



Historical Society of Michigan  
7435 Westshire Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917  
(517) 324-1828  
[hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org)

For Immediate Release

### **Winners of the 2020 Upper Peninsula History Awards Announced**

LANSING, Mich.—**The Historical Society of Michigan announces the winners of its 2020 Upper Peninsula History Awards.** Each year, the Historical Society of Michigan presents two U.P.-based awards: the Charles Follo Award for individuals and the Superior Award for historical organizations located in the Upper Peninsula. **The awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and promotion of U.P. history.**

The Upper Peninsula History Awards are usually presented at the Upper Peninsula History Conference. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Upper Peninsula History Conference was canceled. The 2020 and 2021 Upper Peninsula History Awards will be presented in person during the 71st annual Upper Peninsula History Conference, which will be held in Bay Mills/Brimley, Michigan, June 25-27, 2021.



**The Charles Follo Award is named in honor of Charles Follo, a schoolteacher from Escanaba who worked to establish historical societies and promote the history of the Upper Peninsula. This year’s recipient is Mikel Bruce Classen of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.** Classen has written numerous articles and history texts on the Upper Peninsula. Also an avid photographer, one of his most recent publications, “Points North: Discover Hidden Campgrounds, Natural Wonders, and Waterways of the Upper Peninsula,” includes more than 40 of his own photographs. Currently, Classen serves as the publication chair for the Upper Peninsula Publishers & Authors Association, which is the publisher of the annual “U.P. Reader,” an anthology that highlights U.P. writers. In addition, Classen works on restoration projects, volunteers at the St. Helena Island Light Station for the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers

Association, and remains an active member of several historical societies.

**The Historical Society of Michigan established the Superior Award in 2006 to recognize historical societies, museums and other historical organizations that have preserved and advanced U.P. history. This year's recipient is the Bay Mills Indian Community's History Department.** The Bay Mills Indian Community was established in 1936, following the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The History Department opened in 1998 with the mission of protecting, managing and preserving the community's culture, history and traditions—including all cultural, historical, and archaeological resources, as well as objects, places, knowledge, traditions, practices and beliefs. The Bay Mills Indian Community's History Department offers presentations on the community's history, dedicates itself to preserving the history of its members, and protects physical sites of importance. Acting as the Tribal Historic Preservation Office since 2010, the department also protects all tribal lands.

The Historical Society of Michigan, publisher of Michigan History and Chronicle magazines, is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations.

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