147th Annual Meeting and

MICHIGAN HISTORY
CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL EVENT
September 24-25, 2021

Lead Sponsors

THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

Learn more and register at hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828
Sponsored by

Lead Sponsor
THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

Lake Superior Sponsor

Lake Huron Sponsors

Lake Michigan Sponsors

Lake Erie Sponsors

Howard Hanna Real Estate Services · Michigan Oral History Association · Michigan State University History Department
The Michigan Council for History Education is pleased to sponsor the Michigan History Conference.

Serving our clients' heritage management needs with high-quality services that meet and exceed professional standards and practices.

Archaeology
Historical Services and Preservation Planning
Historical Landscape Services
Compliance & Litigation

Contact us today at info@chg-inc.com or call (833) 203-5017
3215 Central Street, Dexter, MI 48130

COMMONWEALTH
HERITAGE GROUP

MSU Federal Credit Union was founded out of a desk drawer on MSU’s campus. For 84 years, we have focused on giving back to our communities and are pleased to support a variety of organizations in Michigan.

MSUFCU is a proud sponsor of the Historical Society of Michigan.

msufcu.org
517-333-2424
Opening Keynote

JUST WILD ABOUT HARRY: Houdini in Detroit

Jeremy Dimick, Detroit Historical Society

The one, the only...Harry Houdini! As one of the most recognizable figures in American history, Houdini surely left his mark. But most people do not know about Houdini’s significant Michigan ties and his macabre connection to the Motor City. Delve into Houdini’s masterful career—and untimely end—in Michigan.

Friday, September 24

Sponsored by

The MEIJER FOUNDATION

is pleased to sponsor the Historical Society of Michigan’s

147th Annual Meeting and

Michigan History Conference
**Into Russia: Michigan’s Polar Bears**
*Daniel Truckey, Beaumier UP Heritage Center*
Learn the remarkable story of the Polar Bears—5,000 soldiers, mostly from Michigan, who were sent 600 miles north of Moscow. Their mission was unclear and ever-changing as they fought during the eight months following the Great War’s end.

**Heart of a Lion: Wally Triplett**
*Nancy Triplett-Edmunds, Daughter*
Throughout his football career, Wally Triplett was a “lion” twice—first at Penn State and later in Detroit, where he was the first Black draftee to play for the NFL. This session will paint a thorough portrait of a trailblazing man.

**Dressing the Part: Costuming on a Shoestring Budget**
*Candace Seymour Myers, Northwest Territory Alliance*
Reenactors and docents take great pains to “get it right,” but that can become quite expensive. Silk, wool, and linen are necessary, but expensive, fabrics. Join the speaker to learn some ways to trim costs without dressing in polyester.

---

**North Pole Express: The Pere Marquette 1225**
*Kevin P Keefe, Author*
In 1941, the Pere Marquette 1225 was constructed to operate on the Pere Marquette Railway. Come learn about the steam locomotive’s life, retirement, and restoration—including its influence on the beloved Christmas movie *The Polar Express*.

**Sentinal on the Shore: The Big Sable Point Lighthouse**
*Peter Manting, Big Sable Point Lighthouse*
The Big Sable Point Lighthouse has shined bright for mariners sailing as far as 19 miles out on Lake Michigan since 1867. This session will explore the history, preservation, and caretakers of this extraordinary 100-foot lighthouse.

**Writing for HSM Magazines**
*Emily Allison, Historical Society of Michigan*
A sentence can be as simple as a subject, a verb, and a noun, but it can also be so much more. This session will allow attendees to learn more about what makes HSM’s publications tick and details the process of article submission.
Suzanne Parish: From Aviator to the Air Zoo

April Bryant & Christy Kincaid, Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum

Explore the legacy of Suzanne DeLano Parish—an aviator who took to the skies until the age of 76 and logged more than 8,000 air hours. Learn also about her cofounding of the Kalamazoo Air History Museum, now the Air Zoo, in 1979.

A Slick Operation: Oil, Murder, and the Purple Gang

Robert Knapp, Author

Purple gangsters, leaders in a Detroit-area crime-gang—traveled to mid-Michigan during its early-twentieth-century oil boom, initiating their exploitation of black gold. The speaker will also discuss a Purple Gang-related murder perpetrated in Clare.

Saving Bits and Bytes: Digital Preservation

Chelsea Denault, Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)

Preserving history is a noble task, and the digital age offers many new obstacles. In addition to explaining the value of digital preservation, the speaker will help attendees meet challenges by teaching a shared vocabulary and using MDPN services.

Governor Milliken: A Son’s Perspective

William Milliken Jr, Milliken Realty Company

Join us as William G. Milliken Jr. shares memories of his father, the longest-serving governor in our state. Attendees will be treated to a personal account of Milliken—a politician, business owner, family man, and Michigander through and through.

Penning With Pride: The Life of Forman Brown

Sharon Carlson, Western Michigan University

Hailing from Michigan, Forman Brown was a leader in puppet theater and an early gay author. This session will detail not only Brown’s contributions to the theater world but also the influence of his groundbreaking semiautobiographical novel.

My Old House: Researching Your Historic Home

Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan

Every building has a story to tell. In this workshop, you will learn how to uncover house histories, including who built them and when, their architectural styles, and what to do with that newly discovered information.
Awards Ceremony

Friday, September 24
3:30 to 4:30 pm

State History Awards Ceremony

Historical Society of Michigan

Each year, the Historical Society of Michigan presents State History Awards to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation and understanding of Michigan history. Join us as we present 2021’s awards and recognize the achievements of the winners and their promotion of state and local history.

Want to attend more events and stay “in the know” about upcoming news from the Historical Society of Michigan?

Sign up to receive HSM’s emails!
You can sign up for any—or all!—of the following topics:

» History Hounds® Lecture Series
» History Skills Workshops®
» Upcoming HSM conferences
» Michiganders on the Road® tours
» Exclusive sales and discounts
» The latest HSM news
» And more!

Sign up today for HSM’s emails at hsmichigan.org/email-signup
Morning Keynote

9 to 10 am

The Great Pandemic: Michigan in 1918

Sharon Carlson, Western Michigan University

In the fall of 1918, a strain of influenza took over the world, resulting in the deadliest pandemic in recorded history. The virus killed as many as 650,000 Americans and perhaps as many as 50 million people worldwide. Learn how this pandemic impacted American communities and how a team of researchers used the lessons of the past to guide public health policy today.
Timber, Trains, and Trouble: Blendon Landing
Jefferson Seaver, Cull Group
Dig into the history and archaeology of Blendon Landing, an industrious but short-lived Grand River logging settlement that was ahead of its time. This Civil War-era site featured mills, a shipyard, and a peculiar locomotive.

Red Tails in Michigan: The Tuskegee Airmen
Brian Smith, Wayne County Community College
For nine months in 1943, the Tuskegee Airmen received extensive combat training in the north woods of Michigan at Oscoda Army Air Field. This fascinating session details the Michigan link to those extraordinary African-American airmen.

The Old Man and The Lake: Hemingway in Michigan
Christopher Struble, Michigan Hemingway Society
Some might find it surprising that Ernest Hemingway—and American author with an international legacy—spent a lot of his formative years in Michigan. Learn about Hemingway’s summers near Petoskey, his important life events in our state, and more.
We invite you to explore our collections.

Libraries
Michigan State University

The Michigan History Conference is sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs

Saturday, September 25
11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Luncheon Keynote

Reaching for the Sky: The Women of Mercury 13

Nicolle Zellner, Albion College

During the early 1960s, 13 female pilots, including two Michigan women, were selected to undertake the same training that the famed Mercury 7 astronauts received. The “Mercury 13” would pave the way for the success of future female astronauts. This exciting keynote will delve into the stories of those remarkable women—and the political and social circumstances that ultimately blocked their chances of space flight.
Underwater Controversy: The Line 5 Pipeline
Beth Wallace, National Wildlife Federation & Jeffrey Insko, Oakland University
Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline provides energy to many by moving millions of gallons of oil, but it also crosses one of the state's most ecologically diverse areas. Learn about the history, and the controversy, of the 68-year-old pipeline.

A Dream Crushed: The Tucker Automobile
Jay Follis, Gilmore Car Museum
In 1946, Preston Tucker unveiled his plans for the Tucker Torpedo. Despite the automobile's innovations, legal and financial problems prevented its mass production. Come learn about Tucker, his revolutionary sedan, and his dream that never came to fruition.

Better Made Beer: History of Michigan Breweries
Billy Wall-Winkel, Detroit Historical Society
Michigan's first brewer arrived in 1706, and generations of immigrant beer makers soon followed. Join us as we learn about beer barons, small neighborhood breweries, those that weathered the Prohibition drought, and beer-drinking customs.

Asian-American Voices: Shaping Michigan
Connie Dang, Sook Wilkinson, Joseph Galura, Emily Hsiao, Samir Singh, Authors
Featuring perspectives and experiences from the panelists, who are authors and contributors of the book Asian Americans in Michigan: Voices from the Midwest, join this session as we discuss highlights of the panelists' work and current national events.

Disaster at Fort St. Joseph: Pontiac’s Rebellion
Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan
Francis Schlosser was an officer in over his head. In 1761, the 60th Regiment's young ensign arrived at Fort St. Joseph in command of its small British garrison. He lost no time in offending nearly everyone. Learn how his inexperience, incompetence, and arrogance ended in disaster two years later.
Matters of State: Former Governors Blanchard & Engler

James Blanchard and John Engler, Former Governors of Michigan

Since Michigan became a state in 1837, 49 people have served as its chief executive. Though those individuals have come from various backgrounds and differed ideologically, they have all had one unifying goal: to do right by the Great Lakes State. Led by Chuck Stokes, this keynote will allow attendees to get to know former Michigan governors James Blanchard and John Engler.

Take Your Place in Michigan’s Farming History

With the Michigan Centennial Farm Program

CELEBRATING MICHIGAN’S OLDEST FAMILY FARMS
hsmichigan.org/farm • (800) 692-1828
Bring Community Home

Every day brings an opportunity to connect, learn and grow. From cooking demos to exercise classes, book clubs and informative workshops, AARP has so many virtual options at your fingertips.

aarp.org/mi
Facebook.com/aarp.michigan
Twitter.com/aarpmichigan

EXPLORATION! CELEBRATION! UNITY!

Experience THE WRIGHT!

WWW.THEWRIGHT.ORG

Mackinac Island • Mackinaw City
mackinacparks.com • #thisismackinac
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Friday-Saturday, September 24-25, 2021

**Registration Deadlines:**
- Early-Bird Registration Ends: August 22, 2021
- Standard Registration Ends: September 23, 2021
- “Walk-In” Registration: September 24-25, 2021

*Fill out one form for each attendee.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MEMBER REGISTRATION</strong></th>
<th><strong>NAME</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-Bird Registration (by Aug 22)</td>
<td>$59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Registration (by Sep 23)</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Walk-In” Registration (Sep 24-25)</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Enclosed</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member conference pricing applies to all those who live in the same household as an HSM member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NONMEMBER REGISTRATION</strong></th>
<th><strong>NAME AS APPEARS ON CARD</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-Bird Registration (by Aug 22)</td>
<td>$79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Registration (by Sep 23)</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Walk-In” Registration (Sep 24-25)</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Year Household Membership*</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Enclosed</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If you purchase the membership, deduct the $20 member discount.

Please use the form below to pay by credit card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CREDIT CARD NUMBER</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXP. DATE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register by calling (800) 692-1828 • Fax this form to (517) 324-4370 • Mail this form and your payment (made payable to Historical Society of Michigan) to Michigan History Conference, HSM, 7435 Westshire Dr., Lansing, MI 48917

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE!](#)
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE NEXT HSM CONFERENCE!

WE’LL BE “IN-PERSON!”

MARCH 25-26, 2022
Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference
Novi, Michigan

JUNE 24-26, 2022
Upper Peninsula History Conference
Iron Mountain, Michigan

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2022
Michigan History Conference
Albion, Michigan

Learn more at hsmichigan.org/conferences