



In *Murder Undone*, master craftsman and storyteller Stephen Lewis guides the reader through a richly woven tapestry of time, place, and character. This historical narrative set in the early years of the 20th century transports the reader from northwest lower Michigan through the halls of power in Lansing, the prison yard in Jackson, LaSalle Street law offices, lumber camps, and Michigan's copper country—then torn by labor unrest. It is a superb sequel to Lewis's earlier novel, *Murder on Old Mission*.

—Aaron Stander, bestselling author of the Ray Elkins Thriller Series

Two Books Cast Light on an Unexplained Murder on Old Mission Peninsula

In 1895, Woodruff Parmelee, the son of a prominent Old Mission Peninsula fruit farmer, was convicted of murdering Julia Curtis, his pregnant mistress. His son supported his alibi that he was clearing a new road toward West Bay while Julia's body was found in the hemlock swamp across from East Bay. Yet Parmelee was still convicted and sentenced to life in prison at Jackson State Penitentiary. Parmelee was in his 40s, twice Julia's age, already twice married and recently divorced from his second wife. His checkered history no doubt influenced the jury that convicted him. That story forms the basis of *Murder on Old Mission* by Stephen Lewis, an Old Mission resident who is re-issuing the novel in January through Mission Point Press.

Lewis is simultaneously publishing a follow-up novel, *Murder Undone*, in which he reveals this startling fact: In spite of the sensational nature of the crime, Parmelee was released from prison in 1915 after the direct intervention of then Governor Woodbridge Ferris (after whom the state university is named). Although no new evidence had emerged to determine exactly how Julia died, this sequel provides a fictional answer to the puzzling intervention of the governor 20 years after Parmelee's conviction. *Murder Undone* tells this story largely from the perspective of the same son who testified at the trial. Lewis also writes a dramatic parallel plot line of the copper mining strike culminating in the Italian Hall Tragedy in 1913, when 70 people, mostly children, were trampled to death in the panic caused by a false cry of fire at a Christmas party for the striking miners. The governor was involved in both the strike and Parmelee's pardon, his oversight tying the two plot actions together.

Murder On Old Mission and *Murder Undone* can be purchased in paperback or for the Kindle through the following links:

[Murder On Old Mission Paperback](#)

[Murder On Old Mission Kindle](#)

[Murder Undone Paperback](#)

[Murder Undone Kindle](#)

Stephen Lewis now lives on Old Mission Peninsula not far from a local, private cemetery where the Parmelees, except for Woodruff, are buried. He is married to award-winning short story writer Carolyn Johnson Lewis, whose father, local historian Walter Johnson, first introduced him to the Parmelee/Curtis case.

Author's website: stephenlewisonline.net