



The Local History Conference March 13-14, 2015



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**DETROIT
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MICHIGAN IN PERSPECTIVE
57TH ANNUAL

Sterling Heights, Michigan

For details and registration, visit www.hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet & Conference Center • 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Check-In, On-Site Registration, and Exhibits

8 – 9 a.m. Refreshments and Exhibits Break

9 – 10 a.m. Opening Keynote (see below)

10 – 10:15 a.m. Exhibits Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. Concurrent Session 1 (see Breakouts 1 – 5)



OPENING KEYNOTE - 9 A.M.

Belle Isle: People's Park Alive! • Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society

Often called the crowning jewel of Detroit's riverfront, Belle Isle has a long and storied history. The island has hosted world-class sporting events, musical performances, and family parties. It has also witnessed massacre, riot, and military incursion. But, if it were not for a few twists of fate, this beloved island could have been a much different place. Come to learn about Belle Isle's fascinating history and its reawakening.

BREAKOUT 1

Written in Stone: The Sanilac Petroglyphs

Dean Anderson, State Historic Preservation Office • Shannon Martin, Zibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways • Stacy Tchorzynski, Michigan Historical Center/State Historic Preservation Office

The Sanilac Petroglyphs are the largest collection of Native American rock carvings known in Michigan. Attendees will learn about the site through archaeological and tribal perspectives. The speakers will also reveal the current plans to preserve and interpret this important place.



BREAKOUT 4

Regaining Intellectual Control Over Your Collections

Melissa Luberti & Elizabeth Thornburg, Troy Historic Village

In December 2013, the collections staff at the Troy Historic Village was tasked with making improvements to their collections policy and revamping their artifact storage area. This "how to" discussion will review the process they used to accomplish their mission, enabling other small museums to do the same.



BREAKOUT 2

Little Jerusalem: Jewish Life in Pre-WWII Detroit

Robbie Terman, Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives

Over a 40-year span, the number of Jews in Detroit increased significantly. The Hastings Street area became a de facto *shtetl*, where Yiddish was spoken, kosher butchers abounded, and immigrant Jews felt at home. This presentation will explore why Jews flocked to Detroit and how they created a thriving community.



BREAKOUT 5

Shedding New Light on the Arsenal of Democracy

Tobi Voigt, Detroit Historical Society

In 2013, the Detroit Historical Society debuted a classroom research project, where high school students collect information related to Detroit factories that retooled for war production during World War II. Project director Tobi Voigt shares the idea behind this inquiry-based learning process and the technology used to make it work.



BREAKOUT 3

Mapping Detroit

Henco Bekkering, Netherlands' Delft University of Technology • June Manning Thomas, University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

This talk will highlight key points in the historical spatial evolution of Detroit, with an emphasis upon the changes experienced from the frontier era to industrialization, attempted redevelopment, and planning in the context of widespread vacancy. The speakers will also suggest necessary steps forward for Detroit and the region.



Photo of Belle Isle courtesy of the Detroit Historical Society. Photo of petroglyph courtesy of Genot "Winter Elk" Picor.

MORE
→

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote (see below)(ticket required)

1:30 – 1:45 p.m. Exhibits Break

1:45 – 3 p.m. Concurrent Session II (see Breakouts 6 – 10)



FRIDAY LUNCHEON KEYNOTE - 11:30 A.M.

Henry D. Brown Memorial Lecture

DIA: Not For Sale • Annmarie Erickson, Detroit Institute of Arts

As Executive Vice President and COO of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Annmarie Erickson was deeply involved in the DIA's evolving strategy to protect its world-renowned collection when the art came under threat during Detroit's bankruptcy. From the bankruptcy filing to the grand bargain to the confirmation of the city's plan of adjustment, Ms. Erickson recounts the pivotal role the DIA played in dealing with the largest municipal bankruptcy in history.

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BREAKOUT 6

From Takeoff to Flying High: The History of Detroit Metro Airport

Daniel Mason, Detroit Metro Airport

Join us to hear how Detroit Metro Airport grew from a one-square-mile airport to the grand air center that it is today. Through photographs and the stories of those who worked there, Daniel Mason, volunteer historian for Detroit Metro Airport, will reveal the airport's civilian and military history.



BREAKOUT 7

Finding a New Home: Arab-American Immigration

Isra El-beshir & Dave Serio, Arab American National Museum

This presentation will focus on three major waves of Arab immigration to the United States since the 1880s. The speakers will also give an overview of the Arab world, its culture, and the religious and ethnic diversity of Arab Americans.



BREAKOUT 8

Above and Below the Waves: Historic Preservation at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Russ Green & Jeff Gray, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Managed jointly by the State of Michigan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects more than 90 historic shipwreck sites in northern Lake Huron. Using specific examples, this presentation will discuss the sanctuary's ever-evolving approach to historic preservation and resource protection.

BREAKOUT 9

New Books in Michigan History

Great Girls in Michigan History (WSU Press) by Patricia Majher, Michigan History Magazine

A deep-sea diver, a dancer, an activist, an aviator, a singer, and a soldier—*Great Girls in Michigan History* highlights 20 girls from Michigan's past who did amazing things before they turned 20 years old.

Making Waves: Michigan's Boat Building Industry, 1865-2000 (U of M Press) by Scott M. Peters, Michigan Historical Museum

Making Waves describes the challenges encountered as Michigan builders evolved into national and international leaders. The book sets the context for the growth of the industry, including wars, Prohibition, rapidly changing materials and engines, and talented people.

Michigan Supreme Court Historical Reference Guide, 2nd Edition (MSU Press) by David Chardavoyne, Lawyer and Author

In this 2nd edition, the author updated and revised biographies of the court's more than 100 justices and provided appendices explaining the evolution of the court over its 200-year history, as well as several of the court's most important cases.

BREAKOUT 10

Passing the History Torch to Our Youth

Nancy Feldbush & Andrea Lorion, Historical Society of Michigan

Instilling a love for history in our youth and teaching its importance and relevance is one of HSM's mission points. The Society is accomplishing this goal with Michigan History Day and *Michigan History for Kids* magazine. Come learn about these fascinating resources and how you can get involved as well.



Photo of Arab-American immigrants courtesy of the Arab American National Museum.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

3 - 3:30 p.m. Exhibits Break

3:30 - 4:45 p.m. Concurrent Session III (see Breakouts 11 - 15)

6 p.m. Friday Reception (see below)(ticket required)

BREAKOUT 11

Cholera in Detroit

Richard Adler, University of Michigan-Dearborn

During the mid- to late-19th century, Detroit and the Midwest were the sites of five major cholera epidemics. The 1832 outbreak originated with American troops. While passing through New York State, the men were exposed to cholera, transmitting the disease to the population of Detroit once they reached that city.



BREAKOUT 12

Mexicantown: Ordinary Families Making Extraordinary Choices

Maria Elena Rodriguez, Maria Elena Rodriguez & Company

Join us for a lively discussion about why so many Mexican families settled in Detroit in the early 1920s, and hear about the accomplishments and the obstacles that make this community so appealing. The speaker will also reveal why, despite the economic downturn of 2008, family-owned businesses continue to thrive.



BREAKOUT 13

The Copper Strike of 1968 - 1969

Brendan Peltó, Michigan Technological University

In 1968, the Calumet and Hecla mines were purchased by Universal Oil Products. Within weeks, a labor dispute broke out leading to the complete closure of nearly all of C&H's operations. Oral histories and archival research have provided a better understanding of this event that drastically changed Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.



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BREAKOUT 14

Legacies of 1812

The Grand Pacification Ball with Jim McConnell, Michigan 1812 Commission

The War of 1812 ended officially on February 16, 1815. Detroiters celebrated the peace with a party on March 29, 1815. Learn about this "Ball" and other key events that marked the end of the conflict in Detroit, Amherstburg, Mackinac Island, and beyond.

Michigan's Last Peace Treaty: The Forgotten Treaty of Spring Wells, September 8, 1815 with James E. Conway, Historic Fort Wayne

This presentation will examine the official treaty that ended the war between the United States and the region's Native Americans and will take a look at the negotiations that took place at Detroit's Fort Wayne between Chief Commissioner William Henry Harrison and 91 Native American leaders.

BREAKOUT 15

Out of the House: Detroit Women's Organizations in the 20th Century

Troy Eller English, Society of Women Engineers Archivist • Aimee Ergas, Jewish Community Archives Archivist

Join us for a revealing look at women's social and professional contributions to Detroit. The topics covered include the Jewish women's social service organizations that developed in the first half of the century; the Society of Women Engineers, Detroit Section, founded in 1952; and the mid-century emergence of female engineers.



Photo for "Mexicantown" courtesy of the Maria Elena Rodriguez.

FRIDAY RECEPTION - 6 P.M.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House

1100 Lake Shore Road • Grosse Pointe Shores

Join us on the grounds of the 87-acre Edsel and Eleanor Ford House for light refreshments and a cash bar. This is also a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other conference attendees. The reception will take place in the activities center, followed by strolling tours of the historic house. This reception is free for all "full conference" registered attendees, but tickets are required. Photographs are NOT permitted in any of the historic buildings.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet & Conference Center • 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Check-In, On-Site Registration, and Exhibits

8:15 – 9:45 a.m. Breakfast and Keynote (see below)(ticket required)

For those not attending the breakfast and keynote, light refreshments will be available beginning at 9 a.m.

9:45 – 10 a.m. Exhibits Break

10 – 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Session IV (see Breakouts 16 – 20)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Exhibits Break



BREAKFAST KEYNOTE - 8:15 A.M.

Freedom? – The 13th Amendment 150 Years Later •
Peter J. Hammer, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights

Institutions like slavery do not end—they mutate and transform themselves. That process involves a dynamic interaction between “belief systems” and “institutions.” Join us for a riveting presentation that outlines the evolutionary transformation from slavery to Jim Crow segregation to the “spatial racism” that defines Southeast Michigan. The speaker will also explore the implications of that transformation in light of the promises of the 13th Amendment.

BREAKOUT 16

Kick Out the Jams: The Sights and Sounds Behind Detroit's Grande Ballroom

Tony D'Annunzio, Director and Producer of the Film “Louder Than Love: The Grande Ballroom Story” •

Gary Graff, Oakland Press • Mrs. Gary Grimshaw, Widow of Counterculture Poster Artist Gary Grimshaw •

Tracy Irwin, Detroit Historical Society

The Grande Ballroom on Detroit's west side became the hot spot for the counterculture scene during the late 1960s, hosting artists such as The Who and Led Zeppelin. The late artist Gary Grimshaw created iconic promotional posters for the Grande. Take a lively look at this groovy chapter in history.

BREAKOUT 17

Protecting the Past, Forming the Future: Preserving Detroit's Historic Architecture

*Dan Austin, HistoricDetroit.org and
Detroit Free Press*

The Motor City's architectural past is definitely playing a part in its future. This presentation will discuss the role preservation has played throughout Detroit's history and will review some major victories—and some downright tragedies.



BREAKOUT 19

Celebrating a Century of Preserving Detroit's History: The Burton Historical Collection

*Mark Bowden, Detroit Public
Library's Burton Historical Collection*

Since 1915, the Burton Historical Collection has served as a renowned repository of genealogical and regional history materials. Come to hear about the collection's origins, the treasures it houses, and what the future holds for this precious resource.



BREAKOUT 18

From House Negro to Professional: African-American Women in Early 20th-Century Detroit

*Dedria Humphries Barker, Lansing Community
College and Michigan State University*

The aspirations and accomplishments of early 20th-century African-American women will be presented through a portrait of Detroit's first African-American social worker, Beulah Draper Carter.

BREAKOUT 20

Primers, Chalk, and Bells: Remembering the One-Room School

Rochelle Balkam, Eastern Michigan University (Ret.)

Nearly 20 functioning one-room schools still exist in Michigan. This session will look at the hundreds of schools still standing in Michigan and will review their architecture, the curricula presented, rules for teachers, rules for students, and their strong community support. The Geddes Townhall School will be highlighted.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote
(see below)(ticket required)
- 1:45 – 2 p.m. Exhibits Break
- 2 – 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Session V
(see Breakouts 21 – 25)
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Exhibits Break
- 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Saturday Gala
(see back page)(ticket required)

SATURDAY LUNCHEON KEYNOTE - 11:45 A.M.

*Fashion and the Automobile •
Lynn Anderson, Victoria Mobley &
Elaine Vermeersch, Fashion and
the Automobile*

Join us for a journey on how fashion at the dawn of the automobile was influenced by function, environment, lifestyle, and world events. This live show will include fashions from the past and present—as what's old becomes new again.



On the Air: The Story of WGPR-TV Detroit, the Nation's First Black-Owned TV Station

Presenter: Karen Hudson Samuels, WGPR-TV
Historical Society

Panelists: Ken Bryant, Technical Director of the First
Big City Newscast • Amyre Makupson, Co-Anchor
of the Original Big City News Team • Joe Spencer,
First Program Director of WGPR-TV

On September 29, 1975, the first African-American-
owned and -operated television station in the United
States went on the air in Detroit. Attendees will learn
about the founding of WGPR-TV Channel 62 and
the vision of station founder Dr. William V. Banks
from panelists who worked at the station.

BREAKOUT 21

MORE

CONFERENCE HOTEL

**Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet &
Conference Center**

34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

\$89/NIGHT

For reservations, call (800) 953-1400,
then choose Option 1

Request the Local History Conference or
Historical Society of Michigan rate.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
March 13-14, 2015

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2015

- ✓ Visit www.hsmichigan.org to register online.
OR
- ✓ Register by phone by calling (800) 692-1828.
OR
- ✓ Fill out both sides of this form, then mail it in with your
payment or fax both sides to the number below.
 - ✓ Mail to
Local History Conference • HSM •
5815 Executive Dr. • Lansing, MI 48911
 - ✓ Fax to (517) 324-4370
 - ✓ Make checks payable to Historical Society of Michigan
 - ✓ Please use the form below to pay by credit card

CREDIT CARD NUMBER		
EXP. DATE	SECURITY CODE	BILLING ZIP CODE
SIGNATURE		

- ✓ The conference registration deadline is March 3, 2015.
- ✓ Late registration starts on March 4, 2015.
- ✓ After March 9, 2015, registrations will be available only at the
door and meal tickets will not be available.
- ✓ You must register for the meals. Tickets are required for entry.
- ✓ No refunds will be given after March 3, 2015.
- ✓ A map to the conference can be downloaded from our website:
www.hsmichigan.org. A copy of the map will also be mailed with
your registration confirmation.

Register online at www.hsmichigan.org.

Or use the form below to mail or fax your registration.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration Deadline: March 3, 2015

Fill out one form for each attendee.

Please make additional copies of this form as needed.

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
E-MAIL
DAYTIME PHONE (WITH AREA CODE)

CHOOSE YOUR CONFERENCE MEAL OPTION FOR ALL MEALS

- ☐ REGULAR ☐ REGULAR/
FRIDAY LENTEN ☐ VEGETARIAN/
GLUTEN-FREE

Full Conference Registration includes...

Opening Keynote • 25 Breakout Sessions •
Friday Reception at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House •
Saturday Gala: Loosening the Laces

- ☐ Registration (by Mar. 3) \$45 \$ _____
☐ Late Registration (after Mar. 3) \$55 \$ _____

I would like the tickets checked below...

- ☐ Friday Luncheon (ticket required) \$23 \$ _____
☐ Friday Reception (ticket required) \$ _____ free _____
☐ Saturday Breakfast (ticket required) \$17 \$ _____
☐ Saturday Luncheon (ticket required) \$23 \$ _____
☐ Saturday Gala (ticket required) \$ _____ free _____
☐ HSM Basic Membership \$25 \$ _____
Total Due \$ _____

Saturday-Only Conference Registration includes...

10 Breakout Sessions • Saturday Gala: Loosening the Laces

- ☐ Registration (by Mar. 3) \$35 \$ _____
☐ Late Registration (after Mar. 3) \$45 \$ _____

I would like the tickets checked below...

- ☐ Saturday Breakfast (ticket required) \$17 \$ _____
☐ Saturday Luncheon (ticket required) \$23 \$ _____
☐ Saturday Gala (ticket required) \$ _____ free _____
☐ HSM Basic Membership \$25 \$ _____
Total Due \$ _____

Gala-Only Registration includes...

Saturday Gala: Loosening the Laces

- ☐ Registration (by Mar. 3) \$23 \$ _____
☐ Late Registration (after Mar. 3) \$25 \$ _____

I would also like to add

- ☐ HSM Basic Membership \$25 \$ _____
Total Due \$ _____

See the back of this form for payment options and deadlines.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

BREAKOUT 22

True Crime as History

Mardi Jo Link, Author • Blaine Pardoe, Author •
David B. Schock, Author and Documentary Producer

The true crime genre is often viewed as distinct and separate from the study of legitimate history. In this session, the speakers examine the genre, outline ways it can serve as a vehicle for history and history education, and show how true crime and traditional history categories are actually complementary.

BREAKOUT 23

Down with the Ship

Elizabeth Kerstens, Plymouth
Historical Museum

Was your ancestor involved in one of the approximately 25,000 shipwrecks on the Great Lakes in the past three centuries? They went down with the ship—but do their records survive? Learn how to find documentation relating to those shipwrecks.



BREAKOUT 24

Dangerous Experiment: The Education of 19th-Century Women

Susan Nenadic, Author

Suffrage has long been heralded as the most significant piece of 19th-century women's history, but it wasn't. All the females who were active in the women's movement were well-educated. It was the revolution in education that opened professional opportunities for women and gave them the background needed to address the suffrage question.



BREAKOUT 25

Horsepower, Men, and Machines: The Village of Fairview

John Sanderson & Nicholas Sinacori,
Village of Fairview Historical Society

The influence of politics, religion, technology, and immigration and the shift from horses to automobiles played an important part in the development of the Grosse Pointes, Detroit, and the village of Fairview. Come to learn how the automobile remains an important factor in the rebirth and development of this area today.



**DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR
EVALUATION SHEET AT THE END
OF THE CONFERENCE**



Historical Society of Michigan
5815 Executive Dr.
Lansing, MI 48911

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MICHIGAN IN PERSPECTIVE

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Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society
Arthur M. Woodford
Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor

Mary Anne Smith
Conference Administrator
Historical Society of Michigan

SATURDAY GALA - 3:30-6:30 P.M.

Loosening the Laces: The History of Michigan Told Through Fashion

Walking sticks and parasols...buckskins and silks...buttons and laces...join us to see Michigan's history come alive through the fashions of the eras.

From the French Voyageurs, Woodland Indians, and Colonials...to the Civil War, Victorian, and Edwardian Ages...to the decades of the 20th century, Michigan's long and diverse past will unfold like never before.

After the "fashion show," attendees will have the chance to meet and mingle with the reenactors to learn more about the fashions, eras, and groups represented—all while listening to the music of our state's past played by the group "Michigan Strings."

Refreshments will be served, and there will be plenty of photo ops.

Don't miss this chance to "meet" our state's history in person.

Loosening the Laces is free with a conference registration, but tickets are required.

The Gala is also available "à la carte." Please see the registration form for details. For those attending the Gala only, you are welcome to arrive at 2 p.m. to visit with and shop at our nearly 50 history-related exhibitors and vendors.

