Reflections from the Clarke

Mapping Michigan and the Great Lakes Region

The Clarke Historical Library and the Michigan Historical Review are pleased to host the “Mapping in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region” conference on June 11 and 12, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The registration fee of $40 includes lunch on both days as well as breaks. Presentations planned include the following:

- James Akerman and Daniel Block—“Official State Maps and the Promotion of the Great Lakes Region in the Automobile Era”
- Francis M. Carroll—“The Search for the Canadian-American Boundary along the Michigan Frontier, 1819-1827: The Boundary Commissions under Articles VI and VII of the Treaty of Ghent”
- Gerald Danzer—“Popular Cartography of the Great Lakes”
- J. P. D. Dunbabin—“Motives for Mapping the Great Lakes—Upper Canada, 1782-1827”
- G. Malcolm Lewis—“First Nations Maps, Mapmaking, and Map Use in the Great Lakes Region: A Historical Review” (read by Margaret W. Pearce)
- Kenneth E. Lewis—“Mapping Antebellum Settlement Spread in Southern Lower Michigan”
- Cheryl Lyon-Jenness—“Picturing Progress: Assessing the Nineteenth-Century Atlas Map Bonanza”
- David Patton, Amy Lobben, and Bruce Pape—“Mapping Cities and Towns in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: A Look at Sanborn, Plat, and Panoramic Mapping Activities in the Great Lakes Region”
- Margaret W. Pearce—“The Holes in the Grid: Reservation Surveys in Michigan”

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A Late Arrival, But Key Addition to the Hemingway in Michigan, Michigan in Hemingway Exhibit Held at the Clarke Historical Library

Last October, just prior to the opening of “Hemingway in Michigan, Michigan in Hemingway,” a noteworthy addition was added to the exhibit. With the support of private donors, the library acquired an original letter typed by Ernest Hemingway that bears his signature. The letter was written in April 1919, when Hemingway was 20, and it is addressed to his friend, James Gamble.

In this letter, Hemingway speaks of Horton’s Bay on Pine Lake near Charlevoix, of Little Traverse Bay, of the wilds of Pine Barrens, and of the great fishing in the Big Sturgeon, Little Sturgeon, Minnehaha and Black Trout Rivers. Hemingway writes as follows:

“It is great northern air. Absolutely the best trout fishing in the country. No exaggeration. Fine country. Good color, good northern atmosphere, absolute freedom…”

“It’s a great place to laze around and swim and fish when you want to. And the best place in the world to do nothing. It is beautiful country, Jim.”

Hemingway met James Gamble during World War I. Gamble was in command of the “rolling canteens” on which Hemingway had volunteered to serve. The canteens brought candy, cigarettes and other small luxuries to troops near the front. Gamble and Hemingway became friends. Gamble, heir to the soap manufacturing firm, Procter & Gamble, was wealthy and planned to stay in Europe after the war’s end. He offered his friend Ernest the opportunity to spend a year with him as his traveling companion, with Gamble paying for expenses.

Hemingway declined and returned to the United States while Gamble remained in Europe. The two men corresponded, however. The six-page letter captures a critical moment in the life of Ernest Hemingway. Having returned home from World War I in January of 1919, Hemingway suffered several setbacks:

• He knew he wanted to write, but his submissions for publication were all rejected.
• In Italy, he fell in love with a nurse, Agnes von Kurowsky. She was attracted to him, but likely was not deeply in love. Hemingway
hoped they would marry, but in March 1919 Agnes wrote him a letter gently informing him that this was not to be. He took the news badly but quickly began to tell friends, as he does in this letter, that the matter was behind him.

• He developed a hunger for recognition that fueled constant embellishments to stories he told regarding his wartime activities and frequently led him to add a few years to his age.

Hemingway needed time - time to put aside his initial difficulties and grow into the person he had begun to imagine. He found that time during the summer of 1919 in northern Michigan, a place where he had always found solace. This letter, which is largely an effort to persuade his friend James Gamble to join him "up north," documents with charm and enthusiasm the people and the places that made Michigan so special to Hemingway. The Hemingway letter is a permanent part of the Clarke Historical Library's collection, and therefore, is available for public viewing at any time.

The Clarke Historical Library Welcomes
Jeffrey Hancks

The staff members of the Clarke Historical Library are pleased to welcome Jeffrey (Jeff) Hancks as the newest member of the library team. Hancks was hired in September 2003 as the public services librarian. He took over the position from Evelyn Leasher, who retired last year.

In December 2002, Hancks received his master's degree in library and information studies, with a concentration in academic librarianship and public services, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to coming to the Clarke, Hancks was the head librarian for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication Reading Room at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was responsible for all operations of the departmental library, including circulation, reference, human resources, budgeting, collection development and bibliographic instruction. He also served as the departmental liaison. At the same time, Hancks was the weekend reference librarian and circulation supervisor for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library in Madison. Hancks is professionally affiliated with the American Library Association.

When asked why he was interested in joining the staff, Hancks stated that he was intrigued by the public services librarian position and at how well the requirements of the position matched his education, experience and interests. He also found Central Michigan University's emphasis on undergraduate education, while still providing excellent graduate programs, a refreshing change from his previous academic experience. Hancks mentioned that during his campus visit he was impressed with the talent and dedication of the Clarke Historical Library staff as well as with the library facility itself, with its climate-controlled rooms and overall attention to the care and preservation of the library's collection.

Additionally, Hancks felt that the public services librarian position would offer him opportunities for professional growth and development. He finds that every day on the job provides him with a variety of new challenges as well as opportunities to learn how to better serve the needs of Clarke patrons. He is determined to continue the excellent service that his predecessor offered. As he does so, Hancks feels that his knowledge of the Clarke will grow. He wants to avoid having any visitor to the Clarke leave dissatisfied or unable to have their questions answered or needs met.

Among his duties as the public services librarian, Hancks is responsible for purchasing and maintaining the book and periodical materials for the Clarke. He delights in accepting donations of items brought in to the Clarke from many different sources.

It is interesting to note that Hancks is skilled in several languages. He is highly proficient in Danish and Swedish; has reading proficiency in Norwegian, German and Icelandic; and has minimal proficiency in Dutch and Faroese. Faroese is the language spoken in the Faroe Islands, which are located halfway between Scotland and Iceland.

Welcome, Jeff! Or perhaps we should say Velkommen (Norwegian/Danish), Willkommen (German), Velkomin (Icelandic), Välkommen (Swedish), Welcome (Dutch), and Velkomin (Faroese). However you say it, we are glad you are with us!
Native American Exhibit
Featured in Library Galleries

Through July 16 the exhibit “Native American Treaty Signers in the Great Lakes Region” will be featured in the Clarke exhibit galleries. The exhibit explores the lives of Native American leaders in Michigan and surrounding states who signed treaties with the federal government during the 1820s. The exhibit grows out of two sources. The central element of the items on display are twenty-two color lithographs drawn from life by James O. Lewis, an artist who attended various treaty signings in the region during the 1820s. These unique artworks are among the earliest consistent images of the Native Americans who represented their people at treaty negotiations.

This exhibit also springs from the soon to be published article, “The Dynamics of American Indian Diplomacy in the Great Lakes Region,” written by CMU Professor Benjamin Ramirezshkwegnaab. In the article Professor Ramirez argues persuasively that our traditional view of these Native American leaders misrepresents them. Ramirez paints his own portrait of Native American leaders, who were skilled diplomats and who, over time, employed a variety of sophisticated strategies to cope with the demands emanating from Washington. Without denying that these Native American leaders had a difficult hand to play in their negotiations, Ramirez makes clear the skillful way in which they played it.

Building around the beautiful lithographs in the Clarke’s collection and the groundbreaking arguments of Professor Ramirez the exhibit includes a number of other exciting components. Several peace medals are displayed in the exhibit. Peace medals were large medallions struck by the federal government and awarded to signators of treaties upon the conclusion of a particular agreement. Peace medals today are quite rare. Similarly, three period muskets in the exhibit are also quite rare and symbolize the alternative to the treaty-making process.

Native Americans held the military power to frustrate Euro-American settlement throughout most of the eighteenth century. By the 1820s both sides knew that the tide had turned and that, if it came to war, the federal army “blue coats would likely win.” But the victory would be costly in lives and treasure, and Washington much preferred a treaty to a bloody frontier war. Also found in the collection are a few items of apparel loaned to the Clarke by the Zibiwing Cultural Society. ZBS, the heritage agency of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, has made available a vest, a gorget necklace and a goose bone breastplate, all reminders of the lives of the leaders whose portraits fill the galleries.

Several significant printed items are also found in the exhibit. Books important to the preservation of the Ojibway language are shown, including the first complete Ojibway-English dictionary and the first translation of the New Testament into Ojibway. Christian missionaries played a critical role in recording the Ojibway words and grammar so that they could proselytize in the Native Americans’ tongue.

Some of the most important nineteenth-century Euro-American and Native American books are found in the exhibit cases. Works published by Potawatomi Simon Pokogan, Chippewa George Copway and Odawa Andrew J. Blackbird are all exhibited, as are works of Henry Schoolcraft, and a first edition of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s work, The Song of Hiawatha.

Kee-me-one or Rain

Perhaps most intriguing is a contract signed in 1796 by several Native Americans who “make their mark.” Traditionally printed as an “x,” Native American totems were pictographs that often had significant artistic merit. These are particularly fine examples of what the “mark of a Native American really was. 68
Microfilming of
*The Yale Expositor:*
Resurrecting 112 Years of Yale, Michigan History

In December 2003, for the second time, the Clarke Historical Library was awarded a two-year, $350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve newspapers in microfilm form. About 15 years ago, the NEH began offering grants toward the U.S. Newspaper Program. Although the grant is sizable, it will pay to film only about 10 percent of the unfilmed papers in Michigan. A committee made up of state-wide representatives selects newspapers for microfilming based on a number of criteria: research value, the length of the paper’s run, the physical condition of the paper, how accessible the newspapers would be without microfilming and whether similar publications have already been filmed. The committee looks for gaps and holes in history that a particular newspaper publication could fill. The Clarke Historical Library began preserving newspapers on microfilm nearly 30 years ago and houses millions of microfilm frames, including at least one publication from every county in Michigan.

Currently, the Clarke Historical Library’s preservation microfilming staff is microfilming every newspaper issue from 1882 to 1994, or 112 years, of *The Yale Expositor* published out of Yale, Michigan. The *Weekly Expositor*, Vol. 1, Number 1, was first published May 18, 1882. In September of 1894, the name of the publication was changed to *The Yale Expositor*. Yale is in the southern section of the Michigan thumb, 60 miles east of Flint and 67 miles north of Detroit. According to Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library, small-town newspapers and non-mainstream publications create a window into life that mainstream media might otherwise miss.

Heading up this large project is Barb Kirchner, with the assistance of Jovita King. Both women are microfilm services specialists. Kirchner enjoys the travel associated with her position and the opportunity to meet people associated with libraries throughout the state. In search of publication treasures from yesteryear, Kirchner never knows where her travels will take her. Often she is confronted with dust, dimly lit cellars, rickety stairs, insects, and spider webs. King enjoys the constant variety her position provides and finds the newspapers to be a fascinating glimpse of what life was like in Michigan’s past.

The actual process of *The Yale Expositor* microfilming project involves four steps. First, the microfilm services specialist photographs each page of the publication frame by frame. Then the film is sent to North East Document Conservation Center in Boston for preservation-quality developing that ensures the film will last for many generations. Developed film is sent back to the Clarke Historical Library for inspection. The inspectors verify that there are no missing pages and that pages are legible; they also make any needed edits. Lastly, once all pages are microfilmed and reviewed, a final copy of the microfilming is sent back to North East Document Conservation Center for filming and duplication. Four microfilm copies will be made of *The Yale Expositor*. The master copy will be housed at the Clarke Historical Library, the office of *The Yale Expositor* will receive one copy and the state of Michigan...

*Continued on page 6*
library will receive two copies. The original newspapers will be returned to the office of *The Yale Expositor* in archival, acid-free boxes to help prevent any further deterioration.

Microfilm provides a historical record sturdier than newsprint. Most Clarke clients, like those associated with *The Yale Expositor*, live in small towns and are not able to afford to preserve their newspapers. Those at *The Yale Expositor* have been working for more than a dozen years to find funding to do so. *The Yale Expositor* has not been able to allow public use of its files for some time because of the fragile nature of many of the books and papers. This microfilming project will make valuable information available to a much broader audience. The many people who come to *The Yale Expositor* office looking for information from the past, usually about family members, are happy to learn of this microfilming project. *The Yale Expositor* archives contain the most complete record of historical facts about Yale that exists, and, therefore are considered extremely valuable. *The Yale Expositor* microfilming project began in early December 2003 and is expected to be completed in June of this year.

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**Michigan History Calendar on the Web**

At the beginning of January six months of intensive research culminated in a calendar of Michigan history appearing on the Clarke website. Arranged by day the calendar discusses the issues that occurred in state history. We hope you will visit the calendar at [www.clarke.cmich.edu](http://www.clarke.cmich.edu).
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