



MICHIGAN IRON INDUSTRY MUSEUM

Future Historians Schedule

2009-2010

***NOTE: All meetings 7:00 p.m. at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, 73 Forge Rd., Negaunee, Township unless noted.**

September 15, 2009 “Growing Up at Fayette: Kids in a Company Town”

Presenter: Brenda Laakso, Historian, Fayette Historic Townsite

From 1867 to 1891 the village of Fayette operated as an iron smelting complex, complete with the furnace complex, worker's housing, town hall and a hotel. Over 500 people lived there, and nearly half of the population was under the age of 16. Imagine growing up in an early U.P. industrial town. What was it really like? What work would you do? What about school and what would you do with your free time? Who would be your friends and neighbors? During this program Ms. Laakso will provide answers to these questions and many more...

October 13, 2009 “Tombstones Can Talk – An Historic Tour of Negaunee’s Park Cemetery”

Tour Leader: Barry James, Education Specialist, Michigan Iron Industry Museum

Get into the Halloween spirit by visiting a local cemetery! We shouldn't be scared of cemeteries; they are great places to learn about history, people, tombstones, architecture and local communities. During the tour we will visit the Negaunee Cemetery and learn about gravesites, funeral customs and explore burial plots. The tour will be rain or shine – be prepared for poor weather – then back to the museum for light refreshments.

[Note: Please bring a flashlight and something to write with and on]

November 10, 2009 “Searching for Clues: Archaeological Discoveries at Historic Fort Wilkins”

Presenter: John Griebel, Director, Ontonagon Historical Society

Archaeology is the science that studies human cultures through the recovery, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of material remains. There have been several investigations at Fort Wilkins, and many artifacts have been recovered. For the past two summers Mr. Griebel has worked at Fort Wilkins documenting cultural remains within the state park. During this meeting he will discuss archaeology within the park and share with us his discoveries.

January 26, 2010 “Weather History in the U.P.”

Presenter: Karl Bohnak, Chief Meteorologist, WLUC TV-6, Negaunee

People always seem to be talking about the weather. Imagine what life was like surviving a winter without modern utilities or transportation. At this meeting Mr. Bohnak will offer rare glimpse how early pioneers coped with a harsh climate. He will share stories about Charlie and Angelique Mott, who went to Isle Royale in the summer of 1843 to guard a mining claim with the promise of a boatload of supplies and a return trip in the fall. Neither promise was kept, resulting in a little-known, but chilling tragedy. The TV-6 weatherman will also share his findings and stories about the Upper Peninsula's weather phenomenon.

February 23, 2010 “Poles, Goggles and Skis: Ski Flying in the U.P.”

Presenter: Frida Waara, Producer/Writer, On Cue Productions, Marquette

Imagine tying wooden skis to your winter boots, sliding down a steep hill and jumping off a snow-covered mound. What was it like to fly through the air in winter? What sort of equipment did they have in the early 1900s? How has ski equipment changed over the years? What sort of skiing equipment is used today? At this meeting, award-winning

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producer Frida Waara will present the connection between skiing and mining in the Upper Peninsula. She will also share images and equipment from the past and the present.

March 23, 2010 “The Barefoot Boys of Fayette and other stories of U.P. History”

Presenter: Ragene Henry, Children’s book author and teacher (retired), Marquette

Do you like to write? How about writing a story based upon a historical event? At this meeting we will get a behind the scenes look at writing historical fiction. Mrs. Henry will talk about her books, including *The Barefoot Boys of Fayette*, which recounts the adventures of a group of boys growing up in the Upper Peninsula furnace town of Fayette during its heyday in the 1880s. Her other novels are *The Time of the Shining Rocks*, *An Enduring Christmas* and *The Copper Moon*. An award-winning educator and author, Ragene will show how she used her research about key events in the U.P.’s history to write historical fiction for young readers.

April 20, 2010 “Meet a Civil War Musician of 1865”

Presenter: Michael Deren, “The Past in Person,” Ann Arbor

Many historians consider the Civil War era as one of the most important events in American history. Yet, many don’t understand what life was like for the everyday soldier. Through the “Civil War Musician of 1865” we will learn about marching, drilling, and camp life. Mr. Deren will share the humor, pain and excitement of the war years through music and song. As a professional musician and educator he plays saxhorn, fife, concertina, bones and bugle. Be prepared for a fun, interactive and exciting program!

Summer Role Playing Registration will take place at the
April 20th meeting!

Special Summer Programs - Living History Day Camps

At Historic Fort Wilkins, Copper Harbor; Fayette Historic Townsite, Garden;
and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee.

Students must attend three training sessions to participate.
Training will take place in May/June 2010.

Questions or concerns?
Please call the museum office at (906) 475-7857 or
Email jamesb@michigan.gov