

Environmental History Resource Guide

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This handout provides information on selected historical regional manuscript collections, published works, and encyclopedic companions maintained by the [Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives](#), and the [Lydia M. Olson Library](#). These collections provide significant documentation of a wide variety of subjects related to environmental conservation, impact, legislation and studies in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Where available, links are provided to descriptions of manuscript collections. This Guide is not comprehensive, and researchers should contact the NMU Archives or Olson Library for more information. Researchers may also wish to search or browse the Archives' online collection management tool, [ArchivesSpace](#), and the Library's online catalog, [One Search](#).

Historical Regional Manuscript Collections:

1. [Citizens to Save Little Presque Isle and Wetmore Landing](#)
MSS-096, 1986-1993, 2 Cubic Feet

Little Presque Isle is a recreational area developed by the Michigan State Department of Natural Resources that is located 5 miles north of Marquette. Wetmore Landing is an area within Little Presque Isle. The area surrounding Little Presque Isle and Wetmore Landing also contains several hiking trails and smaller lakes. Citizens to Save Little Presque Isle and Wetmore Landing formed in 1991 as an environmental protection group working to prevent the development of campgrounds and commercial activities by the Department of Natural Resources. The group was successful in its prevention efforts. It was organized by esteemed members of the environmental conservation community, such as Donald Snitgen a Professor of Biology at NMU, author of "In Memory of the Lorax," and researcher for the establishment of an Upper Peninsula Environmental Center.

The collection includes correspondence, position papers, taskforce records, newspaper clippings, meeting minutes, and newsletters from 1986-1993.

2. [Citizens to Save Superior Shorelines](#)
MSS-011, 1967-1996, 8 Cubic Feet

In 1969 the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCo) proposed the construction of a generating plant at Little Presque Isle which is 5 miles north of Marquette, MI. Dorothy Bird founded Citizens to Save Superior Shorelines to halt the proposal and monitor various other environmental issues in the UP. The organization was also a member of the

Save Lake Superior Association who are headquartered in Duluth, MN. The collection includes correspondence, newsletters, news releases, news articles, reports, membership lists, meeting minutes, and environmental reference materials.

3. [Cleveland – Cliffs Iron Mining Company Records](#)
1854-1960, 1,200 Cubic Feet

The Cleveland – Cliffs Iron Mining Company formed in 1891 as a result of a merger between the Cleveland Iron Mining Company and the Cliffs Iron Mining Company. However, the collection also includes records created by other iron mining companies as early as 1854. The collection contains includes a large set of maps that document CCI land use and the location of mines, furnaces, and kilns. CCI participated in mining, land, and lumber operations across the UP, causing a significant impact on the natural environment.

For a comprehensive discussion of the collection's research value, please see Terry Reynolds, "[Archival Report: The Cleveland – Cliffs Iron Company Collections, Northern Michigan University Archives](#)," *Michigan Historical Review* 30, no. 1 (2004): 133-144.

4. [Cliffs Dow Company Records](#)
MSS-008, 1934-1984, 1 Manuscript Box

In 1935 the Cleveland – Cliffs Iron Company and the Dow Chemical Company merged to form the Cliffs Down Chemical Company in order to run the charcoal pig iron plant in Northern Marquette, previously known as the Pioneer Iron Company. The plant manufactured charcoal, and was the largest wood distillation plant in the world from 1940-1968. The collection includes records created by employees and president of the company R. Wesley Jenner such as technical reports, news clippings, press releases, and articles and addresses written and presented by R. Wesley Jenner. Personal correspondence and a biography of Jenner are also included in the collection.

5. County of Marquette, County Commission Minutes
MSS-176, 1852-2005, 64.4 Cubic Feet

Marquette County was formally organized in 1848 in the northern portion of the central UP. The Board of Commissioners acts as the policy-making body, and is responsible for the financial management of the county. The collection includes meeting minutes and agendas from regular, special and committee meetings from 1852 through 2005. These records document the political, economic and environmental history of Marquette County, Michigan.

Researchers should note that records created by the Union Negotiating Committee, and the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 1982-10-27 are restricted. Permission to view restricted files must be obtained from the University Archivist or the Marquette County Clerk. All other records are unrestricted and open for research.

6. [Dead River Regional Documents](#)

RDC-2, 2002-2015, 65 Items

The Dead River is 43 miles long, with a 400 square mile watershed. It begins in western Marquette County, and empties into Lake Superior. Several dams exist along the river, including hydroelectric dams. The collection consists of 65 digital governmental records relating to dams and other hydroelectric projects in the area. Most reports included in the collection are focused on environmental analysis of the impacts these projects had/have on the surrounding area.

7. [Energy Resources of the Upper Peninsula](#)

Vertical File, 1975-1985

A vertical file is an alphabetized file for pamphlets and other small publications that do not have a call number. This file contains an environmental impact report prepared by the Department of Natural Resources in regards to the Cliffs Electric Service Company Power Generating Units 7, 8 and 9 in Marquette County. The report lists all permits, licenses and approvals needed for the expansion of the Presque Isle Station in the city of Marquette, descriptions of the placement and surrounding environment, alternative actions, and the overall environmental impact of the construction and maintenance of the power generating units.

8. [George Shiras III Papers](#)

MSS-242, 1896-1938; 1902-1918, 1 Cubic Feet

Shiras III was a Pennsylvanian lawyer, judiciary member, and congressman in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During his terms on the Pennsylvania Legislature he chaired on several committees, and was appointed the State Secretary of Geological Survey. During his congressional term he proposed and introduced the Migratory Bird Bill. As a child he made frequent trips to Marquette, MI, where he practiced photography that would eventually be exhibited in National Geographic issues. After the death of his wife, Shiras chose to reside permanently in Marquette until his death in 1942.

The collection includes correspondence between Shiras and President Theodore Roosevelt on the conservation of wildlife, the Nature Faker Controversy, and Roosevelt's desire that Shiras publish a book on Upper Peninsula wildlife. Also present are a manuscript draft titled "Tentative Biographical Sketch of George Shiras III," and a typewritten draft of a memoir.

9. [Jacobetti, Dominic J. Papers](#)

MSS-078, 1954-1994; 1975-1994, 109 Cubic Feet

Jacobetti served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1954 until his death in 1994. He was referred to as the "Godfather of the UP" because of the funding he obtained for projects in the UP. Jacobetti was a staunch supporter of economic development in the UP, and, as such, he promoted the expansion of industry, even at the expense of the

environment. He weighed in on several environmental conservation issues including wildlife population management, opposition to a nuclear waste dump, improvement of the Grand Marais Harbor, the ELF/Project Sanguine project, and oil drilling in the Pigeon River Basin, among others.

10. James G. Cantrill Papers
MSS-195, 1980-2007, 4 Cubic Feet

Dr. Cantrill has a Ph.D. in Speech Communication from the University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, and as of 2015 serves as the head of the Department of Communications and Performance at NMU. Cantrill’s area of expertise and related scholarship is in environmental communication, and he serves as a consultant for the US Environmental Protection Agency and Parks Canada, among other organizations. He has also written and co-edited numerous books, journal articles and technical papers. The collection documents Cantrill’s administrative, professional and curricular activities at NMU and includes studies, committee material, conference material and course files from 1980-2007.

11. [Julia K. Tibbitts Papers](#)
MSS-145, 1964-1979; 1973-1979, 3 Cubic Feet

Tibbitts was a native of the Upper Peninsula, and life-long resident of the Marquette area. She graduated from Principia Upper School in St. Louis, MO in 1936, Ogontz School for Young Ladies in Philadelphia, PA in 1938, and Northern Michigan University in 1965. She was in staunch opposition to the construction of a power plant by the Upper Peninsula Generating Company on Presque Isle in Marquette. The collection includes, correspondence, newspaper articles, research documents, maps, blueprints and legal reference documents and court documents highlighting the accomplishments of the Superior Public Rights, Inc. and their environmental protection efforts. The court documents are a strong component of the collection as they were compiled by Ms. Tibbitts herself.

12. [Losey, Elizabeth Browne Beard Papers](#)
MSS-004, 1897-2004, 13 Manuscript Boxes

Losey was a biologist and ornithologist (someone who studies birds) employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Commission beginning in 1947 after her teaching career at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She was a resident of Germfask, MI which is located on the Seney National Wildlife Refuge where she conducted her research. The collection includes technical reports, newspaper clippings, government documents, popular journal articles, and miscellaneous publications related to indigenous mammal and bird populations of the UP. The focus of the entire collection is on wildlife management, particularly birds.

13. Mazina'igan: A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe Newspapers
MSS-132, 1999-Ongoing, 1 Manuscript Box

Mazina'igan is a quarterly publication issued by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) which represents eleven Ojibwe tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Topics covered by the publication include a variety of environmental issues such as wildlife management, environmental assessment and tribal initiatives to protect the Great Lakes region. The collection includes papers beginning in 1999 with additions still being made as of 2015.

14. Pat Gagliardi Papers
MSS-060, 1981-1998, 12 Cubic Feet

Gagliardi was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1982 where he represented district 107, which includes most of the eastern Upper Peninsula, until 1998. He was involved in several environmental issues during his time in office including his efforts to preserve UP lighthouses and the underwater history of the Great Lakes. He also served on a number of House committees including the Conservation and Environment (1983-1986), Agriculture and Forestry (1985-1986) and Forestry and Minerals (1991-1992) committees.

The collection documents his career in the Michigan House of Representatives with newspaper clippings, brochures, correspondence, petitions, laws, bills, personal notes, grant applications, blue prints, maps, reports, studies, meeting minutes and photographs. Of particular note to those researching environmental history are papers concerning the Underwater Shipwreck preservation and the DeTour Reef Lighthouse preservation.

15. Robinson, William L. Papers
MSS-191, 1950-92, 3 Cubic Feet

Dr. Robinson received degrees from Michigan State University, the University of Maine, and the University of Toronto in game management (B.S.), wildlife biology (M.S.) and zoology (Ph.D) respectively. He served as a professor of Biology at Northern Michigan University from 1964 to 1998. He is a nationally known authority on wildlife management and has published numerous articles and books. The collection includes field research notes, reports, correspondence, photographs manuscripts and data compiled by Robinson from 1950-1992. Of particularly significant research value are his files on mammals of the St. Mary's River formation, Citizens to Save Superior Shorelines, and several types of Grouse.

Researchers should note recent additions to the collection identified as US99-40 William Robinson Research Photographs, US00-76 William Robinson Papers, and US99-05 William Robinson Papers respectively as of June 2015. They were acquired during the destruction of the John X. Jamrich building, and are currently unprocessed, but available to researchers.

16. [SEAFARER Extremely Low Frequency \(ELF\) Command and Control Communications Systems Records](#)

MSS-249, 1971-1989, 3.5 Cubic Feet

ELF communications systems were developed by the US and Russian Navies from the 1950s to the 1980s. Three programs underwent consideration during this period: SEAFARER (Surface ELF Antenna for Addressing Remotely Employed Receivers, Sanguine, and SHELF (Super Hard ELF). SEAFARER was successfully implemented in the Great Lakes Region, though the system was controversial and was the target of public attacks, lawsuits and protests. Eventually, SEAFARER, which had been operating out of Clam Lake, WI and Republic, MI, was implemented at the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in 1981. The transmitters were deemed obsolete and were shut down by the US Navy in 2004.

The collection includes correspondence, distribution/ mailing lists for materials, records of an ecological monitoring program, House of Representatives/Senate reports, project Sanguine reports, and SEAFARER project reports and ELF project reports including environmental impact studies

17. [Seney National Wildlife Refuge Records](#)

MSS-108, 1938-1982, 3 Cubic Feet

In the early 20th century the area that would become the Seney National Wildlife Refuge was home to a lumbering operation that stripped the land of its native trees, and burned the resulting debris, preventing the forest from re-establishing itself. The land was eventually sold to private owners, and defaulted to state ownership. The Michigan Conservation Department recommended that it be developed into a wildlife refuge. In 1935 the refuge was established, and today it consists mainly of wetlands, and grassland areas.

The collection includes annual narrative reports describing wildlife management, climatology, and habitat management as well as field notes, photographs, and personal accounts of early Seney conditions, histories of Germfask and Grand Marais, and logging drive documentation by Harvey C. Saunders. Also included are documents on the Depression era Works Progress Administration activities, and World War II conscientious objector camps.

18. [Varnum, Charles H. Papers](#)

MSS-076, 1964-1988, 46 Cubic Feet

Charles H. Varnum served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1967-1982 in the 107th District. He was a member of the Michigan Education Association and the Upper Peninsula Legislative Council, and he promulgated mental health issues. Included in the collection are correspondence, news clippings, reports, project files and legislation on various topics at the state level as well as those pertaining specifically to districts in the UP. Varnum was involved in projects and committees on environmental conservation

at both the state and district levels involving agriculture, relations with the Department of Natural Resources, energy, and environmental pollution issues.

19. [White Deer Lake Lodge Journal](#)
MSS-118, 1908-1909, 1 Manuscript Box

In 1902, International Harvester Corporation founder Cyrus McCormick Jr. acquired 17,000 acres of land in Marquette County, MI. He had three log buildings constructed on it which he named the White Deer Lake Lodge. In 1968 ownership of the land was transferred to the US Forest Service under the condition that it be returned to its natural state with no motor vehicle access. In 1970 the log buildings were demolished, and the land is now part of the Ottawa National Forest. The journal belongs to James Scanlan, the caretaker of the White Deer Lake Lodge in 1908 and 1909. Entries document orders to local and external businesses for building materials, grocery supplies, reports on progress of work projects, and replies to inquiries from the owners and their agents, as well as a set of photographs of the lodge before the demolition of the three log buildings.

Published Works:

Burd, Camden. "[North: A History of Natural and Imagined Landscapes in the Great Lakes Region.](#)" Thesis (M.A.) Central Michigan University, 2014.

Camden's study explores how cultural ideas were shaped about the "North," or the northern portion of the Great Lakes region. It explores how the imagined space that was the north came to be perceived that way in the minds of larger urban populations living outside the region, and how they applied to it the values of wilderness.

[Camp Forgotten: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan.](#) Videocassette. Directed by William Jamerson. Traverse City, MI: Forgotten Films & Video, 1993.

This video explores the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan, and the various projects that they conducted. Some of their projects included the construction of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Caberfae Ski Area and the transport of moose from Isle Royale to the Upper Peninsula. It also includes interviews with CCC members that describes life in camps, and how the experience impacted them. The interviews are combined with archival footage and photographs of CCC-built structures.

Lee, Yu Man, Phyllis J. Higman and Dennis A. Albert. [Ecologically Significant Sites to Visit in the Straits Region of Michigan.](#) Map. East Lansing, MI: Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Michigan State University Extension, 2003. From Northern Michigan University, *Map Collections*.

This map shows the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula, and the eastern portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It includes information about natural features including directions, ownership, parking and facilities. It was funded by the Michigan Coastal Management Program and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Researchers may find value in the

ecological and economic significance placed on these areas at a particular place in time, in this case 2003.

National Wildlife Federation and Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership. [*Your Upper Peninsula: A Guide to Planning Tomorrow's Shorelines*](#). Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation; Marquette, MI: Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, 2003.

This brochure details common environmental problems related to property along the Great Lakes shorelines, describes how boundaries intended to protect shoreline areas from development are established, and explains what kinds of environments you might encounter in the Great Lakes region. It also provides maps of all the Great Lakes watersheds, and suggests alternatives to developing along the shorelines.

Reynolds, Terry. "[Archival Report: The Cleveland – Cliffs Iron Company Collections, Northern Michigan University Archives](#)." *Michigan Historical Review* 30, no. 1 (2004): 133-144.

Terry Reynolds' article provides an analysis of the CCI collection available at the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives, and its potential value to researchers.

Snitgen, Donald Albert and James R. Mansfield. [*Report of a Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an Upper Peninsula Regional Environmental Center*](#). Marquette, MI: Cleveland – Cliffs Foundation, 1975.

Donald Snitgen was a Professor of Biology at NMU who conducted research and developed progress reports related to the feasibility and construction of a Regional Environmental Center in the UP. This report tells of the Center's feasibility, and the desire by the community to have it established. It recommended that NMU be the institution to develop the center. It details the physical needs of the program, including a unit on the NMU campus, and a unit designated as a wilderness facility. Maps are provided for potential construction areas. Follow up reports and recommendations are available in the Olson Library catalog.

Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition. [*The Upper Peninsula Environment*](#). Houghton, MI: Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition.

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC) is a nonprofit organization composed of individual members as well as organizational members, and it has been operating since the late 1970s. This newsletter is published quarterly, and covers topics relevant to the environment of the Upper Peninsula. It often includes photographs, artwork, and poetry. The UPEC archive goes back to Spring 2002, and is still being published as of 2015.