Theresa Schenck, “The Saulteurs Meet the French”

CCHS is pleased to announce that Dr. Theresa Schenck will once again be visiting the Sault. On this trip she will speak at the Society’s annual meeting, on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at Bayliss Public Library. Using French letters and records, Dr. Schenck will discuss some 17th and 18th century events that took place at Sault Ste. Marie and their effects on the first People of the Sault.

Dr. Schenck, a Professor Emeritus from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, taught in the American Indian Studies Program there. Before teaching at UW-Madison, she taught at Washington State University and First Nations Studies at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Schenck received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Rutgers University. In 1997 she was the recipient of the Native American Fulbright Scholarship to Canada. She is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation and has Ojibwe descent through her grandmother.


Dr. Schenck will enlighten us on little known events in the Sault and help us better understand early interactions between the first People of the Sault and the French. Several of her books will be available for purchase and signing.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library, is located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie. Since the library will be otherwise closed that evening, please enter by the front door that leads directly into the Community Room. Parking will also be available in adjacent parking lots.

Annual Meeting

According to CCHS’s By Laws, April is when CCHS holds its Annual Meeting. This year, however, it will take place on Wednesday, May 2, at 7 p.m., at Bayliss Library. A brief business meeting and elections will be held prior to a program by historian and author Theresa Schenck.

This is also the time of year when Board members’ terms expire. This year the following Board members’ terms will end: Susan James, Janet Russell, Shawna Maudlin, and Mark Van Doren. The Nomination Committee of Patty Olsen and Sharon Dorrity will present the slate for three-year terms on CCHS’s Board of Directors at the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Officers of the Board will be chosen at the next Board meeting.

River of Destiny

By Bernie Arbic

This year Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the establishment in 1668 of the Jesuit “Mission du Sault de Sainte Marie.” Many special events are planned, or have already taken place, to help commemorate the anniversary. CCHS was heavily involved with the creation by the Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau of the special 18-month calendar that features many historical photos, and a pair of very old maps that we provided—one, of Lake Superior, going back to 1672, and the other, of the city of Sault Ste. Marie, going back to 1888. (The calendars are still available at CCHS! They can be ordered on our website, or purchased in our Gift Shop after we open for the season.)

Another effort we are currently working on is the reprinting of the classic history of the Sault area—River of Destiny: The Saint Marys River, by Joseph and Estelle Bayliss, with Dr. Milo Quaife. The book
is still under a copyright owned by the original publisher, Wayne State University Press. We paid a licensing fee of $1,500 to them, and that allows us to print up to 800 copies of the book. We have had to scan the book, convert the page images to text using optical character recognition software, and then have the resulting text laid out in a PDF format that a printer can use to produce the book. CCHS personnel most heavily involved so far have been Susan James and Bernie Arbic. Connie Thompson, who helps us each quarter by laying out this newsletter, has done the work of paginating the book to make it look as close to the original copy as we can get, and then getting it printer-ready in a PDF format. We are close to sending it to a printer!

Our long-time friend Bill Gerrish has created a beautiful cover for the new edition of the book; he used a photo of the Edward L. Ryerson by Roger LeLievre prominently on the front cover, and a wonderful drawing of his own (at my urging) of a tug towing three schooners on the back cover. Our commemorative reprint has a Foreword by Bernie Arbic, and contains all of the images in the original book (or similar views) as well as several additional images.

Grants from The Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation, the Friends of Bayliss Public Library, and the city’s Chase S. Osborn Historical Trust have helped immensely in making this project feasible financially.

_River of Destiny_ was first published in 1955, but it has been out of print for decades. The original publication intentionally coincided with the Centennial Celebration of the first lock at the Sault. So the timing of this reprint echoes the earlier celebration. It also is meant to honor Joseph and Estelle Bayliss, whose generous bequest built the Bayliss Public Library building. A gift of Dow Chemical stock from their estate has also benefited CCHS enormously. We plan for the book to be available starting in early June on our website, in our Gift Shop, and in many stores in the Sault. If you don’t already own the original book, we hope you will consider getting our Commemorative Edition this summer.

**Another Interpretive Panel Project**

By Bernie Arbic

If you live in the Sault area, you may have heard about the Power Canal Trail for non-motorized use being planned by the City, that will run along the south side of the power canal from the bridge on West Portage Avenue to Johnston Street. This strip of land once contained a railroad spur that ran all the way to Alford Park, where the Union Carbide factory once stood. The plans call for an asphalt path ten feet wide for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

At various points along the path there will be benches, trash receptacles, trees, bicycle repair stations, and—most relevant to this newsletter article—interpretive signage. CCHS has been contracted by the City to produce text and images that will highlight the history of the power canal itself, the powerhouse, and other historical topics that may be near the canal, or relate to it in some way. Current plans call for eight interpretive panels, for which we have begun to assemble information and images.

We have experience with this type of project, since we were heavily involved with the interpretive signage on Water Street, and also at Rotary Island Park. Our extensive collection of old photographs is invaluable in this effort; our “Cloverland Collection” consists of about 1,000 glass negatives taken over one hundred years ago during the excavation of the canal and the building of the powerhouse, and our “Walter Materna Collection” now contains about 2,700 scanned images covering a wide variety of topics. Incidentally, one image that we DON’T have is a picture that shows a train somewhere along the spur mentioned above, so if any of you have such a picture, please contact us about its possible use on one of the panels.

The photo above and on the next page show one of the signs we helped create on Water Street—this one is on the edge of Brady Park.
opposite the City Hall. The close-up gives an idea of their typical appearance. We’re proud to be involved in this new project that will make our city more friendly to pedestrians, strollers, and cyclists; we hope to help make the Power Canal Trail an interesting place—for both locals and visitors—to spend time and learn a bit of our community’s history.

“Anishinaabek Presence in the Bahweting Area”

By Mary M. June

Those who attended CCHS’s January meeting found the presentation, “Anishinaabek Presence in the Bahweting Area” to be extremely interesting. The informal presentation was provided by Colleen Medicine, the current Sault Tribe cultural repatriation specialist and Cecil Pavlat, Sr., the former repatriation specialist. The program lasted about an hour followed by a question-and-answer session.

Colleen and Cecil provided a tribal perspective on the history of the Bahweting area and some interesting insights about their tribe’s beliefs and traditions. Cecil emphasized that “We’re still here”—active, contributing partners in today’s society, of which they are very proud. Learning more about the thousands of years of Anishinaabe connections to our area was a great way to begin the commemoration of the 350th year of European settlement in the Sault. The Anishinaabe were here first and are still an important part of our community.

CCHS hopes that this will be the start of future collaboration opportunities. In fact, a series of Tribal Talks has resulted from this event. Every month of this year Sault Events is hosting a themed talk at Bayliss Library by Sault Tribe members. Contact any of the organizations for more information.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted: Do you enjoy washing windows? Or are you at least willing to volunteer a couple of hours doing so? We need help washing the windows of the Historic Water Street Homes and Kemp Industrial Museum. If you’d like to volunteer, contact Ginny Cymbalist, ggycymbalist@yahoo.com or 906-630-2858 or leave a message at CCHS, 906-635-7082.

Rendezvous in the Sault: Volunteers for Rendezvous are always welcomed. We need ticket sellers to sell admission tickets (this is a sit-down job) and people to work in the food tent (serving, making soup, or cooking brats). You may sign up for either two or four-hour time blocks. Contact Ginny Cymbalist, ggycymbalist@yahoo.com or 906-630-2858, or leave a message at CCHS.

SAVE THE DATES:

Rendezvous in the Sault: This year Rendezvous will be even bigger and better so mark your calendars for July 28 and 29.

History Camp 2018: Camp will be held June 18-22 this year. We can take 20 campers and spaces are already being reserved so, if you know students who are finishing grades 3–6 and would like to learn more about Sault Ste. Marie history, contact us soon. For registration information and forms, contact Ginny Cymbalist, ggycymbalist@yahoo.com or 906-630-2858 or leave a message at CCHS.

UP History Conference 2018: The Historical Society of Michigan’s conference will be held in St. Ignace from June 22-24. Our own Bernie Arbic will be speaking about “We Sought Joy Afar, from Sugar Island to Karelia and Back.”

Historic Water Street

The Historic Water Street Houses and Kemp Industrial Museum will be open 7 days a week from Engineer’s Day (June 29) through Labor Day. Hours are from noon until 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, group tours can be arranged from May 15-Engineer’s Day and from Labor Day through September 30. These buildings are Sault Ste. Marie’s hidden treasures and CCHS provides displays and artifacts; hires, trains and schedules docents; and oversees their general operation. Plan to visit this summer and see what changes have been made.

Gift Shop

The CCHS Gift Shop will be opening in mid-June for the summer season. New this year will be Saturday hours, thanks to Shawna and Rowan Mauldin. We are also looking to add new book titles and
items in the shop and will be changing the displays in the front area. So stop by to say hi and see what’s new.

**From the Treasurer**  
*By Bernie Arbic*

During most recent years, we have created and published “pie charts” to show you what the main sources of our revenues are, and where we spend those dollars. Here are the charts for 2017. On both the revenue side and the expenditure side, the pies are dominated by the same item: the completion of the major “Facade Project.” Finishing the payoff of the loan cost over $26,000—thus the over-sized piece of the expenditure pie labeled “Building Improvements and Maintenance.” In a normal year, this category is under ten percent of our budget.

**2017 Expenditures**  
*By Bernie Arbic*

In order to pay off that loan, we sold a portion of our stock portfolio, which generated just over $20,000. This is only the first or second time in the two decades that I have been treasurer that we have dipped into our legacy stock portfolio—a large part of which came to us through the generosity of Joseph and Estelle Bayliss about fifty years ago. Don’t be misled by the large piece of the revenue pie created by the stock sale, which was a rare event. It makes the other categories, as percentages of the total revenues, much smaller than they normally are. Year after year, “Sales” and “Project Receipts” generate upwards of forty percent of our revenues. And your financial support through membership dues and donations continues to be critical to our ongoing mission of preserving and promoting our local history.

**Ann Street History**  
*By Deidre Stevens*

By the 1890s, the Sault was already starting to realize the bright future predicted by Chase S. Osborn in 1887. Newly arrived himself, he called the Sault “the Chicago of the North.” An advertisement in the Feb. 11, 1888 *Sault Ste. Marie News* said that the population had doubled in a year.

With lands made available by lock and railroad projects, many came to the area to establish farms in the 1870s. Many of these, as well, came from Scotland by way of Southern Ontario. One of these was Robert Newton Adams, who in 1879 purchased 148 acres of land from Thomas Ryan, and established a dairy farm he named Sprucedale Farm, which he operated for seven years. The limits of the farm were approximately Superior Street, Eighth Avenue, Ashmun Street and the vicinity of Parker’s Hardware today. As the city grew furiously, Adams subdivided his property, starting with the section from Pine to Ann to Easterday in 1887. The westernmost portion of Ann was later abandoned, and the house in the photo accompanying this article was built in it.

![Photo](https://example.com/ann-street-history-photo.jpg)  
*Photo by Andrew E. Young, from CCHS Collection*

This photo was taken between 1947 and 1953, when Jarvie’s Food Market was in business. Jarvie’s appears at immediate right. Farther west on Ann is a shoe shop that may have been the precursor to the building where Upper Crust Pizza is today. It was located in the parking lot just west of the building. West of that are 209 and 211 Ann, a grocery store and meat market. The building at 211 was demolished in recent years; 209 recently held Hatfield-Roy Interiors. At the end of the street is a house a block beyond Ashmun, where Ann Street was abandoned.

Adams’s wife was the former Elizabeth Ann Carr. Ann was the middle name of his wife and his daughter. Later streets in an Adams subdivision were, of course, Newton and Adams, but also Augusta for
the oldest daughter who married W.F. Ferguson, and John for son John Newton Adams. Sadly, daughters Lillian and Gertrude, and sons George and Clement never had streets named for them. Some sources indicate that Amanda Street, just north of Ann, was named for an Adams daughter who died as a baby, and it does lie on the north edge of the old Adams farm, but Amanda Street was in a subdivision that was platted in its entirety as Comptrollers No. 2.

At the heart of the Ann Street district was an early school, but it did not last long. Ann Street School was at the back of the lot on the northwest corner of Bingham and Ann, behind the present location of Upper Crust Pizza. It was part of a temporary solution to the huge demand for classroom space in the 1890s. An article in the Sault News at the beginning of the 1897 school year listed the following schools: Central High, South Side, Fourth Ward, Portage, Seymour, Second Ward, Ann Street and Neaseville. Very shortly, more substantial buildings resulted, making many of these temporary structures unnecessary. Closest schools to the Ann district were Washington, on Pine Street south of West Ann and South Ravine, and north of Easterday; and Lincoln, which in early days was on the east side of Minneapolis between Adams and Newton. The old Washington School was built in 1896 as the South Side School, but as the Lincoln School shortly joined it, it was decided to give former presidents’ names to the schools to avoid confusion.

Businesses began to fill in down Ashmun and along Ann by the turn of the 20th century. Part of the reason for this may have been the second of two major fires on Water Street in August of 1896, but the construction of the first Poe Lock and the promise of water power was making the city grow by leaps and bounds, and probably much of the available space closer to the river was already taken.

Neighborhoods were beginning to be established, notably Little Italy south of the canal and west of Ashmun, made up in large part by Tannery and Union Carbide employees and their families. North of Ann Street, Court to Bingham, was for many years the Soo Lumber Company. Eventually, when the Earle family left for greener pastures in the western Upper Peninsula, Maurice Hunt subdivided this area.

Some of the first to find their way to the Ann-Ashmun corner were C.H. Moore, grocer, on the northwest side of the intersection, and the aforementioned Armstrong on the southeast side of the corner. Armstrong had bought his property from Mrs. C.S. Wheatley. The Wheatleys retained a grocery storage building that still stands today just east of the intersection, but they also had grocery stores in the old Whalen block on the northeast corner of Ashmun and Spruce, and at 306½ East Easterday.

A longtime staple of the neighborhood was the Brooklyn House Hotel, which was at the southwest corner of Court and Ann streets as early as 1895. Now, to call it a “hotel” was charitable; probably the horse barn in connection with it was better established, but it was a cornerstone of the neighborhood, and remains so to the present day. In 1919 it was bought by the Free Methodist Church and was used by the congregation until it built its current building on the old Camp Lucas grounds just off Fourth Avenue. In 1976, St. Joseph Catholic Church bought the building to use as its thrift shop. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate the building hasn’t changed much during its long history.

In 1935, when the Ashmun Street Bridge was rebuilt, the area was experiencing a renaissance. A special edition of The Evening News on Jan. 31, 1935 was devoted to the South Side merchants. Following is a list of some of the businesses that were located in the area, based on this article, the Polk City directories, and other notes from the pages of early Sault newspapers.

On Ann Street between Court and Ashmun in 1887, C.S. Bush had a carriage works. He later moved to 719 Court St. (1913). On Ann west of Court was Gideon Aitkins, blacksmith, from 1915 to 1925. He had previously been associated with the Brooklyn Hotel stable, which was west of the hotel on Ann. At 648 Court Street was another wagon...
By 1908 a staple of the neighborhood, Hough and Williams Grocery, and Chippewa Meat Market, was established at 211 Ann. This became Williams and Bye Meat Market from 1937 to 1952. A still-extant building with a long history is 209 Ann. It began as George Markham, painter, in 1913. C.H. Moore, grocer, moved from 826 Ashmun in 1929, remaining until 1946. Bye’s Grocery followed, from 1946 to 1954, followed by Smith’s Grocery from 1956 to 1961. Stanaway Plumbing & Heating was at 209 and 211 Ann from 1964 to 1985. Until very recently, Bourque and Roy/Hatfield and Roy interior decorators was located there. The Dairy Queen was opened in 1956, probably in a new building that has housed Upper Crust Pizza since 2007.

Across the street on the northeast side of Bingham and Ann, Joseph Maltais built a branch pharmacy in 1927 that was open until his death in 1944. From 1947 to 1953, the building was Sulho Jarvis’s Food Market. That building is now occupied by Langendorf and Associates, Certified Public Accountants.

1,400 People Arrive in the Soo for Annual Chiropractor Convention in 1939
By Jim Dwyer

At the end of June, 1939, a four day weekend was arranged for the community to host the annual meeting of the Michigan Chiropractic Society. Upwards of 1,400 people arrived, mostly from Michigan locations. There were some attendees from several other states and the Canadian province of Ontario. Merchants were encouraged to put their American flags on their buildings and many community resources were mobilized to properly accommodate the visitors.

Several buildings were utilized to host events that included informational and training sessions for the practitioners. Sessions were also provided for spouses, children, and guests. The initial meeting was on the opening morning at the Ritchie Auditorium at the Sault High School. An address was given by Mayor Paul Adams. His talk included a statement that the Indians made the Soo their meeting place long before the white man came. “The white man has come to realize this is a beautiful place to meet,” he said. A nighttime meeting was held in the Baraga Auditorium at the Loretto School.

One of the highlights of the convention was an award given to Dr. F.O. Logic of Iron Mountain. He was Executive Director of the National Chiropractic Association. He was made an honorary member of the Ojibway Indian tribe in a ceremony. Presentation of membership was made by Chief Antoine Bonno of the Sault. Dr. Logic was given the honorary title of Chief Chimm-Ski-Ke-Onin-Nen or “Big Medicine Man.” The accomplishments cited were for his serving in Boy Scout work, serving overseas in the World War, and being a leader in the American Legion and VFW. He also had served in many high offices in the chiropractic arena. I was unable to discern what those accomplishments had to do with matters specifically beneficial to Natives. It seems logical that Dr. Logic himself may have been of Native American heritage.

The Evening News reported that sufficient lodging was found through local hotels, cabins and private residences for the guests. There had been an effort to arranging for housing for people in a ship called the Alabama, but that attempt didn’t succeed.

Dr. William P. Brownell, a Washington D.C. chiropractor, introduced new and interesting discoveries in the profession. He used picture slides, lectured and answered questions. He emphasized that effectiveness depended upon individual skill, knowledge, experience and adaptability. Regular, consistent outcomes were the key to success, not “flashy” results he stated.

Chiropractor, A.M. Edling, of Sault Ste. Marie, was commended for the “efficient way in which he conducted the assembly and arrangements he made for the entertainment of the visitors.”

In their final meeting, the outcome for the election of officers for 1940 was announced. The last event was a Grand Ball at the Wilds Pavilion on Riverside Drive.

Our Mission Statement
By Carolyn Person

At least once a year the CCHS Board reviews the Mission Statement of the organization. Our goal is to promote an appreciation of the history of the Upper Peninsula and Chippewa County.

Since 1919 the Society has been collecting artifacts that were used by area inhabitants from the early 1800s: everything from early deeds to the furniture used by the Johnston and Schoolcraft families and early photographs of the area, such as a wonderful collection of the power canal construction and images of Sault businesses and activities from the 1880s to the present day that includes a portion of the 2,500 scanned and cataloged pictorial views of life in the area. Our entire collection currently includes over 8,000 cataloged entries. All data entry has been accomplished by volunteers.

Preservation means rescuing Sault history from the basements and back rooms of homes and accepting dusty boxes and old artifacts that the owners no longer have space for or interest in.

We depend on donations and it is amazing how some “old thing” can contribute to the Soo story.

Exhibiting is the fun part. The Historic Homes on Water Street house some of the early artifacts in our collection. The River of History Museum and the Tower of History also display items from the CCHS collections. We have exhibits set up in our building sharing space with the gift shop.
Interpreting represents hours of research, interviewing and visiting sites in the area. More often than not a researcher will start in one direction and end up with lots of material covering several topics. Eventually something connects and the story is presented.

We involve audiences of all ages by offering Summer History Camp, school activities and demonstrations. Programs and talks are offered regularly aligning the old with the new.

CCHS leadership takes the mission seriously. The generous donations and freely given volunteer help make it possible to carry out that mission. Without you, a supporting member, CCHS would not be able to keep Sault history alive. Thank you.

New email
Please note that we are gradually switching to a new email address. It is history@cchsmi.com. In addition, please keep us informed of any changes to your email address when you renew your membership.

Your Name
123 Your Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Membership due date

Check your address label for your time to renew. Your due date is now calculated by your payment date. Lifetime members have no renewal date.

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

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Newsletter Contributors:
Susan James, Bernie Arbic, Carolyn Person, Ginny Cymbalist, Jim Dwyer, Deidre Stevens

Newsletter Designer:
Connie Thompson

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

Office Hours:
Mondays and Fridays at back door.
Please call ahead, 635-7082.

Gift Shop Hours:
Open during office hours and by appointment.
Otherwise closed until mid-June.

Soo Locks Park
Water Street
Ashmun Street
Portage Avenue

Parking

Upcoming Event
Join us on Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at Bayliss Public Library for a talk by Theresa Schenck on “The Saulteurs Meet the French.”

Office Hours:
Mondays and Fridays at back door.
Please call ahead, 635-7082.