About the Clarke Library

Founded in 1954, the Clarke Historical Library is a special collections library on the campus of Central Michigan University. The Library’s over 101,000 item collection includes an extensive group of fiction works set in Michigan. Among the most prized items of this collection of fiction are works written by Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway Items in the Clarke Library

The Clarke Library holds a prestigious collection of material documenting Ernest Hemingway’s years in Michigan. The acquisition of many of these items was made possible with Michigan Hemingway Endowment funding.

Sample items include:

- Several original letters.
- An unfinished story written by Ernest Hemingway and set in a Michigan lumber camp.
- A photo scrapbook created by Grace Hall Hemingway for her daughter, Ursula, that documents the family’s summer life at Windemere, the Hemingway cottage on Walloon Lake.
- The family papers of Marcelline Hemingway Sanford, Ernest’s eldest sister, including scanned copies of the scrapbooks created by Grace Hall Hemingway for Marcelline.
- An extensive collection of photographs taken by or of the Hemingway family in northern Michigan.
- Over 100 periodicals with Hemingway related articles. Scarce early first publications of Michigan related stories including The Big Two Hearted River and Indian Camp are among these.
- Over 400 additional books by and about Hemingway.

The Clarke Historical Library also serves as the archives for the Michigan Hemingway Society.

The Library’s Hemingway-related work is supported, in part, by the Michigan Hemingway Endowment.

Campaign Goals

The Endowment principal is currently approximately $37,000. The goal of the campaign is to raise the principal to $100,000 and enable further collecting, preservation and outreach activities.

Gifts to the Endowment may be made through a tax deductible contribution to the Clarke Historical Library. Please specify that the contribution is for the Michigan Hemingway Endowment.

Why Give?

The Clarke Historical Library is acknowledged internationally as the premier location for researching Hemingway’s Michigan connections. This is due in great part to revenue generated by the Michigan Hemingway Endowment and partnerships with the Michigan Hemingway Society and the Little Traverse Historical Society. The cost of desirable materials and ongoing outreach activities are increasing faster than the current spendable resources generated by the Endowment, putting rare Michigan related Hemingway items in danger of going to private collections.

Your investment in the Michigan Hemingway Endowment will enable the Clarke Library to bring these manuscripts into the public domain where they will be preserved and shared with generations of interested people, illuminating the influence northern Michigan had on Ernest Hemingway’s life and writings, and making the Clarke Historical Library and Central Michigan University an even greater international resource in Hemingway studies.

Now is a great time to play an active role in this exciting and engaging program by making a contribution to build the Michigan Hemingway Endowment and help the Clarke continue its important work in preserving and presenting Hemingway’s Michigan “story.”

Gifts may be mailed to:

Clarke Historical Library
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

For more information about making a contribution to the Michigan Hemingway Endowment, contact:

Megan Moreno
Director of Development and Community Outreach
Central Michigan University Libraries
(989) 774-1826
megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu

Outreach & Educational Initiatives

- Supported and presented at the Hemingway’s Society International Conference, Petoskey, Michigan, June 2012.
- Partnered in the creation of the Little Traverse History Museum’s “Hemingway’s Michigan Story” exhibit, summer 2012.
- Assisted in WCMU’s production of a Hemingway Documentary “Ernest Hemingway: Life in Michigan”
- Created the “Hemingway in Michigan – Michigan in Hemingway,” exhibit that traveled throughout Michigan.
- Partnered with Michigan Humanities Council when The Nick Adams Stories by Ernest Hemingway, was chosen for the Great Michigan Read in 2007.
- Instrumental in establishing a registered Michigan Historical Site marker in honor of Ernest Hemingway on Walloon Lake at the Melrose Township Park, 2010.

For more information on the Clarke Historical Library, visit: clarke.cmich.edu

“… Monday caught the train in to Boyne Falls and thence to Boyne City and so via Wesley to here last night. Brought the typewriter from Charles’s Shanty and am departing with it and my other worldly goods to Petoskey on Thursday …. This afternoon I worked out the new front part of (a story) … and will have it in shape to start on its travels as soon as I am settled in Petoskey.”

-Ernest Hemingway to his father, Clarence Hemingway, 28 October 1919

(From the Clarke Collection)
Helping Document Hemingway in Michigan

The Endowment

The Michigan Hemingway Endowment was founded in 2003 to accomplish three goals:

• Enable the Clarke Library to purchase material by or about Ernest Hemingway.
• Preserve the Hemingway-related material in the Clarke collection.
• Educate the public about the influence of northern Michigan on Hemingway and the place of Michigan in Hemingway's works.

Through the endowment the Clarke Library will continue to enrich its Hemingway collection and use it to help both scholars and the public better understand how Hemingway's writing remembered Michigan, as well as the role Michigan played in shaping the world view of one of the twentieth century's greatest authors.

Why the Clarke?

The Clarke Historical Library holds a substantial collection of material relating to Ernest Hemingway's life in Michigan and the writings that resulted from this experience.

The Clarke Historical Library also holds one of the state's premier collections of local history material regarding Little Traverse Bay. This collection of material places the Hemingway family's northern Michigan experience in context by telling researchers and the public about northern Michigan between 1900 and 1920, the years Ernest Hemingway frequented its streams and forests.

Help us build the Michigan Hemingway Endowment to document Ernest Hemingway’s life in “this priceless place.”

Hemingway in Michigan

The Campaign to Advance the Michigan Hemingway Endowment

This is a priceless place, Jim. It is great northern air. Absolutely the best trout fishing in the country. No exaggeration. Fine country. Good color, good northern atmosphere, absolute freedom, no summer resort stuff.... 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.”

-Ernest Hemingway describing northern Michigan to James Gramble, April 27, 1919.

(From the Clarke Collection)

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Central Michigan University