Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference

John Lewis Center at Macomb Community College, South Campus

FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT WWW.HSMICHIGAN.ORG OR CALL TOLL-FREE (800) 692-1828
Friday, March 30

All sessions at Macomb Community College
South Campus / John Lewis Center
14500 E. 12 Mile Road, Warren, MI

8:00 AM—4:00 PM Registration
John Lewis Center Lobby, 2nd Floor

8:00 AM—4:00 PM Exhibits Open

8:15 AM Refreshments

9:00 AM Opening Keynote
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Conference Co-chair
Keynote Speaker: Susan Skarsgard
(See box at right)

10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions I

Session 1: Archives
Moderator: Kathleen Schmeling, Walter P. Reuther Library
A Private Digitization Project and the Human Element
Anne Johns, C.A., Supervising Archivist, Private Archive
This session will describe why and which materials have been chosen to be digitized for best collection access. Also, the "human element" of a digitization project will be explored - how it affects data entry, description, quality control, and the work environment. How can staff continue to be engaged in an often times monotonous process?

Look What We Found: The Detroit Historical Society Collection Goes Online
Adam Lovell, Curator of Collections, Detroit Historical Society
The Detroit Historical Society is actively engaged in a digitization project which will make thousands of images, records, and objects available on the web. This session will explore the process for funding, logistics, standardization, and addressing the needs of the community.

Session 2: Genealogy
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village
Locating Missing Living Persons
Jim Jackson, Genealogist
Searching for living relatives is different than typical genealogy research. Where do you begin when someone disappeared without a trace? Discover many methods and tips that may help find old neighbors, military or school friends, birth-parents and adoptees.

Taking The Mystery Out of Your Mystery Ancestors
Karen Krugman, Genealogist; Author & Family Historian
You don’t need Sherlock Holmes – Karen’s got five steps to help you resolve the mystery ancestor dilemma!

Session 3: Oral History
Moderator: Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan
Blaney Park
Jim Cameron, Executive Director, Michigan Council for History Education
The Blaney Park Resort was a vacation destination centered in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Jim Cameron and Northern Michigan University’s Center for UP Studies are working on recording oral histories of Blaney Park Resort visitors and workers. Hear the fascinating story of this well-known resort and the process of creating an oral history.

African-American Oral History: Agency and Student Perspectives
Todd Duncan, Wayne State University
For a number of years, Duncan has taught a course that focuses on Detroit called “Stories of Oldtimers.” It explores how oral history can provide students with useful perspectives, potentially affecting their understanding and thinking. The presenter will provide several samples and useful ideas.

Session 4: Building Michigan
Moderator: Patricia Majher, Michigan History Magazine, Historical Society of Michigan
Engineered Structures in Early Michigan History
Stacy L. Daniels, Chair, Education and Communications Committee, Crystal Lake & Watershed Association
The opening of the Northwest Territory and the State of Michigan to development increased the need for transport: of settlers to new lands, raw materials to market, and manufactured goods to growing communities. The necessary infrastructure included the engineering, design and construction of harbors, lighthouses, canals, roads, railroads, and dams.

12:00 PM - Henry D. Brown Memorial Lecture & Luncheon (ticket required)
Sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society
Moderator: Larry J. Wagensaar, Historical Society of Michigan
Speaker Introduction: Robert Bury, Detroit Historical Society
Keynote Speaker: Brian Dunnigan, University of Michigan

Opening Keynote 9 AM
“Where Today Meets Tomorrow: The Story of Eero Saarinen’s Design of the GM Tech Center”
Susan Skarsgard
Global Design Manager, GM Design
Archive & Special Collections
The General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan is considered to be a masterpiece of modern industrial architectural design. It was the celebrated architect Eero Saarinen’s first major commission and, at its opening in 1956, was declared to be the “Versailles of Industry” by Life magazine. Susan Skarsgard, a designer at GM, has researched and designed a one-of-a-kind book documenting this important project from its inception to completion and will present a virtual tour of this unique, unpublished and impressive story that illustrates the Saarinen/GM history with beautiful vintage photographs from GM’s private archives.
Session 5: Maritime History
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village

Tragedy Strikes in Seven Minutes: Loss of the Steamer Fred McBrier & John Shaw 'Went Missing'
Tony Gramer, Diving Master/Videographer
The 161-foot downbound steamer Fred McBrier, built in 1881 in West Bay City, loaded with iron ore and towing the barges A. Stewart and J.B. Lozen, went down in just seven minutes after being squarely hit amidships by the upbound steamer Progress the night of October 3, 1890. Both steamers misunderstood signals as they passed during the night. The John Shaw, built just four years later also in Bay City, went down the night of November 13, 1894 loaded with 1,759 tons of coal as it was being towed during a gale. Gramer will show videos of his dives to the wrecks and will discuss what he found.

Session 6: Michigan Legal History
Moderator: Emily Asbenson, Historical Society of Michigan

Case of the Rose of Aberlone - Michigan's Great Contribution to Contract Law
Norman Otto Stockmeyer, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
This presentation will explore the curious story behind the "Case of the Barren Cow," a part of Michigan history that is known to every American lawyer and law student, and almost nobody else. It features Theodore Sherwood, a Plymouth farmer who became Michigan's first banking commissioner, and Hiram Walker, a Detroiter who made a fortune with Canadian Club whiskey and became known as the "Henry Ford of Canada" for his many innovations. Their epic 1866 lawsuit over a supposedly barren cow - "Rose 2d of Aberlone" - broke new legal ground and is still studied today in virtually every American law school.

Session 7: Michigan Natural Resource History—Mining
Moderator: Mark Bowden, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library

Coal: Michigan's Forgotten Mining Frontier
Russell Magnaghi, Director, Center for UP Studies
From Jackson to Grayling, the central part of Michigan holds a giant deposit of coal. From the 1830s until the early 1950s, coal was mined in this region. In the later days of its activity in the 20th century, it was a major industry in Saginaw and Bay counties and many immigrants found employment in the coal mines. The presentation will discuss the opening of mines, their markets, and ethnic groups involved in extracting coal.

Session 8: Detroit Music
Moderator: Bob Sadler, Detroit Historical Society

1950s Detroit Music: Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, and Rock 'n' Roll
Jim Gallert, Detroit Jazz Festival, and Lars Bjorn, University of MI - Dearborn
The Motown Sound appeared in Detroit in 1959 as if it had fallen from the sky. In fact, it had deep roots in the Detroit musical community, particularly the one centered around jazz and rhythm and blues. This multimedia presentation will give you an idea of how these musical communities interacted.

Post Motown
Romie Minor, Assistant Manager, Special Collections Department, Detroit Public Library
Minor's presentation will look at the legacy of Motown on the Detroit music scene from the 1970s to the present. It will cover all genres from jazz to gospel.

2:45—3:15 PM Refreshment and Exhibits Break

3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions III

Session 9: Civil Rights
Moderator: Leslie C. Williams, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society

Reflections of a Civil Rights Foot Soldier
John W. Hardy, Civil Rights Lecturer
A retired civil servant, Detroit teacher and professional actor, Hardy shares the harrowing experiences that he and his fellow "Freedom Fighters and Riders" endured from 1960-1963 as they fought to end segregation in the Deep South. As a 20-year-old student at Tennessee State University in his native Nashville, he joined the student freedom movement to sit-in, march, picket, boycott, and protest segregation laws, as well as register disenfranchised black citizens to vote. His involvement in the movement resulted in arrest, jailing, family intimidation and being beaten for the cause of freedom and civil rights.

Session 10: Local History
Moderator: Sara Schultz, Historical Society of Michigan

Bath City, USA
Kim Parr, Director, Macomb County Historical Society & Crocker House Museum
Discover why Mount Clemens was once world-renowned as Bath City, USA. The curative powers of its mineral waters created a health and entertainment attraction. This PowerPoint presentation will include many historical photographs of Old Mount Clemens.
Session 11: New Books in Michigan History
Moderator: Arthur Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor

Coney Detroit (Wayne State University Press)
Joe Grimm and Katherine Yung

Authors Yung and Grimm will take you on an illustrated tour of how the coney dog became Michigan's signature food, why we have so many more coney islands than other places, and the families that opened them. "Coney Detroit" reaches back almost 100 years and to coney islands in Flint, Jackson, Traverse City, Battle Creek, Port Huron, and across America. This new book, featuring the work of 12 photographers, will make you hungry!

Daring Trader: Jacob Smith in the Michigan Territory, 1802-1825 (Michigan State University Press)
Kim Crawford

A fur trader in the Michigan Territory and confidant of both the U.S. government and local Indian tribes, Jacob Smith could have stepped out of a James Fenimore Cooper novel. Controversial, mysterious, and bold during his lifetime, in death Smith has not, until now, received the attention he deserves as a pivotal figure in Michigan’s American period and the War of 1812. This is the exciting and unlikely story of a man at the frontier’s edge, whose missions during both war and peace laid the groundwork for Michigan to accommodate settlers and farmers moving west.

Session 12: Civil War
Moderator: James McConnell, War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Michigan and the Civil War
Patrick Rice, O.A. Carlson High School

One hundred fifty years ago, Michigan played an important role in the American Civil War. This session will look at Michigan’s contributions to the war effort and the achievements of Michigan citizens during the struggle. Opportunities to further understand the importance of Michigan and the state’s sesquicentennial will also be presented.

5:00 PM Reception—Edsel and Eleanor Ford House
1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores

Join us on the grounds of the 87-acre Edsel and Eleanor Ford House for light refreshments and a cash bar at the Local History Conference's annual reception. The reception will take place in the activities center, followed by a tour of the historic house of the Fords. This reception is free for all registered conference attendees, but tickets are required so we can appropriately plan catering needs. Sign up for your free ticket using the registration form below. Photographs are NOT permitted in any of the historic buildings.

Registration is available online at www.hsmichigan.org or call toll-free (800) 692-1828. To register by mail or fax, please use the registration form below.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
March 30-31, 2012
Macomb Community College, South Campus, John Lewis Center, Warren, Michigan

Registration Deadline: March 21, 2012*

We encourage you to register on-line at www.hsmichigan.org rather than using this form. It’s fast and secure!

Name _______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address  ______________________________________ City  ________________________  State _____  Zip ____________
Daytime Phone # ______________________________  E-mail  _________________________________________________
Names of additional attendees  ___________________________________       _____________________________________

Special meals: ___ Vegetarian. Please CIRCLE names above that require vegetarian meals.

# Attending  Cost  Total
Conference Registration (by March 21)   _____ x $39  $_______
Late Registration (March 22-26)*      _____ x $49  $_______

Optional (tickets required):
Friday Luncheon**   _____ x $20  $_______
Friday Afternoon Reception**   _____ x $0  Free but ticket required
Saturday Breakfast**   _____ x $17  $_______
Saturday Luncheon**   _____ x $20  $_______
Historical Society of Michigan Basic Membership   _____ x $25  $_______

TOTAL ENCLOSED:   __________

☐ Check Enclosed  ☐ Credit Card  Credit Card # ______________________________
Expiration Date: ______________ CVV: __________ Signature: _______________________

Please make checks payable to the Historical Society of Michigan
Mail to: Local History Conference, HSM, 5815 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911 or FAX to (517) 324-4370 or register by phone toll-free at (800) 692-1828 or online at www.hsmichigan.org

* After March 26, registrations on-site only. Meal tickets on space-available basis only.
** Tickets required to attend luncheons, breakfast, and Friday reception. No refunds after 3/21/12.
Saturday, March 31

7:30 AM—1:30 PM  Registration
John Lewis Center Lobby, 2nd Floor

8:00 AM - Breakfast & Keynote  (ticket required)
Moderator: Art Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor
Keynote Speaker: Larry Zdeb, Radio Historian (see box at right)

9:00 AM Refreshments & Exhibits

10:00 AM Concurrent Sessions IV

Session 13: Local History Society Roundtable
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village

Rochester-Avon Historical Society Online Project: We’re Putting History on the Map
James J. Hopkins, Rochester-Avon Historical Society
The Rochester-Avon Historical Society is undertaking a project to merge the digital era with history by attaching QR codes (bar code squares) to historic buildings in the hopes of attracting younger historians. Come and hear how your society might be able to explore this exciting new project and adapt it to your area.

Coming Through the Crisis
Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village
In 2010, many municipalities cut funding for local museums. This presentation examines the Troy Historical Society’s challenges and strategies to transition the Troy Historic Village from a municipality to a sustainable non-profit cultural destination.

Session 14: Detroit History
Moderator: Patricia Majher, Michigan History Magazine, Historical Society of Michigan

Forgotten Detroit
Dan Austin, Historian
Dan Austin of HistoricDetroit.org, author of “Lost Detroit: Stories Behind the Motor City’s Majestic Ruins,” will look at several of Detroit’s fallen landmarks, including old City Hall and the old Post Office. Photos and quotes will detail the lost battles waged to save these irreplaceable pieces of Michigan history.

Remembering the J.L. Hudson Company: Detroit’s Legendary Department Store
Michael Hauser, The Detroit Opera House
The world’s largest American flag, Freedom Festival fireworks, magical animated windows, a nine-story tree of lights, 12th-floor auditorium spectacles, the home of the “real Santa,” Maurice salad, and throngs of shoppers! Those are just a fraction of the memories to be discussed at this lecture presentation. Attendees will be treated to signage, hundreds of photos, various ephemera, and video clips of Detroit’s home-grown retailer that once towered over Woodward Avenue.

Michigan in Perspective:
The Local History Conference
Planning Committee

Loraine Campbell, Co-chair
Troy Historic Village

Larry J. Wagenaar, Co-chair
Historical Society of Michigan

Mary Anne Smith, Conference Administrator
Historical Society of Michigan

Tamara Barnes
Historical Society of Michigan

Mark Bowden
Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library

Jim Cameron
Michigan Council for History Education

James McConnell
War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

Bob Sadler
Detroit Historical Society

Kathleen Schmeling
Walter P. Reuther Library

Kimberly L. Simmons
Detroit River Project

Leslie C. Williams
Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society

Arthur M. Woodford
Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor

Breakfast Keynote  8 AM
Saturday Morning with the Lone Ranger
Larry Zdeb
Radio Historian
Larry will take you back to your childhood in discussing the Detroit origins of the Lone Ranger, the actors who portrayed the masked man and the transition from radio to television including the history of the Lone Ranger—what happened to the important individuals and their local burial places. He will also share information on his two visits in 2011 to the abandoned WXYZ Radio Studios in the Maccabees Building next to the Detroit Public Library, where the Lone Ranger radio show debuted and was broadcast starting in 1933. On display will be Lone Ranger collectibles.
Session 15: Historical Society of Michigan
Moderator: Larry J. Wagenaar, Historical Society of Michigan
Old’s Cool: Attracting Young Audiences to Local History
Tamara Barnes, Assistant Director for Diversity and Outreach
Historical Society of Michigan
Engaging young people can be a challenge especially when it comes to history. With a little creativity and flexibility, museums and historical societies can be very successful in expanding this audience. Perseverance can help the organization achieve its educational mission, raise its visibility, and broaden opportunities for public and private funding. This session will explore a variety of innovative programming ideas aimed at children and young adults. All of the examples will draw on local history as a subject and can be implemented by even the smallest organization.

Session 16: Black Soldiers in the Civil War
Moderator: Kimberly Simmons, Detroit River Project
Lest We Forget: Black Civil War Soldiers and Sailors
Jeff O’Den, Documentary Filmmaker
It started out as curiosity about a distant relative who may have fought in the Civil War. Before long, Jeff had spent the better part of five years researching, filming and editing a compelling documentary about the struggle to allow black men to join and fight in the Union Army. Such a unit was the first Michigan Colored Volunteer Infantry, later the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops formed in Detroit in 1863. This film tells true stories of how approximately 209,000 black soldiers and 18,000 black sailors helped to save the Union.

Session 17: Educational Outreach
Moderator: James Cameron, Incoming Conference Co-chair
Keynote Speaker: Arthur Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor
1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions V
Session 17: Educational Outreach
Moderator: Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan
History in Their Hands: Getting Your Resources into K-12 Classrooms
Tobi Voigt, Director of Education, Detroit Historical Society
Museums and historical organizations are struggling to reach schools in today’s cash-strapped economy. As schools eliminate field trips, history organizations are scrambling to find new and innovative ways to reach this core audience. In this session, Tobi Voigt will share strategies for starting an education outreach program. From getting involved in National History Day to making collections and curriculum materials available online, Voigt will provide helpful information that will enable organizations to make a large impact on a limited budget.

Session 18: African-American History
Moderator: Leslie C. Williams, President, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society
African Americans in the Legal Profession: A Case Study of Judge Elvin L. Davenport
Panel Facilitator: Mildred Davenport Wilson, Davenport Family Historian
Panelists: Dennis W. Archer, Claudia Morcom, Edward M. Thomas, Craig S. Strong, and Charles W. Anderson III
Mildred Davenport Wilson, daughter of Judge Elvin L. Davenport, the first African-American judge elected to Detroit Recorder’s Court, joins a panel of attorneys and judges to discuss her father’s personal and professional achievements. Remarks of panelists, coupled with a display of artifacts, validate Davenport’s 50-year career as an attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, judge, Common Pleas Court and judge, Recorder's Court. The panel discussion and exhibits provide a case study of Judge Davenport as well as an overview of historical and contemporary involvement of African Americans in the legal profession. When the collection is assembled, it will be donated to Howard University, the Detroit Public Library, and the Damon Keith Civil Rights Center.

Register online at www.hsmichigan.org or call toll-free (800) 692-1828
The Historical Society of Michigan
5815 Executive Dr.
Lansing, Michigan 48911

54th Annual Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
March 30-31, 2012

Luncheon Keynote
12 PM
Tashmoo: The Park and the Steamer
Arthur M. Woodford
Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor
Tashmoo Park, located 20 miles north of Detroit on Harsens Island, opened in 1897. Owned and operated by the White Star Line excursion boat company, the park was a pleasant two-hour ride from the city. To reach the park, visitors traveled aboard one of the White Star Line’s excursion boats, the most famous of which was, without question, the steamer Tashmoo. Completed in 1900, the Tashmoo was the grandest excursion steamer of her day. The park was a 60-acre resort that included picnic grounds, a large dance pavilion, two baseball diamonds, a bicycle track, amusement rides, and at the water's edge, a bathhouse and swimming beach. For nearly 50 years, Tashmoo was Detroit’s most popular park destination and a trip aboard the steamer Tashmoo was a highlight of the summer season. Sadly, after the steamer sank in 1936, the park went into decline and finally closed in 1951. Today, Tashmoo, the park and the steamer, are only a happy memory of a far simpler time.