

Native American 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 significant Native Americans, Native American issues, culture, and related 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. "Anishinaabe News" Newsletters
MSS-269, 2005-2010, 1 Cubic Foot

The Anishinaabe News is published by the Center for Native American Studies (CNAS) at NMU as a continuation of the Nishnawbe News. It was brought back to life by Dr. Martin Reinhardt, the director of CNAS, in the form of a digital resource. In 2005 it became a student-run print publication in a physical format. The newsletters feature Native American-related news and perspectives, as well as artwork created by writers and photographers, both Native and non-Native.

2. Bay Mill News: Gnoozhekaaning Bidajimowin Newspapers
MSS-133, 1999-Present, 2 Cubic Feet

The Bay Mill News is a bi-weekly publication established in 1997 that reflects the life of the Bay Mills Indian Community. State and local topics are covered providing a perspective on current affairs as they affect the Bay Mills Indian Community. The collection begins with Vol. 9, No. 1 and goes through Vol. 11, No. 6, and has copies of two earlier issues, but it is not inclusive. Additional issues are expected.

3. [Carter, James L. Papers](#)
MSS-360, 1971-72; 1980-83; 1986-93, 4 Folders

Carter was an educator, writer and journalist native to the UP. He received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, MI), and a Master of Arts degree in history from NMU in 1967. In 1968 he became a technical writer in the Research and Development Office at NMU. He eventually became the Assistant Director of the Office of Research and Development, and the Coordinator of the American Indian Program from 1970 to 1972. He also served as the Director of the Northern Michigan University Press in 1972 and as the News Director of the NMU News Bureau in 1975.

The collection includes press releases, news clippings and brochures relating to the Greenwood Nature Center a summary of activities, list of titles published and selected memos associated with the NMU press, and progress reports and correspondence regarding the American Indian Program at NMU.

4. [Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan Records](#)
MSS-031, 1894-1994; 1940-1994, 24 Cubic Feet

The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan expanded into Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1836. In the General Clubs and Committees series, the collection documents, among other things, the formation and proceedings of special interest including groups related to Native Americans in the Upper Peninsula community. The General Committees series also contains annual church reports, notes from commissions, and records from committees, conferences, conventions, associations, and lay groups.

The collection as a whole documents the activities of the Diocese since it expanded into Northern Michigan, including theological movements, historical people, everyday sermons, correspondence, annual events, miscellaneous church members, and general maintenance of the Diocese.

5. "Giikendaam Chiwiikwegamag" Newspapers
MS-287, 2005-2007, 1 Manuscript Box

The Giikendaam Chiwiikwegamag newspaper reflects the life of the members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community near L'anse, Michigan and is published monthly. Topics are closely tied with local tribal affairs rather than general state and local news. Information on events, workshops, tribal organizational agendas, photographs of community members and locations, and notable additions to the community are documented.

6. [Henry R. Schoolcraft Papers](#)
MISC-005, 1782-1878, 69 reels (microfilm)

Schoolcraft was a geologist, explorer and ethnologist appointed as the US Indian Agent at Sault Ste. Marie. He had responsibility for tribes in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 1839 he was appointed as the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. During his tenure as a negotiator between Native peoples and the US he attempted to maintain good relations between the two nations. Ultimately, however, he caused suffering for the

Native peoples through agreements such as the Treaty of Washington wherein the Ojibwa peoples ceded thirteen million acres and received only late and underfunded subsidies from the US government.

The collection includes correspondence, journals, articles, books and other papers detailing Schoolcraft's travels and career.

7. [Hood, Judge Garfield W. Oral History Interview](#)
MSS-075, 1991, 1 Item

Judge Garfield W. Hood was the tribal attorney for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) from 1972 to 1990. He then became a judge in the KBIC tribal court system. The interview, conducted by Debra Williams, documents the history of the KBIC tribal court and government.

8. [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. He was intimately involved with numerous committees, projects and issues. Of particular note to those researching Native Americans are his efforts to support education, environmental affairs, ethnic equality, the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Community, and his efforts to end Native American stereotyping.

9. [Kingsbury, Stewart A. Papers](#)
MSS-329, 1966-1991, 37 Cubic Feet

Dr. Kingsbury received a Ph.D. in General Linguistics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1968, was active in a computerized dialect survey of Upper Michigan English in the 1960s, and was affiliated with the Modern Language Association, Midwest Modern Language Association, American Dialect Society, and the American Name Society. He received a National Bicentennial Award for his design of a computerized data base for the US Place Name Survey in 1975.

The collection includes papers, data, audio cassettes and open reel tapes of interviews. It also contains books dealing with place names in the UP, including their origin and folkloric materials dealing with ethnic groups, including Native Americans. Also included are maps and file cards listing place names of all topographical features including in the UP cities, towns and settlement areas.

10. [Magnaghi, Russell M. Papers](#)
MSS-317, 1840-1998, 20 Cubic Feet

Dr. Magnaghi was a faculty member of the History Department at NMU. He has developed a profuse amount of local history projects during his time in the UP. Dr.

Magnaghi's research is largely connected to ethnic groups in the UP, particularly Italian-Americans, but he has several monographs on the Native population as well. Documentation of his ethnographical research includes research notes, published articles, monographs, and photocopies of original documents, news clippings, and speeches.

11. "Menominee Tribal News" Newspapers
MSS-215, 1990-1999, 1 Manuscript Box

The Menominee Tribal News disseminates information affecting tribal members of the Menominee Tribe of Michigan and Wisconsin. Included topics are: environmental, economic and social news, as well as local news detailing social events with elders and youths of the community. Included in NMU's collection are issues published in 1990 and 1999.

12. [Native American Populations of the Upper Peninsula](#)
Vertical File, 1929-1970

This collection provides documentation of the distribution of Native peoples in Michigan, records of Chippewa customs (1929 to 1970), the constitution and by-laws of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (1936), and other items related to the culture of Native Americans in the UP.

13. [Pitezel, John H. Papers](#)
MSS-369, 1824-1889, 1 Reel (microfilm)

Pitezel was a preacher and educator for the Methodist church in the mid-19th century. In 1836 he was appointed to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan at the request of Superintendent William Brockway of the Indian Missions of the Upper Peninsula where he served for nine years. He and his family traveled throughout the UP to wherever his preaching took him. He was eventually appointed Superintendent of the Indian Mission District in 1848.¹

14. "The Nishnawbe News" Newspapers
MSS-266, 1971-1982, 1 Manuscript Box

The Nishnawbe News was first published in 1971 at the NMU Center for Native American Studies. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan created the paper due to a perception of bias in non-Native newspapers. Rapid success and proliferation of the paper gave it a reputation as one of the leading Native American run newspapers in the country until cutbacks in 1983 cause the paper to discontinue. It would later be revived at NMU in 2002 as the Anishinaabe News. The collection includes printed copies of the Nishnawbe News from 1971 through 1982, though it is not all inclusive.

¹ Marian Matyn, "Finding aid for John H. Pitezel Papers" (Historical Manuscript, Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University).

15. Office of Indian Affairs (OIA) microfilm
MSS-301, 1780-1940, 150 Reels (microfilm)

The OIA was established in 1824 within the War Department. It was transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1849, and was renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 1947. Superintendents of the OIA were responsible for Native American affairs in specific geographic areas. Their tasks included overseeing relations between the US government, tribal governments, and their citizens, and the conduct and accounts of Indian agents within their jurisdiction. Agents were responsible for the affairs of one tribe or reservation. The collection documents the correspondence of the OIA with the Michigan Superintendence, Arizona Superintendence, and Agents at Mackinac, MI; Sault Ste. Marie, MI; LaPointe, WI; Chippewa Agency, MN; and the Chippewa Agency of Crow Wing, MN. It also includes the Ratified Treaties of 1854-1855, the Adjutant General's Office reports on the Returns of Military Forces encamped at Ft. Brady, MI, and microfilmed copies of the Indian Census Rolls from 1885-1940.

16. [Peters, Lewis Papers](#)
MSS-314, 1961-1991, 1 Cubic Foot

Dr. Lewis E. Peters joined Northern Michigan University as a faculty member in the Biology Department in 1961, and served as the head of the Biology Department from 1970-1975. Of particular note to researchers are Lewis' materials regarding attempts to establish an Institute for Indian Education at NMU. Other materials include entomological research conducted by Lewis, and a publication on pre-veterinary curricular opportunities at NMU.

17. "Sault Tribe News" (Win Awenen Nisitotung) Newspapers
MSS-134, 1994-Present, 3 Cubic Feet

The Sault Tribe News is published seventeen times a year. It reflects the life and activities of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. It retained the name "Win Awenen Nisitotung" from 1994 to 2000, and returned to it in 2007. Topics covered include important local, state, and national issues that could affect the tribe, with a focus on familial and community news. The collection includes papers from 1994 to 2012 and is not all inclusive.

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 his papers concerning the Upper Peninsula and its counties, which

include a number of topics surrounding Native Americans. They contain correspondence, news clippings, reports, proposals, project files and legislation on various issues.

Published Works:

Blackbird, Andrew J (Mack-aw-dw-be-nessy). [*History of the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan: A Grammar of their Language, and a Personal and Family History of the Author.*](#) Ypsilanti, MI: The Ypsilantian Job Printing House, 1887.

Chief Blackbird is the son of an Ottawa chief, and served as interpreter for the US Indian Agent for many years, and the postmaster in Harbor Springs, Michigan. His book concerns the early history of the Ottawa and Chippewa peoples, where they lived, what tribes they contended with, before and after they occupied Michigan, how they came to reside in this state, and this history of Mackinaw Island. Also included is a translation of Blackbird's language into English, and other items which he found to be of particular note to readers.

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

Camp Forgotten explores the role of the CCC in Michigan, including the only Native American CCC camp in the US: Camp Marquette. Interviews were conducted describing life in camp, and exploring the various projects conducted by the CCC such as the building of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

Cleland, Charles E. [*Rites of Conquest: The History and Culture of Michigan's Native Americans.*](#) Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1992.

Cleland attempts to depart from the historical cliché of the "Great person" narrative that is used even in documenting Native Americans. Instead he takes a multiethnic and regional approach to his study of Michigan's Native peoples. Historical events often described from a white perspective are re-examined and run through a filter to better describe how they affected Native Americans in Michigan.

Danziger, Edmund Jefferson. [*The Chippewas of Lake Superior.*](#) Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978.

This book details the history of the Chippewa bands along Lake Superior, their woodland life, the impact of European settlement, and the preservation of their tribal identity and traditions as the US government implemented its policy of coercive assimilation. The Chippewa tribe played a crucial part in many trade industries as their land contained a plethora of natural resources, and they continue to play a part in the modern development of lumbering, fishing, shipping and tourism.

Hurdy, John M. [*American Indian Religions.*](#) Los Angeles, CA: Sherbourne Press, 1970.

John Hurdy attempts to overcome the spread of misinformation, and the spread of Christian ideology forced upon so many Native cultures, to showcase the Native perspective on religion.

The book emphasizes mysticism, and the means by which many different tribes integrated religion into everyday life.

Kurath, Gertrude Prokosch, Jane Ettawageshik, Fred Ettawageshi and Michael David McNally. [*The Art of Tradition: Sacred Music, Dance, & Myth of Michigan's Anishinaabe, 1946-1955.*](#) East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2009.

Native American communities throughout the US have recently gone through a revival in the interest in the languages, ceremonies and traditions of their tribal identities. Native American elders have worked to ensure the revival of Michigan's Native communities and their cultures in the forms of music, dance, myth and ceremony. The book also documents Anishinaabe culture as it has evolved – and still is evolving - in a modern framework.

Magnaghi, Russel M. [*Native Americans of Michigan's Upper Peninsula: Chronology to 1900.*](#) Marquette, MI: Center for Upper Peninsula Studies, Northern Michigan University, 2009.

Dr. Magnaghi provides a cursory glance at the history of Native American peoples in the UP in the hope of providing future writers with the tools necessary to begin writing what he describes as the “definitive history” of Native Americans in Michigan. Beyond the chronology a list of treaties with various tribes across the UP is provided, as well as several maps and an extended bibliography.

Magnaghi, Russel M. [*Portals to the Past: A Bibliographical and Resource Guide to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.*](#) Marquette, MI: Center for Upper Peninsula Studies, 2011.

Dr. Magnaghi's bibliographical resource is a guide to a litany of topics including, among many other things, agriculture, immigration, industry, travel, religion and activities in the UP during times of national importance. This collection of resources can be accessed via nmu.edu/archives/subject-bibliographies under [The Upper Peninsula Bibliography](#).

Mead, Rebecca J. “[The Kawbawgam Cases: Native Claims and the Discovery of Iron in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.](#)” *Michigan Historical Review* 40, no. 2 (2014): 1-31

The Kawbawgam Cases documents Supreme Court cases in the 1880s concerning Native Americans seeking compensation from iron mining companies for their role in guiding prospectors to the rich deposits of the Marquette Iron Range. Mead's article explores the efforts by Native peoples to assert historical agency through the administrative and legal structures of the dominant society in an attempt to redress their grievances about wrong they suffered during colonization.

Penney, David W. [*Great Lakes Indian Art.*](#) Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press and the Detroit Institute of Arts, 1989.

This collection describes part of the collection of over 600 pieces maintained by the Detroit Institute of Art concerning Great Lakes Native Americans. It provides an in depth analysis of visual styles, representation, symbolic forms, cultural practices related to the artwork, and internal and external influences on artistic trends. Included are many photographs, artist histories, and credits of the Chandler/Pohrt collection at the DIA.

The Ancient Ones: The Menominee Nation. Videodisc. Directed by Jim Dick. Eagle River, WI:
Discover Mediaworks, 2008.

This video is part of the Native American Educational Series. It presents an overview of the history of the Menominee Tribe. Topics covered include relations with the US government, development of sustainable forestry practices, and the termination and restoration of the tribe's status. It also tells of the loss of culture, language and identity during its period of termination, and describes current day preservation efforts.