Jill Lowe Brumwell

Author Jill Lowe Brumwell will speak at CCHS’s Wednesday, October 3 General Meeting that will take place at Bayliss Public Library at 7 p.m. Jill last spoke at Bayliss Library in 2004 at CCHS’s Annual Meeting about her first book. This time she will speak about her fourth book on Drummond Island — Drummond Island’s Part in the War of 1812. Her new book tells about Drummond Island’s significant role in the final episode of the struggle of the Old Northwest Territory and about its Native American, French, British, and American history. Jill will tell us how Drummond Island got its name. Her books will be available for purchase and signing. There will be a brief business meeting prior to her talk. Refreshments will be provided. The program will take place at the library located at 541 Library Drive. Please enter by the front door.

Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour

Get into the “spirit” of the season and join us on a cemetery tour. On October 20, CCHS will hold its Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour Fundraiser. It will be held at 1 p.m. at the historic cemetery on Ashmun Street near WSOO and will last about 1½ hours. Caroline Grabowski will lead the tour as Angelique Rains and Paul Sabourin as Alexandre Cadotte. A suggested donation of $5 is requested. Refreshments will be provided. Make sure to dress for the weather. Contact cchs@sault.com for more information. Thank you to Board members Caroline and Paul for sharing with us their fascinating stories of people from the past. Stay tuned for their planned May 2013 Riverside Cemetery Tour!

Date Your Home!

Show your pride in your home and its place in the history of Sault Ste. Marie, the EUP, or wherever you live! Order a date-built plaque from CCHS, affix it to your home, and let residents and visitors marvel at our rich heritage. The plaque is oval, made of cast aluminum, and has a black background with gold-colored letters and numbers. The basic plaque is 12½” x 7½” and costs $75. A larger plaque of 14¼” x 10¼” is available for $100 that includes a third line of text of up to 14 characters for you to list your home’s original owner, its builder, your house’s name, etc. Don’t know the year your house was built? For $25 extra, a historical society member will help you research the date. To receive a brochure, place an order, or for more information, please email cchs@sault.com or call 635-7082. Brochures are also available at Bayliss Public Library and at CCHS. Thank you to Caroline Grabowski for the idea and to Paul Sabourin for the brochure design and funding assistance. Soo Builders Supply has generously contributed to the cost of the brochure printing. They have been building Sault Ste. Marie since 1922! (See brochure insert for more information and order form.)

Abstracts Wanted!

If you have a Chippewa County abstract of title, or a written history of all the recorded documents and proceedings related to a specific property—your home or business—we would love to scan or photocopy it for CCHS’s archives. Abstracts are an invaluable tool for home research, see above, and for other history projects. Or if you have or know of extras that are not needed, we would appreciate receiving donations.
November 4 Reception for Bill Gerrish

CCHS is hosting a reception on Sunday, November 4, from 2-4 p.m., to honor artist and graphic designer Bill Gerrish. He has assisted CCHS in numerous ways, as the designer of our logo, our letterhead, and our newsletter River Soundings since 2006, exhibit designer for our American Café display, adviser on various projects, handyman on our kitchenette, donor of family memorabilia, local historian, and friend. We encourage those of you who are Bill’s friends and colleagues to consider attending our reception and giving him a great send-off. We will miss Bill.

The reception will take place at our building, 115 Ashmun Street. Anyone interested in helping with the event, please contact Mary or Susan.

International Bridge Display

CCHS will host the 50th Anniversary International Bridge multi-media traveling display from October 8 to 19. The Gift Shop and History Center will be open Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m. (except for Thursday). The display of historic photos and a video has been traveling around the area all summer. The bridge’s anniversary date is October 31 and on that date cars will be able to cross the bridge at the 1962 price of $1.25. For more information about the commemoration, see www.saultbridge.com.

EUP History Consortium Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, October 13, and will be hosted by the Bay Mills-Brimley Historical Research Society. Tamara Barnes of the Historical Society of Michigan will speak about Michigan History Day, partnering with schools, and sponsoring a history club for kids.

Cloverland Electric Project

By Bernie Arbic
In 2003, the Edison Sault Electric Company gave CCHS a collection of approximately 1,000 glass plate negatives documenting construction of the power canal and powerhouse during the years 1899 to the 1920s. The eight by ten inch glass plates have been stored securely in custom-made wooden boxes for the past century, fifty plates to a box. After we received them, CCHS member Allan Swanson built special cabinets to hold the twenty boxes of negatives, and we are happy to announce that the photographs will be catalogued, scanned, and saved digitally in the next few months.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative now owns and operates the canal and power plant, and the company has joined with CCHS in this project, providing financial support and personnel to help with computer data entry and recording the content of each image as it is scanned. Several Cloverland employees have already spent time in our scanning room, and several more are scheduled to help in coming weeks. When the project is completed, both CCHS and Cloverland will have the full set of images stored digitally, and available for their use. This insures that the historical record preserved on the images will never be lost. The Historical Society will retain the original plates. Here are two images selected from the first group of about two hundred negatives that have been scanned so far.

Capital Campaign

Our current goal is to pay the mortgage on our building, pay our city street assessments, and create a $10,000 building emergency fund. $43,000 is needed to achieve that goal. We could also use assistance with fundraising. Recent donors are listed on our “Thank you” page.
Dr. William A. Decker’s Talk

Author and physician, Dr. William A. Decker spoke at our July meeting about Michigan State Hospitals in general as well as the Upper Peninsula Hospital in Newberry and the short-lived Sault State Hospital. His new book Upper Peninsula Hospital: A History of the Newberry State Hospital is available in CCHS’s gift shop for $50. It is also available for mail order. CCHS Board member Jim Dwyer, a friend of Dr. Decker’s assisted him with his research and was instrumental in planning our event. Jim’s state hospital photo display was on view in the Bayliss Library lobby in July. Dr. William A. Decker published the books Asylum for the Insane: a History of the Kalamazoo State Hospital in 2008 and Northern Michigan Asylum: A History of the Traverse City State Hospital in 2010.

Historic Churches 2012

CCHS hosted the 12th year of the Historic Churches of Sault Ste. Marie programs this past summer. Nine programs took place that included talks about Chippewa County cemeteries and church stained glass windows, the Salvation Army, the history of St. Mary’s, and Bishop Baraga as well as musical programs that included the Wilkinson/LaRoue family, the Osborn Bells, organ and piano music, flutists, and vocalists. 328 people attended and generous donations amounting to more than $1 per person more than covered the cost of the brochure printing. Thank you to the attendees and to the volunteers—programmers, hosts, bakers—who gave their time and energy to ensure we had another successful year. We are grateful to the churches for sharing their historical buildings with the community. Thank you too to the Board members who assisted with the programs. See you in 2013!

Sault Summer History Camp

The July Summer History Camp was a huge success. Twenty-two students ages 9 to 11 attended the week of hands-on activities and field trips to learn about the history of Sault Ste. Marie. The students visited Bill Morrison’s blacksmith studio, Steve Welch’s Diorama of the Sault, the International Bridge and Customs Office, the River of History Museum, CCHS, the Soo Locks Visitors Center, and spent the bulk of their time at the Historic Homes. They learned about fur trapping, weaving, spinning, Native American dancing and foods, voyageur canoes, etc. Students and their families were enthusiastic about their week; over 100 people attended the reception the final day. Due to grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation, we were able to keep tuition low. Thank you to CCHS Board members and retired teachers Patty Olsen and Ginny Cymbalist for helping us achieve a long-term goal! Plans are to hold History Camp again next year; the dates are to be determined. Tuition will be somewhat higher next year to cover costs. Let us know if you want to get on the mailing list to receive history camp information as soon as it is available.

Historic Water Street Homes

By Mary M. June

The historic homes area on Water Street will soon be known by a slightly different name. Their name is being changed to “Historic Water Street Homes” and the Kemp Industrial Museum. This name change is part of the City’s rebranding effort to tie in the new signage installed along Water Street this summer. New directional signs have also been ordered.

This summer, the Schoolcraft east dependency was emptied out and used for our first History Camp. Work on the Baraga House continued through August, thanks to Roger Blanchard and Mike Bennett. Drywalling on the first floor is complete and taping and mudding of the walls has been started. The front steps were stabilized. The Historic Structures Management Committee is putting together a proposal of all the work needing to be done on the Baraga House for next year’s budget deliberations. Work on the Johnston House regarding some structural issues is still being planned and will hopefully happen early next year. The City is working on evaluating exactly what needs to be done at the Johnston House.

This year, programming continued with Susan Johnston and Jane Johnston Schoolcraft being portrayed by Caroline Grabowski and Sabrina Neveu, respectively. Peter DeCourcy was not available to portray John Johnston this summer but we hope to have him back next year. Dave Stanaway and Susan Askwith returned this year with their wonderful stories and music. Water Street was looking better than ever with the new street, landscaping, and historic signage.
Water Street Interpretive Panels

By Bernie Arbic

A collaboration between the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Chippewa County Historical Society, in consultation with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Bay Mills Indian Community this past winter bore its fruit in late June with the installation of interpretive signage along Water Street that tells some of the story of Sault Ste. Marie from pre-European times into the twentieth century. There are over thirty signs along the historic street, between Johnston Street and Osborn Boulevard. A group of twelve signs is located on a low wall on the north side of Water Street, opposite where Brady Street comes into Water Street, and another group of twelve signs is opposite where Bingham Avenue joins Water. There are also six stand-alone signs at strategic spots along the historic walkway. CCHS is proud to have been involved with the City in creating the text and choosing suitable signs at strategic spots along the historic walkway. CCHS is proud to have been involved with the City in creating the text and choosing suitable images (many of which came from our own archives) for the interpretive panels.

(Top Left) This sign stands near the Valley Camp at the eastern end of the Historic Water Street walk, and one just like it is near the Ojibway Hotel at the western end. The logo was designed by Bill Gerrish.

(Above) Shown here is the group of twelve signs on the low wall opposite Brady Street, with Sault Ste. Marie’s City Hall in the background.

This is an example of one of the stand-alone signs; this one discusses the many military units that have been stationed in or near the Sault. The sign, appropriately, is near the U.S. Coast Guard Base.
History Fest 2012
By Mary M. June
History Fest took place on Water Street in August. There was traditional
dancing and drumming by members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa
Indians that drew a crowd of over 120 people on Friday night. Cecil
Pavlat gave an opening prayer and Josh Homminga welcomed the
crowd. Joe Medicine of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
announced the dances. Saturday was filled with children’s activities led by
Patty Olsen and Sharon Dorrity. They washed clothes on a washboard,
hung the clothes out to dry, and played a variety of games. The Historic
Homes were open with docents and programmers. Caroline Grabowskí
cooked over a fire and brought her penned chickens for people to see. New
this year was a variety of Native American vendors with jewelry, beadwork,
and baskets. There were also demonstrations by the spinners group.
Matthew Wilkinson played French folk music on his violin. The Sault
Tribe Drummers performed several times during the day from the porch
of the Schoolcraft House. Also in attendance was a group of voyageur
reenactors who camped out in the area and answered questions about the
life of a voyageur. Several historical groups, including CCHS, sponsored
booths. Organizers of History Fest from CCHS and the community
included: Susan Askwith, Ginny Cymbalist, Sharon Dorrity, and Patty
Olsen. Thank you to everyone for their hard work. History Fest was part
of the City-wide, LSSU-sponsored “Sault Ships & Sailabration” this year.
The tall ship Inland Seas, a two-masted schooner, was docked at the Kemp
Marina for sailing excursions and tours of the ship.

Gift Shop
By Mary M. June
Stop by the Gift Shop and see the new titles we have added, as well as
the regular titles we carry. Soon we will have Jill Brumwell’s new book,
Drummond Island’s Part in the War of 1812. Her books will also be
available for purchase at her upcoming talk on October 3 at CCHS’s
General Meeting at Bayliss Public Library. New titles added this summer:
An American Cafe: Reflections from the Grill by Peter C. Gianakura
(audio book 2012), The Fall and Recapture of Detroit in the War of 1812:
In Defense of William Hull by A.J. Yanik (2011), Geology & Landscape of
Michigan’s Picture Rocks National Lakeshore & Vicinity by W.L. Blewett
The Post at St. Mary’s (about Fort Repentigny) by Dr. Todd E. Harburn
(2001), Schoolcraft’s Indian Legends by H.R. Schoolcraft & edited by
Mentor L. Williams (1991), Schoolcraft’s Ojibwa Lodge Stories: Life on
the Lake Superior Frontier by H.R. Schoolcraft & edited by Philip P.
Mason (1997), Upper Peninsula Hospital: A History of the Newberry State
Hospital by Dr. William A. Decker (2012), and The War of 1812 in the Old
are books on the area’s local history by Bernie Arbic, and other local
authors.

(continued on page 6)
 Bernie Arbic Wins Prestigious U.P. History Award

On June 23, 2012, CCHS's Treasurer Bernie Arbic received one of the Historical Society of Michigan's top awards at the 63rd Annual U.P. History Conference in Sault Ste. Marie. He was awarded the Charles Follo Award, which is presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and promotion of U.P. history. The award was established in 1979 to honor the memory of Charles Follo, an Escanaba teacher who promoted and helped advance historical understanding of the U.P.

For the past 20 years, Bernie has devoted his time to a variety of projects that have preserved the history of Chippewa County and made that history both exciting and accessible to the general public. Starting with his first book, Sugar Island Sampler (1992), Arbic has authored six books on U.P. history and has published several articles in Michigan History and Lake Superior magazines. He has conducted numerous oral histories, curated several photography exhibits, and chaired a project that digitized many of the photographs and negatives in the CCHS archives. Most recently, he served as chair and lead writer for the City of Sault Ste. Marie's project to install outdoor signage along historic Water Street.

Bernie with Historical Society of Michigan Vice President Richard Wiener

Bernie also has participated in the “Dinner with the John Johnstons,” for which he has played the role of a voyageur as well as provided musical entertainment. He has also served as a docent at the Johnston House, where he helped create a musical program for the museum’s 2006 grand opening. His other projects have included the production of a teacher’s guide on the history of the Sault; countless presentations to school and civic groups; and serving as the advisor for film and news media documentaries.

Previous CCHS-affiliated winners of the Follo Award include Reeta Freeborn, Yvonne Hogue-Peer, Robert Money, and Nancy Steinhaus. Other EUP winners include Tom Farnquist, Annegret Goehring, and Carol Taylor. For more information about the Society’s awards, visit www.hsmichigan.org.

CCHS Building

By Mary M. June

The CCHS building was dressed up this spring with the addition of new lettering on the front windows. The “Gift Shop” and “History Center” lettering will help clarify what is going on inside our building and make it more appealing to visitors. The lettering was purchased with a donation by Board member Sharyn Faunt and installed by Amber Clement, another Board member. Work on organizing the collections and research areas will continue this fall and winter with Board member Carolyn Person leading the way. Thanks, everyone!
The Twenty” Movie

The mystery that was filmed in Sault Ste. Marie and area in 2006 and 2007 by Chopper Bernet (writer, filmmaker, producer, director, and lead actor) features glimpses of many Sault sites, including the Antler’s Restaurant, R&R Marine, the Powerhouse, and Penny’s Kitchen. The DVD will soon be available for purchase in our Gift Shop. It was shown at Bayliss Library twice this summer and Chopper Bernet, who summers on Nebish Island, was present to take questions at the second showing. He loves the Sault and is generously helping us secure the DVDs to sell. For more information on the movie, see www.thetwentymovie.com.

Summer Volunteers

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with our many events, including the U.P. History Conference, Historic Churches, History Fest, Historic Homes, Summer Arts Festival, our General Meeting and other activities, and in our Gift Shop. They are too numerous to mention, but we will try in the adjacent column. (Our apologies if we inadvertently left off your name.) Thank you everyone for your invaluable contributions to our efforts!

SAVE THESE DATES:

CCHS Events (see www.cchsmi.com)
Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Author Jill Lowe Brumwell will speak about “Drummond Island’s Part in the War of 1812” at Bayliss Library
Oct. 8-19, International Bridge display
Oct. 20, 1 p.m., Maple Ridge Cemetery Fundraiser
Nov. 4, 2-4 p.m., Reception to Honor Bill Gerrish

Bayliss Public Library Events (see www.baylisslibrary.org)
Oct. 2, 6 p.m., Jane French, “Alaska and Back” for People to People International
Oct. 23, 7 p.m., “Haunted Great Lakes” program by the Upper Peninsula Paranormal Research Society (Tim Ellis and Brad Blair)
Nov. 27, 7 p.m., Author Bryan Gruley, Starvation Lake Mystery series

Would you like to be a newsletter sponsor? It costs $50 for bulk mail postage and about $200 to $300 to print our quarterly newsletters. Thank you to Sharon Komondy for her newsletter sponsorship. We also appreciate volunteers who can help us on short notice with preparing the newsletter for mailing. Please consider helping us in any way you can.

Thank you to the following:
New to the Capital Campaign:
Mary L. Bray
Norajean Wilcox

Life Members:
Constance M. Baker

New Members:
Thadius Sabatine
Phyllis Ware

Renewals:
Ken & Kyung Hatfield
Judy McGonigal
Jessica & Dave Stanaway
Dolores Sundstrom

Donation:
Sharon Komondy - newsletter postage

Volunteers:
Roland & Cathy Akre, Rev. Bob & Dawn Aldrich, Bernie Arbic, Bob Arfstrom, Alicia Askwith, Susan & John Askwith, Ray Bauer, Mike Bennett, Phyllis Bigelow, Roger Blanchard, Amber Clement, Cloverland volunteers, Don Cooper, Mary & Jim Couling, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, William A. Decker, Peter DeCourcy, Sharon Dorritty, Jim Dwyer, Tim Ellis, Sharyn Faunt, William Gerrish, Caroline Grabowski, Gary Guevara, Dennis Hank, Liz Hellow, Lois Horner, Susan James, Mary M. June, John & Barb Kenn, Marian MacLeod, Len McKeen, Kathy Newcomb, Patty & Wayne Olsen, Shirley Patrick, Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Paul Sabourin, Dee Stevens, Gail Ulrich, Capts. Dan & Amy Voss, Elizabeth Weir, the Wilkinson/LaRoue/Sweeley family, Jackie Willey

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Susan James, Mary M. June, Bernie Arbic

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Membership Rates

- Individual $20
- Family $30
- Student $10
- Senior $10
- Contributing $50
- Business/Corporate/Org. $50
- Lifetime $200+
- New Millennium $1000+
- Additional Donation $______
- Capital Campaign Donation $______

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Please keep me in mind for:  
[ ] Volunteer Work  [ ] Board Member  [ ] Capital Campaign

Make checks payable to: Chippewa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 342, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Office Hours:
Monday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon at back door

Gift Shop Hours:
Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 1-4 p.m. at front door

Upcoming Event
Join us on Wed., Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., at Bayliss Public Library, for Jill Lowe Brumwell’s talk on “Drummond Island’s Part in the War of 1812.”

Soo Locks Park
Water Street
Ashmun Street
CCHS
Parking
Portage Avenue

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