Hidden History Recovered
By Bernie Arbic

Mark the place and date on your calendar: Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at 7 p.m.! The Chippewa County Historical Society is proud to host—at our premises at 115 Ashmun Street—Tom Farnquist, Director Emeritus of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, as he presents a program entitled “Diving the St. Marys River: Hidden History Recovered.” Tom was instrumental in helping CCHS acquire a wonderful gift, consisting of bottles, crocks, and clay pipes that were recovered in the waters around Sugar Island by divers Fred and Audrey Warth, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. It is thus particularly appropriate that he will be with us as we introduce our newly-created display of these artifacts. Most of the pieces were donated to the Society by Mr. Warth in 2015, a year prior to his death, and subsequently his family added to the gift. We feel very fortunate to be able to help preserve this beautiful and unique collection, and to share it with those who visit us. A portion of the collection—which consists of over 300 items—will be on permanent display, housed in an elegant custom-made cabinet designed and built for us by retired LSSU Professor Tom Boger.

Tom Farnquist, beside the ship’s bell recovered from the Edmund Fitzgerald.

Carolyn Person, CCHS President, interviewing Mr. Warth at his home, summer, 2015. Note the round-bottom bottles in the rack on the wall.

In addition to describing some of his experiences with the Warths, and diving in the St. Marys River, Farnquist will move into colder and deeper waters and present a PowerPoint talk entitled “Ghosts of the Shipwreck Coast: The Art and Science of Mapping Lake Superior Shipwreck Secrets.” A $225,000 grant awarded to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society jointly by the Federal Highway Administration, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Chippewa County Road Commission enabled Farnquist, the Project Director, to assemble a group of highly talented people using state-of-the-art side-scan sonar, an unmanned remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and technical divers to record measurements, video and still imagery which was used to create site maps and paintings of five shipwrecks located in deep water off of Whitefish Point in an effort that spanned four years. During the talk, he will show some of the

Fred and Audrey Warth, in diving suits.
beautiful and detailed illustrations created by marine artists, based on
hours of video imagery taken by remote-controlled robotic cameras.

A display of clay pipes, some possibly dating back to the voyageur days,
recovered by the Warths, mostly from the waters of Lake George.

Please share this information with anyone whom you think might be
interested in experiencing second-hand the discovery—and in some
cases, recovery—of remnants of our past that lie unseen at our
doorstep.

Annual Meeting

CCHS’s Annual Meeting was held on April 5. Mary Jo DuVall, Sault Events
cooridnator for the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau shared with us what is in the
works for the 350th birthday of Sault Ste. Marie in 2018. It will be a year of many anniversaries
as well as a celebration of what makes the Sault unique. If you

have ideas for the celebration or want to offer assistance, contact Mary Jo DuVall at Sault
Events; 906-632-3366 or
events@saultste.marie.com.

In her Annual Report to the membership, President Carolyn Person shared that it had been
a busy year: History Camp, quarterly programs, Rendezvous, cataloging the
collection (photos and objects now total over 8,000 on the databases), and the Warth bottle
collection and the Lawrence survey collection were made ready for permanent display. We
paid off the loan for our Façade Project, thanks
to generous membership donations. Building renovation continues to
be top priority, along with History Camp and Rendezvous activities.
The Historic Water Street buildings have new displays each year and
that requires much volunteer time. CCHS remains a thriving
organization with member support and dedicated volunteers.

At the Annual Elections, Sharon Dorrity was nominated and elected
to the CCHS Board for a three-year term ending in April 2020. She is
the Director of Constituent Relations for the LSSU Foundation. We
welcome her to the Board. Six Board members were up for renewal
this year. Bernie Arbic, Ginny Cymbalist, Bob Aldrich, Jim Dwyer,
Patty Olsen, and Karen Sabatine will continue to serve with terms
running through April 2020. The officers will retain their positions
for 2017-18; see page 7 for the list.

Rendezvous in the Sault 2017
By Ginny Cymbalist

The City Hall grounds and the Historic Water Street buildings will
once again be an exciting place the weekend of July 29 and 30 as we
celebrate the 5th Rendezvous in the Sault. This year promises to be
an even bigger event and will extend onto the Brady Park grounds for
some activities. In addition to the French soldiers, there will be a
group of British soldiers with a battle re-enactment between the two.
As usual, there will be entertainment, merchants, food, storytelling,
demonstrations, and much, much more. Admission, which is good for
both days, is $5.00/adult, $2.00/child (under age 12), and
$10.00/family. Admission to the Historic Water Street Homes and
Kemp Industrial Museum and the activities there is included in your
entrance fee. Please check our website regularly for updates.

Volunteers are needed for the food tent, children’s activities, admiss-
ion, and other small jobs so, if you’re willing to give an hour or two
please contact Ginny Cymbalist at ggcymbalist@yahoo.com or 906-
630-2858.

Plans are being finalized; following on the next page is a tentative
schedule:
Saturday, July 29
10:00 a.m. – Grounds Open
10:30 a.m. – Color Ceremony (Brady Park) and Cannon Demonstration
Noon and 3:00 p.m. – 18th Century Military Demonstrations/Tacticals
1:30 p.m. – Butter Churning (Historic Homes)
6:00 p.m. – Grounds Close
8:00 p.m. – LaCompagnie Concert
9:00 p.m. – Paddle Dance

Sunday, July 30
10:00 a.m. – Grounds Open
1:00 p.m. – Butter Churning (Historic Homes)
2:30 p.m. – 18th Century Military Demonstrations
4:00 p.m. – Grounds Close

Throughout the weekend
Storytelling by Genot Picor
Tomahawk Throws
Campsite lectures by Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site Representatives
Merchants
Food and Refreshments
Music by McSpillan and Heritage Strings
Blacksmith Demonstrations
Children’s Voyageur Log Program

Rendezvous in the Sault is sponsored by the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Chippewa County Historical Society with help from other organizations/businesses/individuals. Please see the list on the website.

History Camp 2017
History Camp was held from June 19th through 23rd. Eighteen students ages 9 to 12 participated. Patty Olsen, Ginny Cymbalist, and Sabrina Neveu were the leaders. The major goal of the camp was to prepare for the commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Sault Ste. Marie in 2018. The years 1668 to 1855 were explored this year. Trips were taken to the Sault Diorama, River of History Museum, Soo Locks, and to St. Ignace to the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, Father Marquette Memorial, and Fort De Baude Museum.

Various artists, re-enactors, and historians helped bring history to life for the children. The topics covered included: Father Marquette Mission, French Fur Trade, Saint Lusson, Fort Repentigny, John Johnston, War of 1812, Cass Expedition, Fort Brady I, Henry Schoolcraft’s Indian Agency, Portaging Around the Rapids, New Businesses Develop (including Copper and Iron Mining), and the First Shipping Canal—the State Lock. Thank you to Charles W. Meiser for his generous donation that enabled several children to attend History Camp and to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for their continued support through a $2,000 grant.
Karelia Reprinted
By Bernie Arbic

The Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society (SIHPS) is holding an event at the Finn Hall on Sugar Island on Sunday, July 23, at 4 p.m. The book Karelia: A Finnish-American Couple in Stalin’s Russia, 1934-1941 by Lawrence and Sylvia Hokkanen has recently been reprinted, and SIHPS is hosting the gathering to celebrate the reprinting. Local historian and author Bernie Arbic has written an essay about the book entitled We Sought Joy Afar: From Sugar Island to Karelia and Back, and he will be giving a presentation at the event. Bernie’s essay has been published, and copies of it will be inserted, at no charge, in all copies of Karelia that are sold locally.

“There is no book in my library that I have lent out anywhere nearly as often as I have lent the Hokkanen’s book to friends. It is truly a remarkable story, and I’m so happy that it is available again,” said Bernie.

The July 23 gathering is open to all who are interested. If you knew the Hokkanens, come and share. If you didn’t, or don’t know anything about “Karelian Fever,” you may find this little-known piece of history, with its connection to local people, to be very informative.

What does the Historical Society do?” asks people on the street.
“Oh, we collect area history,” replies the volunteer at the News Building location.

By Carolyn Person

That is part of the mission of the Chippewa County Historical Society. Beginning in 1919 a group of interested citizens gathered to begin saving the early history of the Sault. They donated personal papers, family furniture, and artifacts that they had collected. As the collection grew, it found a home in the Carnegie Library under the care of Librarian Alice Clapp. By the 1950s the collection had grown and a museum was established in the Schoolcraft House at its original location in front of the Power Plant (now Cloverland Electric Cooperative).

About this time the Johnston House was rescued from decay and that home was established as a museum while the Schoolcraft House became offices for Edison Sault Electric. As interest in local history ebbed and flowed, the Society continued to preserve artifacts, papers, and photos. A valuable painting was discovered in the collection; its auctioning created a fund for civic projects around the city and enabled the Society to purchase the News Building at 115 Ashmun Street. The collection is now centralized (as opposed to being stored in various locations) and cataloging is taking place.

In addition to the displays located in the Johnston, Schoolcraft, Baraga, and Kemp historic buildings, some of the CCHS collection is on loan to the River of History Museum and the Tower of History. The Society has published books on Sault history, members give talks, and local businesses display photos from our collection. Members are promoting local history in the area schools whenever the occasion arises. History Camp has been offered for children for several years now.

We are interested in “anything old” (sorry women, we will not accept that old man you are living with) that has a connection to the Sault and Chippewa County. Remember the “stuff” from our childhood dates back to over 50 years (egad) and is considered history. Check out the Historic Water Street buildings and the News Building to see the memories and old things that have been preserved there.

Chippewa County Historical Society collects area history.

Another Part of CCHS
By Carolyn Person

In early June, eight Board members and two docents met at the Historic Water Street Homes and Kemp Industrial Museum to begin the process of readying them for the summer season. They officially opened on Engineers Weekend, June 30th. Many of the artifacts are stored at CCHS over the winter and are moved into the four buildings in late spring. Dust, spider webs, and leaves were banished, pictures hung, the goose was returned to its place in the Schoolcraft Dependency, and the new displays for the Kemp Industrial Museum were put in place. This is another example of our mission to share the history of the Sault area. Even though the buildings are owned by the City and the financial part is governed by Sault Historic Sites, the
CCHS is responsible for displays and signage and for recruiting volunteer docents. The docents are provided with a script written by one of our Board members. We are proud of the contribution the buildings make to the history of the Sault, but are discouraged by the lack of funds and interest in promoting these to tourists. There are a lot of “old things” in the buildings (including some of us workers) that give the viewer a time travel into the past. If you haven’t stopped by the Historic Water Street buildings in a while, please take time this season to tour them and remind yourself of the Sault’s history.

**Historic Water Street Homes & the Kemp Industrial Museum**

This year the buildings are open every day from Friday, June 30 through Sunday, Sept. 3, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Learn about the people and life during the early days of the Sault by visiting the John Johnston House (1823), the Henry Rowe Schoolcraft House and Indian Agency (1827), the Bishop Frederic Baraga House (1860), and the Kemp Coal Dock Office (1904). They are located on Water Street, near the Museum Ship Valley Camp and are sponsored by the City of Sault Ste. Marie, CCHS, and Sault Historic Sites. Admission is $3.00/adult, $2.00/child age 6-12, $8.00/Family, and free/5 years & under. Discounted Combination Tickets are available for purchase at the Museum Ship Valley Camp for four historic sites in the Sault.

**Gifts of the Gianakura Family**

Recently, Joy and Cathy, the daughters of beloved Saultites Peter and Georgia Gianakura, were in town taking care of family business and donated several items from the American Café and its predecessor, an ice cream and candy store. Joy and Cathy are shown here sitting in the American Café booth donated by their parents and installed at CCHS eight years ago. They are holding the sign they just donated that will be installed above the café exhibit. A marble slab used in the family’s first business for making fudge and other candy was also donated along with portraits of business founders, brothers Chris and Sam Gianakura and a dedication sign. Additional donations included menus from the American Café and copies of Peter’s memoir *An American Café — Reflections from the Grill* that are available for purchase in the Gift Shop. Several months ago the family donated books and business papers to CCHS. We extend our thanks to the Gianakura family for their continued generosity to CCHS.

**Lake Superior Power Company Artifact**

*By Bernie Arbic*

Anyone who is alive today and grew up in Sault Ste. Marie probably has vivid memories from their childhood, as I do, of the power canal—this powerful “river” cutting through town that turns our downtown into an island.

First efforts to build the canal began in 1887, but that group of investors, known as the “LaCrosse Syndicate,” ran out of money and the project languished until about 1895, when Francis Clergue brought the Lake Superior Power Company from the Ontario side of the river to Sault, Michigan to resume development. Work began again under that company, but by 1898, a subsidiary had been created, known as the Michigan Lake Superior Power Company, which brought the project to completion. Hydropower has been generated almost without interruption at the powerhouse since 1902.

The CCHS was recently given a manhole cover with the letters “L S P Co,” standing for Lake Superior Power Company, on it. The gift came from the Cox family, owners for several generations of the Soo Builders’ Supply Company, whose property abuts the canal from

![Photo courtesy of Susan James](Photo by Bernie Arbic)
Johnston Street toward the powerhouse. During recent work on the canal bank, the contractor discovered the manhole cover, which gave access to a large and apparently long-forgotten valve. A new cover was installed, and the old cover was left with Soo Builders’. They offered it to CCHS, and we gladly accepted it. We now have a very tangible vestige—approximately one-hundred pounds of iron—of the brief period of time in the power canal history when it was owned by Lake Superior Power Company.

We are grateful to the Cox family for this gift, which is now on display at the Kemp Industrial Museum on Water Street, near the Kemp Marina. It is a nice addition to the photos and other articles we have to represent the industrial part of Sault Ste. Marie’s history. Come check it out!

Opening of the Poe Lock
By Jim Dwyer

An unusual item was found in the Soo Democrat newspaper of August 6, 1896. It was a relatively brief article entitled “THE NEW LOCK IS OPEN.” A secondary headline read in smaller letters, “NO PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION.” The third headline did relate that “one of the greatest engineering feats in the history of our country had occurred.”

The new lock was the Poe, described as the largest and most substantial lock in the world. It was cited as “a work that will long live in the history of this country as a marvel of engineering skill and of man’s ingenuity.”

The editor stated that front page, big headline coverage of such an accomplishment would typically bring a great public demonstration. The absence of such a demonstration had been thoroughly discussed at the War Department and a conclusion was reached that out of respect to the late General Poe it would be a relatively quiet affair. Since his “one greatest wish was to live long enough to see the completion of the work destined to serve as an enduring monument to his memory the event should be marked with no great public demonstration.” Poe had died on October 2, 1895.

The honor of making the first locking was awarded to the revenue cutter Andy Johnson. The locking was delayed briefly due to a bolt in the capstan that works the upper gates coming loose. Three boats entered the canal, which was a signal for all boats in the vicinity to let off steam, and the screeching of whistles for a few minutes could be heard in every part of the city. When the boats passed out into the river below, the first locking was pronounced a success.

Cemetery Tours

Our June cemetery tour was not held this year, but there are plans in the works for an October one. Tour leader Caroline Grabowski may be offering a new one—at Pine Grove Cemetery. There will be more information about it in our next newsletter.

Antique Appraisal Day

On Saturday, July 29—either before or after your visit to Rendezvous—you may want to stop by Bayliss Public Library for an Antique and Collectible Appraisal event. Appraiser Mark F. Moran of Iola, Wisconsin, will be there from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for his third year of doing appraisals at the library. The event promises to be a fun, educational experience combining information, history, and entertainment.

Mark Moran has been an appraiser for more than 20 years, a guest expert on PBS’s Antiques Roadshow, a contributing editor to Antique Trader magazine, and co-author of over 25 books on antiques and collectibles. The charge per item to be appraised is $10.00; you may have more than one item appraised. You must register and pay in advance at the library; space is limited. The appraisals will be verbal, not written. Estimated appraisal times will be provided, but it is best to arrive early.

Whether you bring an item or not, you may be part of the audience and watch Mark Moran in action. He will appraise most items, including: fine art, furniture, ceramics, glassware, vintage photographs, advertising, folk art, assorted toys, metalware, clocks, costume jewelry, musical instruments, books, and sporting memorabilia. He does not appraise weapons, traps, Nazi memorabilia, coins and paper...
money, fine jewelry, precious gems, or Beanie Babies.

The library has a more detailed list of categories he can appraise, including some that may need advance preparation. For $75.00 an hour, Mr. Moran is also available to visit your home to assess your collection, if you live within 10 miles of the library. For more information, see www.markfmoran.com. For more information on the event, call the library at 632-9331 or check www.baylisslibrary.org. Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library, is located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie.

Save the Dates:

July 12, 7 p.m.—Tom Farnquist will speak about “Diving the St. Marys River: Hidden History Recovered”

July 23, 4 p.m.—Karelia event at the Finn Hall on Sugar Island sponsored by the Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society

July 29, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Concert at 8 p.m.) & July 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.—Fifth Annual Rendezvous in the Sault

Gift Shop

The CCHS Gift Shop is open Mondays through Thursdays, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to help volunteer, please contact us at 635-7082 or email cchs@sault.com. Thank you to volunteers Karen Sabatine, Ruth Neveu, Shawna and Rowan Mauldin, and Susan James for working in the Shop. Thank you too to Norbert Bennin for our new cash register. You may also check out our online offerings at cchsmi.com. During Shop hours you are also welcome to call in or stop by to renew your membership or make a donation on your charge card.

Thank you to the following people and businesses. We greatly appreciate your support.

Our apologies for inadvertently leaving some of our January membership renewals and donations out of our April River Soundings.

Life Members:
Tom & Sharon Cox
Mary C. O’Connor

New Members:
Gary R. Johnson
Clarice E. Walsh

Membership Renewals:
David W. Babington
Bunker Manufacturing, Inc.

Marilyn J. Burton
Peter & Georgia Gianakura
David Knowles
Audrey J. LeLievre
Joyce Mansfield
Shawna Mauldin
Richard Noble
Pingatore Cleaners Inc.
Sault Lions Club
Ken & Dianne Schmitigal
Brian Smith
Cherie & Thomas Tocco
Paul & Moira Wilson

Façade Project:
David W. Babington

Donations:
David W. Babington
Marilyn J. Burton
Gary R. Johnson
Audrey J. LeLievre
Sault Lions Club
Timothy T. Tilson

Volunteers:
Dawn Aldrich, Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Ginny & Gil Cymbalist, Sharon Dorrity, Jim Dwyer, Karen Finke, Dennis Hank, Bob Hopper, Ken Hopper, Lee Ann Izzard, Nathan Izzard, Susan James, Eileen Jokinen, Hank Jones, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod, Joyce Mansfield, Rowan Mauldin, Shawna Sauldin, Ruth Neveu, Kathy Newcomb, Patty Olsen, Shirley Patrick, Carolyn Person, Chris Person, Cris Roll, Karen Sabatine, Dee Stevens, Les Townsend

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Newsletter Designer:
Connie Thompson

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Carolyn Person, President
Mary M. June, Past President
Bernie Arbic, Treasurer
Virginia Cymbalist, Recording Secretary
Susan James, Corresponding Secretary

Robert Aldrich, Sharon Dorrity, Jim Dwyer, Dennis Hank, Shawna Mauldin, Patty Olsen, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Mark Van Doren
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 $___
- Façade Project: $____

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________ State ___________ Zip _______________________
Email __________________________________________

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

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

Join us on Wednesday, July 12, 7 p.m. to hear Tom Farnquist speak about “Diving the St. Marys River: Hidden History Recovered” at CCHS, 115 Ashmun Street.

Office Hours:
Mondays and Fridays at back door

Gift Shop Hours:
Mondays-Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. at front door

Upcoming Events

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