



# The Tahquamenon Scenic Byway

## Logging Lore

The mighty forests of the Tahquamenon helped build the houses and industry of the Midwest. In the process a unique culture was forged among the logging towns, lumber camps and railroad spurs that linked them. Today forest management is still a key piece of the local economy, but visitors can journey back in time for a glimpse of the lumberjack life at the Tahquamenon Logging Museum in Newberry. Enjoy a lumberjack breakfast cooked on a woodstove and served in the museum cook shack, then take a stroll on a boardwalk along the mighty Tahquamenon, the river at the heart of the region and its logging history. In nearby Soo Junction, visitors can venture deeper into Tahquamenon Country via the Toonerville Trolley narrow-gauge railway and accompanying riverboat trip down the Tahquamenon River. For a glimpse of the land before logging be sure to explore the virgin forest of Tahquamenon Falls State Park near Upper Falls.

### *The Tahquamenon Logging Museum*

The scenic byways area of the Upper Peninsula has a deeply rooted history of logging and nature conservancy, as well as a rich cultural pride held by those who inherit the region. The Tahquamenon Logging Museum is open from Memorial Day through early October, and is located on 29 acres of land along the shores of the Tahquamenon River. This museum highlights artifacts, stories and the rich history of Michigan's early days of lumbering. Here one can experience and see how life was like for the early loggers and the tools they used to perform their jobs in one of the state's most important industries.

Contact: Tahquamenon Logging Museum

Phone: (906) 293-3700

Website: [www.explorem123.com/points-of-interest/tahquamenon-logging-museum/](http://www.explorem123.com/points-of-interest/tahquamenon-logging-museum/)





## *Luce County Historical Museum*

In addition to the logging museum, the Newberry area also has the Luce County Historical Museum. This attraction is a state and national historic site, located in the old combination jail and sheriff's residence that was constructed in 1894. Housing old state and local records, photographs, equipment and many other relics, this museum chronicles the great history of the scenic byways region.

Contact: Luce County Historical Museum

Phone: (906) 293-8417

Website: [www.explorem123.com/points-of-interest/luce-county-historical-museum/](http://www.explorem123.com/points-of-interest/luce-county-historical-museum/)

Logging and big business drastically shaped the landscape of the scenic byways area. Settlements became villages, then towns and even cities emerged during the boom of the logging, shipping and railroad age of the late 1800s to mid-1900s. During this time the region grew rapidly and the men who worked and lived there were in need of entertainment as well as justice. During this time the UP was a wild frontier growing quickly but without much rule or law. The outlaw lifestyle was one many practiced before society and the industries implemented changes.



## **Logging Fast Facts**

- Lumbering supported many industries directly, such as lumber camps, sawmills and wood products manufacturing plants.
- Two logging communities, Shelldrake and Emerson, housed numerous lumber camps and sawmill towns.
- "River Rats," as they were called, were loggers who ran the logs downstream while the Iron Horse picked up the load and shipped them to the faraway ports.
- The Chesebrough Lumber Co., erected a sawmill in 1884 and built a store and about 30 tenement homes just south of the Tahquamenon Rivermouth.
- In 1888 a tote road built between Eckerman and Emerson for the transport of goods would later become M-123.
- These frontier logging towns attracted people from many walks of life and many different countries, from those seeking riches to those just trying to secure a place for future generations.
- Ghost Towns- There's not much left but the spirits and history of what once were the logging towns of Shelldrake, Emerson and Vermilion.