Across the Border explores the very nature of Canadian identity as it relates the immigration of Canadians to the Upper Peninsula in the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibition features 30 interpretive panels and over 100 photographs, focusing on the different groups of people who came to the UP from Canada and the “push-and-pull” factors that brought them to this region. The exhibition breaks down these groups as First Nations, Anglophones and Francophones. In addition, the exhibition looks at the influence of Canadian culture on that of Upper Peninsula and how it help define the identity of a people now known as “Yoopers.”

One of the most important segments of the exhibit discusses the nature of the border between Canada and the United States along the St. Mary’s River and the First Nations people who have lived there for centuries. Their identity as the Anishinaabeg has been tested by this border which was once quite porous but over time has separated families and tribes through political changes.

Image Credits: Front Cover—Marquette Regional History Center; Fiddle—Dave Benotte; Portrait—Garden Historical Society; Snowshoes—Daniel Trucky.