

May 20, 2014

For Immediate Release

The Marquette Regional History Center is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a Michigan Humanities Council Major Grant, which will be used to produce an original theatrical production titled *Willpower*. The play was written by local author Tyler Tichelaar and will be performed at Kaufman Auditorium on September 18 and 19. Major Grants are awarded to Michigan nonprofits in support of cultural, educational and community-based public humanities programming. These grants play a vital role in defining our culture, our state, our community and ourselves, and are intended to connect us to Michigan's rich cultural heritage and historical resources.

The History Center will draw upon their literary, pictorial and archival sources to bring you this one of a kind story, about young Will Adams of Marquette. Will's name is synonymous with the sheer will it took for him to survive his late boyhood years to the age of 32. In early adolescence his soft tissues were becoming hard, gradually turning him into a living statue. It was the late 1800's and physicians of the day were baffled. Others faced with such a dark future might have felt sorry for themselves and turned inward. Not so for Will. His disease brought about years of creative pursuits. This is a story not only about one young man's perseverance, but about the Marquette community members who came together in support of his creative endeavors. Join us for this amazing story of love, wit, mind over matter, and the relationships that Will fostered within his short life. Working with author Tyler Tichelaar, director Moire Embley and our talented community performance artists, the Marquette Regional History Center will bring Will's story to life. It is sure to inspire us all.

Additional support for the production has been provided by the Marquette Community Foundation and the Upper Peninsula Health Plan.