

FORWARD: From the Director of the Center for Upper Peninsula Studies

The Lake Superior Basin remains a region cut through the middle by an international boundary which also cuts through the historical presentation of the region. Both nations—Canada and the United States—seem to come to an “end” at the boundary. It becomes “our history” and “their history” and each group of scholars usually goes its separate way. It becomes difficult, except for a few instances, to even obtain publications dealing with the history of the entire region in either nation. Yet, the region is a grand Northern Borderlands whose history was one until the late eighteenth century. Then the international boundary came and subsequent history was split between the two nations. The reality is that the history of the Lake Superior Basin should be united and understood as a region with many common historical attributes.

For many years it has been my dream to see a more focused approach to the heritage of this region—a region with nearly one million people in a vast area that includes a number of metropolitan areas. It is my hope that this publication will develop over the coming years and in the process unite the region's history. We should not let an international boundary block our overview of the region. Following in the footsteps of Herbert E. Bolton, who saw the value of studying the United States-Mexican border region as a unit and thus fathered the Spanish Borderlands concept, I present this publication as a unifying work.

It is hoped that the publication's high standards will attract readers looking for a new experience and also researchers and writers seeking to present their work. This is the first such publication for the Lake Superior Basin and should be seen as a means to highlight the international northern borderlands and allow us to share our rich and varied history.

As the director of the Center for Upper Peninsula Studies, I welcome you to this new publication and hope that you will enjoy and learn from the presentations that follow and that you will consider contributing to its pages in the coming issues. Finally, I should acknowledge that the idea and funding for this publication came from Dr. Susan Koch, the former provost of Northern Michigan University.

Russell M. Magnaghi
Director, Center for Upper Peninsula Studies