Michigan Hemingway Society
Since 1990, focusing on the Michigan influence in Ernest Hemingway's work, especially the Nick Adams Stories.
The society holds an annual Hemingway Weekend in Petoskey, MI each Fall which features speakers, readings, exhibits, and tours of northern Michigan sites where the Nobel Prize-winning author spent his boyhood summers.

MHS Fall Conference
October 14-16, 2016
Petoskey, Michigan

1919: The Beginning of Something

1919 was the last year Hemingway spent in the Walloon Lake-Petoskey area. Newly home from the war, he spent the summer at the family cottage on Walloon Lake and then, after being asked to leave the family cottage, stayed on into the winter in Petoskey. Home from the war he enjoyed great popularity around town, speaking of his war experiences to groups, attending dances and parties, enjoying the company of the Petoskey girls, and beginning his career as a serious fiction writer.

This year our keynote speaker will be Dr. Donald Daiker, Professor of English Emeritus at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. A well-loved professor and sought-after speaker, both nationally and internationally, Dr. Daiker is undoubtedly going to be a highlight of our weekend. We encourage you to visit Dr. Daiker's website at www.miamioh.edu.

The conference opens Friday evening with registration and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the historic Perry Hotel and closes Sunday afternoon. Friday evening there are plans for discussions on the world around Hemingway in 1919, including Chicago and Petoskey.

On Saturday we will have breakfast at Jesperson's of The Torrents of Spring fame; tours, including underground Petoskey -- it was during prohibition; a reenactment of Hemingway's famous "War Talk" at the Carnegie Library where it happened; and participation in the city's Hemingway Harvest Days events. The keynote dinner with Dr Daiker will be on Saturday evening.

You don't want to miss our Sunday program where we will read letters by Majorie Bump (Main) as she recalls her first encounter with Hemingway when she was thirteen and her account of the actual "End of Something" in 1919. Check out the Michigan Up North website for more information on Hemingway's Northern Michigan Connection.

If you are not a member of the Michigan Hemingway Society for 2016 you may join online now. To register for the conference click here.

If you choose accommodations at the historic Perry Hotel, where Hemingway once stayed, rooms are available at the rates shown below. If you stay over on Sunday night (recommended) the Sunday night rate is $99 for your room. Make your reservations early.

- Stafford's Perry Hotel: (800-737-1899)
- Cushman Room $184
- Park House Room $214
- Imperial Room $294

Other hotels available include Stafford's Bay View Inn: (800-258-1886) the Terrace Inn (231-347-2410) and Bay Inn (888-321-2500). Additional lodging may be found at the Petoskey Area Visitor's Bureau.

We hope to see you Up North in October for an informative and enjoyable weekend with friends who share a passion for Hemingway in an environment he treasured!
26th ANNUAL MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY CONFERENCE
“1919: THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING”
Stafford’s Perry Hotel, Petoskey, MI – October 14-16, 2016

**SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration - Perry Main Lobby Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Lobby Bar opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Heavy hors d’oeuvres</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Greetings by Chris Struble, MHS President</td>
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<td>Status of Hemingway Statue by George Colburn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>West Bloomfield Literary Garden by Jennifer McQuillan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Comments by MHS President Chris Struble</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>The National and International Climate of 1919 by John Cohassey</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>The Nick Adams Stories - Roundtable Discussion with Don Daiker, Fred Svoboda, Chris Struble</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Jennifer McQuillan</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>Program concludes with announcements, Lobby Bar stays open</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 and 9:30 am</td>
<td>Sign up at registration for Breakfast at Jespersons</td>
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<td>(312 Howard St) with a surprise guest visitor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>MHS Board of Directors Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>On your own for lunch, shopping, Little Traverse Museum, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Re-creation of Hemingway’s “War Talk” at the Carnegie Library*</td>
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<td>(451 E Mitchell St) in the fireplace room (1st seating). Donations accepted. Open to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Underground Petoskey History walk (1st departure) Perry Hotel, Front Porch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>First screening of the 90-minute <em>Finding His Muse in Northern Michigan</em> documentary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>by George Colburn at the Carnegie Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Underground Petoskey History walk (2nd departure) Perry Hotel, Front Porch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Re-creation of Hemingway’s “War Talk” at the Carnegie Library*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2nd seating) Donations accepted. Open to the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*After each “War Talk” at the Carnegie Library a docent will show those interested in the new library facility directly across the street where there are Hemingway displays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception with Bar at the Carnegie Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Dinner Served</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker Dr Donald Daiker</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast at the Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Frank Boles from Central Michigan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Marge Bump Letters and the real End of Something</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Membership Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Business meeting adjourns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>The Mossbanks vintage baseball team will host a re-creation of the 1919 Black Sox Scandal World Series game at the Petoskey</td>
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</table>

River Road Sports Complex. Take US 131 south and turn left on W Sheridan Rd. Then the 3rd right on to Clarian Ave which turns into River Rd. The complex is on the east (left) side of River Road just south of Standish Avenue. Open to the public. Donations requested. Hot dogs, drinks and chips will be available.
Michigan Hemingway Society

would like to thank their sponsors:

The Wally & Margy Kidd Family

City Park Grill

Downtown Petoskey

Jesperson's Restaurant

ACE Hardware
The Michigan Hemingway Society
Bill and Donna Coté Scholarship

The Michigan Hemingway Society exists to encourage the study of Ernest Hemingway's life and work, especially regarding his relationship to Michigan. What better way to do this than to foster an interest in Hemingway in a new generation? Long-time Society member Bill Coté suggested that a student scholarship be created and designed to bring young students to read, understand, and appreciate the novels and short stories of Ernest Hemingway. The Board of Directors is delighted to announce the creation of the Bill and Donna Coté Scholarship Fund.

This year the very first Bill and Donna Coté Scholarship has been awarded to Lily Rosenberg, an eleventh grade student at West Bloomfield High School in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Lily has been actively involved in her school's one-of-a-kind Literary Garden, a project that repurposes neglected courtyard space to feature plants collected from the homesteads of American authors, along with those plants featured prominently in their narratives. The garden showcases the plants collected from over 30 authors, including mint from Horton Bay to represent Hemingway. Please take the opportunity to say hello to Lily and her teacher, Jennifer McQuillan. We are thrilled to have them with us, and we look forward to continuing this important program in the coming years as we do our part to introduce new readers to Hemingway and provide them with the opportunity to share their interest with others.

If you would like to actively support this scholarship, please see Suzanne Shumway for details. You may help by donating to the fund online at the Society website www.MichiganHemingwaySociety.org or by sending a check to the Michigan Hemingway Society, PO Box 922, Petoskey, MI 49770, specifying a donation for the Bill and Donna Coté Scholarship Fund.
Dear Fred,

I'd be grateful if you'd read the following statement to the conference attendees at the appropriate time:

I'm humbled and amazed that the society is naming the first scholarship for myself and Donna. I still think it rightly should go to someone worthy such as Joe Waldmeir, but when I saw that you include Donna's name in the scholarship, I'll let it be. Donna was a wonderful and remarkable lady and her presence with me in Petoskey added so much to the experience each year. Aside from Hemingway's impact, she knew and loved more about Petoskey than I did because she had traveled through the city several times on the annual DELMAC bicycle ride from Lansing to the Mackinac Bridge and visited other times with family and friends. Even though she hadn't written a word about EH, she picked up on so many things. She always sought to help me, and the year that Torrents of Spring was featured at the conference, she read almost all the book to me while I was driving us to the conference. She liked many of the stories, although doing all that reading aloud in the car left her with a headache for several hours!

Please give my congratulations to the first scholarship recipient, Lily Rosenberg. She sounds like an outstanding choice, who will add luster to the scholarship and give it an excellent start as a continuing annual conference highlight.

Finally, my best to everyone there. May the 2016 conference be yet another sterling chapter in the society's tribute to the great author who owed so much to his Michigan adventures and stimulation.

Bill Coté, Ph.D.
Lily Rosenberg
Mrs. McQuillan
MHS Scholarship Entry
6 October 2016

Hemingway’s Pure Michigan

The Pure Michigan experience is centered on being immersed in the beauties of pure nature. Because many people only know Michigan’s reputation for being the Motor City, they don’t recognize the complex beauty that Pure Michigan holds. The natural elements of Pure Michigan are simple yet complex in every way. They are beautiful on the outside and yet still hold a complex history and artistry beneath the surface. Hemingway was able to capture this concept of duality between simplicity and complexity in his writing. His writing was down to earth and realistic yet had a deeper meaning behind every sentence, just like the elements of nature.

One specific example of this duality in Hemingway’s writing is found in “The Big Two-Hearted River” which was set in the Upper Peninsula. On the surface, the story seems incredibly simple. In fact, it seems nothing more than a man going fishing on the river. Some critics have even said that his stories, particularly “The Big Two-Hearted River,” were about nothing at all. What those critics failed to see was the symbolism behind the simple imagery of the ruined city Nick Adams sees on his journey. The deeper meaning of the story tells of a man who has come home to destruction after the war. Pure Michigan relates to the simplicity and complexity of the story. Although the lakes, beaches and sunrises are simple, beautiful sights on the surface, they hold great
wonder and history beneath. For example, the simplicity of the great lakes is nothing compared to the amazing story of how they were formed.

Most importantly, Hemingway is able to show that there is no greater truth than what can be learned from nature. Every life lesson or experience has a parallel in nature. For instance, when a flower blooms it can be compared to a girl blossoming into womanhood. Experiencing the ambiance and beauty of Pure Michigan as well as reading the works of Ernest Hemingway can bring greater understanding and awareness of these great lessons of life. Hemingway's writing relates to the message of Pure Michigan in that it is simple on the surface yet deep within has great beauty and truth that all people should be able to experience.
CITY PARK GRILL HISTORY

1st course

CAESAR SALAD

2nd course

Combination Platter
MAPLE DIJON ROASTED PORK LOIN
smoked apple sauce

PARMESAN HERB CRUSTED WHITEFISH
roasted garlic cream sauce

White Truffle Mashed Potatoes, Balsamic Honey Glazed Carrots,
Cuban bean Salad (Best by Test)

3rd course

APPLE RAISIN CARAMEL CRISP
whipped cream

Misters McCarty and Culver have now their Billiard Parlor in operation. They have a very pleasant room and we hope it will be conducted in a manner that will not be discreditable to our enterprising little city. From the appearance of the gentlemanly proprietors, we should predict a successful opening.

—EMMET COUNTY DEMOCRAT
FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1875
SALES

USED BOOKS

Our favorite used book dealer in the world is Steve Ruebelman. He always has fascinating books, maps, or pictures that force us to part with our hard-earned cash, credit cards, checks, and possibly even our first-born children! Steve and his wife Marlene will be selling used books and Hemingway memorabilia in the Reycraft Room of The Perry. Steve’s hours are: Friday, 4:30 – 7 pm and after the program; Saturday pretty much all day and Sunday pretty much until noon. Please check with him for more details about their times.

MHS ITEMS

See our sales table in The Perry Fireplace Room
Friday – following the evening program
Saturday – 9:30 am-noon and following the evening program
Sunday – after breakfast and after adjournment until noon

COASTERS, SET OF 4 - $5
COOLER - $7
COFFEE MUG - $7
ROCKS GLASS - $10
SMALL NOTEBOOK - $5
HEMINGWAY DRIVING TOUR $5
LETTER OPENER - $4
HEMINGWAY DVD - $20
2003 EXHIBIT BOOKLET - $3
2007 EXHIBIT BOOKLET - $3
TRAVERSE MAGAZINE - $3
MI HISTORY MAGAZINE - $3
HOME LIFE MAGAZINE - FREE

Think stocking stuffers, Thank you gifts, Hostess gifts, American lit. students, etc., etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Artman</td>
<td>Port Huron, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Beswick</td>
<td>Spring Lake, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Boles</td>
<td>Mt Pleasant, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Brox</td>
<td>Eliot, ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Butler</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Byrne</td>
<td>St. Charles, IL</td>
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<td>Virginia Cassin</td>
<td>Oak Park, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Cicciarelli</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<td>Rosemary Curtin</td>
<td>Neenah, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Daiker</td>
<td>Oxford, OH</td>
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<td>Vicky Daiker</td>
<td>Oxford, OH</td>
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<td>Debbie Fedewa</td>
<td>Houghton, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Fox</td>
<td>South Bend, IN</td>
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<td>Jerri Gillett</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Robert Glass</td>
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<td>Don Goodman</td>
<td>Muskegon, MI</td>
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<td>Sharon Halliburton</td>
<td>St Joseph, MO</td>
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<td>William Holden</td>
<td>Elk Rapids, MI</td>
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<td>Daniel Hornfelt</td>
<td>Sterling Heights, MI</td>
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<td>Anne Horvitz</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
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<td>Richard Horvitz</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Iaconelli</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>Barbara Jackson</td>
<td>Texarkana, TX</td>
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<td>Jack Jobst</td>
<td>Houghton, MI</td>
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<td>John Johnson</td>
<td>Key West, FL</td>
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<td>Aliaksandr Kurshuk</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terri Lavelle</td>
<td>Menlo Park, CA</td>
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<td>Susan Lightcap</td>
<td>South Bend, IN</td>
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<td>Ken Marek</td>
<td>Traverse City, MI</td>
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<td>Lori McCarthy</td>
<td>Oak Park, IL</td>
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<td>Win McCormack</td>
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<td>Jennifer McQuillan</td>
<td>West Bloomfield, MI</td>
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<td>Jim Mulder</td>
<td>Berrien Springs, MI</td>
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<td>Pat Mulder</td>
<td>Berrien Springs, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Nicholson</td>
<td>Harbor Springs, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Nicholson</td>
<td>Harbor Springs, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Palmer</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecil Ponder</td>
<td>Decatur, AL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Ponder</td>
<td>Decatur, AL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lily Rosenberg</td>
<td>West Bloomfield, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Ruebelman</td>
<td>Port Huron, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marlene Ruebelman</td>
<td>Port Huron, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Rupp</td>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Sanford</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marian Sanford</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Sanford</td>
<td>Grosse Pointe Farms, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Shumway</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Shumway</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<td>Chris Struble</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Svoboda</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Szwedda</td>
<td>Fennville, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan White</td>
<td>Petoskey, MI</td>
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FEATURING:

Numerous new books and replacement copies for sold items

Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of the Hemingway Letters

Inscribed Copy of Marceline Hemingway Sanford’s At the Hemingways

Three Volume Set of the Illustrated Edition of Dos Passos’ U. S. A. Trilogy

Three shelves of Reduced Price [$4] Quality Books

A Shelf of William Faulkner and John Steinbeck Books

An Early Printing of Sherwood Anderson’s Dark Laughter

Two Early Fitzgerald / Hemingway Annuals [1972 & 73]

Early Printings of A Farewell to Arms and Men Without Women

First book appearance of Hemingway’s “Who Murdered [Killed] the Vets?”

FIVE UNIQUE “SCRAPBOOK” DISPLAYS:

Bill Smith       Marjorie Bump Main       David Meeker

Keynote Speaker Donald Daiker

Hemingway’s 1919 “Cross Roads Anthology”
The original Carnegie Library was a favorite haunt of Hemingway's when he was living in Petoskey during the winter of 1919-20. In December of 1919 he spoke here to the Ladies Aid Society about his experiences in World War I. Witness a reenactment of that famous talk on

**Saturday, October 15**

**1:00 p.m.** and again at **3:00 p.m.**

Tours of the Petoskey District Library’s Local History Room to follow.

The Carnegie Building is located at

451 E. Mitchell Street Petoskey.

Free & Open to the public.

[www.petoskeylibrary.org](http://www.petoskeylibrary.org)  231.758.3100
21 April 2016

To: The Board of the Michigan Hemingway Society

Re: The “Young Hemingway” documentary & education project

Ladies and Gentlemen: With your early support and the subsequent support of 22 other project sponsors, we will reach the end of the “Young Hemingway” production phase in just a few weeks. Our primary goal of producing a documentary for national distribution is finally within sight. With adequate final-phase funding we plan to complete post-production by the end of this year and have the documentary ready for distribution in the spring of 2017.

This schedule depends, of course, on our ability to raise the necessary funding to finish our work in the months ahead. With that as preamble, you will understand why this letter seeks further Society support. We estimate our post-production needs to be at $25,000 – funding that will be spent on local talent who provide almost all of the special production services necessary to our success.

In the past year we have completed several successful shoots – in Oak Park, Boston, Horton Bay, and Petoskey. Two final shoots are planned this spring – an interview with Valerie Hemingway on the shores of Walloon and a then visit to young Ernie’s favorite fishing locations in the Pigeon River State Forest. We will add the best of this new footage to our existing preview reel and have a “first-cut” preview of our documentary ready for July 21 when the Perry Hotel again hosts a Hemingway dinner and special screening.

Our continued production work has been funded primarily by our third grant from the Meijer Foundation, our major sponsor, and the final payment on our $15,000 grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA).

I know that many of you watched the 50-minute preview we screened at the Perry Hotel event last July 21, and many others among you have seen the 15-minute preview that is now available on our website, www.HemingwaysMichigan.com. There is no better way for me to promote our project than for you to view our footage. We believe “Young Hemingway” is a project worth completing and your help will move us toward that goal.

I am enclosing two attachments for your perusal: one is our list of current sponsors and the other is our list of interviewees. We think you will be impressed by the company we keep. Thank you for your content assistance over the past few years and the financial support. Getting to know many of you has been a great pleasure.

Best wishes.

George A. Colburn, Ph.D.
INTERVIEWEES FOR "YOUNG HEMINGWAY" DOCUMENTARY

Ernest Mainland
John Sanford
Prof. Sandra Spanier
John Cohassey
Virginia Cassin
Mary Jane Doerr
Prof. Joseph Flora
Jim Hartwell
Paul Hendrickson
Dr. Dale Herder
Prof. Ellen Knodt
Patricia Dilworth Jacobson
G.T. Long and Robert Ballor

Chip Loringe
Prof. Ken Marek
Christopher Struble
Prof. Linda Patterson Miller
Prof. James Nagel
Kurt and Mary Jane Neumann
Charlotte Ponder
Prof. Gail Sinclair
Dr. Nancy Sindelar
Prof. Fred Svoboda
Prof. Robert Trogdon
Prof. H.R. Stoneback
Prof. Scott Donaldson
SPONSORS OF
THE "YOUNG HEMINGWAY"
DOCUMENTARY & EDUCATION PROJECT

Meijer Foundation
Michigan Humanities Council
Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
Boyne Resorts USA
Bay Harbor Foundation
Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau
Ernest Hemingway Collection.com
Michigan Hemingway Society
Ernest H. and Judith G. Mainland
Robert Jønssen Dau
Wally Kidd Family Trust
Mary Jane Doerr Trust
Bay View Association
Stafford’s Perry Hotel
Charlevoix County History Preservation Society
James & Constance Burt
Dale and Ruth Ann Hull
Stafford Smith
City Park Grill
Arlington Jewelers/Petoskey Yesterday
Hello I am Tenente' Ernesto Hemingway otherwise known as Ernie Hemingway Or Stein as my friends call me.

I have been coming to Lake Walloon then just Bear lake and Petoskey since before I was born well literally just 3 months old.

I spent my first full Summer here in 1890 and every summer since with my family from Oak Park Ill. Including part of last summer before I went off to serve in WW1.

As you can see I had a bit of a row over there taking over 237 shrapnel wounds to my legs ... But more of that in a minute.

My father Clarence a Doctor and my mother Grace a musician and singer first came up here to get out of the heat of the city.

They loved the area so much they purchased a piece of Bear lake and built a small cottage for my soon to be 5 brothers and sisters and I to spend our summers hunting fishing camping and swimming: things people will always identify me by.

Last year after graduating High school with my sister Marceline (we're not really twins my parents just liked to pretend for a while)

I went to live in Kansas City and worked as a reporter for the Kansas City Star It was what I really wanted to do even though my family always thought I would be a doctor like my father.

I saw some pretty ruff stuff working the hospital and police station beat and even some gun fire trapping me under a car for a bit but WW1 was on the minds of all young men my age and like some of
my friends I decided to join the Army but they did not want me  because of my eye  I injured it boxing you know  

(He is lying so a wink or gesture would be good )  
My grandfather was a Civil War Hero and I wanted really wanted to serve also.. 
So I joined the Red Cross as an ambulance driver but not before I could get in a few more days of fishing here in Northern Michigan ! 

Just before I left I gave my parents a good freight telling them I was going to marry an older actress that was pretty well known and much older . Just what they needed before their son went off to war 

I left New York on a boat and learned a good way to calm ones nerves was a bottle of wine  I think  I picked up the habit well !!!

My first few days in Italy were tough  
The first assignment I had was retrieving body parts from an exploded munitions factory most of the victims were women. 

After that things got a little slow and I was not sure I was doing my part  Handing out chocolate bars and cigarettes to the men  while riding a bicycle was not something I was going to talk about in my hopefully old age when and if I made it home .

I had been in Italy only a few weeks really and one day July 8th actually while in the trenches near  Fossalta di Piave  I was eating and some food and the fighting started to get heavy and bombs were going off all around men were screaming and 

an Austrian mortar came right in and exploded killing the two men next to me and making me “ feel my spirit leave my body and slowly
float back down” My boots felt like they were full of warm water.

I thought I could at least help the one guy closest to me so when I finally made it to the triage area not only did I have my blood on me but this other soldiers as well. Seeing blood all over me including my chest I was given the Last Rites by a Catholic priest that may come in handy some day.

The thought of Having both legs cut off and being only 18 years old I was quite scared but the doctors surely did not want to send me home to my dad a doctor and being so young so I was given quite the treatment.

I wound up in a hospital in Milan that was not so bad considering.

There was a good clean bed, pretty nurses and they were able to save my legs there were surgeries but infection never did set in too bad but every once in a while one of the guys close would have a swarm of doctors and nurses rush in and there would be awful sounds behind a sheet and then they would remove the sheet and there would be an empty bed..

One Nurse Agnes von Kurowsky really kept my spirits high and before I knew it I was very attracted to her. Eventually we fell quite in love and spent most of our free time in Milan making plans to be married.

Ag was a bit older than I quite a bit actually but I felt older than my years even just from the short time I had spent in war so we got along very well and soon I was very much in love..
Then in January I came home to get a job and earn some “rocks” so we could be married and tour the world …

I returned home somewhat a hero as I was called the first American wounded in Italy I was even shown on a movie reel my sister Marce saw just before I got back.

On few occasions I was thrown a party by the Italians in my other home Oak Park complete with tons of wine which did not make my parents or neighbors very happy.

But they did not know by then I had learned cognac helped the pain in the legs and the mixed up feelings I was having ..I even had trouble sleeping with the lights off for a while and I stated smoking these Russian cigarettes.

Well the letters from Ag kept getting fewer and fewer but I never expected the letter she sent me in early March Ag really let me have it with a bunch of talk about our age difference she being much older and how ours was more like a brother and sister affair.

She even gave me the old I know your going to be a great writer someday basically The old it's all me and not you .. Oh and best come to find out the young 14 or so year old guy that she said had a crush on her is actually some kind of Count and the two were going married but his family wouldn't have the old girl as she wasn't as noble as here name ..

I came right up here to Northern Michigan I have to admit I was very heartbroken and feeling weird some guys were calling it shell
shocked which sounds about right.

I went to our cottage but it was not a place to stay that time of year so I went to my Uncle George's house over in Boyne City for a bit Michigan always seems to help.

Summer in Michigan has always been my favorite time and this past summer was a gas with all of my friends out in Horton Bay Bill Smith and Katie his sister Marge and Pudge Bump

But one day sticks out in my mind and that was the day I stopped into the Horton Bay general store and got a letter from Ag saying the wedding between her and her rich guy was off.

She said there was even a chance maybe for us. I'm waiting for JUST the right occasion to settle this one

Anyway In October I came back up here to Petoskey from Oak Park stayed at the Cushman hotel and wrote my father telling him I had rented a room at the Potter's house just up the street and I have been doing a lot of writing there since.

while hanging out with my friends here in town Dutch Pailthorpe Luman Ramsdell Irene Gordon Marge and Pudge Grace Quinlan ...

He will tell his friend Dutch Pailthorpe a story that winter and it will become A Farewell to Arms there is a signed first edition copy in the Little Traverse History Museum