



Newsletter

The time and effort that goes into providing online access to archival collections is often not apparent to researchers. Before a collection can be digitized, it has to be inventoried and organized. The provenance of the collection, its copyright status, and the people and places documented in the collection have to be researched. Then, each item has to be digitized, edited, described, double-checked for errors, and uploaded to the website. Although volunteers and UPLINK's one full-time staff member contribute some of this labor, much of it is provided by student workers. This edition is dedicated to the hard work of the student assistants that make UPLINK possible. In this issue, you'll learn how our student assistants use the skills they're learning in the classroom to help UPLINK organize, digitize, and promote its collections.



History major Elijah Croschere (left) has spent the last several months inventorying and digitizing the Ontonagon County Historical Society's Jon Rieger collection. He describes Rieger's long-running sociological study of the Ontonagon area. We still have much more work to do on the Rieger collection, but it will be available online later this year!

Thaden Weeks (second from left), an Earth Science major, discusses how his background in geology has helped him to enhance the metadata for a collection of Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company maps and diagrams, making them easier for researchers to discover and interpret.

Quille Ronning (second from right) is an Art and Design major with a focus in film. He puts these skills to good use creating the NMU Archives' "From The Stacks" YouTube series. A recent video featured the Georgia "Juddie" Rhoades collection in UPLINK. In his article, you'll learn about the behind-the-scenes process of researching and filming educational content to promote interest in archives.

Anthropology major Emma Roach (right) coordinates outreach for the archives, including putting together this newsletter. In this issue, she interviews Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences professor Sarah Mittlefehldt about a recent research project involving the archives' collections that led to conducting an oral history project with NMU students.

The project will be available on UPLINK in the coming months!

Written by Annika Peterson, UPLINK Digital Project Manager

The Rieger Inventory: A Wealth of Sociology

Late in the summer last year, the Ontonagon County Historical Society (OCHS) sent us eight boxes from the late Dr. Jon Rieger (1936-2020), a sociologist working out of the University of Louisville, and asked for our help in inventorying and digitizing the collection. The inventory and much of the digitization has finally been completed, revealing a fantastic wealth of knowledge gathered through studies, interviews, and photographs. Seeing as how I've spent so much time processing Rieger's works, it seems natural to share what I've learned about him and his work.



A photo of Dr. Jon Rieger from his time as a professor at the University of Louisville.

Born in 1936, Jon Rieger would serve two years as an active-duty Naval Officer before returning to college. He earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Michigan State University in 1971, becoming a professor at the University of Louisville in Kentucky that same year. Rieger would work diligently to further the field of sociology for his entire storied career with Louisville (1971-2020), including being one of the founding members and first Treasurer for the International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA), but some of his most important work would be done within the bounds of Ontonagon County. He spent almost every summer in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan alternating between visiting his ever-growing collection of local friends and conducting sociological research; Rieger's presence in the area was so marked that he ended up applying for a lifetime membership to the OCHS. Rieger produced numerous sociological studies of the area, chief among them the Ontonagon Photographic Survey and the academic paper *Living Witnesses to Social Change*, focusing on changes over time in Trout Creek.

The Ontonagon Photographic Survey is one of the most sweepingly vast and fascinating projects I've ever come

across, even counting my time before working here. The project sought to document change over time in Ontonagon County through photographs: beginning in 1960 and continuing every five years, Dr. Rieger would travel to Ontonagon County and repeat prior photographs, taking new photos as the project expanded in scope and where corrections were necessary. Dr. Rieger managed to continue this project until 2018, meaning the Photographic Survey documents physical changes in the layout of towns and landscapes throughout Ontonagon County over a period of almost *sixty years*. Be it for historical observation or sociological implications, this collection is strictly astounding. Some years of the survey have hundreds of photographs, ranging from Bruce Crossing to Rockland to Greenland to Ewen to Ontonagon and anywhere in-between.

These photographs aren't simply prominent historical landmarks, either – there are photos of rural housing, parking lots, railroad lines, and anything else you can name. I've found photos that are just Rieger parked on a highway, capturing the road and its natural surroundings, but even photos like that, when repeated for such a long period of time, can be a source for historians and sociologists. The Photographic Survey's immense magnitude speaks to Dr. Rieger's passion for rural sociology and his dedication to the craft.

Dr. Rieger's other major U.P. project was also in the area, albeit in a rather different format: his paper, *Living Witnesses to Social Change and Family Documents as Community Archive: Reconstructing Social Change in a Small Rural Community*.

The idea for the study began when Rieger won a photograph in an auction that was taken by a government photographer during the 1930s. He identified the location, Trout Creek in southeastern Ontonagon County, and the family in the photograph, the Carlises. Dr. Rieger tracked down many of the family's older members, then scattered throughout the U.P., and pieced together the town's history through the wealth of knowledge the Carlises possessed.



The Carlisle Family Photo, taken by photographer John Vachon in the 1940s, which kick-started Dr. Rieger's interest in the Trout Creek area.

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Founded in 1912, Trout Creek experienced rapid societal decline in the years Rieger visited. He documented this decline through oral interviews with the Carlisle family and what little historical documentation he could find from the area. Again displaying his dedication to rural sociology, *Living Witnesses* is a thoroughly insightful read about local history, and getting to examine the process Dr. Rieger went through to put the paper together was a clear highlight of completing this inventory.

There were plenty of other eclectic finds. Much of the collection was correspondence - emails to colleagues, letters to prominent local figures marking his arrival in the area each summer, updates from friends, etc. Another marked chunk of the inventory was travel maps of various kinds - although, with how much traveling Dr. Rieger did for his research, this is perhaps unsurprising.

Yet another significant portion of the Rieger collection is programs and brochures for local theatre productions in Calumet and Ontonagon. Dr. Rieger was a massive supporter of the arts, going so far as to donate thousands of dollars to the Calumet and Ontonagon Theatres over his numerous visits to the area. He was also involved in the arts back home as an advisor to the Louisville Orchestra and a judge for the Grawemeyer Music Composition Awards. Rieger also had many other passionate hobbies that you might not expect from a glance: he was an avid bodybuilder and advisor for the U of L Weightlifting Club. Rieger also advised the U of L Agricultural Club, in addition to having a recreational passion for camping and sailing.

Dr. Rieger unfortunately passed away in fall of 2020, just months after retiring from his position as professor. From his vast correspondence with friends, coworkers, and local figures, it's clear that Dr. Rieger brought a charisma along with his work that drew others to assist him and a kind heart that sustained those bonds even after his work was completed. Not only did Dr. Rieger leave a lasting impact on the Ontonagon area through his various sociological works, he also made certain that his life's work would continue to benefit generations after he was gone; in his will, he left a sum of money to the OCHS to continue the Photographic Survey in future years. Having now finished the inventory, I look forward immensely to putting out into the world as much of Dr. Rieger's work as we can - both for the clear historical value, and to continue the legacy of a storied scholar, unrivaled in his dedication to his craft.

Written by Elijah Croschere

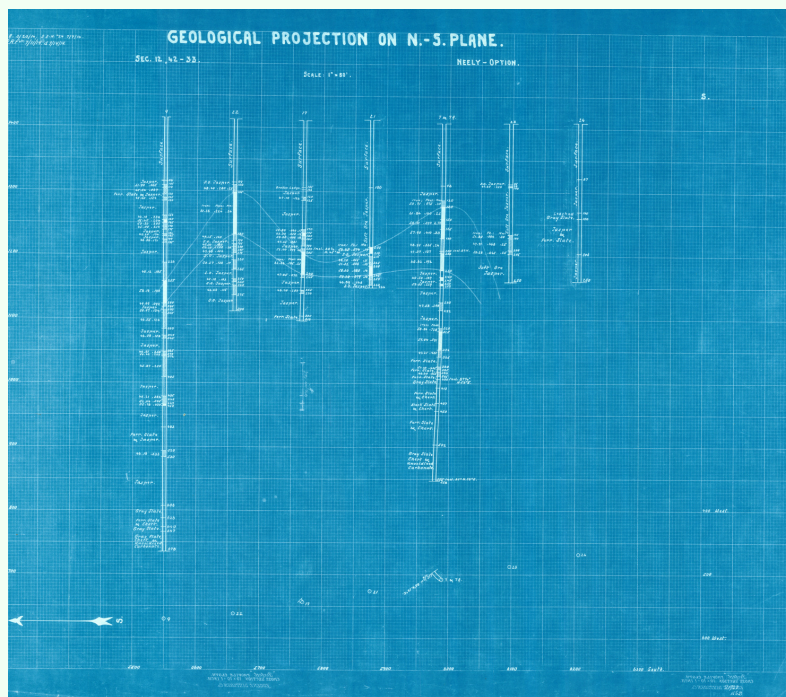


The inside of a box from the Rieger collection. While it may appear unseemly, the boxes were actually rather well-sorted by content. Much of this box, for example, is audio-visual material (CDs and Cassettes), while the stacks underneath them are mostly copies of relevant issues of the Ontonagon Herald newspaper. The large box labeled "1970" contains extra prints and metadata sheets from Rieger's Photographic Survey, which was meticulously sorted into such boxes by year.

Rocking the Archives: A Geologist's Perspective on Unearthing Mining History

When thinking about archival work, science may not be the first thing that comes to mind. Although those with a history background are an archive's primary workforce, science can also be remarkably useful. For example, at the Archives, UPLINK is currently working on transferring a large batch of Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Mining Company (CCI) maps and diagrams from an older website to a newer one. Part of this process involves updating the metadata (resource-finding information), which is where I come in. Though it may seem strange for somebody working in an archive, I am an Earth Science major specializing in Geology here at NMU. I have a great love for geology, and I can apply my knowledge and passion to my work at the Archives. As is true with many professions, having other perspectives can be instrumental in creating more robust work and research.

The Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mining Company (now Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.) was one of the largest iron mining companies in the United States. Today, it is North America's largest flat-rolled steel company and one of the top automotive steel suppliers. Dozens of CCI mines were operated primarily in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on



This diagram depicts rock core sample boreholes used to locate ore after a magnetic survey.

the Marquette, Crystal Falls, and Menomonee Iron Ranges, as well as the Mesabi Iron Range in Minnesota. This collection of maps originates from these ranges. In the 1950s, the company modernized the iron industry using taconite pellets, making iron transportation easier, cheaper, and faster. This collection contains a variety of maps of mineshafts, open pit mines, towns, and other properties. Other materials include diagrams, building schematics, and surveys.

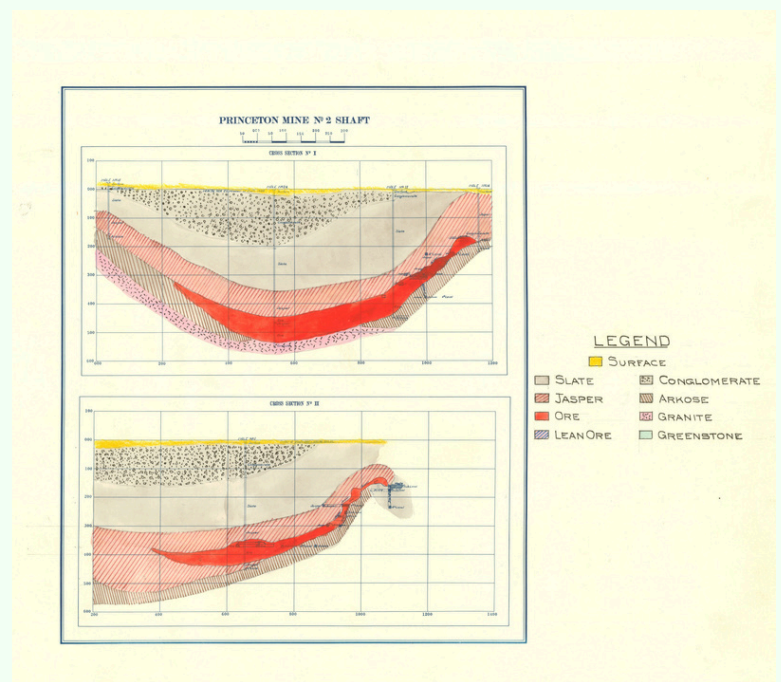
CCI's records don't just document mining history and the geology of the region. With origins dating back to 1850, CCI is directly responsible for the population growth and development of towns such as Ishpeming and Negaunee. The maps sometimes list property owner names in these towns, which can be helpful for genealogists. CCI also influenced the development of an industrial railroad network; many of the maps in this collection depict these historic railroads. Some building schematics depict buildings that are no longer standing, giving us a look at the architecture used at the time. The archives' collections can be used for many kinds of research, not just historical ones.

These CCI maps and diagrams were scanned initially in 2005, and the current metadata is over a decade old. I was tasked with going through them all and inputting new metadata. Those majoring in Earth Science must study maps and geologic diagrams, which this project deals with heavily.

Using my knowledge, I have input more accurate metadata and found details that may have been previously missed. When it comes to maps, I have pinpointed the locations of some mine maps that previously had unknown locations by using the United States Public Land Survey. I have also identified the purpose of some diagrams, particularly a group of fence diagrams made by taking rock core samples at potential mining sites.

With the history of the Upper Peninsula being so intertwined with mining and geology, having an Earth Science perspective helps build a greater understanding of the archival material. Science does have a place in the archives, not just at the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives; a scientific perspective can be beneficial anywhere archival research is done.

Written by Thaden Weeks



This is a fence diagram, illustrating ore quantity by connecting locations where ore was found.

History For All: What YouTube Can Do For Archival Engagement

This April saw the launch of the second episode of “From The Stacks,” a series on the Central Upper Peninsula and NMU Archives YouTube channel showcasing the archival material managed via UPLINK. The latest installment highlights the Georgia Rhoades collection provided by the St. Ignace Public Library and includes a variety of photographs, letters, and journals detailing one woman’s experiences bicycling overseas during the onset of the second World War. The video sparked great interest about the collection, encouraging viewers to explore the material firsthand on the UPLINK website to learn more.

In today’s digital age, YouTube video content can serve as a powerful tool in bridging the gap between historical preservation and contemporary audiences. A well-crafted video can present archival content in an engaging and easily understandable format, allowing viewers to engage with stories and material they may not have interacted with otherwise. Not to mention the availability of accessibility features, such as subtitles, that can be utilized to increase the inclusivity for people of all backgrounds and abilities. The majority of individuals are not

inclined or able to sift through folders of documents to uncover the rich history within, but the allure of a succinct video offering a summary and showcasing intriguing highlights can be a good start. At the very least, they continue their day having learned something new. At best, they are inspired to delve deeper into the fine details of the material itself firsthand at an archive or research the topic further online. Either way, a collection is getting the recognition it deserves.



*Thumbnail Image: From The Stacks
The Georgia Rhoades Collection*

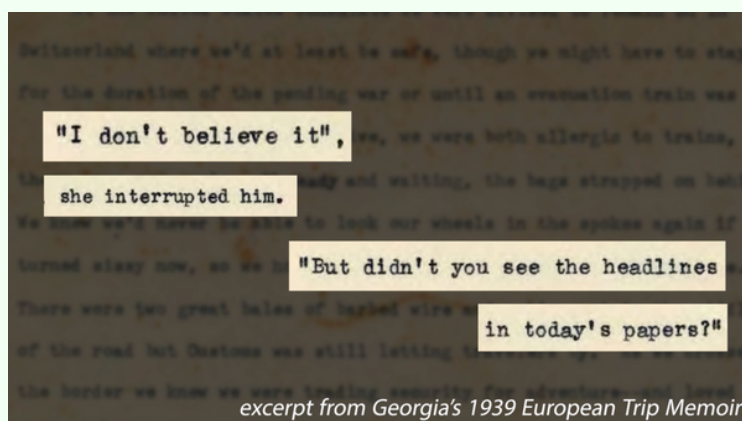
Yet, the impact of these videos extends far beyond the individual collections they cover. They can also spread awareness about the importance of archives as a whole. It's no secret that archival work can often be a bit of a mystery to those outside of the field, so the opportunity to bring content to a broader audience that may not even be aware that archives exist is incredibly valuable in the efforts to gain public awareness. By sharing the materials found within, whether it's old newspapers, vintage photographs, or cassette tape interviews, a video can illuminate the significance of preserving our collective history. After all, without the work of archivists, how would a person be able to see these materials today?

As the creator of the aforementioned series "From the Stacks," these benefits are in the forefront of my mind throughout the entire process. I start by thoroughly combing through as much of the collection as possible, summarizing the details and taking note of any particularly interesting pieces of information or images that could be used to connect with an audience. In the case of the Georgia Rhoades video, I knew very early that the focal point needed to be the very beginning of the war. While World War II itself is certainly capable of being interesting, the need to include it specifically in the coverage of the collection was motivated by a different reason- the value of a primary source reacting to a major world event in real time.

The preservation of this type of firsthand account is one of the most important and intriguing tasks that archives serve to accomplish. By highlighting direct excerpts from Georgia's writing, the video can give voice to the smaller personal struggles unfolding in the expanse of the larger war. It opens a door that allows an audience to connect personally with her story, especially in a post-quarantine era in which everyone has experienced the emotions of watching a global issue unfold around them. From there, the video took shape with ease.

Filled with segments showcasing text directly from her writings and scattered with various historical photographs taken by Georgia herself, the episode has been met with positivity and spurred a great deal of questions and further research from viewers. Mission success! Check out our YouTube account [here](#) and stay tuned for more videos to come.

Written by Quille Ronning



Still image from "From The Stacks • Bicycling on the Brink of War"

Dr. Sarah Mittlefehldt and The Cliffs Dow Site



Dr. Sarah Mittlefehldt



Historical Image of Cliffs-Dow Chemical Company (1960)

Dr. Sarah Mittlefehldt, a professor in Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences at NMU, received a four-year NSF grant to dive into the history of wood-based bioenergy technologies and their impact on society and the environment. This journey began with her exploration of various wood energy processes, including those rooted in Michigan's rich history. Her interest eventually led her to focus on the Cliffs Dow site.

Situated in Marquette, Michigan, the Cliffs Dow site encompasses a 2-acre area once used as a dumping ground by the Royal Oak Charcoal Company. From 1954 to the mid-1960s, hazardous substances, primarily volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), were disposed of on site. Hazardous tar deposits, in particular, posed a significant contamination risk to the soil and groundwater.

With the support of the Grace Magnaghi Upper Peninsula Research Grant, Mittlefehldt was able to expand upon her previous research and develop a project titled "Distilling the Forest: A History of Liquid Biofuels in Michigan's Upper Peninsula." This project focused on methanol production from wood and aimed to uncover both the intended and unintended consequences of this process, drawing heavily from the experiences of the Cliffs Dow Chemical Company.

Beyond the technical aspects, Mittlefehldt was driven by a desire to understand how bioenergy has shaped landscapes and communities over time. Her research journey started with a deep dive into archival materials from the Central U.P. and NMU Archives, providing valuable insights into the history of forestry and the forest industry in the Upper Peninsula.

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In the fall semester of 2023, one of Mittlefehldt's classes participated in the research by helping to design and conduct oral history interviews with folks connected to the Cliffs Dow plant in Marquette. These interviews added community value to her research, offering unique perspectives on the Cliffs Dow story and its impact on Marquette.

The following semester, students in Dr. Kathryn Johnson's UP History class then created transcripts of the interviews to make them more accessible to researchers.

The NMU Archives hopes to host Dr. Mittlefehldt for an Evening at the Archives event in which she will be able to disseminate her research into the community and the local student body. Her research will also be added to our UPLINK website when completed. Thank you Dr. Mittlefehldt for your impact here at NMU as well as in the Marquette community!

Written by Emma Roach, Archives Outreach Coordinator



UPLINK also has material about environmental studies on the Cliffs-Dow site, including aerial photos like the one above.

While you're waiting for the oral history collection to go online, you can explore our pre-existing Cliffs-Dow collection [here](#).

NEWS and UPDATES

In the last several months, UPLINK has added many new collections. Here are just some of the new collections you can peruse on our website:

- Painesdale Mine and Shaft has added more than 13,000 pages of financial records to their Copper Range Company collection!
- The Manistique School and Public Library has uploaded additional issues of the Manistique Pioneer-Tribune from 1977.
- The Ishpeming Area Historical Society contributed copies of their society newsletters to UPLINK. Besides documenting the society's current activities, these newsletters contain fascinating articles about the history of Ishpeming. IAHS also recently received the Clarke Historical Library's DigMich Newspaper grant, which will allow them to digitize several reels of the Ishpeming Iron Ore newspaper!
- The Finnish American Heritage Center added copies of its finding aids and indices to UPLINK.



The Manistique Courier-Record's front page on Armistice Day, 1918. UPLINK is currently scanning another batch of Schoolcraft County newspapers which will be available online in a few months.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Last name	First name	Date of death	Date of birth	Vol.-Page #
2	Aalto	Almo J "Al"	12/4/1998	3/6/1914	A-3
3	Aalto	Almo J "Al"	12/4/1998	3/6/1914	A-3
4	Aalto	Bruce A.	6/21/2000		A-72
5	Aalto	Doris M "Do"	2/17/2005	7/19/1936	A-2
6	Aalto	Eino	8/28/1980	1923	A-3
7	Aalto	Eino Emil	8/28/1980		A-355
8	Aalto	Eric H.	4/30/1995		A-4
9	Aalto	Irene	1/1/1998		A-5
10	Aalto	John R.	1986	11/16/1934	A-6, A-7
11	Aalto	Keith G.	5/16/2006	6/19/1962	A-8
12	Aalto	Lempi H.	2/11/1999	12/22/1918	A-9
13	Aalto	Leo	2/2/2002		A-10
14	Aalto	Reino O.	10/7/1993	3/27/1932	A-11
15	Aalto	Tarmo Alfred	8/19/2005	6/24/1921	A-12
16	Aalto	Tauno H.	6/24/2007	11/25/1930	A-674
17	Aalto	Toivo R.	7/26/1998	1/3/1913	A-10
18	Aalto	Toivo R.	7/26/1998	1/3/1913	A-2-3
19	Aaltonen	Leevi J.	12/31/2007	8/23/1937	A-454
20	Aaltonen	Rudolph "Rudy"	2/27/1999	5/1/1920	A-9
21	Aanderud	Duane	4/1/2007	3/19/1941	A-386
22	Aarik	Anton Olaf	12/26/2007	3/25/1926	A-678
23	Aari	Amanda	9/3/1943	11/13/1878	A-412
24	Aari	George	1986	4/11/1913	A-14
25	Aari	Hilda M.	2/7/1996	8/25/1907	A-15, A-16
26	Aari	M. Oscar	9/30/1944	11/9/1878	A-19
27	Aari	Michael L.	2/18/1960	9/9/1903	A-426
28	Aari	Onni	5/9/1979	1916	A-16, A-18
29	Aarnio	Liberty H.	10/17/2000	8/8/1911	A-20
30	Aaron	Marilyn Joy	6/1/2014	10/29/1950	A-553
31	Aartila	Donna (Versailles)	7/4/2004	11/20/1930	A-21
32	Aartila	Toivo A.		1/7/1888	A-22, A-23
33	Aasen	John Harold	9/10/2007	12/27/1924	A-669

Genealogists with Finnish roots will definitely want to explore the Finnish American Heritage Center's indices. They include indices to obituaries, photographs, cemeteries, and funeral records.

- The Thompson Township Historical Advisory Committee has scanned more of its government ledgers.
- The Northern Michigan University Archives has transferred the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company annual reports (1893 to 1960) to UPLINK. Although these reports were previously available on a separate website, the new version is full-text searchable and blurry and missing pages have been fixed.
- Another new NMU collection is a set of government documents related to the Cliffs-Dow plant in Marquette, including environmental impact studies conducted on the site and the various development plans the city has considered for the site over the years.
- You can now find John D. Voelker's literary notes and correspondence, novel drafts, and unpublished stories in UPLINK! Many thanks to Voelker's literary executors for giving the NMU Archives permission to publish these materials online.
- Thanks to a private donor, the NMU Archives was also able to digitize the microfilm of the Gladstone Delta and Delta County Reporter newspapers from 1886 to 1890 and 1901 to 1930.

COW	Breed	When fresh	Milk	Milk per day
1. Red	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
2. Sally	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
3. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
4. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
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91. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
92. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
93. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
94. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
95. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
96. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
97. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
98. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
99. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0
100. Jolly	Jersey	2-18-1901	6.5	2.0

The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company annual reports include the sort of information you might expect, like how much ore was mined, and lots of information you might not anticipate, such as the names of the cows on the company's farms. They also contain information about the nationalities of miners, diseases treated by company doctors, and reports on fatalities in the mines.



UPLINK recently acquired a batch microfilm scanner, which will allow us to digitize newspapers in-house. Expect several new newspaper collections in the coming year!

UPLINK Newsletter

- Individual community members also continue to share their personal archival collections with UPLINK. In the past few months, we've added a set of family photographs from Sault Sainte Marie, a scrapbook documenting the film *Anatomy of a Murder* and the trial that inspired it, and a memoir of the Barnes-Hecker mining disaster.
- As of April 1, UPLINK now has 85,915 items from 163 collections.
- UPLINK now has a total of 25 member organizations! The Schoolcraft County Historical Society and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community joined the consortium in the last few months. SCHS just digitized a set of newspapers from Schoolcraft County. Look for collections from KBIC in the coming months!
- The NMU Archives has selected 15 teachers to attend its Primary Source Literacy Institute this July. The participants will create lesson plans and other educational materials based around primary sources in UPLINK related to the history of the Anishinabeg and the history of resource extraction and environmental conservation in the UP. Those lesson plans will be made freely available for teachers across the state of Michigan. See our last newsletter for more information about the Institute.

- Finally, UPLINK has some big news to announce: we are revamping our website and migrating to a new version of our database platform Islandora! Unfortunately, while the new website is under construction, we cannot change anything in the old database. Although you won't see any new collections go online over the summer, rest assured that we are continuing to get projects ready behind the scenes. At the end of the summer, you'll see a brand new website followed by a whole slew of new collections for you to explore!



John D. Voelker (center) with the cast of Anatomy of a Murder in the Marquette County Courthouse. Voelker, a lawyer and judge from Ishpeming, wrote the famed novel Anatomy of a Murder under the pen name Robert Traver. UPLINK has many of Voelker's literary papers as well as a scrapbook about the movie and the real-life murder trial that inspired it.

Help UPLINK Preserve U.P. History!



Do you own photographs, correspondence, diaries, or other historical records that document the history of the Upper Peninsula that you would be willing to share on UPLINK? Please contact us at uplink@nmu.edu!

You can also donate money to support UPLINK via the NMU Foundation. If you donate to our general UPLINK fund, you will be helping to support the student labor necessary for new digitization projects, staff travel to heritage organizations, and more.

There are plenty of non-financial ways to promote the consortium as well. If you're using UPLINK for your own research, we would love to share your research in an upcoming newsletter! Contact us at uplink@nmu.edu. Spreading the word about UPLINK's resources to your fellow local history nerds and researchers also helps us tremendously, as does following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you haven't signed up to receive this newsletter via email, you can do so [here](#).