

Small Historic Towns across America

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

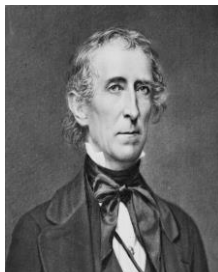
Brief History of Baraga, Michigan.

Baraga began with the establishment of the Holy Name Mission which was lead by Rev. Frederic Baraga in 1843. The first visitors were French missionaries and traders who found shelter from Lake Superior on the shores of the Keweenaw Bay in the 1600's. Baraga County was divided into five townships which include, Arvon, Baraga, Covington, L'Anse and Spurr. Each of these townships has a history of its own with important persons establishing schools, churches, businesses and other social and recreational activities. The Keweenaw Bay is rich with history, beginning in the early 1800s as a major port of trade for fur pelts, fish and timber. The natural resources that surrounded Keweenaw Bay allowed the region to experience early sources of economic wealth and prosperity.



Location and Driving Directions from the closest major U.S. Airport(s).

Sawyer International Airport is the closest Airport to Baraga Michigan. Head toward Lyons St on Michigan Ave (M-38) 0.4 mi/. Turn right onto US-41 70.0 mi/. Bear left onto W Washington St (US-41-BR E) 0.7 mi/. Arrive at W Washington St (US-41-BR). The trip takes 71.1 mi/ and 1:20 h.



Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time?

When Baraga was first organized as a town John Tyler was the President of the United States. He won the election due to the death of his running mate, William Henry Harrison. During Tyler's presidency there was no vice president. He initially sought election to a full term, but had lost the support of both Whigs and Democrats, and he withdrew. When the American Civil War began in 1861, Tyler sided with the Confederate government, and won election to the Confederate House of Representatives shortly before his death

Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

In 1966, John Besse formed Northern Michigan Veneers, Inc. a veneer splicing company. Northern Michigan Veneers began operations in September. By January of 1967 they were splicing 1,000,000 square feet of veneer a month. John Besse's belief in supplying a good product at a fair price has led to the expansion of the Besse Forest Products Group. Today, the company has grown to its present size with over 1100 employees and 750,000



square feet of manufacturing facilities. They are one of the largest producers of hardwood face veneers in North America.

City Government.

Since Baraga County is divided into five different townships I will list each districts county commissioner. District 1: Gale Eilola, District 2: mike Koskinen, District 3: Patrick Reilley, District 4: William Menge, and District 5: William C. Rolof.

Historic attractions in the area. Festival and Events.

On the stretch of US 41 between L'Anse and Baraga, is a giant copper figure standing astride a silvery cloud rising some 60 feet above the bluff overlooking Keweenaw Bay. This heroic statue pays tribute to one of the earliest and most beloved pioneers of the Keweenaw, Frederic Baraga, and the Snowshoe Priest who became the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula and the Apostle of the Great Lakes. The Bishop Baraga Shrine, erected in the 1960's, was designed and constructed by the late Jack Anderson. Another attraction in Baraga County is the amount of snow they get. There are snowmobile trails everywhere and in the summer you can go kayaking on the bay and they have a beautiful beach there. They also have a casino. The Ojibwa Casino, which is also located in Marquette as well.



Where can we stay if we visit Walnut?

Baraga Lakeside Inn is a great place to stay if visiting Baraga Michigan. The Baraga Lakeside Inn is located on the shore of Lake Superior's Keweenaw Bay. Sunrises shimmering on the bay are enjoyed from guest rooms and public areas of the building and the food is great. When my family went to visit a friend who recently moved there he said we had to have dinner at the Lakeside Inn.

Website: <http://www.baragalakesideinn.com/>

Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

When I visited Baraga last year I thought it was a very nice little town. When my family went it was for spring break so the weather wasn't warm enough to go swimming but we did go kayaking and that was exciting. There is a bakery up in the mountains of Eagle Harbor in Baraga called the Jampot that is owned by monks. There is a monastery up there and the scenery is beautiful and the bakery has the best jams and muffins. They make everything from scratch and it is delicious so that would be another reason I would want to go back and visit. Another big part of our trip was visiting the shrine of Bishop Baraga or "The Snowshoe Priest". Its 35 feet high and it overlooks the bay.



Links you may wish to visit.

<http://www.baragacounty.org/>

<http://www.exploringthenorth.com/bishopb/shrine.html>