

**MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MUSEUM  
CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE & MINING MUSEUM  
WWII GLIDER & MILITARY MUSEUM  
WINTER NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2022**

Dear Museum Friends,

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Governors wishes you and your family a blessed holiday season and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Continuing support and donations from our faithful members year after year is essential to our future success. Some 3,360 visitors, including tour groups, visited the museums during 2022. Hopefully 2023 will be even greater.

**Foundation Departs from the Carnegie Public Library Building:** The Iron Mountain Board of Education sold the former Carnegie Public Library property to the Menominee Range Historical Foundation for one dollar on July 6, 1971, stipulating that the property would revert to the school district if the Foundation ever ceased to use it for a museum. The Foundation was responsible for maintaining the structure.



The Menominee Range Historical Foundation Museum was officially dedicated Saturday, July 6, 1974.

Largely through the efforts of Treasurer Guy Forstrom the collections housed in the

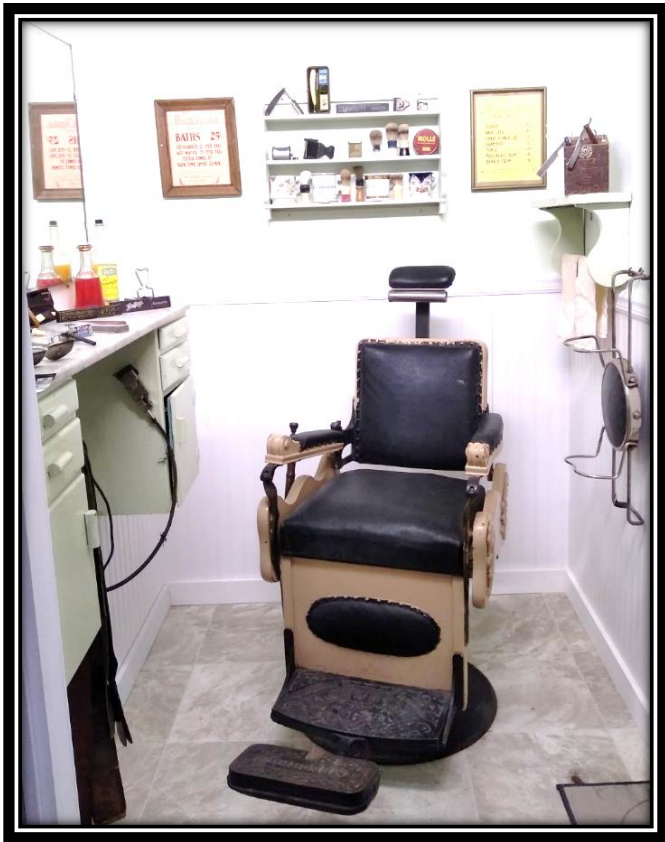
Menominee Range Historical Museum were moved from the Carnegie Public Library building to the museum's new location at the Chapin Mine's "C" Ludington Shaft historic 1910 sandstone dry building during the past two years. With the assistance of Vice-President Jim Hartwell and Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio and some other Board members, Guy's brother-in-law, son, grandson and some of his grandson's football and wrestling teammates, the collections were moved to their new locations.

On June 30, 2022, the Menominee Range Historical Foundation turned over the keys of the Carnegie Public Library building and the quit claim deed to the Iron Mountain School District, officially terminating the Foundation's occupancy of the building which began 51 years earlier.

**At the "Dry Museum Project":** Under the continued leadership of Foundation Vice President Jim Hartwell – with considerable assistance of Guy Forstrom – substantial progress was made in finishing exhibition areas in the new museum.

D & L Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning installed one of three heaters in the fall of 2021, enabling work to continue in the blocked off east side of the building

during the winter and spring. Twenty-two exhibit areas were finished. Four of these displays were partially wallpapered by Jan Cummings in the late winter and early spring.

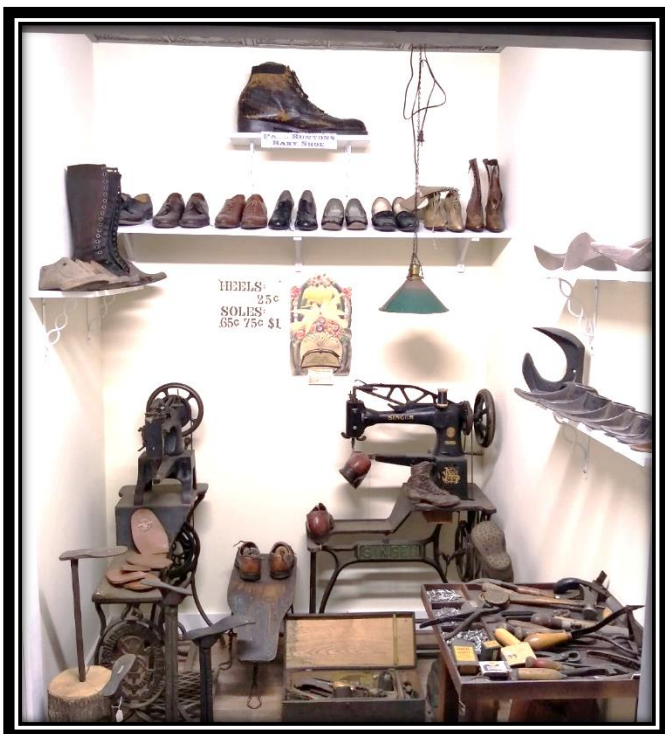


*The John B. Eslick's barbershop, Izzo's Shoe Hospital and Pete Prenevost's trapper's cabin are recreations of previous exhibits. Slabs from Hermansville were expertly trimmed and fitted by Jim Hartwell to form the walls of the cabin. Guy Forstrom served as the primary "decorator" for most of the new exhibits.*

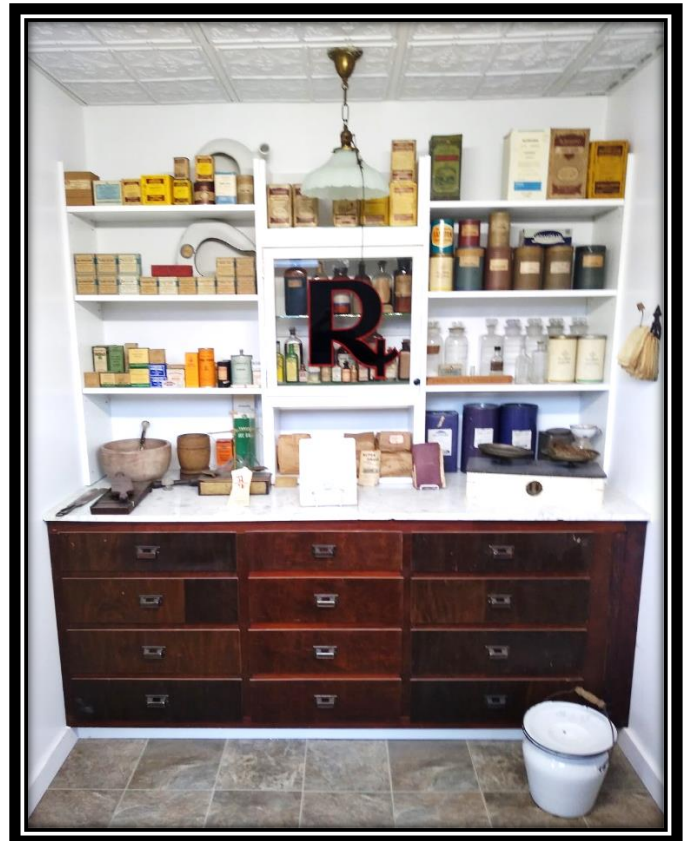
The main display area will house the school room, livery stable, firearms collection and a special exhibit area.

During the late spring and summer Jim Hartwell, assisted by Jim Ethington in August and early September, worked at framing in the livery stable, affixing weathered barnboard around the barn exhibit and finishing and painting the drywall. In early September the wainscoting was installed in the schoolroom area. An outhouse (for display only) was also added.

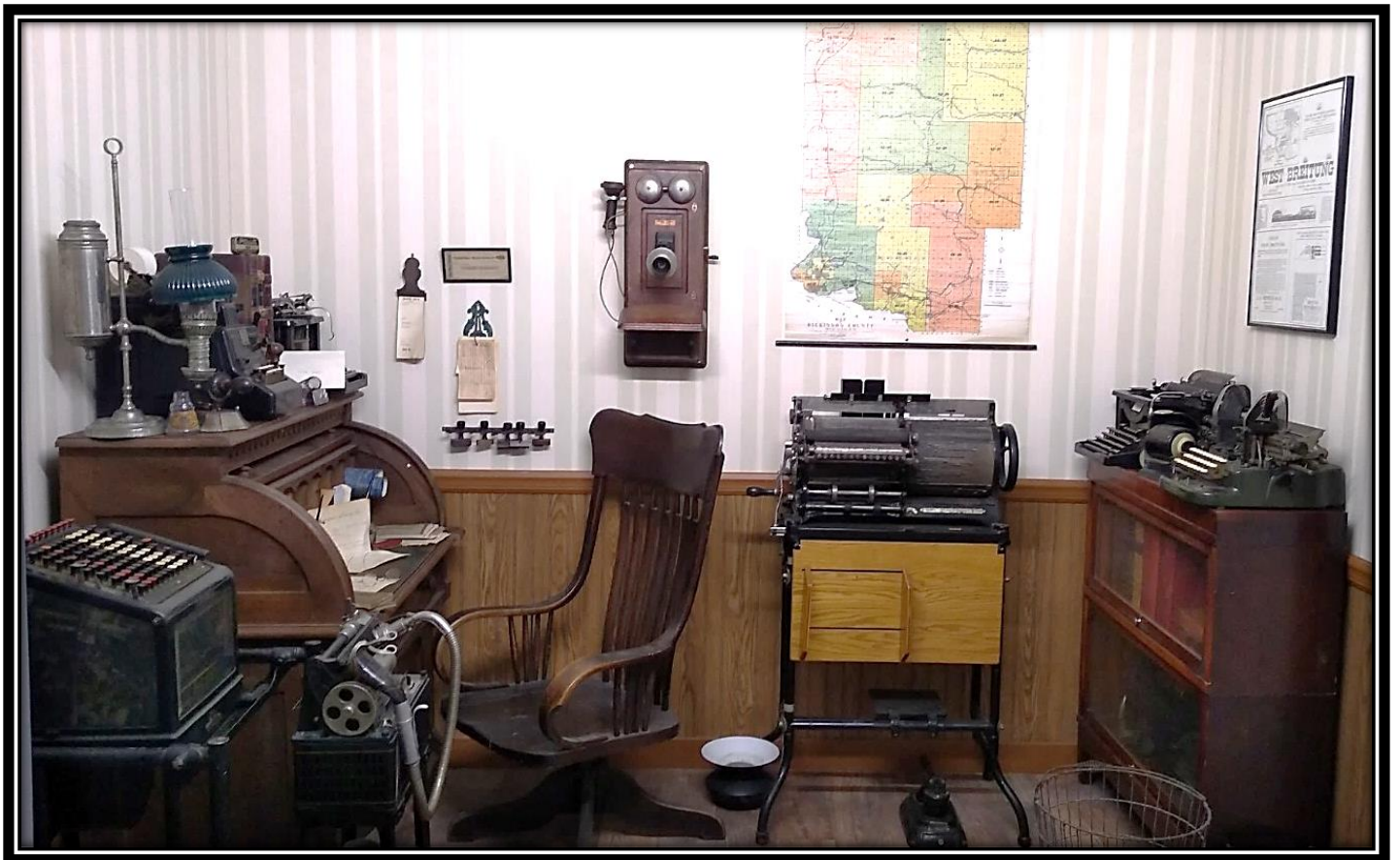
The dugout canoe was placed in position on the wall in the main display area in July.



A sign for C.E. Parent's store dating from 1888 which was found in the old livery stable was restored by Guy Forstrom.



*John "Frenchy" Goulette's icehouse, an early dentist's office, Seibert's Central Drug Store, Dr. Joseph Addison Crowell's doctor's office, a real estate office, a Victoria/Edwardian kitchen and parlor, a milk house and the A.C. Frankini jewelry shop were all recreated from exhibits in the old museum and are shown in Guy Forstrom's photographs on this and the following pages.*







making press, Dr. George Boyce Sr.'s optometrist's office, the Edison Institute exhibit, the dress shop, the Pine Mountain Ski Jump, the carpenter's shop, musical instruments, kitchen appliances and more.

The gridwork for a suspended ceiling will be installed in the main room by Carey Contracting in December, and Jim Hartwell, Guy Forstrom and other volunteers will then install the ceiling tiles and insulation.

Additional displays in this portion of the new museum will include a Native American collection and the interior of an Ojibwe wigwam.

Progress continues on this project due to a number of generous donations during the past year. Hopefully additional funding will be forthcoming to allow work to move forward. Each major new display costs about \$1,000 to build and decorate.

**Museum Tours:** The Foundation's Mission Statement reads: *The Menominee Range Historical Foundation is dedicated to the perpetuation and preservation of the history of the Menominee Iron Range and the use of that history and our museums to further educate the general public.*

On September 22, 16 students from Kingsford High School's Upper Peninsula History Class, pictured below, toured the Pump and Glider museums with their teacher Aaron Yonke, guided by Bill Cummings.



In addition to the preceding photographs, other completed displays include Dickey's Trading Post, the moonshine still and wine-

The Foundation initiated free tours of the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum and the WWII Glider & Military Museum in the fall of 2018 for eighth graders from all four Dickinson County school districts. On October 13 Iron Mountain's 45 eighth graders with teacher Eric Penn toured the museums for the first time, and on October 18 Breitung Township's 150 eighth graders with teacher John VanDusen toured the museums as they have done each year since the tours were offered. Bill Cummings and Guy Forstrom served as guides for these tours.

Comments from thank you notes received from John VanDusen's eighth graders demonstrate the value of introducing students to our area's history. A few examples follow.

- *I was surprised by how much I learned in a short period of time. I was also surprised by how much happened right near us.*
- *I learned a lot of stuff I did not know about WWII. Just being in the presence of all that history was powerful. I really didn't expect the Cornish Pump to be that big and weigh so much. And for the record, this was one of the coolest things I've ever been to.*
- *My favorite thing was the cars and the gas station and especially the Model T. I learned much about our town's history!*
- *Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about my town.*
- *I loved learning more about our town's history! The Cornish pump was one of the coolest things I have ever seen, and the history of the Ford company was very interesting!*
- *It was my first time coming here. It was amazing.*
- *The guides were so nice and helpful telling us about it. 10/10 Would recommend to anyone.*

A tour of the two museums was given to 23 members of the Bay West Leadership Academy on October 6 by Bill Cummings.

Tour groups are always welcome and guided tours can be scheduled. For groups of 10 or more, a reduced admission fee is charged. Groups range from professional tour companies to local civic, religious, class reunion and family groups.

**At the Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum:** Visitors continue to enjoy the exhibits in this museum and are amazed by the Cornish Pumping Engine, mining artifacts and equipment, photographs and information presented, as well as the area logging and lumbering exhibit and photographs of the Ford Motor Company's Plant.

**At the WWII Glider & Military Museum:** The restored WWII CG-4A glider always proves very interesting to those who visit this museum. They are surprised to learn that 4,190 gliders were constructed at the local Ford Motor Company Plant in Kingsford. The period Ford automobiles and trucks are also very popular, as are the various military displays.

**Promotional Committee Activities:** The Promotional Committee, formed in 2018, currently consists of Keith Huotari, chairperson, Seth Anderson, Ken Draper, Ashley Ellis, Mikki Hall and Jayna Huotari.

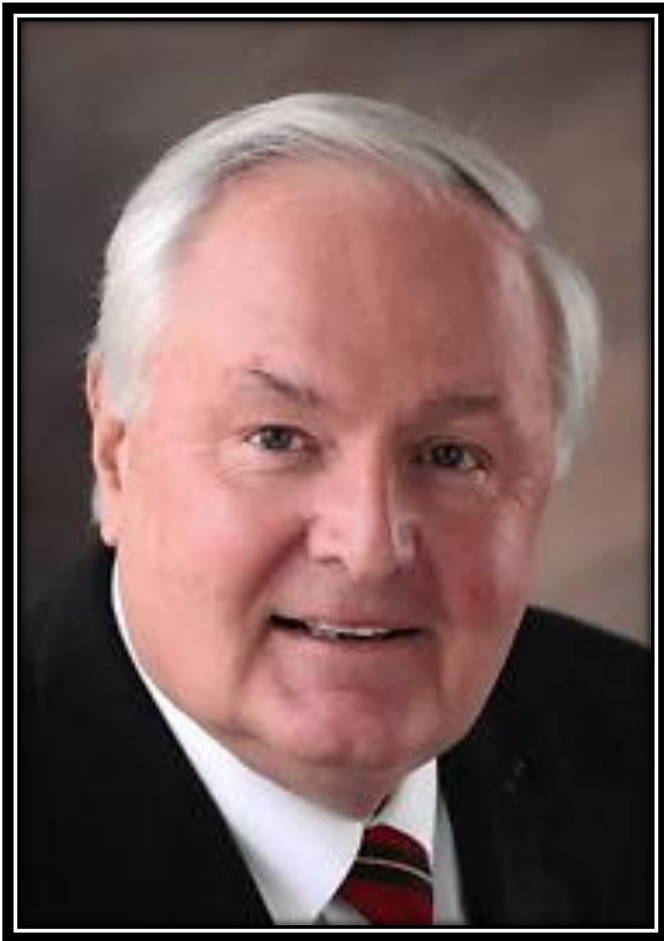
Through their efforts considerable work has been done on social media to make it easier to connect with the Foundation's website ([menomineemuseum.com](http://menomineemuseum.com)).

The Promotional Committee's diligence, organization and hard work again made this year's Fourth of July Parade an extremely successful event.

**Passing of Kenneth John Sovey, past president of the Menominee Range**

**Historical Foundation:** On July 18, 2022, Kenneth John Sovey passed away.

Ken served as president of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation from May 6, 2011, through March 15, 2013. Prior to assuming the presidency Ken worked tirelessly as project chairman for the building of the World War II Glider & Military Museum, one of his proudest lifetime achievements.



A son of Clarence and Jane Sovey, Ken was born December 22, 1938, in Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan.

Graduating from Michigan State University in 1961, Ken did his post-graduate work at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

On August 19, 1961, Ken married Terry Ann Hjerpe. Ken's family owned a cottage

one door away from the Hjerpe family cottage at Spread Eagle, Florence County, Wisconsin, and that's where their love story began.

Ken and Terry had three sons: Kenneth, Jr., Greg and Brian.

Ken held many corporate positions throughout his business career. He retired from PepsiCo, Inc. in 1997 as senior vice-president, purchasing for Yum! Brands, Inc., a subsidiary.

Retiring to Spread Eagle, Ken directed his focus on working on community projects.

Ken also served as president of the Chippewa Club, the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association and the Florence County Lakes & Rivers Association.

Ken was preceded in death by his son Kenneth, Jr. A memorial service will be held in July 2023 to celebrate Ken's legacy of life.

Donations in Ken's honor continue to be made to the World War II Glider & Military Museum.

**Museum Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio:** Beginning her thirtieth year, Dianne continues to serve as museum manager, faithfully and capably undertaking a wide range of responsibilities.

**Members of the Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of Directors:** Bill Cummings, president and historian; Jim Hartwell, vice-president; Mikki Hall, secretary; Guy Forstrom, treasurer; Pam Edens, Jayna Huotari, Keith Huotari, Bob Johnson, Dave Pelto and Roger Scott, trustees, constitute the current Board.

**Volunteers Keep the Museums Open:** Volunteers are crucial to our museums because without them the Board could not afford to staff the three sites and operate for the number of hours open during the season.

On November 2 the Foundation held its annual luncheon to recognize volunteers, as



well as longtime financial supporters of the museums at Pine Grove Country Club.

When the new Menominee Range Historical Museum opens, hopefully during the summer of 2023, many more volunteers will be needed to keep all three museums open to the public.

Meeting and greeting visitors from across the nation and around the world, as well as local patrons, is very rewarding.

Morning shifts (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and afternoon shifts (1 p.m.-5 p.m.) are available. Please consider donating some time during the summer season in this manner or encouraging friends and acquaintances who might enjoy doing so to contact the museum manager.

**Foundation to Host 2023 Upper Peninsula Historical Conference:** The 72nd Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference will be held in Iron Mountain from Friday, June 23, through Sunday, June 25. The Foundation last hosted this annual event in 2004. Hopefully many area residents will attend.

Any individual or group wishing to participate in sponsoring the conference should contact the museum for details. Such funding helps to keep the costs down for attendees.

**New Publications:** President Bill Cummings authored a new 208-page book – *“Soiled Doves” on the Eastern Menominee Range: A History of Prostitution from “Old Man” Mudge’s Stockade in Florence, Wisconsin, in the 1880s to Iron Mountain’s Midway Brothels in the 1920s.*

Contemporary area newspaper accounts illustrated by over 100 historic photographs from the Menominee Range Historical Foundation’s collection and other sources provide amazing insight into this aspect of the area’s past.

Early Florence is depicted in 13 views dating from 1880 to the very early 1900s, while Iron Mountain and the surrounding area is represented in 30 images from the 1880s through the 1920s. The remaining photographs are primarily portraits of individuals and tombstones included in a biographical section for most of the individuals who played a prominent role on these pages.

The initial printing of 60 copies sold out by mid-August and more have been published. The book sells for \$21.60 including tax and copies can be mailed at additional cost.

Trustees Keith R. and Jayna Huotari published *Perfect Union: Iron Mountain and Its Last Surviving Civil War Soldier*, a 154-page biographical account of Samuel Bassett (born September 10, 1841, in Bangor, Maine; died June 29, 1941, in Iron Mountain). Sam was involved in numerous Civil War battles and even shook President Abraham Lincoln’s hand. This meticulously-researched book also includes many photographs. Copies are available for \$17.50 plus postage. Contact the Huotaris at [FourDogBooks@gmail.com](mailto:FourDogBooks@gmail.com) or call (906) 221-7254.

Contact Manager Dianne Castelaz-Chiapusio at (906) 828-1822 for other publications which make ideal gifts for Christmas and other occasions, including:

Cummings, William J. – *Iron Mountain Ford Motor Company Plant, Kingsford, Michigan 1920-1951* which includes building the plant, glider production and production of “woodie” station wagons and the Sportsman convertibles – 2016 – 110 pages with 81 photographs and illustrations – \$16.00 plus tax.

Cummings, William J. – *Sgt. Oscar Godfrey Johnson, Jr.: World War II Medal*

of Honor Recipient from Dickinson County, Michigan – 2018 – 46 pages with over 20 photographs and illustrations – \$8.00 plus tax.

Cummings, William J. – *The Prohibition Era on the Eastern Menominee Iron Range: A Compilation of Contemporary Local Newspaper Articles Documenting Prohibition* – 2018 – 214 pages with 32 historic photographs, sheet music covers and more – \$20.00 plus tax.

Cummings, William J. – *Willie Dickinson Is Missing! The Unsolved 1881 Kidnapping of 5-Year-Old Mining Superintendent's Son in Commonwealth, Wisconsin* – 2018 – 32 pages with 10 photographs – \$7.00 plus tax.

Cummings, William J. – *History of the Von Platen-Fox Lumber Company, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan 1910-1943* – 2021 – 82 pages with 43 historic photographs – \$10.00 plus tax.

Forstrom, Guy – *Kingsford Fuel: The Burning History of the Charcoal Briquette* – 2018 – 16 pages with 20 photographs and illustrations – \$3.50 plus tax.

Mattson, Walter – *1912 Horse & Buggy Ride from Felch to Iron Mountain* – 1975 – 26 pages – transcribed and edited by William J. Cummings and enhanced by 17 historic captioned photographs – \$3.00 plus tax.

Swineford, A.P. – *The Menominee Iron Range: History of Its Mines, When and by Whom Discovered, Their Present Condition and Future Prospects* – 1880 – 70 pages, containing Swineford's entire original account, complete with reproductions of 10 pages of 1880-vintage regional advertisements; a Glossary of Useful Mining Terms; a 23-page Appendix of Earliest Dickinson County Photographs, most taken in the late 1870's and 1880's and containing informative captions; and an 11-page Appendix of the Mines of the Eastern Menominee Range which includes mines, their locations and shipping records – \$8.00 plus tax.

**Funding Needs:** The Foundation again needs your help in realizing its 2023 museum goals. Your continued support is most appreciated.

Please help us to encourage others to become members and support our museums. A membership form is included below and is also available on our website.

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation is funded only through admission fees, gift shop sales, memberships, donations, bequests and occasionally grants. No tax dollars from city, county, state or national sources are received.

**SEASONS GREETINGS FROM  
THE MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**VISIT US AT: [menomineemuseum.com](http://menomineemuseum.com)**



## MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Menominee Range Historical Foundation and its three museums – Menominee Range Historical Museum, Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum, World War II Glider & Military Museum – is a 501(c) 3 organization dependent upon donations, grants, membership dues and earned income to provide its annual operating costs. Individuals and groups help support the Foundation as follows:

- Life Membership (\$200):** Membership provides admission for life for two adults from the same household and their children (ages 0-17 years) and a 1” x 3” brass plaque with up to three short lines of text installed at the **Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum**. The plaque may include the name, city and state of the life member.
  
- Memorial (\$50):** \$50 is required for the initial plaque set-up. Additional names may be added as other memorial donations are received. The plaque may include “In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_, City and State, by (donor’s name)”. The plaques are installed at the **Cornish Pumping Engine & Mining Museum**.
  
- Glider/Military Museum Memorial Plaque (\$50):** Plaque installed at the **World War II Glider & Military Museum** with up to seven short lines of text and may be installed in either the **General Section** (may include name of person honored, reason honored, name of donor) or the **Special Military Section** (may include name, war, rank, where served, medals, etc.).
  
- Heritage Club (\$2,500):** Dues paid for life for two adults from the same household and their children (ages 0-17 years) and a bronze 2” x 8” plaque with of up to five short lines of information. The plaque may include name, city and state, and additional information.
  
- General Donations:**
  - \$\_\_\_\_\_ Dry Museum Project  
(new home for Menominee Range Historical Museum)
  - General Maintenance }  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Historical/Cornish Pump & Mining Museums
  - }  \$\_\_\_\_\_ World War II Glider & Military Museum

Please check the appropriate item/s and send a check payable to the Menominee Range Historical Foundation at PO Box 237, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. For additional information or assistance please call (906) 828-1822.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

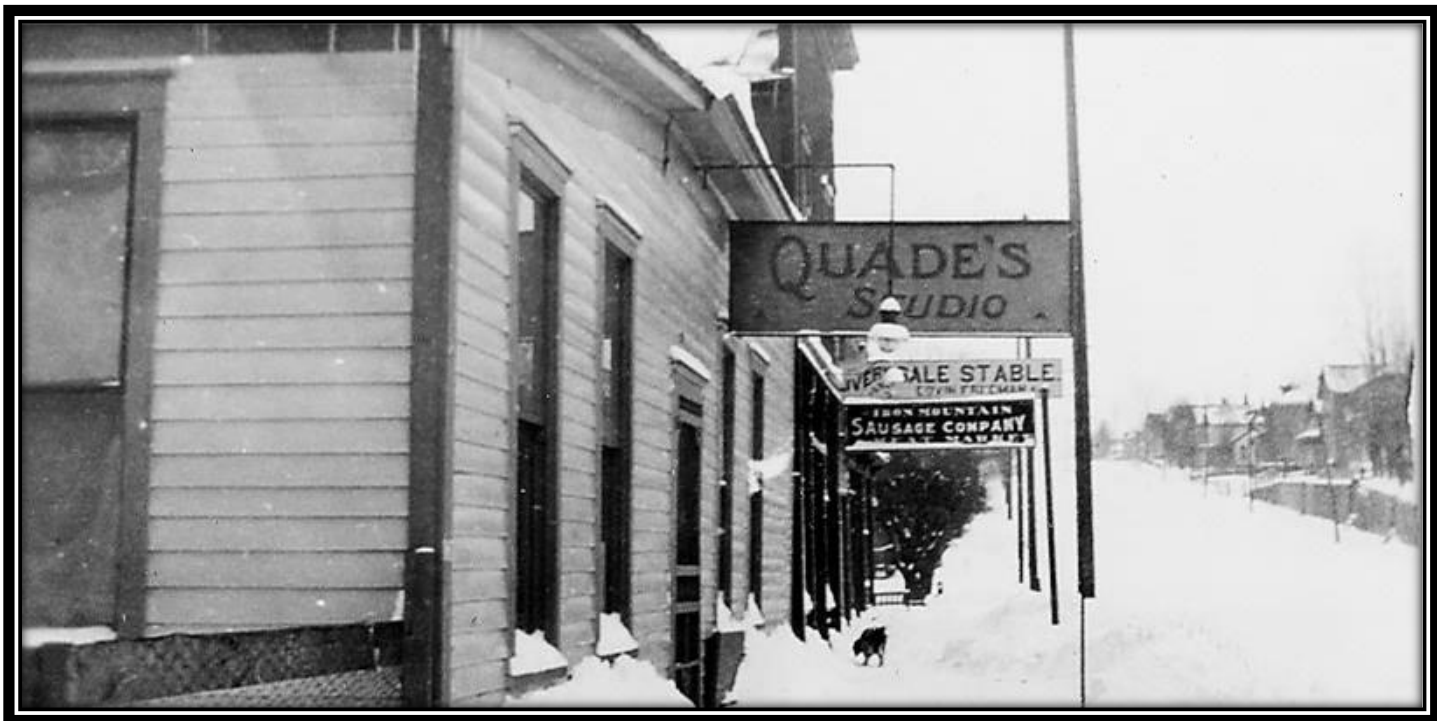
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support to help preserve our heritage.

**Additional support:**

- I would like to volunteer at the museums – please call (906) 828-1822.
- I would like to donate to the Perpetuation Fund in my Trust or Will – please call (906) 828-1822.
- I would like to donate to help sponsor the 2023 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference being hosted by the Menominee Range Historical Foundation.

**Menominee Range Historical Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 237**  
**Iron Mountain, MI 49801**



*By 1907 Albert Quade operated his photograph studio at 210-212 East A Street. The Iron Mountain Sausage Company Meat Market was probably located at 214 East A Street. By 1892 Edwin Freeman had a livery stable at 216 East A Street. The sign pictured will hang above the livery stable door in the new museum. [William J. Cummings]*