Dr. William A. Decker Will Speak at Our July Meeting at Bayliss Library

On Thursday, July 5, at 7 p.m., CCHS is pleased to host author and physician, Dr. William A. Decker. He will speak about the Upper Peninsula Hospital in Newberry along with the short-lived Sault State Hospital. The book release event will take place at Bayliss Public Library's Community Room. His 220-page book will be available for $50. CCHS Board member Jim Dwyer, a friend of Dr. Decker’s who has been assisting him with his book research, has been instrumental in planning this event. Jim’s state hospital photo display will be on view in the lobby at Bayliss Library through the first week of July.

By Jim Dwyer
Dr. William A. Decker has been on a mission to inform the public about the extensive contributions made by the Michigan state hospitals to the welfare of its citizens. The former Kalamazoo State Hospital Superintendent has written a history of the original (Michigan) Asylum for the Insane: a History of the Kalamazoo State Hospital in 2008. That was followed in 2010 by the publication of Northern Michigan Asylum: A History of the Traverse City State Hospital. His latest work is Upper Peninsula Hospital: A History of the Newberry State Hospital (2012). In his “spare time,” Dr. Decker is an active advocate for the mentally ill, and is often asked to testify in major criminal court trials. In his “leftover spare time,” he and his spouse, Greta, do some traveling.

In 1893, the Michigan State Legislature made a decision to designate Newberry as the site for the new Upper Peninsula Asylum for the Insane. It was a controversial decision as L’Arse or Marquette appeared to be in the forefront as being the chosen site. The Upper Peninsula Hospital for the Insane began accepting patients in November of 1895. (The name “hospital” was chosen over the existing “asylum” name the other state mental institutions used.) It lasted until the State of Michigan closed the hospital in 1992.

In his Newberry State Hospital book, he also provides a history of the Sault State Hospital, which existed from 1945 until 1950. It was created as an “overflow” institution from the large state hospitals such as Kalamazoo, Ypsilanti, Pontiac, and others. It was closed in 1950 and the remaining patients were sent to other state hospitals.

2012 Annual Meeting
April is when CCHS’s Annual Meeting was held and when elections took place. The 2012-13 Board members are listed on page 7. We welcome our new members: Caroline Grabowski, Carolyn Person, and Paul Sabourin. Mary M. June’s annual President’s Report, which was presented at the meeting, follows:

2012 President’s Report
Submitted by Mary M. June 4/26/12

It has been an eventful year what with the road construction in the area, especially in the front of our building. Gift Shop sales were down slightly because of the construction. Because of the pending road construction, CCHS hired architects Tony Esson and John Ernst to do a structural evaluation of the building and they discovered some issues that were identified. A major one was a problem with a wooden, load-bearing beam on the 3rd floor that had dry rot. Jacques Construction was hired to replace the beam and the repair went well.

Our website seems to be working out well, along with our newsletter, to keep our members informed of CCHS events and happenings. Susan James, our Vice President of Programs and Publications, and Bill Gerrish, both volunteers, deserve all the credit for the newsletter articles and layout.

Over the winter, volunteers Carolyn Person, Dee Stevens, Mike Bennett, Ginny Cymbalist, Jim Dwyer, volunteers from Men’s New Hope House, and others worked on reorganizing our building and opening up this room [our “stage” room] for us to use for our meetings. I would like to thank everyone for the amazing amount of work accomplished over the winter.
2012 President's Report (continued from front page)

Briefly I would like to mention a project we have been working on with the City. We were contacted about assisting the City with the selection of images and researching and writing text for new signage along Water Street. Bernie Arbic, headed the project and Susan James, Dee Stevens, Bill Gerrish, and I helped. Paul Ignatowski at Sault Printing is currently working on the layout of the actual panels and the City hopes to have the new signage installed sometime in June, if all goes well.

Historic Churches

CCHS is hosting the 12th year of the Historic Churches of Sault Ste. Marie programs this summer. They will take place on Monday evenings from June 25 to August 20 at five of our churches. The brochure will soon be available at the participating churches, CCHS, and Bayliss Library as well as other locations around town. Watch for weekly newspaper articles with more details about the events. We hope to see you at the programs. Your donations fund the annual printing of the brochure. Refreshments will be provided after each event. Thank you to the churches for opening their doors and to the volunteers and performers for their time and talents. This year's programs are:

June 25
Central United Methodist Church
STARS Flute Choir with flutist Emily Beckman & pianist Kristin Beckman

July 2
St. James Episcopal Church
“The Osborn Bells”
Bob Krupa

July 9
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
“History of the St. Mary’s Church”
Ray Bauer

July 16
First United Presbyterian Church
“Out-County Stained Glass Church Windows”
Barbara Kenn

July 23
Salvation Army Citadel
“Salvation Army 101”
Capt. Dan Voss
Capt. Amy Voss

July 30
Central United Methodist Church
“A Musical Landscape”
The Wilkinson/LaRoue family

August 6

New Fundraiser — Date Your Home!

By Caroline Grabowski
Show your pride in your home and its place in the history of Sault Ste. Marie! Order a date built plaque from the Chippewa County Historical Society, affix it to your home, and let city visitors marvel at our rich heritage. Each oval, cast aluminum plaque is 12½” x 7½” and has a black background with gold letters and numbers. The cost is only $75. Don’t know the year your house was built? For $25 extra, a historical society member will help you research the date. A sample plaque will be available to view in our Gift Shop. To place an order or for more information, please email cchs@sault.com or call 635-7082.

History Fest 2012

By Ginny Cymbalist
We'll be back on Water Street for History Fest 2012 as we celebrate the long maritime history of Sault Ste. Marie. There will be an encampment from August 2-5. Friday, August 3, from 5-7 p.m., will feature traditional dancing by members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and fry bread and more to purchase. On Saturday, August 4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., one may visit with Susan Johnston and others who were central to the Sault’s history (and tour their homes), taste foods of the past, enjoy fry bread and soup, watch demonstrations of Native artisans, participate in spinning, weaving, and quilting, and chat with local history groups. The children's activity tent will be busy all day doing laundry, playing historic games, and much more. Come join us as we reconnect with our
past. Volunteers and artisans are needed, so please contact Susan Askwith (632-7422) or CCHS (635-7082) if you can help out.

We’re very excited that this year our History Fest will be part of a much larger, city-wide celebration called “Sault Ships & Salubration.” This event will kick-off on August 3, when we welcome the tall ship Inland Seas as it completes a two-day sail from St. Ignace and docks at Alford Park. Sailing excursions and tours of the ship will be available on August 3 and 4. A Maritime Artist and Authors Showcase will also be taking place. Meet Dennis Hale, author of Shipwrecked: Reflections of the Sole Survivor, B. David Warner, author of Dead Lock, and more.

This will also be the weekend of “Downtown Days” (formerly “Sidewalk Sales”), the 9th Annual Slashin’ Ashmun Antique Car Show, the 2nd Annual Lock City Motorcycle and Scooter Show, and, to top it all off, the Navy Band will be here for performances on Friday night and Saturday. In short, the weekend of August 3 and 4 will have something for everyone! Watch for more information on the entire weekend. For updates or to book passage on the Inland Seas from St. Ignace or for short sails, visit the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau website, www.saultstemarie.com or call 632-3366.

The Water St. Signage Project
The new Water Street panels are expected to be mounted in late June, ready for dedication ceremonies the weekend of June 23rd, during the Great Race and the Historical Society of Michigan’s U.P. History Conference. CCHS is planning to create a companion traveling exhibit that features smaller versions of some of the panels along with additional photos and information about Water Street history.

Below is a black and white version of Bill Gerrish’s logo for the project.

HISTORIC City of Sault Sainte Marie WATER STREET

Water Street Historic Block
By Mary M. June
We anticipate re-opening the Johnston House, the Schoolcraft west dependency and the Kemp Industrial Museum for the summer, on Engineers Day, Friday, June 29. The buildings will be open until Labor Day. The actors who portray Susan Johnston and her daughter, Jane Johnston Schoolcraft, will take turns performing weekdays at 2 p.m. Popular musicians, Dave Stanaway and Susan Askwith will perform their songs of the fur trade on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. Due to health reasons, Peter DeCourcy will likely not be playing John Johnston this summer. He made arrangements for work to continue on the interior of the Baraga House this summer. There will be a new display of 1917 waterfront passes in the Kemp Museum, thanks to the Patton family.

Upcoming Maple Ridge Cemetery Tours
Last October’s Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour by Caroline Grabowski was such a success that we will be hosting several more such fundraisers. We plan to hold them on Saturday, July 21, at 1 p.m. and Saturday, October 20, 1 p.m. Tickets will be sold in advance and refreshments will be provided. We will have two tour guides this time (both CCHS Board members); Caroline will appear as Angélique Rains and Paul Sabourin will be Alexandre Cadotte. Contact cchs@sault.com for more information.

Michigan Notable Book Display
On June 12, Bayliss Public Library hosted crime novelist Scott Sparling, one of 20 Michigan Notable Authors chosen by the Library of Michigan for 2012. CCHS had a railroad display in the library’s lobby to correspond with the main theme of Sparling’s book Wire to Wire. We thank Dennis Hank and Richard Trautwein for organizing the display and he and Jim Pim hosted the group at their architect-designed home that is under renovation. Thank you to Dan Truckey and the Pims for such an informative and enjoyable day. 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.

U.P. History Conference
The Historical Society of Michigan’s 2012 U.P. History Conference will take place in Sault Ste. Marie from June 22 to 24. CCHS and LSSU are the local co-sponsors. CCHS is currently represented on the planning committee by Mary M. June and Susan James. Nancy Steinhaus is Bayliss Library’s representative. The conference promises to be an enjoyable event with talks, workshops, tours, a luncheon, dinners, awards, displays, and music. CCHS is among the institutions hosting an open house on Saturday, June 23, from 3:30-5 p.m. City Manager Spencer Nebel and CCHS Board member Caroline Grabowski will be leading tours of City Hall and Water Street, respectively, on Sunday, June 24. There is more information on the conference at the Historical Society of Michigan’s website www.hsmichigan.org. Chippewa County residents may register at the member rate.
The Ferry and the Bridge
By Bernie Arbic
The International (Auto) Bridge connecting Sault, Michigan and Sault, Ontario opened for general traffic on October 31, 1962, so this year we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of this important link between our two communities and our two nations. The International Bridge Authority is planning a slate of special events to commemorate the anniversary. Check it out at their newly re-designed website, www.saultbridge.com, which has the real-time Bridgecam for those who want to view traffic conditions, a list of special events planned for this summer, many photographs of the bridge, and a feature called “Crossing Conversations,” which contains anecdotes, photos, and other submissions from the public. If you have a special memory of the bridge, or the ferry before it, or something relating to the international nature of our community, the Bridge Authority invites you to share it by posting on the site.

We stumbled on an interesting photo in the Steere Room of Bayliss Public Library recently, and will be submitting it for inclusion in the “Crossing Conversations.” It was taken in the spring of 1937, when people in both communities were apparently anxious for ferry traffic to resume after it had been shut down for about two months due to ice conditions. Art Booth of Sault, Michigan, had an ice business, and naturally he employed some experienced ice cutters. They were hired by the ferry operator to open a channel through ice reported to be 12 to 14 inches thick. It took the crew about three days to cut the channel—not bad for hand operated ice saws!

When the International Bridge was built, the work proceeded from the U.S. side toward Canada by U.S. contractors, and from the Canadian side toward the U.S. by Canadian contractors. In a testimony to engineering and construction skills, the two portions of the bridge came together perfectly at the border, high above the St. Marys River.

Canadian iron workers are on the top girder near the center of the arch on the Canadian side of the bridge in this picture taken May 11, 1962. Much work remained before the bridge could open about 5 months after the picture was taken. Note the mid-May ice in the Canadian lock approach canal below. Work went on throughout the winter months, and one can only try to imagine how cold it would have been up there when the wind was blowing!

After one day of cutting on March 18, 1937, Art Booth’s men had opened a channel 800 feet into the river. The remaining 1,850 feet were expected to be removed over the next two days, “weather permitting.” Note the saws lying on the ice in the foreground. The ferry Agoming is in the background, and it appears that a person in the distance is crossing the ice to Canada on foot—a common practice when conditions permitted it.
Local Michigan History Day Winners
CCHS Board member and retired teacher, Patty Olsen worked with Sault students this year on projects for the Historical Society of Michigan’s Michigan History Day. Two students from Washington School and two from Soo Township won the following students from Washington School participated in the regional competition for History Day, but did not advance to the state finals: Taylor Pitko presented “The Underground Railroad” and Shelby McGlinch, “Vietnam War.” These students moved on to the state finals: Katherine Marger won the Elly Patterson award for the best entry in Michigan Women’s History for “Rosa Parks and Her Impact on History.” Ellen Mar ger won the special award for the best entry in Michigan History for “Revolution in Women’s Athletics through Title IX” at Lake Superior State University” and she also placed second in the Youth Individual Exhibit. Hannah DeNuccio-McShane presented “The Glass Ceiling: Opportunities for Women Arise.” Caitlyn Scornaiencki won first place for her documentary “Child Labor Laws and How They Changed.” Dillon Curtis and Kaaleb Ranta from Soo Township placed second in the youth group exhibit with “D-Day: The Beginning of the End of Nazi Germany.” The students were presented with certificates at assemblies by CCHS Board members as will soon be Chase S. Osborn’s The Soo. We are selling various 1975-1994 Sault City Directories that are duplicates, for $5 each. Our golf shirts are now marked down to $20 and $25, depending on sizes.

CCHS Building
Over the winter, we have been reorganizing our building with the help of Carolyn Person, Dee Stevens, Ginny Cymbalist, Mike Bennett, Jim Dwyer, Kathy Newcomb, Shirley Patrick, volunteers from the Men’s New Hope House, and others. Our “stage room” is now available for our meetings and smaller events. Where larger crowds are expected or more technology is needed, we will continue to ask Bayliss Library to hold our meetings in its Community Room. CCHS wish list includes a large screen and a Power Point projector. Thanks to everyone for their assistance. Work is ongoing as we further organize our collection and research areas. Thank you to Carolyn Person, Mary M. June, and Mary Couling for their help with flowers.

Gift Shop
The Gift Shop reopened in April. It is open through the summer on Mondays through Fridays, from 1 to 4 p.m., as volunteers can be scheduled. Our volunteers this season, so far, have been Mike Bennett, Karen Sabatine, Mary Couling, and Gail Ulrich. If you are interested in helping, please contact us. New in the shop are prints from Bill Gerrish’s drawing of a steam tug towing a string of schooners produced for the Water Street Signage Project. Eric Demaray at Sault Realism created the prints that sell for $45. New books in the shop include Michigan author Gary D. Schmid ti’s young adult fiction, Anthony J. Yanik’s The Fall and Recapture of Detroit in the War of 1812, Timothy Cochrane’s Minong—The Good Place: Ojibwe and Isle Royale, William L. Blewett’s Michigan’s Pictured Rocks, and Voyager’s Sketchbook. We have issues of the Museum of the Fur Trade Quarterly and copies of the March/April 2012 Michigan History magazine that includes Deidre Stevens’ article “When World War II Came to the Sault.” The Diary of Bishop Frederic Baraga is back in stock as will soon be Chase S. Osborn’s The Soo. We are selling various 1975-1994 Sault City Directories that are duplicates, for $5 each. Our golf shirts are now marked down to $20 and $25, depending on sizes.

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 some assistance with fundraising. Recent donors are listed on our “Thank you” page.

Johnston Dinner
With all of our other events this summer, we will not be holding our annual “Dinner with the John Johnstons” fundraiser. Last year was one of our best years and we hope to offer you a similar entertainment opportunity in 2013. Thank you to all of the performers and to everyone who attended and volunteered last year!

Palace Restaurant and Saloon Assemblage
Artist and newsletter designer Bill Gerrish of Homage Creative Arts has created a new work of art that may be viewed in the lobby of the Palace Restaurant and Saloon on Portage Avenue. Commissioned by owner Tammy Cook, it illustrates the colorful history of the building, the former Brunswick Hotel.

Tammy, conceived of the idea of displaying photos of the building after many patrons of the restaurant insisted on knowing about its history. The objective was to create a historic timeline using images and objects. It starts in 1903 with an image of the original builders, Sam & Lisa Kokko, and tells the story of the building up until the fire of 1980. Rob Kokko contributed images of the early years. This timeless shadowbox creatively informs and entertains the public about this historic Sault landmark.
The **Soo Co-op grocery store**, a longtime Sault institution, and its *Soo Co-op Credit Union* branch unfortunately closed their doors in May. The store was likely a victim of competition, the economy, and roadwork that made access difficult. The store and the credit union had been together since 1958; employees of the Northwestern Leather Company (the Tannery) had started the credit union in 1950. We hope to help preserve artifacts and documentation of the store's history of almost a century and to persuade author **Dee Stevens** to write up her research. In the meantime, we include this 1970s photograph from our collection to honor its passing. Dee tells me that the Soo Co-op was first housed on Ashmun Street next to the Soo Theatre and then at several Spruce Street locations before moving in 1963 to its last home, built as a car dealership in the 1950s. If you have memories, photos, or artifacts to share, please contact us.

**St. Joseph Island Museum’s Open Archives Day**
The Canadian museum will be holding its first *Open Archives Day*, on Monday, July 9, starting at 1 p.m. It is a cooperative effort of Canadian and U.S. museums and will be a great chance to see the St. Joseph Island Museum that features six historic buildings illustrating over 200 years of history. The focus of the event will be on early settlers and cross-border connections. CCHS plans to have a table with information there that day. See http://stjoemuseum.com.

**Superior Children’s Book Festival**
CCHS is planning to have a table with Pioneer games and a coloring contest at the first annual Superior Children’s Book Festival. The festival is being planned for Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., at Avery Square. **Dr. Janice Repka**, an LSSU English professor, is organizing the event for young people of all ages. At 10:30 a.m. there will be Storytelling with **Susan Askwith**, at 11:15 a.m. there will be a Character Dress-up Contest, with an ongoing book swap and other activities. Afternoon activities will also be held at Bayliss Library, such as the noon Picture Book Party, 2 p.m. Learn to Draw Manga!, and 3 p.m. Best Graphic Novels. There will also be a book signing at Island Books and Crafts. You may contact Bayliss Library at 632-9331 for more information.

**Bruce Township Historical Society**
By Carolyn Person
Bruce Township Historical Society hosted Heritage Days II at the Township Hall on June 10th. It was a fun afternoon of sharing family momentos and relatives! CCHS, Chippewa County Genealogical Society and Pickford Historical Society were represented. More information and tales were added to the collection. It was a fun day visiting with the ancestors.

**Icon Workshop**
There will be an Icon Workshop on July 23-28 at Faith Lutheran Church in the Sault. It is an intensive workshop. The experienced members of the group will be writing the Annunciation icon this year. Contact **Paul Raappana** at praappana@charter.net, if you are interested in attending. The fee is $600 for the week.
Summer Volunteers Needed
We always need volunteers for our events, including the U.P. History Conference, Historic Churches, History Fest, Sault Summer Arts Festival (Aug. 7), as well as at our talks and in our Gift Shop. Let us know if you have time to help us or if you are willing to bake. Note: CCHS will not be participating in this year’s Sidewalk Sales/Downtown Days (with our used book table), since it is scheduled for the same time as History Fest, where our volunteers will be very busy.

SAVE THESE DATES:
CCHS Events (see www.cchsmi.com)
June 22-24, Historical Society of Michigan’s U.P. History Conference
June 25-Aug. 20 (Mondays, 7 p.m.), Historic Churches programs
July 5, 7 p.m., Dr. William A. Decker will speak about the
Newberry and Sault State Hospitals
July 9-13, Summer History Camp
July 21, 1 p.m., Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour Fundraiser
Aug. 3-4, Sault History Fest and Sault Ships & Sailabration
Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Author Jill Lowe Brumwell will speak about
“Drummond Island’s Part in the War of 1812”
Oct. 20, 1 p.m., Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour Fundraiser

Bayliss Public Library Events (see www.baylisslibrary.org)
June 29 & 30, UP Book Tour 2012 will feature 10 authors
including Steve Hamilton and Keith Taylor
July 17, 7 p.m., Chippewa County Genealogical Society,
“Bruce Township Settlers,” with Carolyn Person and Shirley Patrick
July 21, Superior Children’s Book Festival (Avery Square) —
CCHS will have a table.
Aug. 3 and 4, Friends Gently Used Book Sale
Aug. 4, 1 p.m., Welcome Home Reception for the 1823-25
Bayfield Chart of Lake Superior
Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Michigan Museums Association,
“ABCs of Collecting Workshop” ($50 for MMA members;
$75 for non members)—co-hosted with CCHS.
See www.michigannmuseums.org/ABCs for more information.
Aug. 14, 7 p.m., Mustard’s Retreat, free concert, folk duo from
Ann Arbor

River Soundings Newsletter
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 Maxine Gleason and Audrey Gillett for their newsletter
sponsorships. We also appreciate volunteers who can help us on short
notice with preparing the newsletter for mailing (thank you to Maxine
Gleason, Carolyn Person, and Mary M. June for their help in April).
Please consider helping us in any way you can.

Thank you to the following:
Capital Campaign Donations since April:
Roland & Cathy Akre (emergency fund)
Elizabeth Hellow
Carol Taylor

New Lifetime Member:
Terry Malloy

New Member:
Evelyn Shackleton

Renewals:
Dr. F. John & Mrs. Robin Allaire
Dennis Hank
Elizabeth Hellow
Aaron & Joan Hopper
Arthur Koski
Carol Taylor

Donations:
Mike Bennett - books & magazines for gift shop
Audrey Gillett - newsletter postage
Maxine Gleason - newsletter printing
Harriett & Gordon MacMaster - Robert Money
Memorial Fund
Gary Thurston - Robert Money Memorial Fund

Volunteers:
Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Roger Blanchard,
Amber Clement, Mary Couling, Ginny Cymbalist,
Jim Dwyer, Tim Ellis, Sharyn Faunt, William Gerrish,
Maxine Gleason, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank,
Susan James, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod,
Kathy Newcomb, Patty Olsen, Shirley Patrick,
Carolyn Person, Connie & Jim Pim, Janet Russell,
Karen Sabatine, Paul Sabourin, Dee Stevens,
Richard Trautwein, Dan Truckey, Gail Ulrich

Newsletter Contributors:
Susan James, Mary M. June, Bernie Arbic,
Ginny Cymbalist, Jim Dwyer, Carolyn Person,
Caroline Grabowski

Newsletter Designer:
William Gerrish/Homage Creative Arts

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Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Paul Sabourin
Upcoming Event

Join us on Thurs., July 5, at 7 p.m., at Bayliss Public Library, for Dr. William A. Decker’s talk on “The Upper Peninsula Hospital: A History of the Newberry State Hospital.”

Office Hours:
Monday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon
at back door

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

YES! I want to be a CCHS Member!

Membership Rates
- Individual $20
- Family $30
- Student $10
- Senior $10
- Contributing $50
- Business/Corporate/Org. $50
- Lifetime $200+
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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