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## Book Review of Upper Peninsula of Michigan: A History by Russell, M. Magnaghi

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**Magnaghi, Russell, M. *Upper Peninsula of Michigan: A History*.** Marquette, MI.: 906 Heritage Publishing, 2017. Pp. 336. Notes, bibliography. \$24.99, pb.

From “Old” Copper Culture Native Americans to contemporary Yoopers, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (UP) has maintained a population that has extrapolated wealth from the land while coexisting in a harsh wintery climate. This monograph vividly paints a picture of these people and their cultures. It identifies the UP’s geographic region, details the land’s riches, explains reasons for its habitation, and dutifully traces its history.

The initial four chapters examine the UP’s boundaries and migrations to the region including the Native Americans, French, British, and Yankees or “Americans.” The UP’s 16,355 square miles borders three of the Great Lakes: Superior, Huron, and Michigan. It has several mountain ranges, forests, rivers and lakes. With such natural resources it is unsurprising the first people inhabited the area as early as 10,700 BCE. During the following millennia, the Native Americans expanded intercultural contacts by trading foods, ceramics, and copper. The author explains how several other First Nations including the Anishinaabeg, Ojibwa, Potawatomi, Odawa, Huron, Wendat, and Menominee maintained and strengthened these ties and traditions to the region.

In the early 1600s French *coureurs du bois*, missionaries, and military created alliances with the Native Americans. This allowed for the exchange of goods and the establishment of missions and forts. These institutions often served several purposes. They fostered an economic engine for the fur trade, religious dissemination, and protection. Several early UP communities such as Sault Saint Marie, St. Ignace, and Fort Michilimackinac trace their roots to these early outposts.

During the following century, European conflicts spread into the Western Hemisphere. By 1763, the British successfully captured Quebec City and became defacto inheritors of the UP. Many of the region's First Nations were disillusioned with the British and joined Pontiac's Uprising that saw the capture of Fort Michilimackinac. This resulted in a British policy change that encouraged trade while restricting colonial expansion. Conversely, these new policies antagonized the American colonists who sought and achieved independence.

The author situates the American impact from 1796-1866. He explains Native, British, and Yankee relations through the War of 1812's conclusion. Beyond this, the economic and political problems eventually fell under United States hegemony, including subjective relations with the Native Americans and marginalization of the Metis. It also examines the influence of American traders, scientific, and geographic expeditions. The Civil War required military enlistments for the Union and copper and iron mining for the North's war effort. This demonstrated how the UP increasingly became part of the United States.

The following six chapters examine various economic engines in the UP including mining, timber, fishing, agriculture, industry and the environment. The first three were boom and bust enterprises indicative of over extrapolation and harvest. The author details the initial natural abundance of the raw materials, the machinations that allowed for mass harvesting, and the workers—usually immigrants—who mined the copper, smelted the iron, cut the trees, and fished the waters. Each enterprise represented the influence of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Gilded Age capitalism in the UP, complete with robber barons and alienated labor.

The chapter on farming traces agricultural endeavors from the Native Americans through the present. Despite the region's challenging soil and climate, many scratched a living from the land, sometimes to augment the timber companies' food supply and later as family farmsteads.

These farms often specialized in dairy and hog production and grew the required fodder for the animals. Likewise, the families tended gardens and orchards. Other farms experimented with non-traditional crops such as celery, mint, sugar, grapes, and tobacco. The author points out how this endures today. Michigan State University's Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center continues the legacy of integrated crop and livestock research, both for large scale operations and locally grown produce.

Industry and the environment are also economic mainstays. Local industry often developed to support mining and timber. For example, regional businesses developed impressive dynamite and safety fuse operations. Likewise, charcoal, needed to fuel the blast furnaces, continues as a cooking fuel. Other supportive industries included machining, wood work, paper mills, wicker looms, and engine manufacturing.

The UP's natural beauty also contributes to the economy. Some early residents recognized the consequences of unfettered mineral and timber exploitation and sought to preserve certain areas. The Huron Mountain Club near Big Bay, Chicago's Cyrus McCormick, and William Mather of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company all preserved land for future generations. These and other UP forests became and remain popular tourist destinations.

UP immigration waves have attracted several groups beyond the French and British, the subject of the monograph's next chapter. During the Century of Immigration 1820-1920, the UP mostly mirrored the nation's immigration patterns. Some of the major groups include the Irish, Germans, Italians, Scandinavians, Jews, Slovenians, Poles, and Hungarians, Finns, and other European groups. The author also details African American immigration patterns that arrived via the railroads, hotel industry, and military. He explains how these many cultures and traditions augmented and changed Yooper life.

Prejudice also received attention. Members of these organizations such as the KKK and other socially myopic nativists challenged the imported traditions of the immigrants' religion, politics, drinking, and livelihood. African American communities and Native American were also singled out to prevent racial diversity or to appropriate cultural identity.

The final chapters provide a historic narrative of the UP from 1890 through the twentieth century. The author recounts several industrial cycles, and how labor and politics sought to challenge wealth inequality and safety issues. The Progressive Era addressed many of these challenges through education and government oversights. This period also considers the role of arts, theater and literature, all of which the author provides attention. Conversely, the Great War saw the implementation of loyalty oaths and political suppression as Yoopers marched off to war.

During the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, the UP wrestled with Prohibition's implementation and repeal, nativism, and solutions to the economic collapse. Some Yoopers left the region to Alaska or Russian Karelia. Others joined FDR's New Deal Programs that constructed parks, managed the forests, or brought art and music to the people.

The United States' entry into World War II again drafted residents into military service. Simultaneously, local industries turned their output to war materials. Due to the UP's remoteness, other areas became POW and Conscientious Objector camps. The defense of the Sault Ste. Marie canal received special attention as the government erected military bases to protect this vital waterway from sabotage or enemy attack. The post war period saw the rise of Cold War airbases that again infused money and people into the region. However, much of this capital and population left the UP when the Soviet Union collapsed and the government shuttered the facilities.

Academic monographs specific to the UP are seemingly authored every other generation. Magnaghi's work reflects this pattern. He has written a modern narrative of the region that includes sound documentation for those who seek to further develop additional UP themes. It is a must-read for any Upper Peninsula scholar, research institution, and regional library.

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