Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference

HOLIDAY INN DETROIT – LIVONIA CONFERENCE CENTER • LIVONIA, MI

MARCH 22-23, 2013

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

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Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc. • Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society • Great Lakes Maritime Institute

Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan • Jewish Historical Society of Michigan

Michigan Genealogical Council • Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion • Michigan Women’s Historical Center and Hall of Fame

Oakland County Historical Commission • Plymouth Historical Museum • Troy Historical Society • William L. Clements Library

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Friday, March 22

All sessions at Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center
17123 North Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, MI

8:00 AM—4:00 PM Registration
Holiday Inn Conference Center Lobby

8:00 AM  Exhibits Open

8:15 AM  Refreshments

9:30 AM  Opening Keynote
Moderator: Bob Sadler, Detroit Historical Society
Keynote Speaker: Daniel Howes (See box at right)

10:45 AM  Concurrent Sessions I

Session 1: Genealogy
Moderator: Mark Bowden, Detroit Public Library
Social Networking for Genealogy—21st Century Genealogist: How to Use Social Media in Your Family History Research
Kathryn Lake Hogan, Professional Genealogist, Author & Educator
Social media has impacted and changed how we do family history. In this begin-
ner’s session, learn how to use Facebook®, Twitter®, online family trees, blogs, and more. Participants are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and cell phones during this hands-on session.

Session 2: Livonia
Moderator: Bob Sadler, Detroit Historical Society
Livonia Way Back When
Sue Daniel, Livonia Historical Commission
Gene Scott, Author
Take a trip through early, rural Livonia in its 19th century setting—long before the post-WWII suburban boom and its establishment as a city in 1950. This session shares the stories of two of Livonia’s most prominent early citizens—Joshua Simmons and Alexander Blue—and what life was like during their times. The presentation will conclude with an armchair tour through Livonia’s historical showcase village, Greenmead.

Session 3: Native Americans in Michigan
Moderator: Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan
Confronting the Legacy of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School: A Community-Driven Movement for Healing, Truth-Telling & Decolonization
Hunter Genia, Behavioral Health Administrator, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
William Johnson, Curator, Ziibiwing Center, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Shannon Martin, Director, Ziibiwing Center, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, Post-Doctorate Fellow in Archaeology, Central Michigan University
The period of time between the 1870s and 1980s is known as the “era of lost children” or the “American Indian Holocaust.” This panel will examine the untold story of U.S. federally-funded American Indian boarding schools, with a focus on the Mount Pleasant school (1893-1934). As current members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan’s Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School Committee, the panel members will discuss their findings about the school; its history; its impact on individuals, families, and communities; and methods that the tribe is using to address multi-generational historical trauma.

Session 4: Building Michigan
Moderator: Kathleen Schmeling, Walter P. Reuther Library
Justus S. Stearns: Ludington’s First Citizen
Michael W. Nagle, West Shore Community College
Justus S. Stearns was a Michigan timber baron who, at one time, was the largest producer of manufactured lumber in the state of Michigan. He served one term as Michigan’s secretary of state and ran for governor on three occasions. Stearns was labeled “Ludington’s First Citizen” by the residents of his hometown due to the contributions he made as a business leader and philanthropist. These achievements will be chronicled in this presentation.

Session 5: Labor History
Moderator: Freda Sampson, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
Breaking the Color Barrier: African Americans in the Labor Movement
Kevin Tolbert, International United Auto Workers
This session will explore the history of African Americans in Detroit’s labor movement. Fair access to jobs coupled with union skills created economic free-
dom. The speaker will discuss some of the challenges faced by workers and the movement.

12:00 PM - Henry D. Brown Memorial Lecture & Luncheon  (Ticket required)
Sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society
Moderator: Larry J. Wagenaar, Historical Society of Michigan
Greeting: Robert Bury, Detroit Historical Society
Keynote Speaker: Paul Keep, MLive Media Group (See box on next page for details)
1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions II

Session 6: Sharing History
Moderator: Freda Sampson, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
Reaching Beyond the Community: Expanding Audiences at the Arab American National Museum
Elizabeth Barrett Sullivan, Curator of Exhibits, Arab American National Museum
Sonya Kassiss, Educator, Arab American National Museum
How do you attract diverse audiences to a museum or program that focuses on a specific segment of the population? The Arab American National Museum (AANM) has achieved this goal through innovative programming and changing exhibitions, its current and upcoming slate of exhibitions, and how these are promoted to multiple audiences. The session will discuss new technologies, including cell phone audio tours, that have helped AANM to engage younger visitors.

Session 7: Board Building
Moderator: Robert Myers, Berrien County Historical Association
Board Diversity: Why You Need It and How to Get It
Mark Heppner, Vice President, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Juanita Moore, President and CEO, Charles H. Wright Museum
Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan
Many historic sites and museums go to great lengths to provide exhibits, programs, and publications that reflect our state’s diverse heritage. Where they struggle most, however, is with diversity in their organizations leadership. It’s essential for an institution to have a board of trustees that mirrors the community it strives to serve if it is truly committed to bringing in broader audiences. The panel will discuss their experiences with this issue.

Session 8: Underground Railroad
Moderator: Kimberly L. Simmons, Detroit River Project
The Underground Railroad in Southwest Michigan
Donna Odom, Executive Director, Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society
This session will describe the Underground Railroad movement in Southwest Michigan, profile individuals who were a part of the operation, and share some of the area’s major incidents in the journey to freedom.

Session 9: Business History
Moderator: Arthur M. Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor
Vernors Ginger Ale: Detroit’s Drink
Keith Wunderlich, Author and Vernors Collector
Pharmacist James Vernor opened his drugstore on Woodward Avenue in Detroit in July 1865. Like all good pharmacists, he had a soda fountain in his store.
Amidst conflicting stories about the birth of the famous ginger ale, the demand for Vernors grew as Detroit grew. Every first-class drugstore installed equipment specifically to serve the popular drink, and thousands of cases were delivered to hospitals and homes. This presentation will explore the rich history of Vernors Ginger Ale—America’s oldest soda pop—through a series of historic photos.

Session 10: Local History
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village
Rochester Main Street Then and Now
Eric Bothwell, Rochester Historical Commission
We will go back in the history of Main Street Rochester and do a photo comparison of what it looked like then and what it looks like now. This presentation will also discuss the Main Street Makeover Project in 2012.

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

3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions III

Session 11: Early Michigan History
Moderator: James McConnell, War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission
Marking the 250th Anniversary of Pontiac’s Uprising
Jeff Day, Curator, Lincoln Park Historical Museum
Craig Wilson, Museum Historian, Mackinac State Historic Parks
Eric P. Hemenway, Director of Repatriation, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
This presentation focuses on the Ottawa Chief Pontiac’s efforts to assemble an alliance of the American Indian nations at Detroit and throughout the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions in the spring of 1763. The causes leading to the creation of Pontiac’s confederation will be explored as will the outcome of their efforts and the resulting changes in Native-British relations, just 10 years before the American Revolution. It is an exciting, romantic, and troubling chapter in our history.

Session 12: Museums
Moderator: Bob Sadler, Detroit Historical Society
Museum Renovations from Top to Bottom
Tracy Irwin, Director of Exhibitions & Experiences, Detroit Historical Society
Tobi Voigt, Director of Education & Interpretation, Detroit Historical Society
The Detroit Historical Museum recently reopened after a six-month renovation that was years in the making. Get a unique perspective on the process, planning, and implementation of this project—with an ample helping of useful tools, lessons learned, and pitfalls to avoid for museums large and small.

Session 13: Three New Books in Michigan History
Moderator: Arthur M. Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor
Revolution Detroit: Strategies for Urban Reinvention (Wayne State University Press)
John Gallagher, Detroit Free Press
John Gallagher, veteran journalist and author, examines the many ways that post-industrial cities are reinventing themselves. Topics include urban governance models, educational reform, economic revitalization, and innovative uses for vacant urban land. The book also looks at innovative models of urban reinvention in European cities.
**Detroit: Race Riots, Racial Conflicts, and Efforts to Bridge the Racial Divide** (Michigan State University Press)

Joe T. Darden and Richard Thomas, Michigan State University

During the summer of 1967, Detroit—Michigan's largest city—experienced one of the worst race riots in its history as well as the most severe racial conflict in the entire nation. During a two-week period, which began on July 23, at least 43 people were killed, hundreds were wounded, and numerous properties were destroyed. This urban disorder would influence racial thinking and the collective memories of blacks and whites throughout the post-urban-disorder era. Geographer Joe Darden will emphasize that the place of residence matters while historian Richard Thomas will focus on efforts to bridge the racial divide.

**The Boy Governor: Biography of Stevens T. Mason** (University of Michigan Press)

Don Faber, Author

In one remarkable year, the youthful Stevens T. Mason led Michigan into the Union, prosecuted a war with Ohio over disputed territory, and helped write the state's first constitution. He was a visionary who laid the foundations for many of our state institutions. In doing so, Mason is considered today to be one of Michigan's foremost men and women of public life.

**Session 14: Early Detroit History**

Moderator: Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan

**Slavery in Michigan**

Tiya Miles, University of Michigan

An important phenomenon in late 18th and early 19th century Detroit, slavery has often been overlooked in treatments of the city's history. When Detroit was first incorporated into the United States, residents of diverse backgrounds had to set and negotiate terms around internal boundaries and relations, establish economic viability on the western frontier, and deal with the enslavement of fellow human beings. This presentation will describe the demographics and locations of slavery, experiences of African American and Native American slaves, and the impact of slavery on the development of early Detroit.

5:30 PM Reception—Plymouth Historical Museum

155 South Main Street, Plymouth, MI

Join us at the Plymouth Historical Museum for light refreshments at the Local History Conference's annual reception. 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.

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**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

**Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference**

March 22-23, 2013

Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Livonia, Michigan

Registration Deadline: March 13, 2013*

We encourage you to register online at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://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 ________________________________________________________________

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

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* 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](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

* After March 18, registrations on-site only. Meal tickets on space-available basis only.

** Tickets required to attend luncheons, breakfast, and Friday reception. No refunds after 3/13/13.
Saturday, March 23

8:00 AM—1:30 PM  Registration
Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center Lobby

9:00 AM - Breakfast & Keynote  (ticket required)
Moderator: Arthur M. Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor
Keynote Speaker: Blanca Alvarez Stransky, National Park Service (see box at right)

9:30 AM Refreshments & Exhibits

10:15 AM Concurrent Sessions IV

Session 15: Detroit Theatres
Moderator: Mark Bowden, Detroit Public Library
Downtown Detroit’s Magnificent Movie Palaces
Michael Hauser, Detroit Opera House
This presentation will focus on the majestic theatres that once surrounded Grand Circus Park and were designed by world-renowned architects. Topics will include programming, concessions, specialty venues, local exhibitors, and demographic changes. Attendees will also be able to browse through photos and artifacts from these palaces, view several DVDs, and participate in a question-and-answer session.

Session 16: Publishing
Moderator: Larry J. Wagenaar, Historical Society of Michigan
Getting Published in Michigan History
Patricia Majher, Michigan History magazine
Izzi Bendall, Historical Society of Michigan
What does it take to get published in Michigan History and Chronicle magazines? While not juried publications, the state history magazine and the Historical Society of Michigan’s membership magazine do have standards to which writers are expected to adhere. Find out what those standards are and how you can best prepare a manuscript for submission. Handouts will also discuss how to make submissions to the Michigan Historical Review.

Session 17: Maritime History
Moderator: Tamara Barnes, Historical Society of Michigan
The Story of the Steamer Key Stone State: The Life and Times of a Great Lakes Sidewheeler
Robert McGreavy, Artist and Historian
Built in 1849, the Key Stone State was, at the time, the second largest passenger ship on the Great Lakes. It had 70 state rooms, boasted a 36-berth ladies cabin, and could hold 6,000 barrels of cargo. In 1861, the ship was on its way from Detroit to Milwaukee to be outfitted for Civil War transport service when it ran into a violent storm off Port Austin and sank. The Key Stone State has never been found.

Session 18: Detroit History
Moderator: Kimberly L. Simmons, Detroit River Project
The March on Woodward: Remembering 50 Years On
Edwin Rowe, Central United Methodist Church
Dorothy Dewberry Aldridge, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
Members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the senior pastor of Central United Methodist Church will share insights and memories about the March on Woodward. The committee’s Dorothy Dewberry Aldridge will share personal stories from the book “Hands on the Freedom Plow” and an exhibit on the June 26, 1963 march. A short film, “Memories of the March,” will be shown and features Kenneth Cockrel, a key figure in the march. Central United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Woodward Avenue and Grand Circus Park, which was the staging area for the march. The church is included in most of the iconic photos of the march, which are held in the archives at the Detroit Historical Society and the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Session 19: Church History
Moderator: James McConnell, Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Preserving Church History: Creating & Maintaining Archives
Heidi Christein, Archivist, Archdiocese of Detroit
Anita Moncreance, Historian, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
With religious institutions reflecting more than 300 years of local history, there is a critical need for individuals to step up to help preserve the official records and stories of our diversified religious communities. Presenters with various experiences working in Detroit’s faith community will describe their experiences and make suggestions that might be beneficial for others.

Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
Planning Committee
Larry J. Wagnenar, Co-chair
Historical Society of Michigan
Jim Cameron, Co-chair
Michigan Council for History Education
Mary Anne Smith, Conference Administrator
Historical Society of Michigan

Tamara Barnes
Historical Society of Michigan
Mark Bowden
Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library
Lorraine Campbell
Troy Historic Village
James McConnell
War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission
Bob Sadler
Detroit Historical Society

Freda Sampson
Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion
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
11:30 AM—12:00 PM Exhibit Break

12:00 PM Luncheon & Keynote (Ticket required; see box at right)
Moderator: Robert Myers, President, Historical Society of Michigan
Keynote Speaker: Mark Hoffman, Civil War Author

1:30 PM   Concurrent Sessions V
Session 20:  Railroad Stations
Moderator: Arthur M. Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit and Windsor
Michigan’s Historic Railroad Stations
Michael Hodges, Fine Arts Writer, The Detroit News
When the railroad revolutionized travel in the 19th century, architects had to create a building from scratch to accommodate the train’s sudden centrality in American life. The resulting depots, particularly those built in the glory days from 1870 to 1915, epitomize the era’s optimism and serve as physical anchors to the past and surrounding urban fabric. Michael Hodges, photographer and author of “Michigan’s Historic Railroad Stations,” will discuss the evolution of the building type that once served as the nation’s principal crossroads and the architectural styles it employed to both tame and exalt rail transportation.

Session 21:  Detroit Food
Moderator: Loraine Campbell, Troy Historic Village
Detroit’s Delectable Past: Much Ado about Mutton
Bill Loomis, Author
This presentation takes a look at Detroit’s appetites, tastes, kitchens, recipes, menus, markets, holidays, and everyday life from its earliest days as a French village to the start of the 20th century. Using food as his guide, author Bill Loomis provides insight into the region’s culture and changing lifestyles.

Session 22:  African-American History
Moderator: Leslie C. Williams, President, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society
African American Aviators: The Michigan Connections
Chauncey E. Spencer II, Author
Historian Chauncey E. Spencer II is a former president of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Central Region, and a member of the Detroit Chapter, Speaker’s Bureau. Spencer, the son of an African-American aerospace pioneer, learned first-hand about the courageous stories of the African-American experience in aeronautics and space exploration. He will share those stories and their historical connections in Michigan, the nation, and the world.

Luncheon Keynote
12 PM
Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldier’s Civil War Journal
Mark Hoffman
Civil War Author
The current Sesquicentennial has heightened already widespread public interest in the American Civil War. However, there has been relatively little written about the relationship between Union occupation troops and Southern civilians away from the major battlefields. Mark Hoffman shares this story, focusing on first hand accounts from Michigan soldiers serving in Tennessee and surrounding states.

Register online at www.hsmichigan.org or call toll-free (800) 692-1828