On Wednesday, January 18, at 7 p.m., poet and University of Michigan professor Keith Taylor will speak at CCHS about the poetry of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft (1800-1842). She is considered the first known Native American literary writer. Jane was the daughter of fur trader John Johnston and his Ojibway wife, Oshaw-guscoday-wayquay (Susan). Her writing has come to light in the past decade thanks to the work of such researchers as Robert Dale Parker, who published The Sound the Stars Make Rushing through the Sky in 2007. The next year, Jane was inducted into the Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame. The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians was presented with a plaque in honor, which they donated to CCHS. A small display of items related to Jane, including the plaque, will be on view at the program.

Professor Taylor was one of the featured authors at the U.P. Book Tour 2011 last summer at Bayliss Library. When he mentioned that he teaches Jane’s poetry and likes to come to the U.P. for bird watching in the winter, we nabbed him for several events. The following day, Thursday, January 19, from noon-2 p.m., he will visit LSSU’s Creative Writing Program for a Brown Bag Lunch reading and Q and A period, in the Cisler Center’s Crow’s Nest. The event is free and open to the public. (Grab a lunch to go in the galley or bring your own.)

At 7 p.m. that evening, Taylor will speak at Bayliss Library about his new book of Michigan ghost stories that was just announced as a 2012 Michigan Notable Book.

Keith Taylor was born in Canada, grew up in Indiana, and earned his M.A. in English at Central Michigan University. He has worked at various jobs, including as a bookseller in Ann Arbor for more than twenty years. Currently, he coordinates the undergraduate program in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan and directs the Bear River Writers Conference. Recently, he became the Poetry Editor at Michigan Quarterly Review. Taylor has published ten books and won such awards as a fellowship in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. His books will be available for purchase and signing at his events at CCHS and Bayliss Library.

Robert Money
CCHS Board member Robert Money passed away on December 13, after a long illness. He was well-known as an educator, historian, and promoter of U.P. and Michigan history. Bob earned degrees from NMU and U of M and spent three years in the U.S. Army, serving in Korea and Japan. He taught at Alma College, and MSU before coming to LSSU, where he received the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1986 and from which he retired in 2010. Besides CCHS, he was active over the years on the Boards of the Historical Society of Michigan, Sault Historic Sites, and the Michigan Oral History Association. In 2008, he won the Historical Society of Michigan’s Charles Follo History Award, which recognized his major contribution to preserving and advancing U.P. history (see photo below). Bob played an active role in the preservation of the Schoolcraft House through the move to its current location on Water Street in the 1980s and the operation of the Johnston House Museum from the 1970s until the mid-1990s. He is also responsible for the revival of CCHS in 1995 after an inactive period. He and his wife, Margaret, have been major participants in all of CCHS’s activities from Bob’s talks on fort history and the Schoolcraft House to their displays of early school readers and their donations of time, expertise, artifacts, funds, and refreshments. Bob will be greatly missed by the organization. Donations in his memory may be made to: Robert Money Memorial Fund, CCHS, P.O. Box 342, Sault, MI 49783.
January 1, 2012

Dear CCHS Member,

The first of the year is always a great time to look back at the past year and reflect on how it went. Looking back, I am excited about the increased attendance at our meetings and events. I would also like to give a big Thank You to all of our wonderful volunteers, members, and supporters. I hope you will consider joining us again this year, with the renewal of your membership and your attendance at one or more of our events.

Members of CCHS receive the Society’s newsletter, River Soundings, which covers the activities of the Society throughout the year. Another way of following what is happening at the Society is to check out our website at www.cchsmi.com.

In 2011, we hosted the Third Annual Sault History Fest; Dinner with the Johnstons dinner theatre fundraiser; successful Historic Churches programs; Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour Fundraiser; co-hosted with the Soo Theatre a second program of Jack Deo’s 3-D historic photos; worked with the City on programming and displays at the Water Street Historic Block, including continued restoration of the Baraga House; and hosted interesting speakers at our quarterly meetings. I hope you were able to join us at these events and had a great time.

Founded in 1919, the Chippewa County Historical Society remains dedicated to preserving and protecting our local heritage and sharing that historical heritage with the community.

Please join us again as a member of CCHS. Your membership makes it possible for the CCHS to continue its activities during the coming year. If you aren’t a member, we look forward to welcoming you for the first time. For your convenience, a membership form can be found on the last page of the newsletter. Please fill it out and join us in promoting regional and local history for the pleasure and education of area residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Mary M. June
President
Phil Bellfy’s October Talk

Dr. Phil Bellfy spoke at our October general meeting about his new book, *Three Fires Unity: The Anishnaabeg of the Lake Huron Borderlands* published by University of Nebraska Press. Phil spoke to 28 people about his extensive research into Native American treaties and the evolution of national boundaries. *Three Fires Unity* is available for purchase at CCHS’s gift shop (and by mail), along with the handmade notepads and diaries he produces.

Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour

CCHS volunteer Caroline Grabowski led a tour of Maple Ridge Cemetery on Ashmun Street in October. Caroline appeared in the persona of Angelique Rains and shared stories of past area residents, transporting us back in time. Over 40 people attended the successful fundraiser that contributed about $250 to CCHS’s Capital Campaign. The weather cooperated, providing a perfect fall afternoon for the occasion. The event featured seasonal refreshments of cider and apple crisp from the apple tree at the Johnston House. “Angelique” promises to return along with a mysterious Frenchman and share more stories with us in the coming year. We thank CCHS Board member Tim Ellis, WSOO, Fred Benoit, and the City of Sault Ste. Marie for their permission to use the parking lot and the cemetery for this event. Thank you to volunteers: Caroline Grabowski, Ginny Cymbalist, Mary June, Tony Stackpoole at Cup of the Day, Amber Clement, and Susan James for their assistance. We appreciate the help that Grooves Music and Tim Ellis provided in selecting a portable sound system for CCHS to purchase.

Stories from the Woods

The traveling exhibit “Stories from the Woods” was at CCHS for an extended stay until December 15. It provided an opportunity to learn about the folklorists who have made a study of the various ethnic groups and traditions of the U.P. MP3 players provided an opportunity to listen to some of their early recordings. Four events were co-hosted this past fall with Bayliss Library: director/curator Dan Truckey spoke in September to 28 people and there were three storytelling programs in October, Susan Askwith, and Jim and Mary Couling each performed for 25 people; and in November, Pauline Andrews drew a crowd of 65 people. In addition, Susan Askwith formed a Storytellers Group that met on Saturdays at the library. The display was organized by the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center at Northern Michigan University in Marquette and funded by the Michigan Humanities Council.

Sault Summer History Camp and MCACA Grant

Carrying on the tradition started by the late Dr. Sue Schacher, CCHS will be running a week-long fun-filled history camp this summer. We have been fortunate to receive grants from MCACA ($1,411) and the Hudson...
Sault Summer History Camp (continued from page 3)
Foundation ($500) to help with the planning, supplies, expenses for the demonstrators, and scholarships. Patty Olsen, who has encouraged the love of history in many local students, will direct the camp with assistance from fellow retired teacher, Ginny Cymbalist.

The base of the camp will be the Water Street Historic Block with many walking excursions to other historic destinations. It will be an activity-packed five days with speakers, hands-on demonstrations, and other activities. The camp, to be held from July 9-13, will have up to 20 participants aged 9-11 (or have completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade). The cost of the program is $50.

After many years of discussing this project, we’re thrilled to be offering this opportunity to local students. If you want to receive further information, email cchs@sault.com.

History Fest and “Sault Ships Sail” by Ginny Cymbalist
History Fest 2012 will be held the weekend of August 3-5 and will be a part of a much larger celebration called “Sault Ships Sail.” What is being billed as a “sailabration” will honor the maritime history of Sault Ste. Marie from the earliest Native canoes to modern Coast Guard vessels.

Those of you who live in the Sault or have visited in the past year know that there has been major street work and landscaping along Water Street, in conjunction with work done to separate the sanitary and storm sewers. The design plan for the street includes a major effort to portray part of the city’s rich history for its citizens and our visitors. Since so much of the early history took place on or near Water Street, it was decided to include a series of interpretive panels for people to read as they stroll the sidewalk. In two places on the north side of Water Street, low, gently curving, 36-foot-long walls have been built. These have slightly sloped flat tops, and each will accommodate 12 panels that are 18 by 30 inches. These structures are opposite where Bingham Avenue and Brady Street tee into Water Street. The city invited CCHS to submit a proposal to be involved in selecting images and writing interpretive text for the panels. We were delighted to do so, since it gives us a chance to use our talents and our extensive photographic archives for an important project that will be around for many years, and be viewed by thousands of people—and it will generate some revenue for the organization. Our proposal was accepted, and several members are currently working on the project, including Mary June, Susan James, Dee Stevens and Bernie Arbic. Stay tuned! The plan is for the panels to be completed and mounted by early summer, 2012.

The Baraga House by Ginny Cymbalist
As an additional feature on the Water Street Historic Block, we hope that the Baraga House will be open at least part of next summer. As I’m sure you’ve noticed, the exterior of the building has been “spruced up” with roof work and new paint. What you may not know is that the inside has been receiving attention as well.

For the last two summers, Sharon MacLaren has supervised interior restoration including the removal of plaster, installing new wall board, moving the stairway to its original position, replacement of columns, and more with an eye to returning the building to the way it was when Bishop Baraga lived there. Peter DeCourcy has taken up where Sharon left off supervising workers and putting in many hours of labor himself.

There will still be work to do (finishing the plaster board, paint, wallpaper, porch restoration, sidewalk, landscaping, displays, docent training, and much more), but it will be wonderful to have the fourth Water Street building open.

Osborn Trust Grants
The City’s Chase S. Osborn Trust provided funding to CCHS for various preservation projects in 2011. Facsimiles of several 19th century ledgers created by local artist and designer Bill Gerrish are now part of the displays at the River of History Museum. As an artistic endeavor, Bill stated that he “enjoyed the challenge of trying to recreate the worn and torn elements capturing the sense of timelessness. As I worked on the books, I felt like I was sharing something with the original creators. I could feel the spirit of the times.” See the article later in this newsletter about Bill’s design business, Homage Creative Arts.
Microfilming of the Johnston family ledgers along with 1870s and 1880s issues of the Sault newspaper, the Chippewa County News, has been completed by Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University. The microfilm is now available for researchers to use at Bayliss Library. Extra sets of the microfilm are at CCHS and CMU. CCHS’s 1845 Map of Sault Ste. Marie has been conserved by Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, along with Bayliss Library’s Chart of Lake Superior. Conservation of the library’s chart was made possible through a successful community fundraiser. Both the map and the chart will be photographed shortly and the images made available for viewing.

Hudson Foundation Grants
CCHS was the recipient of two grants in December from the Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation. $500 was donated for the Summer History Camp that CCHS will host in July. $1,000 was donated for archival supplies to help organize and preserve the Society’s collections as part of our winter reorganization effort. Our thanks to the foundation for their generous and much-needed donations.

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 other co-sponsors. CCHS is currently represented on the planning committee by Mary M. June, Nancy Steinhaus, and Susan James. A planning meeting was held in the fall at Bob and Margaret Money’s home. The conference promises to be a wonderful event with talks by authors and historians, workshops, tours, a luncheon, dinners, awards, and music. The last time that the conference was held in the Sault was in 2005 at the time of the Soo Locks Sesquicentennial. There will be more information on the conference in our April newsletter.

Donations to the Capital Campaign
We welcome contributions to our Capital Campaign to help us pay down our loan for the purchase and renovation of our building. Recent donors are listed on our “Thank you” page.

CCHS Building
In the fall as the construction season ended, Ashmun Street was reopened, providing access again to our building. As a result, we now have a new sidewalk minus the oversized curb and a new rectangular planter that was installed to decrease the sidewalk grade. As a bonus, we have two new crabapple trees. Watch for new plantings in the spring. Over the winter, we will be reorganizing our collections with the help of Carolyn Person and other volunteers, and we hope to have our “stage room” available for meetings and events. The large room is conveniently located adjacent to our new kitchenette and the American Café booth.

Gift Shop
The CCHS gift shop was open through Christmas, thanks to volunteers Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Ginny Cymbalist, Caroline Grabowski, Mary M. June, Karen Sabatine, and Susan James. We were decorated for Christmas with a train layout lent by Gil Cymbalist. CCHS participated in the DDAs Downtown Christmas Open Houses. The shop is now closed through March, but will be open for special events, by appointment, and during office hours through the back door. Island Books and Crafts store at the northeast corner of Ashmun and Portage is carrying some of our books over the winter. For a list of the books we offer for sale, check out our website, www.cchsmi.com. If you are interested in placing an order, please call during office hours, email, or send a check by mail. Limited edition prints of the 500 Block of Ashmun Street circa 1953 by Sault artist Genevieve Usimaki are available for sale. The print is four-feet long, like the original watercolor from the collection of Marian and Jon MacLeod that is on loan to CCHS.

April Annual Meeting
Planning is underway for our annual meeting that will take place on April 26. Dr. Jonathan Allen, a professor at Northern Michigan University, will speak about Alexis de Tocqueville and his views on Native Americans which were shaped by his travels in the U.P., especially to Sault Ste. Marie. De Tocqueville is the author of Democracy in America that was first published in 1835. There will be more information on the event in our April newsletter.

EUPHC May Meeting
CCHS will host the next meeting of the EUP History Consortium, on Saturday, May 12. The tentative topic will be marketing. There will be more information in our April newsletter.

City Hall Dedication
The old Federal Building was dedicated on November 14, 2011, as Sault Ste. Marie’s new City Hall. The dedication ceremony and open house marked the end of the major four-year renovation of the landmark structure. The building was used as a post office from 1910 to 1958 and for 20 years was the headquarters for Tendercare (Michigan), Inc., with a portion of it used as the River of History Museum from 1992 to 2007. The museum was moved as part of the project, to the old Woolworth’s Building, now owned by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
In the 1950s, there were at least 35 small, neighborhood grocery stores in Sault Ste. Marie. In fact, in the space of two blocks, along Ann Street to Ashmun Street, there were three such stores, including Bye’s Grocery depicted here. Chippewa Meat Market was at that location going back to the 1920s, but the grocery store was owned by Charles Moore at that time. In 1960, France’s Grocery became the LaFrance Motel and a Soo Corner Store.
Homage Creative Arts

Homage Creative Arts is a local visual arts studio where artist, Bill Gerrish, creates memorabilia, keepsakes, and heirloom shadowboxes. “When I create a shadowbox for a client, the goal is to tell a story by assembling photos and items from the past. My hope is to evoke a sense of nostalgia in the viewer and perhaps a smile or a joyful tear. Preserving items of interest for people to enjoy for many years to come is important to me. The shadowbox itself becomes that piece of history handed down from generation to generation. It’s like making a sculpture, hopefully it will be around long after I am gone.”

Bill has a 36-year career in illustration & graphic design, including display design. You can see one of his display designs on the wall in Soo Theatre’s main office where the American Café once made its home. He also created a second, unique display on the wall above the American Café booth installation at CCHS. For anyone interested in preserving their family history, contact Bill through his website www.homagecreativearts.com or call 322-0120.

SAVE THESE DATES:
CCHS Events (see www.cchsmi.com)
Jan. 18, 7 p.m., Keith Taylor, “Jane Johnston Schoolcraft and Her Poetry”
April 26, 7 p.m., Dr. Jonathan Allen, “Alexis de Tocqueville”
May 12, EUP History Consortium meeting
June 22-24, Historical Society of Michigan’s U.P. History Conference
June 25-Aug. 27 (Mondays, 7 p.m.), Historic Churches programs
June 30, 6 p.m., Dinner with the John Johnstons
July 9-13, Summer History Camp
Aug. 3-5, Sault History Fest and “Sault Ships Sail”

Bayliss Public Library Events (see www.baylisslibrary.org)
Jan. 19, 7 p.m., Keith Taylor, Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them; Contemporary Michigan Literature
April 13, 7 p.m., Gary D. Schmidt, Michigan Author of the Year

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. We also appreciate volunteers who can help us on short notice with preparing the newsletter for mailing (thank you to Carolyn Person and Mary M. June for their help in October). Please consider helping us in any way you can.

Thank you to the following:
Capital Campaign Donations since October:
Robert R. Arfstrom
Marilyn Burton
David M. Knowles
Angelique J. Peer in honor of her mother, Yvonne Hogue-Peer, past CCHS President and Vice President
William Robinson & family
Sault Lions Club
Norajean Wilcox

Robert Money Memorial Fund:
Sharyn Faunt
Susan James
Mary M. June
Nancy Steinhaus

New Members:
William Robinson & family

Renewals:
Robert R. Arfstrom
Richard & Janet Couch
Susan James
Steve Kail
David M. Knowles
Barbara & Everett Landen
Richard Noble
Paul E. Petosky
Jan Reed
Suzanne Stevenson
Richard Trautwein
Dr. Brian, Mary & Allison Youngs

Donations of Services:
Bernie Arbic - photo assistance
Mike Bennett - building work
Amber Clement - flyer designs
William Gerrish - newsletter & letterhead design
Carolyn Person - collection assistance

Donations:
Mike Bennett - books for gift shop
Pam Byberg
William Johnston
Ken Miller - The Michigan Companion

Volunteers:
Bernie & Colleen Arbic, Phil Bellfy, Mike Bennett, Marie Carter, Amber Clement, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, Leanne Barnes Deuman, Jack DeWeese, Jim Dwyer, Tim Ellis, Sharyn Faunt, William Gerrish, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank, Susan James, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod, Robert & Margaret Money, Patty Olsen, Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Ann Marie Smith, Tony Stackpoole, Dee Stevens

Newsletter Contributors:
Susan James, Mary M. June, Bernie Arbic, Ginny Cymbalist

Newsletter Designer:
William Gerrish/Homage Creative Arts

Board Members:
Mary M. June, President
   Vice President, Membership and Fundraising
Susan James, Vice President, Programs and Publications
Bernie Arbic, Treasurer
Virginia Cymbalist, Secretary
Amber Clement, Don Cooper, Jim Dwyer, Tim Ellis, Sharyn Faunt, Dennis Hank, Patty Olsen, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Anthony Stackpoole
Upcoming Event

Join us on Wed., Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., at CCHS, 115 Ashmun Street, for Keith Taylor’s talk on “Jane Johnston Schoolcraft and Her Poetry.”

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+
- New Millennium $1000+

Additional Donation $______

Capital Campaign Donation $______

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Email ____________________________

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