

First Discovery of Iron Ore in the Lake Superior Region

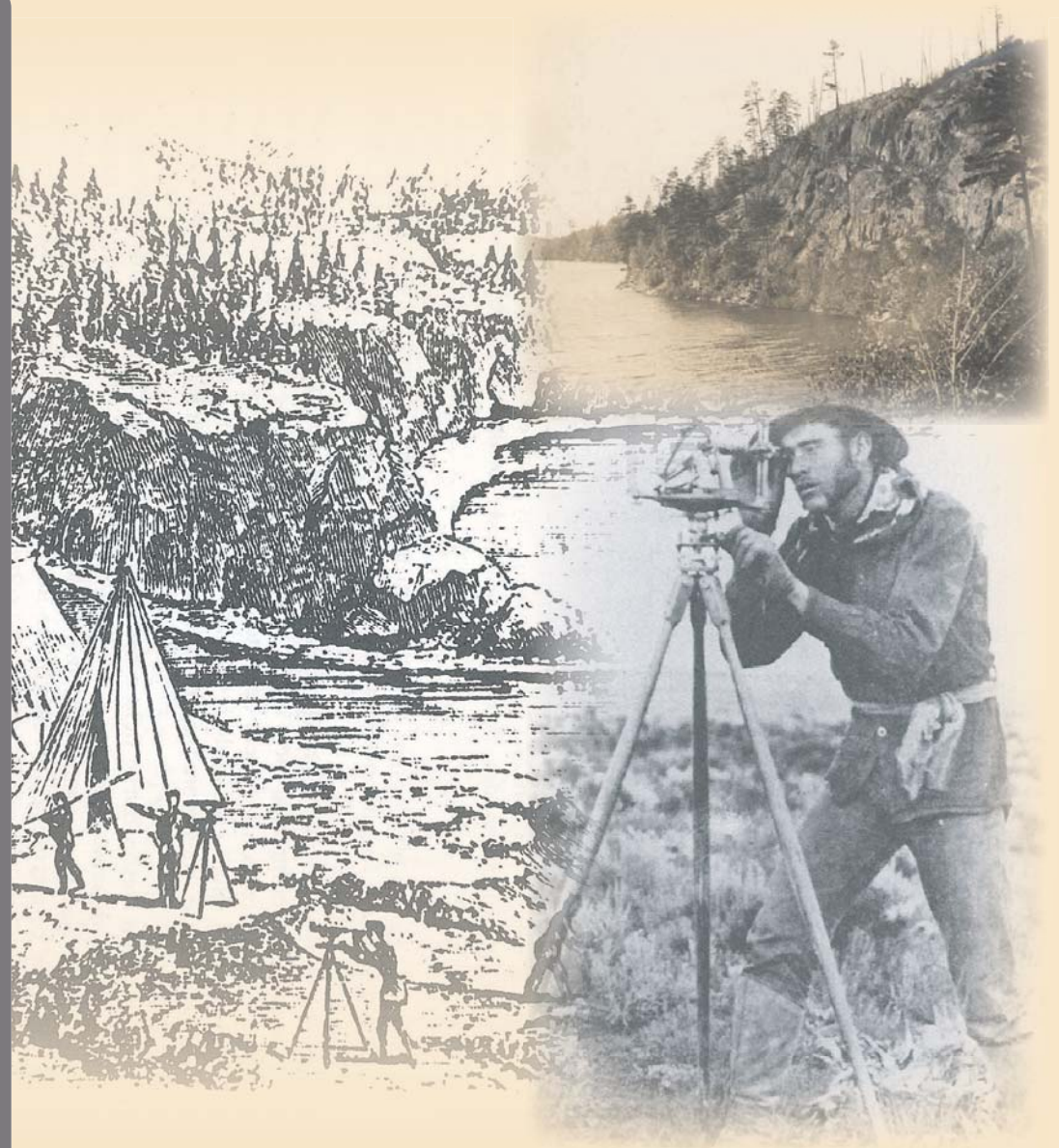


William Austin Burt
1792 - 1858

MICHIGAN'S IRON MAN

"Boys look around and see what you can find."
William Austin Burt

Soon after Michigan became a state in 1837, William Austin Burt was hired to survey the new land. By 1840, Burt and his survey team had reached the Upper Peninsula mapping the "howling wilderness." On September 19, 1844, they were working the rocky cliffs south of Teal Lake when the magnetic needle on their compass began to act strangely. Burt called out, "Boys, look around and see what you can find." They traced the peculiar behavior to nearby chunks of iron ore. The find would eventually change the course of history for Michigan and the world, but Burt, a tireless surveyor, never made a dime from his discovery.



"Boys, look around and see what you can find."

19 September, 1844