74th Annual
UPPER PENINSULA HISTORY CONFERENCE
Iron Mountain
June 23-25, 2023

LEAD SPONSOR
THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

REGISTER TODAY AT
www.hsm.pub/uphc2023
or by scanning the QR code
FRIDAY, JUNE 23

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Check-In and On-Site Registration
Kingsford High School, 431 Hamilton Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802

Open House: WWII Glider & Military Museum
302 Kent St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Spend the morning exploring the Menominee Range Historical Foundation's Glider & Military Museum. See a fully restored CG-4A glider, several historic automobiles related to the area’s history, military memorabilia, and more on this self-guided visit.

Workshop: Researching Your Historic House
Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan
Kingsford High School, 431 Hamilton Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802
Every house or building has a story to tell. In this workshop, you will learn how to uncover house histories, including who built them and when, their architectural styles, and the stories of the families who called them home.

1:00-4:00 p.m. Tours and Afternoon Session (see next page)
Tour departure information varies. More information will be provided at check-in.

Art & Architecture: Downtown Walking Tour
$10
Discover the beauty of the city on this downtown tour. Explore historic architecture and sites of interest—such as the post office’s WPA mural.

Lumber Galore: A Regional History
$10
This excursion will allow attendees to delve into the history of the region at the IXL Historical Museum and the Jake Menghini Historical Museum.

Industrial Roots: Cornish Pump & Mining Museum
$10
Join an experienced guide to learn about the largest U.S.-built steam-driven pumping engine, and tour the mining museum and adjacent local history museum.
**Friday Afternoon Session**

Honing Heroes: The U.P. Veterans Memorial

Dennis Larson, U.P. Veterans Memorial Corporation
Kingsford High School, 431 Hamilton Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802

Learn the history of the U.P. Veterans War Memorial and Park. What started as a quest to put an American flag atop Pine Mountain Ski Jump developed into a memorial to honor veterans from across the Upper Peninsula.

**Friday Evening**

Picnic at the Pavilion

U.P. Veterans Memorial Pavilion, Kramer Dr, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Join us for the U.P. History Conference’s traditional outdoor kickoff meal! Attendees will enjoy a delightful picnic at the top of Pine Mountain Ski Jump—one of the highest such jumps in the world—under the U.P. Veterans Memorial Pavilion. Explore the memorial space during the picnic, and enjoy a special performance by a local group.

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**Be a part of history today with the Legacy Circle.**

The Historical Society of Michigan recognizes people who have included our organization in their wills, living trusts, and other estate-planning vehicles. We are grateful for gifts of all sizes—even a small gift can make a difference. The Legacy Circle is for everyone who values history.

*Learn more at www.hsm.pub/legacy*
Saturday, June 24

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Check-In and On-Site Registration
Kingsford High School, 431 Hamilton Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802

Saturday Opening Keynote
Cass and the Copper Country:
The 1820 Expedition
Dan Truckey, Northern Michigan University

Unlike the travels of Lewis and Clark, Marquette and Joliet, or LaSalle, the 1820 journey of Lewis Cass and his party has largely fallen from public memory. Cass’s expedition opened up millions of acres of land in the Upper Midwest—setting the stage for settlement and resource exploitation, as well as conflict with Native peoples. This presentation will offer a contextual view of the expedition, its participants, and its lasting impacts on the region’s environment and Indigenous peoples.

Interested in experiencing Michigan’s history up close and personal?
Sniff out different aspects of our state’s past with History Hounds®, the Historical Society of Michigan’s engaging weekly lecture series!

Free for all HSM members and only $7/person for newcomers, our lectures are the best way to dip your toes into our regular programming.

Learn more at www.hsm.pub/historyhounds

This conference is sponsored in part by

THE MEIJER FOUNDATION
Keith & Jayna Huotari, Menominee Range Historical Foundation

During his World War II service, Foster City-native Oscar Godfrey Johnson Jr. held his position during combat in Italy after the other members of his squad had been killed or wounded. His valor earned him the military’s highest decoration.

Industrial Innovation: Ford Motor Company in Kingsford
William J. “Bill” Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation

Henry Ford had a considerable impact on the area—operating a sawmill and body plants in Kingsford, Michigan, from 1920 to 1951. Those plants provided wooden body parts for various vehicles, made CG-4A gliders, and produced charcoal briquets.

Trapping and Trading: The U.P. Fur Trade
Walt Summers, Retired

The North American fur trade did not begin in the Upper Peninsula, but once it arrived, it took off—forming the backbone of an industry populated by several successful companies and voyageurs, who transported the companies’ goods.

Born to Fly: Nancy Harkness Love
Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan

Known for her restless spirit, Houghton-born Nancy Harkness Love set out to form a women’s flying squadron at the outbreak of WWII. Learn about Love’s tenure as director of the Women’s Auxiliary Ferry Squadron and her other high-flying accomplishments.

Workshop: Mission-Focused Fundraising
Kim Loftus, Historical Society of Michigan

Your organization has an important story to share, but money doesn’t grow on trees! Learn how to build partnerships through appeal letters, sponsorships, and grant writing to help your organization achieve success.
Surviving the Mines: Narratives from Norway
Bill Van Wolvelaere, Jake Menghini Historical Museum

Originally a mining town, Norway faced many setbacks over the years, including fires, accidents, and cave-ins. Residents wondered how the town would survive after the mines closed. Follow the history of Norway—and see where it stands today.

Soiled Doves: Prostitution on the Menominee Range
William J. “Bill” Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation

Prostitution played a significant role in many mining and logging areas. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Menominee Iron Range—with a red-light district known as “The Midway” and notorious figures such as Old Man Mudge—was no exception.

A Lumber Legend: C.J.L. Meyer & Hermansville
Paul Larson, IXL Museum Board Member

Learn how lumberman C.J.L. Meyer transformed a vast forest into a booming saw and shingle mill—founding the village of Hermansville in the process. That company town, established in 1878, supplied Meyer’s hardwood flooring firm, “IXL.”

Sowing Seeds: Ethnic Farming Communities
Russell M. Magnaghi, Northern Michigan University

Finnish settlers had a strong agricultural presence in the Upper Peninsula in the early twentieth century, yet theirs was not the only nationality represented in the region. Other agricultural colonies were home to Italians, German Hungarians, Swedes, and more.

The Humongous Fungus of Crystal Falls
Michelle Smokevitch, Crystal Falls Historical Society

Crystal Falls is home to one of the world’s largest and oldest living organisms—a 440-ton, 2,500-year-old Armillaria gallica that covers more than 37 acres. Learn about the mighty mushroom’s initial discovery and how the town celebrates it today.
Saturday Luncheon Keynote
The Lost Whalebacks: Barge 129 and Sagamore
Bruce Lynn, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

The ships that came to be known as “whalebacks” were the brainchild of maritime visionary Alexander McDougall. Fewer than 50 of the unique vessels were built—and two came to grief along Lake Superior’s “Shipwreck Coast.” Discover the stories of Barge 129 and the Sagamore, the details of their sinkings, and how they were ultimately discovered in Superior’s cold depths.

The Historical Society of Michigan’s annual raffle event will take place following lunch. Join in on the fun, win prizes, and support Michigan’s history!

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SERVING MICHIGAN SINCE 1828
Call of the Wild: The True Story of Mike Mahoney
Carol Sundstrom, Norway Area Preservation Society

Mike Mahoney moved to Norway, Michigan, and began working in the lumber industry as a teenager. After honing his athletic and survival skills during his time in the Upper Peninsula, he achieved legendary status in Alaska’s Klondike Gold Rush.

A Native Voice at the Table: Cora Reynolds Anderson
Valerie Marvin, Michigan State Capitol

Cora Reynolds Anderson is best remembered today as the first woman to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives. Born in L’Anse, the longtime Baraga County resident wore many important titles, including suffragist, public health advocate, and Ojibwe tribe member.

Sky’s the Limit: The Enstrom Helicopter
Erika Sauter, West Iron Library

Born in Crystal Falls, Rudy Enstrom was an engineering prodigy. At the age of nine, he built a steam engine “just to see how it works.” In 1942, flying lessons sparked a new dream—to design and construct a helicopter.

Trials and Tribulations: The Whisky-Mich Railroad
Floyd Schmidt, Author

Join the presenter to learn about the W&M Railway, which ran from Peshtigo, Wisconsin, to Iron Mountain, Michigan. John N. Faithorn, a railroad tycoon, created the line to connect the iron-rich Upper Peninsula with steel mills in Chicago.

Workshop: Archives 101
Sharon Carlson, Western Michigan University (Ret.)

Perfect for small organizations, this workshop will teach attendees about the proper storage and handling of archival materials, as well as ways to organize materials to make them accessible to researchers, students, and the general public.
SUNDA Y, JUNE 25
9:30-10:45 a.m.
Iron Mountain Cemetery Park Walking Tour
Cedar Avenue, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Join members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation for a tour of Iron Mountain’s Cemetery Park, which opened on June 9, 1901.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Iron Mountain Cemetery Park Walking Tour
Cedar Avenue, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Join members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation for a tour of Iron Mountain’s Cemetery Park, which opened on June 9, 1901.

U.P. History Awards Banquet
Hounds in History: Yooper Dogs at Work and Play
Lindsay Hiltunen, Michigan Technological University
Inspired by the four-legged friends that grace the history of Michigan, this keynote will provide a glimpse at dogs in the Upper Peninsula from the late 1800s onward. From sled dogs that ran postal routes to faithful family companions, this session will offer anecdotes coupled with rich images. “Dogs at Work and Play” will show why these endearing creatures are man’s best friend—and one of his best muses!

Pine Grove Country Club, 1520 W Hughitt St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
The 2023 Upper Peninsula History Awards will be presented after dinner.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

Days Inn • (906) 774-2181
2001 S Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Conference Rate: $105/night

AmericInn • (906) 774-1900
2005 S Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801
Conference Rate: $125/night

Request the Upper Peninsula History Conference/Historical Society of Michigan rate when you make your reservation. Rate is guaranteed until May 22, 2023. After this date, special pricing will not be honored and the rooms will be released for general sale.

Questions? Contact HSM at (800) 692-1828.
REGISTRATION

Friday-Saturday, June 23-25, 2023
Early-Bird Registration Ends: April 30, 2023
Standard Registration Ends: June 16, 2023*
Walk-In Registration Ends: June 24, 2023

Register online at www.hsm.pub/uphc2023

MEMBER REGISTRATION

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**Dickinson County residents, apply a $10 discount to your total.

NONMEMBER REGISTRATION

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Please select your meal choice:
☐ Regular ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten-Free

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Please use the form below to pay by credit card.

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EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE BILLING ZIP CODE

Register online at hsmichigan.org • Call (800) 692-1828 • Mail this form one per attendee and your payment (payable to the Historical Society of Michigan) to Upper Peninsula History Conference, 7435 Westshire Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
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