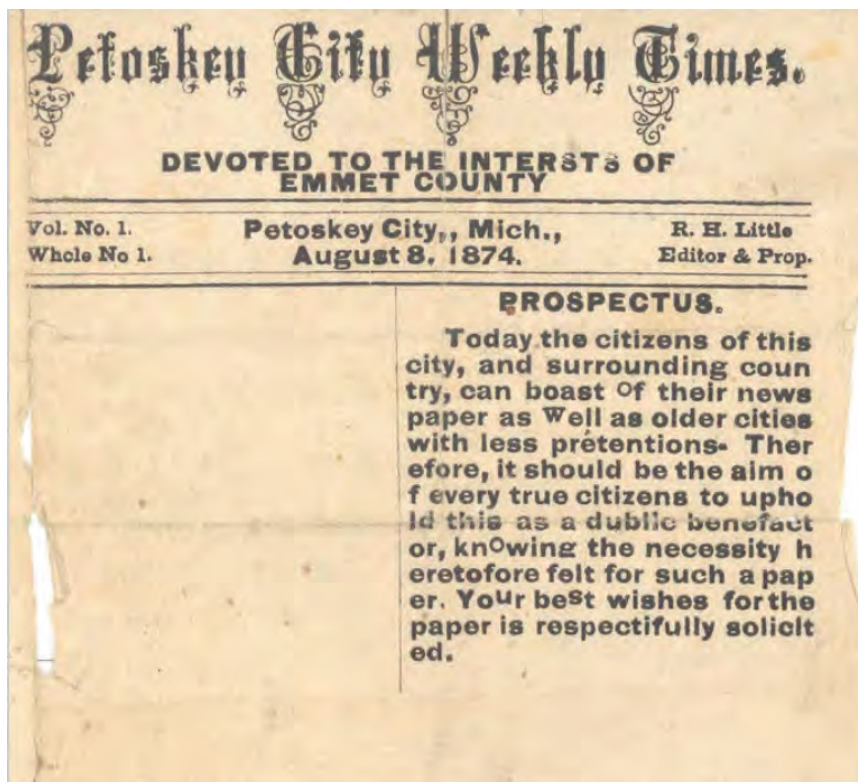
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Area's First Newspapers

From printing press to the World Wide Web

By Richard A. Wiles

The long-touted motto that “All politics is local” was offered to us by the once Speaker of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts, Tip O’Neil. At one time all news was local news, first by weekly, then daily newspapers, and by the 1930s, radio stations, and, after World War II, television stations. All of that changed in the 1990s with the coming of the World Wide Web. Though Serbian inventor Nikola Tesla toyed with the idea of a “world wireless system” in the early 1900s, according to author Evan Andrewes in his work, “Who Invented the Internet,” ... the first workable prototype came in the late 1960s with the creation of ARPANET, or the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network. Originally funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, ARPANET used packet switching to allow multiple computers to communicate on a single network. On Oct. 29, 1969, ARPANET delivered its first message: a node-to-node communication from one computer to another.



America’s first newspaper was printed on April 24, 1704, in the colony of Massachusetts. *The Boston News-Letter* was a half sheet weekly put up by book seller Jonathan Campbell. It was not until September of 1784 that the first American daily was published, the *Pennsylvania Packet & Daily Advertiser* in Philadelphia. Michigan’s first

newspaper was the *Michigan Essay*, or the *Impartial Observer* published in Detroit on Aug. 24, 1809.

Beginning with the 1792 United States Postal Service Act, the federal government subsidized American newspapers by mandating all papers would be charged only one cent for de-

MYTH BUSTING:

In a March 9, 1999, television interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, Tennessee Senator Al Gore stated "During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the internet." He did not say he "invented" the internet! What he did do (as the only "computer nerd" in the Senate during the early 1990s) was create and sponsor the 1991 High-Performance Computing and Communications Act, generally known as the Gore bill, which allocated \$600 million for high-performance computing. Gore, who waged a two-year battle to get the bill passed, popularized the term "the Information Superhighway." Thus, Gore did help create the monster of today!



livery up to 100 miles. When postage was at 6 cents for a first-class stamp, the cost for newspaper delivery for those 100 miles was kept at 1.5 cents. Newspapers thrived and were able to withstand the invention of the telegraph, the telephone, radio and even television. However, newspapers are now faced with their toughest challenger, the internet!

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, the *Petoskey News-Review* ran a headline to illustrate the current demise of local newspapers, "News-Review to shut presses, move printing to Detroit area."

The *News-Review* is Petoskey's link back to its very first attempt at a local newspaper on Aug. 6, 1874. On that date, according to Perry Powers' 1912 publication, "Northern Michigan and Its People," Robert Henry Little issued the *Petoskey City Weekly*

Times Daily Bulletin. This publication was not only the village of Petoskey's first newspaper, it was also the first newspaper printed on the mainland of Emmet County (organized in 1853). However, it was issued only once. Almost one year later, on April 30, 1875, the *Emmet Democrat* published its first issue.

Little, and his older brother Dr. William Little, were born in Canada. William had come to Ann Arbor to study at the University of Michigan's Medical School. He graduated in 1867 and then took up residence at the Chicago Medical College. From Chicago, he moved to Ionia,

Michigan, eventually venturing forth to Petoskey in October of 1873. William, 31, and Robert, 21, were looking for a business opportunity around northern Michigan, which was poised to become accessible by railroad. The *Petoskey Evening News* edition of Feb. 24, 1930, contained an account by Robert Little on how he came to publish Petoskey's first newspaper.

"It was during the winter evenings that I set the type for the first paper published in Petoskey. I ran short of some type, and was unable to finish the first page, and not having paper, did not go to press until the following August."

Robert left Petoskey in 1876 after his brother's death in November of 1875. The printing press used by Robert had belonged to his brother. (It was common at that time for druggists and doctors to own their own printing press for labels and circulars.)

In that same year, Civil War veteran William Rozelle Rose moved to Petoskey from Plainwell. He had been engaged in the drug and insurance business there and was also involved

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

Petoskey's McLaren named top 50 heart hospital – again PAGE A6

YOUR HOME OUR FOCUS

News-Review

PETOSKEYNEWS.COM

News-Review to shut presses, move printing to Detroit area

CHARLEVOIX



CHARLEVOIX – W

on the US-31 Charlevoix bascule bridge will require it to be in the open position from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on two consecutive nights, which are currently expected

The Petoskey News-Review, Charlevoix Courier and Gayland Herald Times are moving their production operation and printing of all associated products from Petoskey to a

to time we will have to make difficult decisions while navigating through a challenging industry, none more difficult than the shutting of our production facilities in

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with the *Plainwell Republic* newspaper. He moved north for health reasons and had brought with him a Washington hand press which allowed him to feed one sheet of paper at a time.

According to *Petoskey News-Review* editor James Doherty who said in a special history issue on Oct. 16, 1975, "... They were then stacked and unless he had 'ready print' or boiler plate stores already printed, as most early printers did, he had to repeat the process to print the other side. The printed pages were stuffed together and hand-folded ..."

As a druggist, Rose, like many in his day, owned a small printing press for making labels, advertisement circulars, post cards, programs for churches, etc. Being a printer/druggist added income. H.L. Grimes stated in his 1889 article, *Every Druggist His Own Printer*, "Ben Franklin, himself a printer, is the father of the proverb 'A penny saved is a penny earned.' The pennies saved on printing bills will buy as much in drugs as pennies from any other source." It was the same type of press that the first *Chicago Tribune* editions were printed with in 1847.



Dr. William Little

The *Emmet County Democrat's* first edition was four pages. It was printed weekly on Fridays for the next four years without any local competition. Then, on June 20, 1878, the *Petoskey City Record* made its first appearance. It was owned by one of the town's early carpenters, James Buckley (he later owned a hardware store), who had associated himself with George Mosher, a printer by trade. Mosher had been employed by Rozelle Rose



Rozelle Rose

prior to partnering with Buckley. Buckley's hands-on involvement with the *Record* ended when he was elected to the office of Register of Deeds for Emmet County. Mosher left the paper in 1883 to move to South Dakota.

Rose's answer to his first competition was to offer his paid-up subscribers (\$1.50 a year) to also receive, as of Jan. 1, 1879, a free subscription to the weekly *Chicago News* "a paper non-partisan in politics, but neutral



Democrat office 1875



INTERIOR DEMOCRAT OFFICE, 1875.

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in nothing.” (The first edition of the *Emmet County Democrat* contained little local news, and only national advertisements on the fourth page for items such as opium cures and vinegar bitters.)

According to a special edition of the *Independent Democrat* on May 14, 1895, “The first two issues of the paper were printed in Chicago and sent out in advance ... to secure the first paper issued in April would contain the delinquent tax lists ...” Paid for by the Emmet County taxpayers.

The first edition of the *Petoskey City Record* in June of 1878 was also four pages. It carried both local and national ads, as well as local news, and a brief look at national news.

Meanwhile, besides these Petoskey papers, the Tip of the Mitt region had seen the Beaver Island-based *Northern Islander* newspaper printed by Jesse Strang from 1850 through his death in 1856. Strang had been an attorney in Wisconsin during the 1840s and had converted to Mormonism in 1844. By 1847 he was located on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan with a group of followers. The first issue of his newspaper was Dec. 17, 1850, also four pages long. Strang would use the publication as a political tool to forward the ideas of Mormonism and attack those who did not support the existence of one of America’s newest religions.

It was followed in the summer of 1858 by the Mackinaw City *Northern Ensign* owned by Donald C. Henderson of Allegan. Henderson also was the owner and publisher of the *Allegan*

HAND PRESS (1847)
FIRST TRIBUNE PRINTED
ON THIS TYPE OF PRESS:
200 SHEETS AN HOUR

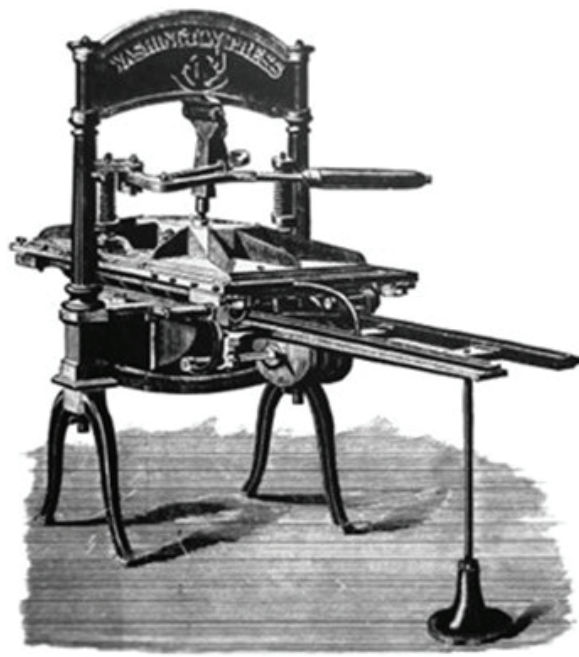


Image from the Newberry Library



Emmet County Democrat
April 30, 1875

Journal and a former employee of Horace Greeley, founder and publisher of the *New York Tribune*. Henderson started his Allegan newspaper in April of 1856 and decided to print a newspaper in Mackinaw City during the summer of 1858. The paper was a weekly, printed in Mackinaw City from



Petoskey City Record
June 20, 1878

Vol. 1, No. 1, on April 10, until the paper folded on June 26 after printing its last issue, Vol. 1 No. 15.

Then came the 1869 *Charlevoix Sentinel* published by Willard Smith beginning in April of that year. Jan. 28, 1871, was the day Cheboygan’s *Manitawauha Chronicle* was

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first published. Civil War veteran and doctor William P. Maiden had opened a drugstore in the growing lumber town. Maiden decided to use his press to supplement his drugstore business exactly as Rozelle Rose would do a few years later in Petoskey. Maiden made his own Manitawauba Bitters medicine and used the newspaper to advertise his product.

“It would cure dyspepsia, jaundice, nervous debility, irregular appetite, languor, wandering pains, headache, lowness of spirits, and all other diseases ...”

Dr. Maiden was so popular that he was elected Cheboygan’s first village president.

The sixth newspaper to be published in the Tip of the Mitt was the *Northern Tribune* of Cheboygan, printed July 17, 1875. Charles Ramsay was the editor of the weekly paper which featured local news stories along with state and national news. The paper, like most of its time, ran serial stories, advertisements and offered an opinion page. *The Northern Tribune* would evolve into the *Cheboygan Tribune* in 1885 and then, in 1910, the *Cheboygan Daily Tribune*.

The Cheboygan Democrat was the next published newspaper in the region. On Feb. 26, 1880, Edward Forsythe issued his first weekly edition. The paper would continue to exist until December of 1927 when it evolved into the *Cheboygan Observer*.

In April of 1878 Charles Hampton, formerly the Superintendent of Petoskey Public Schools in 1876 and then the Harbor Springs Public Schools



CS Hampton, *Independent Democrat*, 1895

in 1877, hired Benton Bement of Grand River to help run a newspaper. Hampton named it the *Emmet County Independent*. Bement started the *Grand River Herald* in 1871, however, in 1876, the newspaper failed. Bement came north to Petoskey on a train in April of 1878.

The special edition of the *Independent Democrat*, May 14, 1895, stated, “The steamer M.W. Wright took him across the bay to Little Traverse ... he was met by his partner in a new venture Charles S. Hampton ... The two young men went to work at once to set up their headquarters and equipment for the printing of a weekly paper ... The first of the *Emmet County Independent* came off the press on the 4th day of June, 1878 ... every line of type was set in the office. The town was fast becoming a resort for pleasure seekers during the summer and he bent every energy toward contributing to the enjoyment of the tourists and securing their subscriptions ... *The Emmet County Independent* was a GREEN-

BACK paper, demonizing silver and the contraction of the currency.”

Partisan newspapers are as old as the nation. During the fight to ratify the United States Constitution in 1787 through 1789, newspapers were either pro-federalist or anti-federalist. During the next 100 years the nation’s newspapers flourished, some were independent, most were partisan. It was the genesis of the Fox News versus “fake news” era of today. One had to be right, the other had to be wrong. Rose was a staunch Democrat and his opinions were reflected in the *Emmet County Democrat*. Its motto was, “Hew Straight to the Line. Let the Chips Fall where They Will.” The Republican party had maintained control of the White House and Congress during and after the American Civil War. Most new settlers in the Tip of the Mitt region during the late 1870s were former Union Army veterans who were Republican in their politics. They soon clamored for a newspaper that reflected their opinions. Buckley

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and Mosher produced the *Petoskey City Record* using the slogan “For your good and our profit.” It took a Republican slant on the news. Later, in 1878, 22-year-old Hampton issued the *Emmet County Independent* as neither a Democratic or Republican newspaper, rather it was a “Greenback Paper,” meaning Hampton supported the government’s continued issuance of paper money after the Civil War. The Greenback Party evolved into the Populist Party.

On July 13, 1883, Hampton issued his first copy of the *Daily Resorter* using pink paper. It was a newspaper “Dedicated to the Interests of Northern Michigan Resorts.” It ran for two weeks that first year, publishing every morning except Sundays and sold for 5 cents, or a subscription price of 25 cents a week. It carried the comings and goings of various Midwest resorters, along with brief items about Harbor Point, Cross Village, Bay View, Petoskey, Wequetonsing and Charlevoix.

Meanwhile, in May of 1876, the *Little Traverse Republican* was published by Warren Bowen, with help from Lorenzo Clark, his printer. Clark was originally from Cleveland and at an early age was working for a newspaper in Hillsdale. During the Civil War, Clark was employed by the federal government’s printing office. Clark purchased the operation in September of 1877 and the paper evolved into the *Harbor Springs Republican* (1881). By 1912 the *Harbor Springs Republican* had morphed into the *Harbor Springs Graphic* under the ownership of Morton L Garland. It continued to



James Buckley, founder of the Petoskey Record and first mayor of Petoskey

publish under ownership of Elmer Hanna, absorbing the Levering Local (1914-1924) in 1919 and merging the two into the *Emmet County Graphic* in 1924.

In October of 1903, Angus Grayson came from Central Lake, Michigan to publish the *Pellston Journal*. While doing so Grayson also served as McKinley Township supervisor, Pellston’s village present, and the postmaster of Pellston. In 1909 the weekly Emmet County Appeal was launched by Harbor Springs resident Joseph Womack. In 1910 Womack sold out to William Kirpatrick who moved the operation to Petoskey and tried producing a daily newspaper named the *Square Deal*. Merl Howard also started up the weekly *Levering Enterprise* in 1911. Emmet County had at least six other start-up newspapers that failed between the years 1890 and 1901. Cheboygan County was home to the *Cheboygan News* (1886) and *The Wolverine Courier* (1904), both short-lived.

The early 1900s were the heyday for newspapers in the United States. By 1910 it is estimated that over 24,000 newspapers existed in 46 states. Michigan had 766 weekly and daily papers.

Two of the more unusual papers in the Tip of the Mitt were the 1909 and 1911 “socialist” newspapers, the *Emmet County Appeal* and the *Emmet County Square Deal*. The Socialist Party of America was founded in 1901, eventually drawing millions of votes and landing more than 1,200 politicians into federal, state, and municipal positions. Urban centers were the strongholds of the party, however, Girard, Kansas, was the home of the Appeal to Reason newspaper. By 1905 the paper had over 750,000 copies being distributed each week by foot soldiers promoting the socialist cause. Contributors to the weekly paper included Jack London, Upton Sinclair, Helen Keller, Mary “Mother” Jones, Kate O’Hare and Eugene Debs. Founded by Julius Wayland in 1895, the paper first supported the Farmer’s Alliance and the People’s Party, before becoming the voice of the American Socialist Party in 1901.

Harbor Springs residents Joseph Womack and W. A. Glazier were members of the “Appeal Army.” They published and edited the *Emmet County Appeal* promoting socialist ideas to Emmet County residents beginning in February of 1909. Womack was the owner of the Worker’s Publishing Company and would supplement his paper with Appeal to Reason articles. The paper continued until the end of October 1910 when it closed and the equipment was purchased by logger

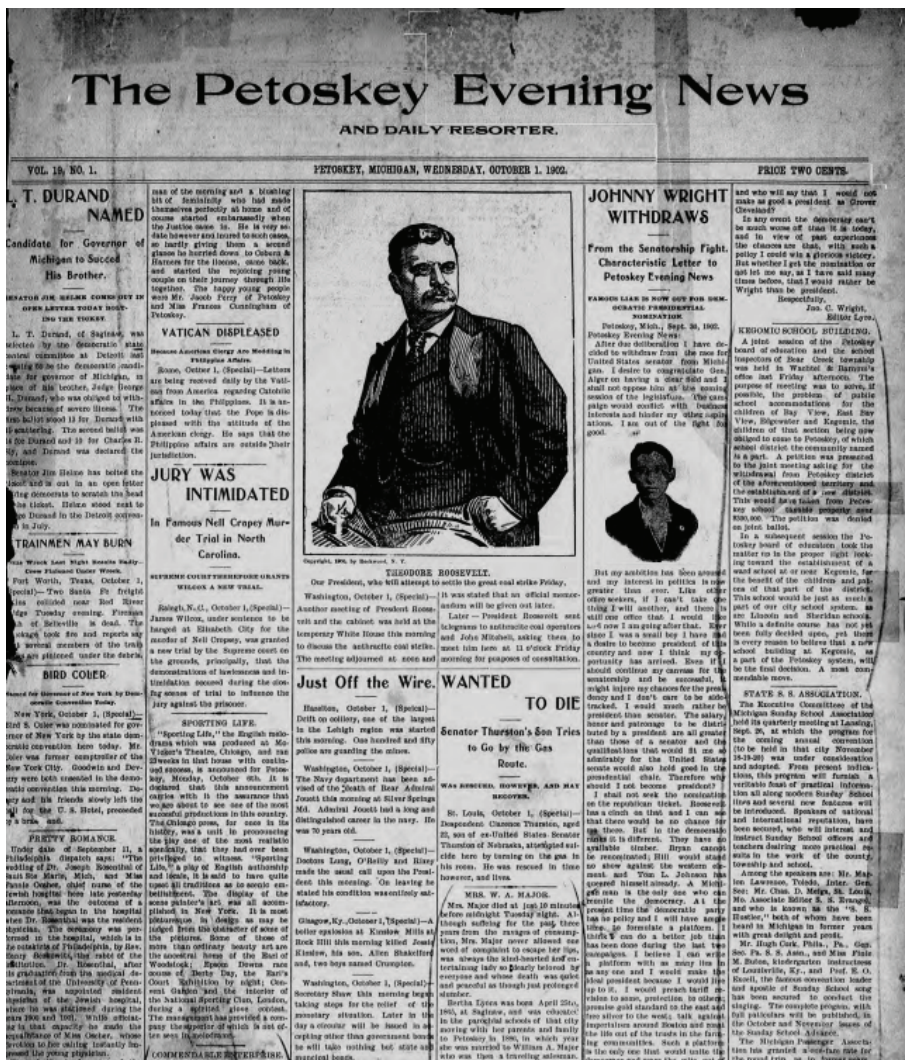
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and farmer William Kilpatrick of Bliss. His son, Vernon, was an aspiring newspaper editor, and, at the age of 23, moved the printing plant by wagon to Petoskey and located it in the Otto Gix building on 201 Howard Street.

The N. W. Ayer & Son's American Newspaper Annual and Directory listed Kilpatrick and his paper in its 1912 edition. Kilpatrick added the *Emmet County Square Deal* daily newspaper to Traverse City, "with the promise of great patronage." The two papers were disbanded and instead of Traverse City, Kilpatrick moved to Grand Rapids where he worked for the *Grand Rapids Press*. By 1923, Kilpatrick and his wife from Grand Rapids were living in Los Angeles, and he was working for the *Times*. In 1938 Kilpatrick ran for the California Assembly as a Democrat and was re-elected 12 times. He died in 1984 at the age of 96.

The Petoskey Record on June 13, 1912, printed, "To run a newspaper without occasionally publishing an item that is untrue, or without giving offense, is like running a railroad without ever having accidents and smash-ups. It can't be done!"

Newspapers made mistakes and usually ran corrections or apologies soon after they were discovered. *Northern Express* reporter Pat Sullivan called the newspapers of the Tip of the Mitt "Yesteryear's Facebook" in his May 5, 2014, article "The News Graveyard." He quoted Karl Crawford, superin-



Petoskey Evening News Oct. 1, 1902

tendent of Greenwood Cemetery and the leader of a Local History Project as stating, "Newspapers were hotbeds of gossip back then ... in the days before the internet or cable news networks, you didn't get national or international news from anywhere but your local newspaper ... Newspapers were the social media of the time. They were Facebook and Twitter."

The first Petoskey-based daily was Hampton's *Petoskey Evening News & Daily Resorter* (Oct. 1, 1902 — For the next 10 years it existed alongside

weeklies *Petoskey Independent* and *Petoskey Record*. By September of 1912, the *Record* was absorbed into the *Petoskey Evening News and Daily Resorter*. From 1900 through 1935, the rest of the Tip of the Mitt saw the rise of such papers as the *Boyne City Times*, the *Boyne City Evening Journal*, the *Onaway Outlook*, *Onaway Inter-Lake*, Millerberg's *Presque Isle County News*, Pellston *Journal*, the *Tower Press*, Tower's *Cheboygan County Era*, Wolverine's *Courier*, Alanson's *Inter-Lake*, Levering *Enterprise*, Levering *Local*, the *Straits*

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Journal & Levering Enterprise, the *Cheboygan Observer*, the *Mackinac Island News*, and finally, the *Northern Michigan Shopping Guide*.

William Schaller immigrated from Canada with his parents and came to Petoskey in 1890. He graduated from Petoskey High School and started working for the *Daily Resorter* and the *Petoskey Independent*. He married Dorothy Coveyou in 1909.

He spent two years at the *Charlevoix Courier* and four years at the *Petoskey Record*. In 1923 William decided to start his own printing business and purchased the B & B Printing Company on Howard Street. In 1925 he bought out the A.G. Cook "Cook the Printer" job shop in Petoskey and moved his operation to 427 E. Mitchell St. He later purchased the three-story building at 421 Howard St. and from that building published the *Northern Michigan Shopping Guide* with its first issue on May 16, 1934.

William F. Schaller and his son, William Albert "Al" Schaller, purchased the *Otsego County Herald Times* in 1947 and then sold it in 1953. That same year the Schallers took over sole ownership of the *Petoskey Evening News*. They published the *Petoskey Evening News/Northern Michigan Review* from November of 1953 through November of 1954. On Nov. 11, 1954 the paper became the *Petoskey News-Review*. Later, in November of 1956, the Schallers purchased the *Emmet County Graphic*, merging the Harbor Springs newspaper with the *News-Review* on Jan. 1, 1960. William F. Schaller died on Nov. 30, 1962.



William F. Schaller



Albert Schaller



Kirk Schaller

Al Schaller purchased the *Charlevoix Courier* in 1963 and re-purchased the *Gaylord Herald Times* in 1968. He was succeeded by his son, William Kirk, following his death on July 10, 1979. After Kirk's death on Feb. 25, 2001, the Northern Michigan Review, Inc. parent company had various publishers and editors until the company was sold to Schurz Communications in 2006. In January of 2019, GateHouse Media purchased Schurz and that August merged with Gannett. 🌿

Richard A. Wiles is a retired history and reading instructor at Petoskey High School and a former Spring Arbor University class instructor in research. He has written five White Paper research projects for the Petoskey Public Library involving historical events in the area, including the crash of the B-52 Air Force bombing trainer into Little Traverse Bay in 1971.

Wiles holds a Bachelor's degree in history from the University of Toledo, a Master's degree in reading development-psychology from Michigan State University and an Educational Specialist degree in community leadership from Central Michigan University.

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