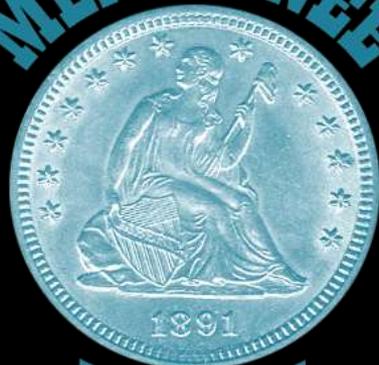
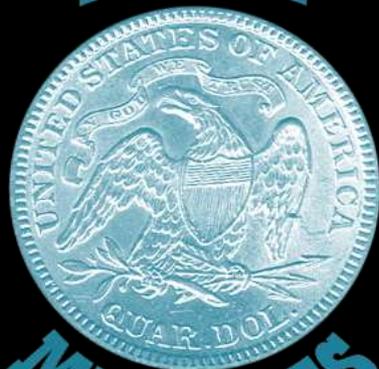


MENOMINEE



RANGE



MEMORIES

PRESENTS

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library



Today's Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum

Compiled by William J. Cummings
April, 2012

Quinnesec's Pioneer School and Library – 1877



John Lane Buell, Quinnesec's founder, platted the village on the forty acres of land comprising the NE/NE corner of Section 3, Township 39 North, Range 30 West in 1876. However, the plat was not officially recorded at Menominee, the county seat, until March 21, 1877, just five days after the Michigan legislature established the boundaries of Breitung Township in Menominee County.

Breitung Township then included what is now Norway Township, the southern part of Sagola Township (now Randville) and extended as far west as Stager, now in Iron County. Since no election of officers was held until April 29, 1878, the township's affairs continued to be controlled by Menominee Township.

Quinnesec's Pioneer School and Library – 1877



Said to have been built in 1877 by John Lane Buell, the founder of Quinnesec, the Pioneer School, the first constructed in Breitung Township, was located on the southwest corner of Bluff Street and Paint Street (now U.S. 2) with the front door facing north. *[John Alquist/Breitung Township]*

Quinnesec's Pioneer School and Library – 1877



A second story was being added in late October, 1879, to accommodate all the pupils in attendance. The addition was finished by mid-December, when the workmen enclosed the grounds with a fence. A one-story library building facing Bluff Street was attached to the school by a hallway and was undoubtedly the area's first such repository. *[John Alquist/Breitung Township]*

Quinnesec's Pioneer School and Library – 1877

The Pioneer School, the first schoolhouse constructed in the Breitung Township School System, was erected in 1877. The two-story frame building was located on the southwest corner of Bluff Street and Paint Street (now U.S. 2), with the front door facing north. A one-story library building, facing Bluff Street, was attached to the Pioneer School by a hallway, and was undoubtedly the area's first such repository.

A volume entitled *District Librarian's Book for Town of Breitung, County of Menominee, and State of Michigan*, now in the archives of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum, shows a shelf list of 525 books in the library's collection by the spring of 1883. In April of that year, the township allocated \$500 for the purchase of additional books. Loose sheets found in the back of this volume enumerate book titles to 1,531 volumes.

The names of two of the four teachers instructing the pupils in the Pioneer School in 1881, Miss **Marion C. Burdon** and Miss **Jennie Atkinson**, are listed in this librarian's book. **Miss Burdon, principal of Iron Mountain's Chapin School when she married John Russell, one of the city's pioneer merchants, in April of 1893 in Milwaukee, was an avid reader.** Interestingly, she had borrowed a book on both April 21, 1882, and May 4, 1883, the inclusive dates of the librarian's book. The titles of the two books she borrowed were *The Mystery of Metropolis Villa* and *Side Lights in English Society*, respectively.

After each patron's name, the dates and corresponding book numbers are recorded, as well as the condition of the book when borrowed and returned.

Norway's Central School/High School



Postmarked Norway, Mich., April 28, 1914, this postcard view shows the original Norway High School, completed in 1892 at a cost of \$15,000, located on the northwest corner of Norway Street and Tenth Street. **Eleven teachers staffed the eight-room school house which included a fair-sized library in the office.** The school was known as the Central School after the new high school was constructed in 1906. Note the fire escape from the second story. *[WJC Photo]*

Quinnesec's Garfield School – 1898



Quinnesec's Garfield School, formally dedicated January 6, 1898, replaced the Pioneer School which could no longer be used because of its proximity to the Cundy Mine shaft. **The two-story building, located where the Breitung Township Hall now stands, contained four classrooms and a library which was located in the front portion of the building on the second floor.** [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

Quinnesec's Garfield School – 1898



A large picture of President Garfield hung in front of the large classroom on the first floor, called the assembly room. Two additional classrooms were located on this floor. When the school opened, classes from kindergarten through eighth grade were taught. Eighth grade graduates held their commencement exercises in Buell's Opera House. Those wanting a high school education had to go to Iron Mountain. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Quinnesec's Garfield School – 1898



Postmarked Quinnesec, Mich., June 1, 1911, students and teachers posed in front of the Garfield School. [WJC Photo]

Breitung Township Library Moves to Iron Mountain

Later, as Quinnesec continued to grow and more children enrolled in the Pioneer School, the library was used as an additional classroom. Perhaps this occurred after the library was moved to Iron Mountain, occupying a small building on Carpenter Avenue near the foot of the hill.

When Iron Mountain was incorporated as a village in 1887, the township library evidently was again located in Quinnesec.



Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 6 [Thursday, May 2, 1889], page 1, column 5

Why Not a Public Library.

The Marquette Journal of last Monday contains an interesting description of Ishpeming's public library. That institution contains 3,405 catalogued books, comprising works of fiction, historical, biographical, scientific and poetical works, besides a generous supply of works on government, politics and political economy. Here is a library that is able to satisfy every seeker of knowledge or amusement, and accessible to the public every day and every evening. Besides the library of books a reading-room has also been recently established in connection with in, and these public conveniences are thoroughly appreciated by the residents of Ishpeming. We gather from the article that this is all done through the liberality of the city.

Iron Mountain had a very excellent library before it was set off from Breitung township but with the division of township property this public luxury was of necessity turned over to the township authorities at Quinnesec. Since then a small school library has been obtained, which is accessible to the public certain days, but is designed more especially for the accommodation of our public schools. The patronage the old township library had when located in this city is sufficient assurance that it was appreciated, and if there is a way for the city to provide this public convenience we believe it ought to be done, and if a reading-room could also be added it would undoubtedly be the means of doing much good. There are young men in this city who would be glad of a public place in which to spend their leisure time, and it would have a constant tendency to draw them away from places of evil associations.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 33 [Thursday, November 6, 1889], page 1, column 4

Our Only Vacant Building.

The small building formerly occupied as a township library building is rapidly going to ruin again, now that it is unoccupied. The boys have the glass front nearly knocked to flinders – one or two whole lights left yet – the front door stands wide open, and at the present rate of destruction the building will possibly be of some value for kindling wood in the spring, but that is all. Better give it to some poor man to fix up for a dwelling than leave it as it is.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 26 [Thursday, September 17, 1891], page 1, column 5

A Public Library and Reading Room.

MR. EDITOR: Has it ever struck you what an advantage it would be to a great many persons of both sexes in our city if we had a public library where books could be taken out for a stated period, and a reading room where magazines, pamphlets and newspapers could be seen and the reading of them enjoyed for an hour or two, by anyone desirous of spending some time during the afternoon or evening until, say 9 o'clock?

Would not such a place be better and could it not be made more attractive to younger men than the saloons?

Young ladies, too, would find it pleasant and instructive, to pass at least part of their leisure hours of evening at such a place.

I think that such a place as this could, by a proper encouragement of the people to pitch in and take hold of it, by giving generously of their means, be made the means of giving real sterling pleasure and profit to all who would partake of it, helping them at a small price to pass the long evenings of the coming winter in a proper and delightful way instead of spending the same time in debauchery and possibly, vice.

Keep this up, Mr. Editor, and let us have before long a public library and reading room, which will prove an ornament and attraction to our young city. DELTA.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 29 [Thursday, **October 8, 1891**], page 1, column 5

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the communication which appeared in our columns three weeks ago in reference to a public library and reading room in this city. This is a matter that should receive the hearty sanction of our public spirited citizens. It is in the interest of good morals and public advancement in knowledge and refined tastes. THE RANGE has hoped to see our correspondent's idea heartily seconded, and urges that the matter have the consideration of our citizens who are interested in whatever tends to elevate young men and afford them an opportunity to profitably spend their leisure hours. In a city of 10,000 inhabitants there ought to be some place where a book can be obtained to read, and where young men can spend an evening reading the magazines and daily papers, or in the enjoyment of harmless games. We believe it only needs the active interest of a few of our citizens to bring this about, and in a short time to provide this city with a public library and reading room that will be a great public benefit, and of which we shall all be proud. Let someone take the lead in this matter and there is no doubt that such an institution will soon be one of the public conveniences of Iron Mountain.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 39 [Thursday, December 17, 1891], page 4, column 3

Public Library.

We have been asked by different parties to urge the establishment of a public library in this city, which is evidence that some persons, at least, are not aware that we already have a public library. It is located in the Central school building, and is at the service of any one who may desire to get books from it. It contains 110 volumes and any resident of this city is entitled to use the library freely and will be waited upon Saturday afternoons by the librarian. This is not a large library for a city the size of Iron Mountain, but when the city was organized the township library was taken to Quinnesec and we had to start fresh. All the fines collected for penal offenses go into the library fund, as required by law, and every year additions are made to the library, so that as the years roll by Iron Mountain will some day possess a public library of which her citizens will no doubt feel proud. In the meantime the public is invited to make use of the one we have.

Iron Mountain's Central School



Probably taken in the late 1890's, the camera faces southwest overlooking a portion of Iron Mountain's West Side. At the left the rooftop of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, located on the southeast corner of Prospect Avenue and West B Street, is visible. **The Central School, the two-story white building with the large belfry located just to the right of center, faced Prospect Avenue on the east end of the block where Iron Mountain High School was built in 1911-1912.** St. Mary's Catholic Church, right, was located at the northeast corner of South Kimberly Avenue and West B Street. St. Joseph's Catholic Church stood at the northwest corner of Prospect Avenue and West A Street. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Iron Mountain's Central School – 1884



The Central School, consisting of two stories and eight classrooms, was erected in 1884 at 300 West B Street at the intersection with West Prospect Avenue at a cost of \$15,000. This is the site of Iron Mountain High School. The first high school class graduated in 1889, the school serving as the high school until the N.P. Hulst School opened in 1892. The St. Joseph's Catholic Church roof and side is visible in the background of this ca. 1910 postcard view. The building was moved to corner of Kimberly Avenue and West Hughitt Street in 1911, and was razed in 1937, when the Central Junior High School was constructed at that location. *[Keen Scott]*

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

Iron Mountain's library remained in the Central School, a two-story building constructed on the site of the present Iron Mountain High School on West B Street in 1884 at a cost of \$15,000 and housing all grades in eight rooms, until the Hulst School was built on Madison Avenue.

Designed by F.E. Clancy, a Green Bay, Wisconsin, architect, the school, named for Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst, the famed iron authority and Menominee Iron Range explorer, contained approximately 25 rooms, some of which were originally heated with fireplaces. Construction began in May, 1892, by the Amberg Granite Company of Amberg, Wisconsin, located 25 miles south of Iron Mountain. Red granite was used for the foundation, while the imposing, castle-like upper structure was built of gray granite. Regarded as the finest school north of Milwaukee, the school cost \$45,000, and replaced the Central School as the high school. The library was housed in this building until the Carnegie Public Library opened in 1902.

Little more regarding the establishment of a public library and free reading room was published in the Iron Mountain newspapers until the spring of 1893, when the issue of a free reading room again surfaced.

Iron Mountain's Nelson P. Hulst High School – 1892



Named for Nelson Powell Hulst, then the general manager of the Pewabic Mine, the N.P. Hulst High School was designed by J.E. Clancy. This monumental structure of grey Amberg granite was constructed on a 260 x 300 feet block of land between Ludington and Hughitt Streets in 1891-1892 at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Students and teachers first occupied the 25-room building on Monday, November 14, 1892. **A library and reading rooms adjoined the spacious high school rooms.** *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Iron Mountain's Nelson P. Hulst High School – 1892

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIV, Number 49 [Thursday, **March 9, 1893**], page 1, column 5

A HIGH COMPLIMENT.

Paid Our Schools by Superintendent of Public Instruction Pattengill.

In a late issue of the *Moderator*, a school publication, we find the following concerning our new high school building from the pen of Superintendent of Public Instruction Pattengill:

Iron Mountain enjoys the proud reputation of having one of the two best schoolhouses in Michigan. It is built entirely of granite – the foundation of red and the superstructure of blue. The interior finishings are of the best and costs completed not far from \$45,000. The upper part of each schoolroom door is bevel plate glass and the mountings of polished brass. The lighting and ventilating are excellent. The halls are light and roomy and the superintendent's office is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. **The library and reading rooms adjoin the spacious high schoolroom and like the high schoolroom is just capped out with a most beautiful fireplace.**

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIV, Number 51 [Thursday, March 23, 1893], page 8, column 2

A Free Reading Room.

Nearly every town in the upper peninsula of any importance, except Iron Mountain, has a free reading room, and the experience is that they are of a great benefit to the community at large, affording as they do a pleasant place where young men can congregate and spend their leisure hours in improving their minds. A movement is now on foot to establish one here, and *The Range-Tribune* considers it the duty of every business man [*sic - businessman*] to render all the aid possible to make the same a success. A reading room well supplied with reading matter and pleasantly furnished will attract many men, both old and young, who now have no place other than the saloon in which to spend an evening. A meeting will soon be called to take initial steps, and we hope to see the same largely attended.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XV, Number 2 [Thursday, April 13, 1893], page 4, column 4

A Free Reading Room.

For some months this paper has been advocating the opening of a free reading room, such as will be found in almost every other peninsula city, and there is now fair prospects that our efforts will be crowned with success. The Women's Christian Temperance Union have taken hold of the matter, and we understand will soon solicit subscriptions from the business men [*sic - businessmen*]. It is the intention of the ladies, we believe, to raise some \$2,000, rent a suitable building on Stephenson Ave., furnish the same in a pleasant and comfortable manner, and keep the tables well supplied with good reading matter. Games of an innocent nature will also be provided. The Range-Tribune wishes the movement every success.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

No evidence has been found to ascertain the establishment of a free reading room by the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Iron Mountain at this time, for shortly after the above article appeared in *The Range-Tribune*, in early May of 1893, a nation-wide "panic" began due to the belief that the United States would be forced to adopt the silver standard because of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Banks closed, farm foreclosures soared and industry stagnated as the panic gave way to depression with mass unemployment. Locally, the mines began to close, the mighty Chapin finally succumbing on August 18, retaining only 20 of its 700 employees.

Even though the Silver Purchase Act was finally repealed October 30, following much congressional debate, the depression, by then world-wide, was not affected. For almost two years the newspaper columns were filled with rumors about mines reopening and articles dealing with assistance for the hundreds of unemployed men actively seeking any type of work in an era devoid of social welfare programs to support them and their families. **The establishment of a free reading room was an unaffordable luxury during these difficult times.**

However, once the nation began to recover from the Panic of 1893 and the economy stabilized, resulting in a demand of iron ore for the steel mills and lumber for the sawmills, the free reading room issue resurfaced.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 24 [Thursday, November 4, 1897], page 8, column 3

The promoter of the Free Reading Room project has received sufficient encouragement to warrant the leasing of the Keast building on East Ludington street, nearly opposite the post-office. Considerable furniture has been donated and the work of fitting up the room commenced. Properly conducted the enterprise will be the means of doing much good in the community.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 25 [Thursday, November 11, 1897], page 1, column 5

A Book Social.

The free reading room will be opened in the Keast block next Friday evening with a book social, to which all are invited. Each person is asked to bring a desirable book, as a contribution to the library, or to send regrets in the form of a book. Each comer is also earnestly desired to personate or represent in some way the title of some book. Prizes will be given for the best representation and to the person guessing the largest number. A literary and musical program will be rendered, and refreshments will be served. Come!

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

The building leased for the Free Reading Room, owned by Joseph A. Keast, a miner who resided with his family upstairs, was located at 221 East Ludington Street, now an apartment building and the last structure on the south side of the 200 block. Interestingly, the site selected for the Carnegie Public Library four years later was kitty-corner from this location.



Andrew Carnegie First Provides Funding Locally

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 10 [Thursday, **July 28, 1898**], page 1, column 3

Gift From Carnegie.

On Thursday last, E.F. Brown, president of the Iron Mountain Club, received a check for \$500 from Andrew Carnegie, the Pennsylvania iron king, with instructions that the same be used in purchasing books for the club library. The gift was a most acceptable one, and, with the other donations that have been promised, will enable the club to purchase a fine assortment of books.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 23 [Thursday, **October 27, 1898**], page 1, column 2

The Public Library.

Supt. Amidon telephones The Press that on and after November first the school library will be open every Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock and Wednesday afternoons from 3:40 to 5 o'clock, school time. Next Saturday the library will be open as usual from 1 to 5 o'clock. It is thought that this arrangement will prove more satisfactory to the patrons.

Iron Mountain's Desire for a Public Library

Thirteen years had passed since the Breitung Township library had been returned to Quinnesec when the twentieth century dawned, and Iron Mountain, Dickinson County's most populous city, was still without a full-fledged library.

During the summer of 1900, former Judge Partick Flanagan, representing the stock company which purchased the Hotel Wood on East Ludington Street late the preceding year, offered to sell the nine-year-old building to the city for \$9,200. The common council, recognizing the city's need for a building for municipal purposes, bought the building, still serving as Iron Mountain's city hall. The ink had hardly dried on the deed when the following article appeared in the *Iron Mountain Press*:

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 15 [Thursday, August 30, 1900], page 1, column 3

Do You Favor This Proposition?

The Press would suggest that the Board of Education petition the Board of Aldermen for the use of one of the stores in the Hotel Wood block, soon to be acquired for city hall purposes, for a public library and office for the superintendent of schools. There can be no question but that if the city library were more conveniently located it would be more generally patronized. The library is an excellent one and the community as a whole would be benefitted by the freer circulation of the books contained therein.

However, this proposition never materialized.

THE HOTEL WOOD BECOMES CITY HALL – 1900



Built by John R. Wood, first president of the First National Bank, in 1891 out of native red sandstone from the North Side quarry, this building was originally a business block, then the Hotel Wood and finally was sold to the City of Iron Mountain for \$9,200 in 1900 for use as a city hall. **The proposition to use one of the store fronts for a city library never materialized.** *[Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum Photo]*

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

In mid-May an article in the *Iron Mountain Press* noted Andrew Carnegie had agreed to donate \$12,000 to erect a public library building in Ironwood due to the efforts of officials of the Oliver Iron Mining Company. Carnegie's only stipulation was that Ironwood pledge itself through its council to pay for the maintenance of the library and provide a suitable site. A second article ran in the local newspaper in mid-September, prominently displayed on the front page, outlining the features of the proposed library which would be constructed the following spring.

Then, late in February, 1901, a brief news item noted W.H. Johnston, of the Oliver Iron Mining Company, had reported to the Ishpeming council that Carnegie would donate a public library building provided the city would agree to contribute 10 per cent of its cost annually for maintenance, a proposition the council was seriously considering.

Evidently L.E. Amidon, Iron Mountain's superintendent of schools, had also been motivated to petition Carnegie for a public library, having learned of his generosity toward these other upper peninsula mining communities. The following item appeared in large print in the *Iron Mountain Press* in mid-March.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 43 [Thursday, **March 14, 1901**], page 3, column 3

CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

The Gentleman Will Give Iron Mountain \$15,000 for a Public Library.

Supt. Amidon, of the public schools, received a letter this morning from Andrew Carnegie in which the gentleman agrees to donate \$15,000 for a public library in Iron Mountain, provided the citizens donate a free site and contribute \$1,500 per year for the support of the institution. The offer will undoubtedly be accepted.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919

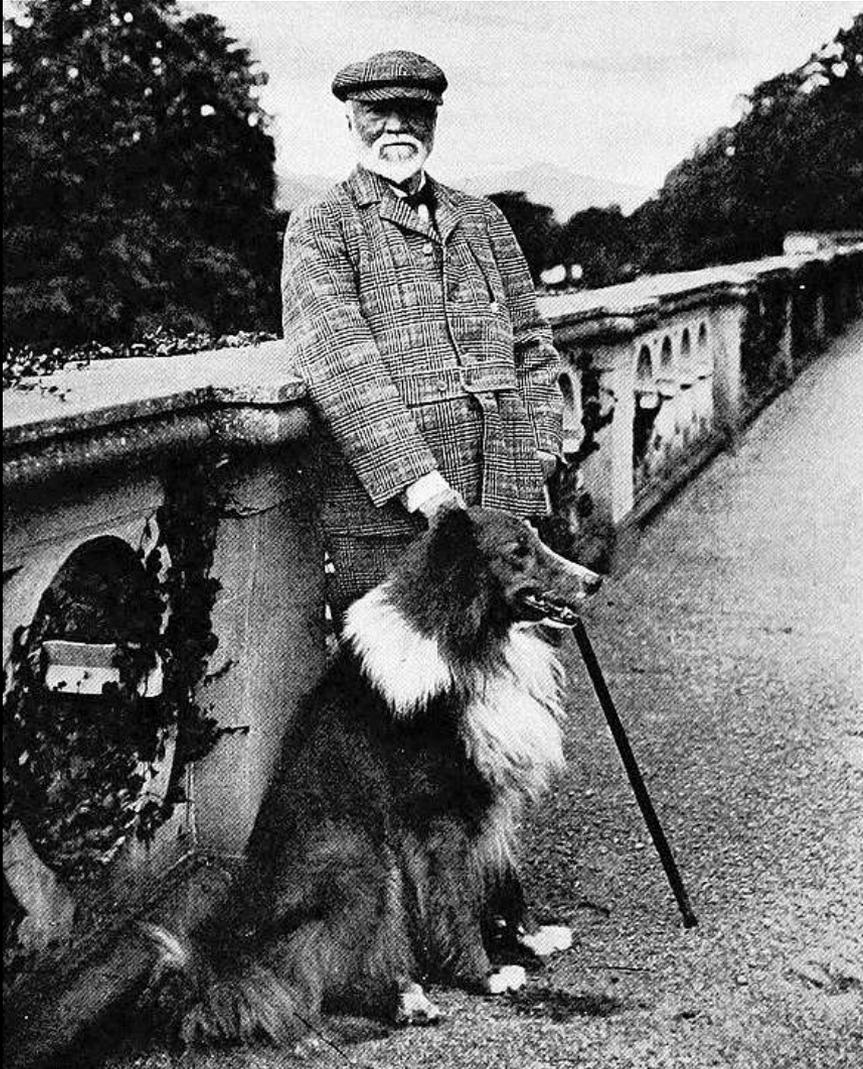


Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish-American industrialist who led the enormous expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century. He was also one of the most important philanthropists of his era.

Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, and immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1848. His first job in the United States was as a **factory worker in a bobbin factory**. Later on he became a **bill logger for the owner of the company**. Soon after he became a **messenger boy**. Eventually he progressed up the ranks of a **telegraph company**. He built Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Company, which was later merged with Elbert H. Gary's Federal Steel Company and several smaller companies to create U.S. Steel. With the fortune he made from business, he built **Carnegie Hall** in New York City and other public halls, later turning to philanthropy and interests in education.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919



Carnegie gave most of his money to establish many libraries, schools, and universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and other countries, as well as a pension fund for former employees. He is often regarded as the second-richest man in history after John D. Rockefeller.

He earned most of his fortune in the steel industry. In the 1870's, he founded the Carnegie Steel Company, a step which cemented his name as one of the "Captains of Industry". By the 1890's, the company was the largest and most profitable industrial enterprise in the world. Carnegie sold it in 1901 for \$480 million to J.P. Morgan, who created U.S. Steel. Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to large-scale philanthropy, with special emphasis on local libraries, world peace, education and scientific research. His life has often been referred to as a true "rags to riches" story.

Andrew Carnegie at Skibo Castle, Scotland, in 1914.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919



In 1901, Carnegie was 66 years of age and considering retirement. He reformed his enterprises into conventional joint stock corporations as preparation to this end. John Pierpont Morgan was a banker and perhaps America's most important financial deal maker. He had observed how efficiently Carnegie produced profit. He envisioned an integrated steel industry that would cut costs, lower prices to consumers, produce in greater quantities and raise wages to workers. He concluded negotiations on March 2, 1901, and formed the United States Steel Corporation. It was the first corporation in the world with a market capitalization over \$1 billion.

The holdings were incorporated in the United States Steel Corporation, a trust organized by Morgan, and Carnegie retired from business. His steel enterprises were bought out at a figure equivalent to 12 times their annual earnings – \$480 million (presently, \$13,409,280,000) which at the time was the largest ever personal commercial transaction.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919



Among his many philanthropic efforts, the establishment of public libraries throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, and other English-speaking countries was especially prominent.

His method was to build and equip, but only on condition that the local authority matched that by providing the land and a budget for operation and maintenance.

In total Carnegie funded some 3,000 libraries, located in 47 U.S. states, and also in Canada, the United Kingdom, what is now the Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies and Fiji.

Carnegie died on August 11, 1919, in Lenox, Massachusetts, of bronchial pneumonia. He had already given away \$350,695,653 (approximately \$4.3 billion, adjusted to 2005 figures) of his wealth. At his death, his last \$30,000,000 was given to foundations, charities, and to pensioners.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919

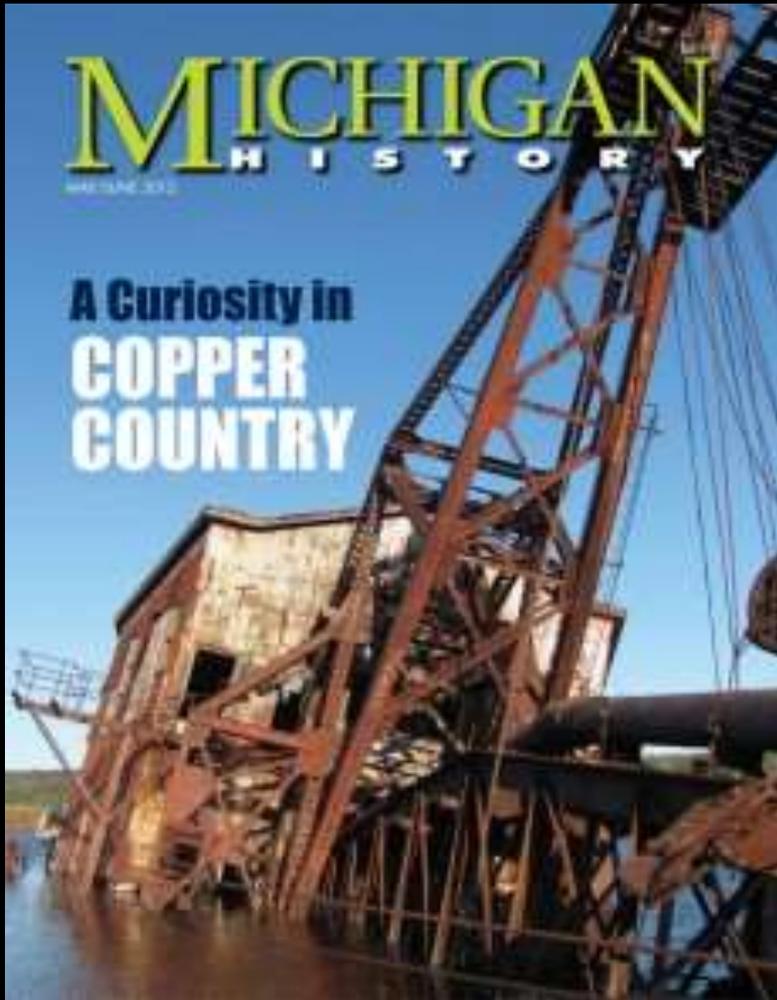


Carnegie believed passionately that wealth should not be squandered by the person who gathered it, but be reinvested into the community to aid the public good. In his famous essay “Wealth” he wrote:

First, to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent upon him; and after doing so to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial result for the community – the man of wealth thus becoming the mere agent and trustee for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer, doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves.

Andrew Carnegie

November 25, 1835-August 11, 1919



In the May/June 2012 issue of *Michigan History*, an article entitled “Carnegie’s Legacy of Libraries” by Paul Vachon (pp. 21-25, provides additional insight on Carnegie’s influence on the advancement of literacy in Michigan when his philanthropy enabled the construction of 61 public libraries here. Fifty of them still stand, and 26 still function as public libraries.

The following seven Upper Peninsula communities received grants from Carnegie: Escanaba (1902 – now a private home), Houghton (1908 – now a history museum), Iron Mountain (1901 – now a history museum), Ironwood (1900 – still a library), Ishpeming (1901 – still a library), Sault Ste. Marie (1901 – now school offices) and Stambaugh (1914 – now school offices).

Carnegie’s reverence for knowledge, coupled with his personal philosophy of wealth, provided the motivating factors to begin his library program in 1883.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 4 [Thursday, **March 21, 1901**], page 1, column 4

A Library for Ishpeming.

Through the good offices of W.H. Johnston, agent for the Lake Superior mines at Ishpeming, that city is to receive a donation of \$26,000 for a library building. Mr. Johnston received a letter to that effect on Saturday last. Mr. Johnston was also instrumental in securing a substantial donation for the manual training school from the offices of the Carnegie company. Ishpeming people are under many obligations to the gentleman.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 4 [Thursday, **March 21, 1901**], page 1, column 5

Donation Accepted.

At a meeting of the Board of Education held last Friday evening it was voted unanimously to accept Mr. Carnegie's tender of \$15,000 for a public library building, and Secretary McLaughlin was intrusted [*sic - entrusted*] to inform the gentleman of the decision. President Crowell, Secretary McLaughlin and Supt. Amidon were appointed a committee to secure a site for the building.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 6 [Thursday, July 4, 1901], page 1, column 3

LIBRARY SITE SELECTED.

**Located on Northeast Corner of
East Ludington and Iron
Mountain Streets.**

The board of education, after many trials and tribulations, have finally secured a site upon which to erect the library building. It will be located on the northeast corner of East Ludington street and Iron Mountain avenue, upon the lots now occupied by the house of William Krier.

The site selected is an admirable one, being centrally located, and particularly convenient to a large majority of the patrons of the library, being within one block of Stephenson avenue, half a block from the post-office and two blocks from the high school.

[CONTINUED]

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 6 [Thursday, July 4, 1901], page 1, column 3

The price paid for the lots was \$1,500 in cash and the East Brown street school property. Mr. Krier will also be permitted to remove his residence and other buildings from the site.

The board of education has examined several sets of plans, and has not as yet reached any decision as regards the building. A decision will be arrived at soon, however, so that the building can be erected this season.

The amount which Mr. Carnegie has so generously donated for the erection of the building is \$20,000 [*sic* – \$1,500], so an imposing edifice is assured.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 7 [Thursday, July 11, 1901], page 1, column 4

New Library Building.

Architect Clancy has been engaged to furnish the plans for the new Carnegie library. At a special meeting of the board of education, which was held last Friday evening, Mr. Clancy submitted a sketch of the building, which met with approval of the board. It is to be constructed of stone, one story high and basement, and to be heated with steam. On the upper floor will be the general reading room, a large corridor, the offices of the superintendent and the librarian, and a stack room. In the basement will be a reading room for children too small to take books away from the library, a newspaper file room, utensil room, unpacking room, boiler and fuel room, and closets. The working plans will be ready in about two weeks when bids for the construction of the building will be advertised for.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 7 [Thursday, July 11, 1901], page 3, column 1

William Krier is engaged in removing his residence from the site of the library building to the Brown street school property.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 9 [Thursday, July 25, 1901], page 5, column 4

It is expected that the completed plans for the Carnegie library building will be received from Architect Clancy next Monday. Bids for the erection of the building will be advertised for at once.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 12 [Thursday, August 15, 1901], page 5, column 3

The contract for the new Carnegie library building will be let on the 24th.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 14 [Thursday, August 29, 1901], page 1, column 5

Library Contract Let.

The contract for the erection of the Carnegie library building at the corner of East Ludington and Iron Mountain streets was let at a meeting of the board of education held last Saturday evening. William H. Sweet was the successful bidder, his price being \$12,950. The bid of Parmelee & Son, the next lowest bidders, was \$13,900.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 14 [Thursday, August 29, 1901], page 5, column 5

Contractor Sweet has already commenced work on the Carnegie library building.

W.H. Sweet has sublet the contract for the cut stone work on the new Carnegie library building to the General Construction company, of Milwaukee.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 16 [Thursday, **September 12, 1901**], page 1, column 5

Library Contracts.

The contract for the plumbing work for the new Carnegie library building has been awarded to Firme & Koester for \$310. The Bowers Heating company, of Milwaukee, has secured the contract for the hot water heating plant, their price being \$1,449.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 22 [Thursday, **October 24, 1901**], page 1, column 6

Librarian Engaged.

At a meeting of the board of education held on Friday evening last, the position of librarian at the new Carnegie library was tendered to Miss Margaret McVety, of Colorado Springs, Col. The young lady is a graduate of the literary department of the Colorado university, has had five years' experience in a large library, and comes here with the highest recommendation.

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 30 [Thursday, **December 19, 1901**], page 2, column 5

Hon. Andrew Carnegie has written Secretary McLaughlin, of the Board of Education[,] to the effect that he will cheerfully increase his donation for public library purposes here from \$15,000 to \$17,500. The additional money is required for the stack-room and furnishings.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 42 [Thursday, **March 13, 1902**], page 3, column 1

It is now expected that the Carnegie public library will be opened to the public about the first of April.

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library – 1902



Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library first opened its doors Tuesday, April 15, 1902, at the southeast corner of East Ludington Street and Iron Mountain Street. Architect James E. Clancy based his design on classical Greek architecture, specifying Bedford stone for its exterior. William H. Sweet was the contractor for the project. The building served as a library until the Dickinson County Library, located at 401 Iron Mountain Street, was dedicated April 16, 1969. Adolph Anderson took this photograph shortly after the library opened. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 47 [Thursday, April 17, 1902], page 1, columns 1-2

The Public Library.

The Carnegie Public Library of Iron Mountain is certainly one of which the citizens may be proud and a feeling of gratefulness to Mr. Carnegie should be a natural response in the hearts of all who appreciate its significance and value.

The building, planned somewhat on the Grecian [*sic - Grecian*] style of architecture, is built of Bedford stone and finished with most careful attention as to details that will add to usefulness and convenience in the different departments.

On the first floor the furnishings are entirely of oak with maple floors, and much taste has been shown in the decoration. The entryway, the reference and distributing rooms have been made especially attractive by neat designs in stucco work on the ceilings.

The entry is tinted in a dark olive shade which forms a harmonious contrast with the Pompeian [*sic - Pompeian*] red of the distributing room. In this room, as the name suggests, all books are to be returned and checked out.

[CONTINUED]

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library – 1902



Postmarked on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Train 16, R.P.O. on September 19, 1911, this tinted halftone photograph of the Carnegie Public Library, Iron Mountain, Mich., was published by the Seibert Drug Company. The five large windows with half-circle transoms lighted the reference and reading room. The windows below lighted the juvenile room. [WJC Photo]

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 47 [Thursday, April 17, 1902], page 1, columns 1-2

The reference and reading room is large and well lighted, it is to be furnished with two reading tables, a writing desk and small table for use in consulting large and heavy reference books. While only the magazines are strictly reference books will be found there, it is possible to communicate almost directly with the librarian's desk so that books or information may be had without leaving the room.

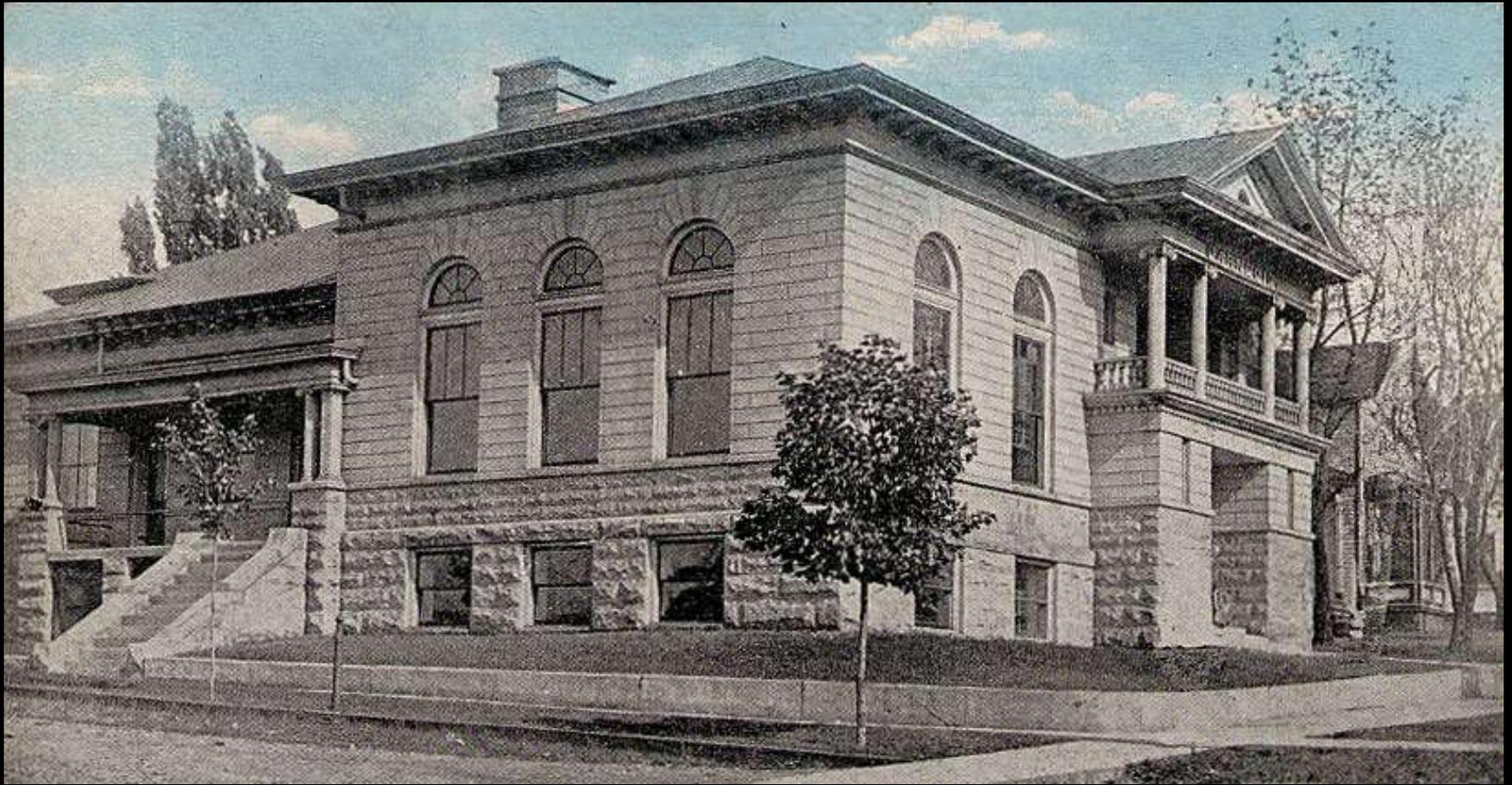
Immediately back of the distributing room is the stack room fitted up with modern steel stacks and containing 4,000 volumes arranged according to the Dewey decimal system of classification.

To the left of the stacks are two commodious offices: one for the Board of Education and one for the Superintendent of Schools. Directly above provision has been made for a second stack room, at the end of which are two small rooms to be used by those who come on matters of research and wish to talk about the subject, so making it possible to maintain silence in the other departments of the library.

In the basement the juvenile room has already been supplied with a collection of books for boys and girls to read and examine at their pleasure, and duplicates of these are to be found up-stairs, and may be drawn at anytime [*sic - any time*].

[CONTINUED]

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library – 1902



This unused, tinted, halftone postcard view of the Carnegie Public Library, Iron Mountain, Mich., probably dates between 1908 and 1915. The stone stairway on the west side of the building led to a porch and the entrance to the office of the superintendent of the Iron Mountain Public Schools and the another room for the use of the Board of Education. The vault is still operational to the right when entering from this porch. After Iron Mountain High School was built in 1911-1912, these offices were located in that structure. [WJC Photo]

Andrew Carnegie's Role in Iron Mountain's Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 47 [Thursday, April 17, 1902], page 1, columns 1-2

In the newspaper room will be found copies of the local papers and of the Chicago, Detroit and Marquette dailies. The supply, janitor and furnace rooms are also on this floor.

The library is here for the reading public and everything that could be done to meet the wants and needs of the public will be done; at the same time it is hoped that a mutual relationship of helpfulness may be established and that the library may receive donations in the way of books or magazines.

Tuesday, April 15th, at 10 a.m., the library was opened and that day was devoted especially to showing the building and its equipments [*sic - equipment*] to all who were interested. Library hours are from 10 a.m. to 12, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 and from 7 p.m. to 9 standard time. Sundays and legal holidays excepted.

The plans for the library were furnished by J.E. Clancy, W.H. Sweet was the contractor, and the total cost of the building was \$17,500.

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library



These stucco details are located in the entryway and reference and distributing rooms, where the General Store is now located in the museum. The entry walls were originally tinted a dark olive green and the distributing room was painted Pompeian Red. Original oak wainscoting remains in these areas.

The original stucco ceiling designs are still visible in the Menominee Range Historical Museum. Note the Greek key pattern above, as well as acanthus leaves above and to the right.



Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library



The ceiling design at the left between the square panels again utilizes the Greek key design with rosettes centered in the square panels around the perimeter of the ceiling in the reading and reference room with a dentated-style moulding around the edge.

The original stucco ceiling designs are still visible in the Menominee Range Historical Museum. There are acanthus leaf brackets in the photo on the right with other Greek motifs in stucco, such as egg and dart and a repeated foliar pattern, also possibly based on acanthus leaves.



Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 7, Number 19 [Thursday, **October 2, 1902**], page 5, column 3

Beginning next Sunday the Carnegie public library will be open, from 2 o'clock p.m. to 5 o'clock p.m. until April, to any one [*sic - anyone*] desiring to read, but no books will be distributed during these hours to be taken away from the library. New fiction after this will be placed on the one week list and a fine of five cents per day will be charged for every day these books are kept overtime. This is done in order to give everyone an opportunity to get these books if they so desire.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 8, Number 6 [Thursday, **July 2, 1903**], page 1, column 5

Library Note.

Beginning Thursday, July 2nd, the Library will be open only afternoons from 1:30 to 5:30 and Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. On July Fourth the library will be closed all day and books coming due at that time will not be subject to fine if returned the following Monday afternoon.

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library



Civil War veteran Samuel Bassett was the library's first janitor. Described as "hard-working, kind and easy to get along with," he was a familiar sight, smiling through his handlebar mustache as he swept the sidewalks clean so dirt from the street and walks would not end up on the floors inside.

Librarian Margaret McVety resigned in 1907. Subsequent librarians, all of whom grew to know the reading tastes of the library's patrons, served in the following order: Sarah Mason, 1907-1910; Alexandrine La Tourette, 1910-1913; Mary Frances Carpenter, 1913-1918; Mrs. Gilbert V. (Lenore) Carpenter, 1918-1927; Lucile Monroe, 1928-1945; Catherine Keiserman, acting librarian, fall of 1938-1939; Melba Urban, acting librarian, 1945; Harriet I. Carter, 1945-1947; Daisy Fisher, 1947-1948; Melba Urban, acting librarian, 1948-1954; Marion Fortier, half-time (school librarian), 1954-1955; Melba Urban, acting librarian, 1955-1962.

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library

Following Librarian Harriet I. Carter's address to the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club in the fall of 1946, a library committee was organized to raise funds to modernize the reading room. With Mrs. E.W. Stridde originally serving as chairman, monies were raised through a book fair and tea at which the public was urged to purchase books as well as contribute good used books for resale. In addition, an apron and white elephant sale was conducted. The club's efforts were so successful that authorization was given Mrs. Russell J. Bath, new library committee chairman, to proceed with the redecoration project in mid-April, 1947. Approximately \$1,900 had been raised, this total including checks amounting to \$500 from two interested citizens. The top of the windows through which the brightest rays of the sun entered was blocked off and the windows were then fitted with Venetian blinds. The woodwork was refinished, and the room was painted in soft shades of grey-green. Outmoded and inadequate shelving was removed, and regulation unit shelving was purchased for the entire room. The new shelving included an adjustable section which ran through the center of the room and an open regulation magazine rack and cupboard. In addition, two comfortable leather chairs and a reading lamp were placed in a corner of the room.

Because this improvement contrasted so much with the remaining rooms on the main floor, the board of education ordered the redecoration of the reception and children's rooms, completing the main floor renovations.

Iron Mountain's Carnegie Public Library

Another of Librarian Harriet I. Carter's innovations at this time was the children's story hour, conducted by Girl Scout troops from the Iron Mountain-Kingsford area for children attending Iron Mountain's Amidon, Farragut, Central, Lincoln and Washington schools and Kingsford's Garden Village, Westwood, West Breitung and Roosevelt schools. These story hours, beginning in early October, 1946, proved so popular that beginning January 11, 1947, the Girl Scouts began broadcasting the program for their many loyal fans over WMIQ, continuing to work with Miss Carter in selecting materials for their presentations.

On October 1, 1946, Librarian Carter also announced that a Michigan History Room had been set up in the Carnegie Public Library, featuring books and newspapers which told the history of Iron Mountain and Michigan. Included in the collection were early city directories and the following bound newspapers dating back as far as April 1, 1886: *The Menominee Range*, *The Iron Range*, *The Range-Tribune*, *The Daily Tribune*, *Iron Mountain Press* and *The Iron Mountain News* in bound volumes dating from 1942.

Four members of the **Iron Mountain Women's Club** attempted to preserve a portion of the city's heritage by writing a history in 1914. Until a number of articles describing the settlement of the Menominee Iron Range by Buck Erickson and others appeared in *The Iron Mountain News* between 1950 and 1951, little had been written or preserved since the **Women's Club** effort just before World War I.

Dickinson County Historical Society Established

In early June, 1958, some 40 residents of the Dickinson County area met at the Dickinson Hotel to discuss the feasibility of organizing a local historical society. The Dickinson County Historical Society was formed, and the following officers were elected June 19: Mrs. Philip Thomas, Iron Mountain, president; U.F. Asselin, Norway, vice-president; Miss Olga Tramontin, Iron Mountain, secretary; and Bud Risberg, Iron Mountain, treasurer. Mrs. George Boyce, Jr. had assumed the office of secretary by mid-October. Board members consisted of Mr. Asselin, Miss Athlyn Bangs and Sumner Robbins, trustees for three years; Mrs. George Hungate and Carl Israelson, for two years; and Mrs. N.C. Bartholomew and Mrs. Thomas, for one year.

Affiliated with the Michigan State Historical Society, the local group was in search of suitable quarters to carry out its proposed work of collecting, indexing and filing historic material. In mid-October the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors granted the group the rent-free use of two basement rooms in the court house.

The society sought advice from representatives of other Upper Peninsula historical societies, particularly in Delta and Marquette counties, and also met with Dr. Louis Beeson, executive secretary of the Michigan Historical Commission, in September, when he passed through Iron Mountain. Later that same month the society planned the dedication of the Menominee Iron Range historical marker at Fumee Falls Roadside Park in Quinnesec under the leadership of Ward Alquist.

Dickinson County Historical Society Established

Desiring membership from all cities, villages and townships in the county, the society initiated a **week-long membership drive in early October**. Four types of memberships were available: (1) active membership, \$2 per year; (2) youth or student membership, 50 cents; (3) contributing membership, \$5 or more, designed for individuals or business establishments desiring to support the program; (4) life membership, \$50. **Mrs. N.C. Bartholomew** served as chairman of the drive. **By early December the membership had climbed to 170, and in February, 1959, membership was expanded to include neighboring Wisconsin communities. Window displays were arranged by Harry Larsen and Mrs. Emmanuel Pancheri to promote the program.**

Mrs. George (Gloria) Boyce, Jr. spoke to numerous local social, fraternal and service groups to promote the society's goals and instill an interest in the area's history.

Having set up an acquisition policy and a cataloging system, as well as having acquired suitable quarters, the society began accepting articles for its museum in November, 1958. Mrs. Carl Israelson, museum committee chairman, was assisted by Mrs. Melba Urban, Mrs. Charles Dawe and Ernest Meyer, of Iron Mountain; Mr. and Mrs. U.F. Asselin, of Norway; and Mrs. Emmanuel Pancheri, of Quinnesec.

Dickinson County Historical Society Established

The group sought material directly related to the early history of the area. Of particular interest were original source materials, such as diaries, letters, personal account books, scrapbooks, books pertaining to local history, photographs and newspapers. Other acceptable materials included articles used by pioneers, early household items, farming tools, mining and lumbering implements, clothing, furniture and other personal items.

The Dickinson County Historical Society hosted the Upper Peninsula Historical Conference at the Dickinson Hotel on August 14-15, 1959, with some 50 people from across the state in attendance. A number of society members gave presentations on various aspects of area history, and an exhibit of mining and lumbering artifacts was displayed. The following month the society set up artifacts to depict an 1880's Victorian parlor at the Dickinson County Fair to stimulate interest in its activities.

Mrs. George (Meredith) Hungate spent long hours at the Carnegie Public Library digging out historical tidbits for her column "Glancing Back," which ran in *The Iron Mountain News* from January, 1960, to May, 1961, under the auspices of the Dickinson County Historical Society.

By the mid-1960's, as members of the society began raising families, involved themselves in additional community projects or moved from the area, the group became inactive.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum



The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum opened Saturday, July 8, 1974 in the former Carnegie Public Library, now on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

Another group of public-spirited citizens interested in collecting and preserving records and artifacts relevant to the development of the Menominee Range for exhibition and study established the Menominee Range Historical Foundation, a non-profit educational organization incorporated September 15, 1969. The following spring the vacated Carnegie Public Library was leased from the Iron Mountain Board of Education for use as a museum.

Then, renewed by the enthusiasm generated by the formation of the foundation and the acquisition of the building to house a historical museum and library, members of the inactive Dickinson County Historical Society and others interested in the preservation of the area's heritage met at the Dickinson Hotel July 20, 1970. Following a discussion regarding reorganization, the society members voted to merge with the Menominee Range Historical Foundation and retain the newly-formed foundation's name. A membership drive was organized, fees for single and family memberships being \$3 and \$5 respectively. Donnell Mitchell was appointed temporary chairman for membership and finance. Local support for the museum project was reflected in the membership rolls which numbered 700 by 1971.

The Iron Mountain Board of Education sold the Carnegie Public Library property to the Menominee Range Historical Foundation for one dollar on July 6, 1971, stipulating that the property would revert back to the school district if the foundation ever ceased to use it for a museum.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum

Currently staffed by volunteers, largely from the membership of the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club**, the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Pam Foster and Shirley Nelson, two members of the **Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club**, also volunteer to do research for individuals in the museum archives. The \$10-per-hour fee goes to help maintain the museum.

There are over 100 exhibits in the museum, ranging from Native American collections to household items in settings including a parlor, bedroom and kitchen, as well as a doctor's office, dentist's office, livery stable, barn and blacksmith's shop.

Cornish Pumping Engine Museum opened June 17, 1983, and was expanded with to become the **Cornish Pumping Engine and Mining Museum**.

In July, 2011, the **Glider & Military Museum** was opened, featuring a restored Waco CG-4A glider and military artifacts.



Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

Shortly thereafter the foundation brought **Victor Hogg**, former curator of the Michigan State Museum in Lansing and then an interpretative development planner specializing in museum work, to Iron Mountain to inspect the facility. Hogg stated that the building had “definite architectural merit,” was “structurally sound, and well adapted to museum use with minimal remodeling.”

Working with meager funds and assisted by a \$5,000 grant from the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, the foundation began the renovation of the building in the spring of 1972 with Charles Ballario serving as building superintendent. A second grant of \$5,000 was made to the foundation by the county board the following year.

During the first year of renovation, rubbish was hauled from the building, walls were knocked out where necessary to establish the traffic pattern, and a general cleaning of the building and grounds including repair work was undertaken. During the latter part of the summer all the display areas were roughed in, and sixty display booths were ready to be decorated and filled with artifacts by the end of the year. A new concrete floor was poured in the basement after the existing wooden floor, badly warped and rotted through in several places, had been removed. Stairways from the basement to the ground floor and from the ground floor to the second floor were removed and widened for better traffic flow. Basement windows on the north and east sides were closed with cement block as a security measure, and a new gas furnace was installed.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum



The façade of the museum faces south, and the east side of the museum is also visible here. The windows on the second floor are in the museum archives, housing newspapers, photographs, genealogical and historical information pertinent to the Menominee Iron Range.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

Various professional and service groups, as well as area businessmen, agreed to be responsible for displays, and began work on their respective projects. Barn siding and timbers used to panel a portion of the basement display area were obtained from five old area barns located through the efforts of **Dr. Clifford Tobin** and donated by owners **Sid Ashby, Rudy Johnson, Herb Race** and the **Charmin Paper Company**.

The **Foundation's Board of Directors** at this time consisted of the following: **Albert C. Hoyle**, president; **Robert C. Hoyle**, vice-president; **Donnell Mitchell**, secretary-treasurer; **Esau Cohodes, Dr. John Newkirk** and **N. Dean Turner**. The Society's officers were: **Dr. John Newkirk**, president; **Stuart Belhumeur**, vice-president; and **N. Dean Turner**, secretary.

Concerned about the financial security necessary to maintain the new museum, the **Foundation's Board of Directors** instituted a trust fund. The initial impetus for the establishment of this fund came from **Robert C. Hoyle** and **Audrey Hoyle**, who donated their share of a parcel of land sold in Lake County, Illinois, and added cash for a total gift of \$21,000. Announcement of this donation was made in *The Iron Mountain News* October 11, 1972. The Hoyles designated \$1,000 of this amount to be used to inaugurate the **Menominee Range Historical Foundation Founders' Club Plaque** which they subsequently unveiled at the annual meeting of the society November 12, 1974. Persons or groups contributing \$1,000 or more to the trust fund are commemorated on this plaque displayed in the lobby of the museum.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum



The columns, capitals and other ornamentation on the balcony and roof line are indicative of the Greek styling of this building, the Carnegie Public Library, opened in 1902.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

At the time the Hoyles presented the foundation with their gift, they also promised to donate their collection of mining, lumbering and other artifacts accumulated over the years when the community matched this initial gift and those monies were in the trust fund to assure permanent preservation and display. This goal had been met when the plaque was unveiled.

Many members of the community donated countless hours of labor as the displays began taking shape throughout 1973 and the first half of 1974. The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum was officially dedicated Saturday, July 6, 1974. Jerry Rowe, president of the Michigan State Historical Commission, was the featured speaker for this important day.

Mrs. Lorn (Margaret) Johnson had been appointed to the Foundation's Board of Directors in January, 1974. In the late fall the following Society officers were elected: Mrs. Ben (Mildred) Cohodes, president; Putnam Robbins, vice-president; Mrs. Marvin (Kathleen) Fayas, secretary. These same officers were re-elected in March, 1975, with the addition of Mrs. George (Meredith) Hungate, treasurer. Mrs. Isabel Gorrow and Mrs. Marion Fortier began to inventory and catalog items donated to the museum in 1974, following a visit to the Marquette Historical Society to study its system.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum



The north and west sides of the museum are shown here. The two doors on the porch originally provided access to the office of the Iron Mountain Superintendent of Schools, Lee E. Amidon, when the building opened, and also to the room dedicated to the Iron Mountain Board of Education. The windows were blocked for security reasons and also due to the remodeling for exhibit spaces.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

Several changes occurred on the Foundation's Board of Directors in 1975. **Mrs. Marvin (Kathleen) Fayas** assumed the office of secretary in September, and later that same month **Esau Cohodes** died. **Mrs. Ben (Mildred) Cohodes** was appointed to the board in late October, and **N. Dean Turner** died in late November.

In April, **Mrs. Olaf (Beatrice) Blomquist** was named research coordinator for the Bicentennial Historical Research Project.

V. Robert Payant and **Norman Flemington** also briefly served on the Foundation's Board of Directors in 1977.

In May, 1977, the Michigan History Commission of the Michigan Department of State notified the Menominee Range Historical Foundation that its museum, the former Carnegie Public Library, had been named to the State Register of Historic Sites. State registration indicates the Michigan History Commission has judged the site to be of significant historic interest, and also permits the museum to display the official marker approved by the Commission. Purchased by the Dickinson County Chapter of Keep Michigan Beautiful, the marker which now stands in front of the museum was dedicated June 25, 1979. **Dr. Martha Bigelow**, secretary to the Michigan Historical Commission and supervisor of the Historical Sites Division in Lansing, was the guest speaker at the event.

Menominee Range Historical Foundation Established

The Foundation's current (2012) Board of Directors are: **Ken Sovey**, president; **Joe Warren**, vice-president; **Kathleen Fayas**, secretary/treasurer; **William Cummings**, trustee; **Greg Harper**, trustee; **Robert Johnson**, trustee; **Rob Koerschner**, trustee; **Clark Lebo**, trustee; **Janet Reynolds**, trustee; **Alan Unger**, trustee.

“Smoking not allowed here.”



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The New Woman – Wash Day



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Underwood and Underwood

MENOMINEE



RANGE



MEMORIES

THE END