Tom Kelly, “The Demise of the Andrea Doria”

You are invited to CCHS’s next general meeting that will be held at Bayliss Public Library. Tom Kelly, a retired Professor of Sociology and Psychology at Lake Superior State University, will speak on Thursday, January 19 at 7 p.m. about “The Demise of the Andrea Doria: An Italian Post-War Dream Destroyed.” In July 1956 he was aboard the Italian passenger liner having completed four years of study in Rome where he was ordained as a priest. The 697-foot vessel was hit by the Swedish liner Stockholm in a dense fog south of Nantucket off the Atlantic coast of the U.S. The accident led to a massive rescue effort in which Kelly took an active role. His talk about his experience is co-sponsored by CCHS and Bayliss Library. The program is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be provided. The event will demonstrate the importance of recording and preserving the stories of community and family members. (See the article on oral histories on page 3.)

Visit CCHS during Downtown Ice Festival

CCHS’s train displays will be on view during the Downtown Winter Ice Festival on Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28. If you missed seeing the model trains at our December Open Houses, this would be a great opportunity to view them. On Friday, from 5-7 p.m. and on Saturday, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., CCHS will be open. Come in and warm up and enjoy some refreshments. The events are free to the public, but donations are welcome. While you are there, take a look at our other displays and the Gift Shop.

Larry Chabot’s “Twelve True Soo Tales”

Author Larry Chabot, of Marquette, spoke at CCHS’s general meeting in October that was held at Bayliss Public Library. An audience of about 35 people heard him speak about “Twelve True Soo Tales” of visitors to Sault Ste. Marie, including Mark Twain and John Dillinger. Chabot generously donated copies of his research material to CCHS for our vertical files. His books: The U.P. Goes to War: Upper Michigan and Its Heroes in World War II and Saving Our
Sons: How the Civilian Conservation Corps Rescued a Generation of Upper Michigan Men are both available to purchase through the CCHS website or Gift Shop.

Maple Ridge Cemetery Tour
Caroline Grabowski led a spooky October tour of Maple Ridge Cemetery that was co-sponsored by Superior District Library’s NEA Big Read grant. About 30 people attended CCHS’s bi-annual fundraiser and learned stories of some early Sault residents. The Cup of the Day provided seasonal coffees. 2017 cemetery tours will be held in June and October; dates and locations to be determined.

Over There!
Dan Sherman returned to the Sault in November for an event in honor of Veterans Day. He spoke about his father, Pete Sherman’s World...
War II experiences in Europe that he researched for a book for his family which became a display for CCHS. The display, “Over There! Pete Sherman’s Letters Home from Army Service in World War II, April 11, 1944 to May 23, 1946,” was on view at CCHS before the installation of the holiday train display. It will be on view again in the coming year. A copy of Sherman’s book is available either to view at CCHS or to borrow for home use.

**Holiday Open Houses**  
By Ginny Cymbalist

CCHS’s December open houses were very successful. There were at least 160 visitors each day who enjoyed the model train layouts and displays. Once again, Gil Cymbalist and CCHS Board member Dennis Hank spent hours planning and constructing the larger and more involved layout. Paul Duesing contributed buildings, as well as his expertise and time. Garryn and Rylin Ordway, their mother, Patty, and Lee Ann Izzard lent their hands to the construction and then Dennis helped the boys construct their own very popular layouts in the stage room. It was great to have these young model train enthusiasts participate. We hope to see you on January 27 and 28 when the trains will again be on view.

**Potter’s Field Plaque**  
Caroline Grabowski, our cemetery tour guide, embarked on a campaign to raise money for a memorial plaque for the Protestant section of Riverside Cemetery. With the help of local organizations and residents, the sign was dedicated on November 1 at a ceremony involving Reverend Robert Aldrich of St. James Episcopal Church and Caroline Grabowski, both CCHS Board members, and Sault Mayor, Tony Bosbous. The plaque identifies the names of the 287 who were buried there between 1890 and 1935. The Bay Mills News published the list of names in their November 2016 issue.

**Oral Histories**  
By Carolyn Person

Do you enjoy talking about those times in the past when life was different? Do you like to hear some of the stories about the good old days? Is it fun to talk to the other members of your coffee group about past times?

We would like to invite you to our own coffee group where those stories could be recorded. Oral history is another aspect of history that is part of the CCHS collection. What do we talk about? Do you remember the trolley? What was the Soo like in the War years? What was fishing like that day when you caught the huge Pike? Your parents grew up on the farm and those were the days. You see the topics are endless and, yes, just random simple happenings.

They are fun and interesting as the stories unfold. Call CCHS and Let’s Talk!
By Bernie Arbic

In our July, 2011 edition of this newsletter, we included a story about a collection of artifacts owned by the CCHS. (You can read that article easily online, if you go to our website cchsni.com and under the membership tab, click on newsletters). The objects were fashioned from portions of surveying markers—bearing trees, witness trees, and line trees—by a man named Harold C. “Larry” Lawrence. Harold worked for the Newberry Chemical and Lumber Company from 1926 to 1947, and then moved to Wisconsin. Over the course of his career, he re-surveyed many parcels of woodland in the Upper Peninsula. Sometimes, he would find remnants of survey markers that were created by early Michigan surveyors such as William Burt in the original survey of the Upper Peninsula. If they were in good enough condition, he brought them home, and, using his talents as a meticulous craftsman, he fashioned beautiful and enduring artifacts to preserve and pay tribute to an important part of the development of Northern Michigan.

The purpose of this article is to share some things that we learned after the 2011 article was written. The “back-story” illustrates the power of our internet presence, because it definitely would not have happened without that presence.

As it happens, one of Lawrence’s grandsons, Bill Lawrence, was “googling” his grandfather Harold C. Lawrence. By following various links in his search, he came across our 2011 newsletter piece, which contained a statement that “we don’t know a lot about H.C. Lawrence… anyone who knows more about him is invited to contact CCHS.” The family contacted us in June, 2016, and told us that Tom Lawrence, a son of Harold, would like to talk to us, and would be happy to share lots of information about his father. We learned that Tom’s mother died relatively young, and Harold remarried. After Harold passed away, Tom and his siblings lost touch with their step-mother, and consequently, they knew nothing about the fate of the collection that Harold had assembled over the years. They were delighted to know that the collection had survived, and was,
apparently, in good hands. This past Labor Day weekend, Tom and his wife Jean, Bill and his wife Marie, and Tom’s daughter Jodi and her husband Mike Siehoff made a trip to the Sault, specifically to see the collection, which only Tom and Jean had ever laid eyes on before. It was an emotional and joyful sight for Tom, at 84 years of age, to see pieces that he remembered his father making, and explaining to house guests seven decades ago. Quite naturally, the family wondered just how the collection had wound up back in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, after it had been taken to Wisconsin when Harold moved there in the late 1940s.

That question prompted us to try to fill in several details that we ourselves didn’t know. One clue led us back to Mr. David Quimby—a man who had worked for Lake Superior State University for a time, and then went to St. Norbert’s College in Green Bay. Shortly before he retired from that position, St. Norbert’s was the recipient of a bequest that included a cabin in northern Wisconsin. Dave was asked to check it out and determine what to do with the structure and its contents—which included the collection Harold Lawrence had created. When Dave looked more carefully at the objects, he could see that some of them came from Chippewa County, and even more of them from Luce County, so he thought that a home for them should be found in the eastern U.P. He arranged to get them to Susan Schacher, the director of the River of History Museum in the Sault, to see if the museum or some other institution in the area would like to have them. Unfortunately Schacher passed away before settling on a home for the collection. Subsequently, her husband, Matt Gendzwill, decided that the Chippewa County Historical Society would be a suitable recipient, and we were grateful to receive the gift in 2008. Although the internet was not involved in sorting out these details of how we acquired the collection, the connection with the descendants of Harold Lawrence would almost certainly never have been made, had his grandson Bill not been able to “stumble” on our newsletter, thanks to “Googlepower.”

We have received a very generous donation from the Lawrence family, which will enable us to acquire a suitable custom-made cabinet dedicated to a changing display of some of the objects (there are over fifty of them). By some time next summer, visitors to our building at 115 Ashmun Street can enjoy some of the unique artifacts that Harold Lawrence preserved, documented, and enhanced with his masterful craftsmanship.

*(Top)* This artifact is about 22 inches long and 7 inches wide. In 1850, a surveyor chopped two blaze marks on a 6-inch diameter hemlock tree that marked a line between sections 25 and 36 in Township 48N, Range 8W in Luce County. Ninety-four years later, during a re-survey, H.C. Lawrence located the line tree and cut this piece from it. In the intervening years, the tree’s growth had covered the blaze marks, and this image shows the inside part of the piece. The two “bumps” near each end formed as the tree’s growth filled in the dimples made by the blaze marks. Along the top of the piece, Lawrence created a flat, smooth surface and wrote details documenting it, in India ink and then varnished this side.

*(Bottom)* Here is the bark side of the piece. Look carefully near each end (directly below the bumps in the top image) and you should see approximately circular patterns (they are about 3 inches in diameter). Even after 94 years of growth on top of the original blaze marks, evidence of the wounds still shows up on the surface of the bark! The tree was about 10 inches in diameter when Lawrence cut it down in 1944 to remove this piece.

*Tom and Bill Lawrence are examining a plat book of Luce County with annotations made by Tom’s father. Some of the artifacts created by H.C. Lawrence can be seen on the table in the foreground.*

*Photo courtesy of Bernie Arbe*
History Camp 2017
By Patty Olsen

History Camp this summer and in 2018 will be developed around the 350th birthday of Sault Ste. Marie. This year’s summer camp will be held the week of June 19th through 23rd. We will begin with Father Marquette arriving here in 1668 to establish the first permanent mission in what is now Michigan. We will study the Native Americans who were living here then, the fur traders, fort builders, and settlers who followed and the businesses they established. We will conclude this summer with the building of the first lock in 1855 and look at the impact it had on the area. The camp curriculum for 2018 will continue from this point in time until our present. Children who have completed grades 3 through 5 are eligible to attend camp. The cost is $75 with some scholarships available. For further information, contact Ginny Cymbalist at 906-630-2858, Patty Olsen at 906-203-8839 or CCHS at 906-635-7082. Our thanks to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for their continued support of our History Camp through their $2,000 grant.

Check Out Our Web Presence!
By Bernie Arbic

CCHS has had an active web-page for a while now. You can visit us at cchsmi.com. It is a great way to keep in touch with your historical organization. The site allows you to read any of our previous newsletters going back to 2007, to shop at our online Gift Shop, to view a gallery of historical photos with captions, to download a membership application, and even to make a donation via credit card or Paypal. There is also a link which takes you to our Facebook page, which gives more immediate news about our activities and programs, and our current hours of operation at the Gift Shop.

Every Thursday we post a historical photograph for the “Throwback Thursday” feature that Facebook encourages. As a lover of old photos, it is my privilege and pleasure to select a picture from our digital archives each week, and post it with a brief (or sometimes not-so-brief) caption. Some photos generate quite a bit of interest, several comments, and many shares—so our potential “reach” can be very large. Our Facebook page currently has over 1,500 “likes.” Sometimes I am surprised by the pictures that seem to be popular, and I always especially enjoy the comments submitted, which show that many other folks enjoy the images as much as I do. Get there via the link on our website, or just enter Chippewa County Historical Society into the address line if you are on Facebook already—and join in the conversation about our past.

Mackinac Journal

The *Mackinac Journal* is published by the *Sault News* on the first Saturday of each month. It is full of history and nature articles of area interest. CCHS Board member Jim Dwyer is a regular contributor to the magazine and he has enlisted the artistic efforts of our Acting President, Carolyn Person, to illustrate his stories. The *Journal* is available to *Sault News* subscribers or can be purchased for $1.00 by the copy at the Arlington Street newspaper office or at Parker’s Ace Hardware.

Superior Children’s Book Festival

CCHS Board members Ginny Cymbalist and Karen Sabatine participated in the Superior Children’s Book Festival in November at Lake Superior State University.

In keeping with the logging theme of guest author Alison DeCamp, their table featured information on log marks, including wood specimens from CCHS’s collection that were preserved by H.C. Lawrence. Children could then create their own log marks.

EUP History Consortium Fall 2016 Meeting
By Mary M. June

The fall meeting of the EUP History Consortium was held October 1 at the Luce County Historical Society’s Old Jail and Sheriff’s Residence Museum, in Newberry. They provided members with a continental breakfast and a tour of their museum in the morning.

The group moved to the First Presbyterian Church for lunch and several presentations. Presentations were made on Newberry’s history by Lucille Kenyon and Sterling McGinn (see photo on next page), on grant writing, and on walking tours by Jim and Mary Couling.

A business meeting was then held and members from the various
historical groups shared information on their recent and future activities.

A delicious lunch was provided by the ladies of the First Presbyterian Church. At least fifty people were in attendance.

The May 6 meeting will be held at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

**Volunteers**

By Carolyn Person

The industrious volunteers at CCHS are faithfully entering data into the catalog system. So far over 4,000 items have been put into the database. This information will enable researchers to locate items in the collection, give their history, description and display a photo of the object. Thank you to Dawn Aldrich, Kathy Newcomb, Marian MacLeod, Joyce Mansfield, Cris Roll and Eileen Jokinen. They have mastered the computer talk and have made great strides in deciphering handwritten notes. And they work for peanuts—just ask Dawn!

The Materna Photo Collection is growing with photos being scanned, identified and included in a database. A different photo appears each Thursday on our Facebook page. Many of the old photos displayed in our downtown businesses came from the Materna Collection.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you have a couple of hours on Mondays and Fridays and want to work on a great project and work with some great people, please join the group as there is still much to be accomplished.

**Gift Shop**

The CCHS Gift Shop is closed until May 15. You are welcome to visit it via the back door during Office Hours, by appointment or during our events. Please call 635-7082 or check out our online offerings at cchsmi.com.
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

Upcoming Events

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Mondays and Fridays and by appointment at back door

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Soo Locks Park

Water Street

Ashmun Street

Portage Avenue

Parking

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