An Evening with FDR

Our Signature Event welcomes America’s only four-term President

Join the History Center on Thursday, October 29, as we welcome President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. Neill Hartley, an actor/historian with American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia, will portray the president in the one-man show Franklin D. Roosevelt: An Arsenal for Democracy.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are $75 for an individual or $500 for a table for eight. The event also includes door prizes and a silent auction. Dinner choices are sliced beef tenderloin, salmon, or vegetarian (quinoa stuffed acorn squash rings). Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the History Center at (269) 471-1202.

FDR led America through its darkest days, first in the economic catastrophe of the Great Depression and then in the Second World War. The former governor of New York, elected in a landslide in 1932, took office with the nation in despair. The Great Depression saw banks close, businesses go bankrupt, and millions of Americans lose their jobs. People lost confidence in the economy, in the country, and in themselves. As one Texas schoolteacher remarked, “If, with all the advantages I’ve got, I can’t make a living . . . I’m just no good, I guess.”

But Roosevelt promised that things would get better, famously declaring that, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” Congress immediately enacted New Deal legislation that provided “relief, recovery and reform.” Restructured banks reopened and public works programs employed people in building roads and public buildings and in art, theatre and writing projects. The Civilian Conservation Corps employed thousands of young men in manual labor jobs for conservation and natural resources development in rural lands owned by federal, state and local governments.

None of the New Deal programs paid much, but they staved off financial disaster for millions of families. For the first time, it seemed, someone in Washington cared about the average American. One Michigan farm boy spoke for many of his countrymen when he said simply, “Roosevelt gave me a job.”

Almost no one knew that their president was crippled. An attack of polio in 1921 had paralyzed the 39 year-old Roosevelt from the waist down. Fearing that paralysis would end his political career - society at that time considered the disabled unemployable - Roosevelt hid his condition from public view. The press kept his secret, and Americans who saw him in newsreels never suspected that his “walking” was actually a balancing act on his steel leg braces. He never allowed anyone to photograph him in his wheelchair.

Years later, however, Eleanor Roosevelt recalled that her husband’s affliction became an asset: “Franklin's illness proved a blessing in disguise, for it gave him strength and courage he had not had before. He had to think out the fundamentals of living and learn the greatest of all lessons - infinite patience and never-ending persistence.”

continued on page 3
Berrien County Historical Association Board and Staff

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BCHA Mission Statement

The mission of the BCHA is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs for public benefit.

Learn more about the BCHA by visiting www.berrienhistory.org

Director’s Comments

By Kathy Cyr

Dear Friends,

Bob Myers and I recently returned from the Agawa Canyon Adventure Tour to Sault Ste. Marie and were truly awed by the impenetrable wall of trees on the train ride to and from the canyon. A good time was had by all who accompanied us on this heritage tour.

Our next tour destination is Charleston, South Carolina, on September 12-19. Candace Seymour Myers (Bob’s wife), will take Kristen Patzer’s place on the heritage tour as the second tour leader guide. (We need all the help we can get to keep Bob in line!)

Kristen Patzer left the History Center at the end of June after nine years of loyal service to take a position with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in Chicago as their office manager. While we are happy for her new career opportunity, we are sad to lose her. She was the History Center’s ambassador, greeting and orienting visitors and managing the museum store, the volunteers, memberships, event tickets and general office tasks. She will be missed.

But wait - all is not lost! We recently hired Madge Bibler, former owner/operator of Edgewater Gifts in St. Joseph as Museum Services Coordinator. What talents Madge possesses! She has done it all . . . even janitorial tasks.

In Madge’s first week on board she sorted through all the storage areas and flushed out the old inventory (markdowns and merchandise sales are upcoming). Please drop by, introduce yourself to Madge and welcome her to the team. You may also meet her at the History Center’s booth at the Berrien County Youth Fair, August 17 - 22. Also . . . watch for an invitation to a museum store open house planned for later this autumn.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Nov. (date and time TBD): Museum Store Open House
- Dec. 3: Kindle Your Christmas Spirit.

Have an enjoyable fall! We hope to see you at Courthouse Square activities and touring the museum and site.

Kathy A. Cyr

Executive Director
When World War II broke out, first in China and then in Europe, Americans wary of another World War I bloodbath wanted nothing to do with foreign wars. Congress had passed a series of neutrality acts during the 1930s designed to prohibit United States involvement. The America First Committee and its chief spokesman, Charles Lindbergh, demanded that the country stay out of the conflict.

FDR, however, saw Great Britain’s fight against Nazi Germany as critical to American interests. The United States began selling war materiel to Britain, partly to help that island nation and partly to build up American industry in preparation for a war that more and more Americans believed was coming.

In December 1940 Roosevelt proclaimed that the U.S. would become the “Arsenal of Democracy” and proposed selling munitions to Britain and Canada. Over the protests of isolationists, American goods began moving across the Atlantic - often under the protection of American destroyers. When Britain could no longer pay for the goods in cash, FDR persuaded Congress to pass the Lend Lease Act in March 1941 to allow the transfer of military supplies to Great Britain (China and the Soviet Union were soon added to the list of recipients).

Roosevelt, a master at explaining things in simple terms, likened his plan to lending a garden hose to a neighbor to help him put out a fire in his home. “What do I do in such a crisis?” he asked at a press conference. “I don’t say . . . ‘Neighbor, my garden hose cost me $15; you have to pay me $15 for it’. . . . I don’t want $15 — I want my garden hose back after the fire is over.” Ohio Senator Robert Taft retorted: “Lending war equipment is a good deal like lending chewing gum. You don’t want it back.”

Opposition to U.S. involvement in the war vanished after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The next day Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan in one of the most famous speeches in American history. “Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” A half hour after the seven-minute speech ended the country was at war.

Roosevelt won reelection in 1940 and 1944, breaking the tradition established by George Washington that a president would not serve more than two terms. He was desperately ill as he began his fourth term and died suddenly on April 12, 1945. His passing stunned the American people, many of whom could scarcely recall a time when Roosevelt had not been their president.

Today, historians consistently rank Franklin Delano Roosevelt among the greatest of America’s chief executives. We invite you to join us at Lake Michigan College for an unforgettable evening as we welcome FDR and the Arsenal of Democracy.
Curator’s Corner

Recent Donations to the Museum Collections

Doug Kelsey . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Niles High School yearbook, 1919
Patricia Michael . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Fife & drum corps sweatshirt
Daryl T. Schlender . . . Cannonball, brick from Libby Prison, baseball uniforms, photographs
Ray and Kay Van Patten . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Quilts
Don Wallquist . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1911 wall map of Berrien County
Shirley Winters . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Tryon School record book, school yearbooks

US 12 Heritage Trail Program at the History Center

Historian Gladys Saborio will present a program about the US 12 Heritage Trail at the History Center on Thursday, October 1, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Saborio and Susan Kosky co-authored the new book, Michigan's US 12 Heritage Trail: America's Second Federal Highway, released in June by Arbutus Press. They helped lead the effort to have U.S. 12 designated a national heritage trail in 2004 and have written a history of the highway.

The 212-mile road that crosses southern Michigan originated as the Great Sauk Trail, named for the Native Americans who crossed it from Wisconsin to Amherstburg, Ontario, to collect annuity payments from the British. The U.S. government turned it into a military road in the early 1800s to link Detroit and Chicago.

Saborio and Kosky live in Saline, Michigan, one of the communities along the Sauk Trail. When the federal government made funds available for historic preservation along heritage routes, Saborio co-founded and chaired the U.S. 12 Heritage Trail Council. The council was composed of representatives from each of the counties intersected by U.S. 12.

Saborio recalled that they began hearing all kinds of tales about events that occurred along U.S. 12. “We kept saying that somebody had to tell the story, but they kept saying, ‘You tell the story.’”

One such story was about Old Sam, a famous Civil War horse buried in Coldwater. Before the war, Old Sam pulled a streetcar from the train depot to the Southern Michigan Hotel in Coldwater. Old Sam then became a war horse for Coldwater’s own “Loomis Battery” artillery company. He survived the war and returned to Coldwater with great fanfare. He died in 1876.

Saborio reports that Old Sam’s comrades wanted to bury him with his soldiers in the cemetery, cemetery officials refused to allow that. The veterans created a diversion on the east end of town and then at midnight buried the horse with full military honors.
Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour

October 16-17, 5-7 p.m.

We expected 30-40 people to attend last October's “Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour.” We hoped that we might have 50-60 people. It turned out that ghosts are more popular than we thought - over 200 people showed up and we were hard pressed to get everyone in! This fall we’re expanding the tour to two evenings - Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17.

We conduct the tours with our friends at The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph. The tour route follows State Street for about six blocks and back with stops along the way for true stories about the people who lived in the houses and their sometimes tragic fates.

We hope you can join in on this fall’s Haunted St. Joseph Tour. We had a fun time and we’re sure you will, too! Tours are $5.00 per person. To make tour reservations, call The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at (269) 983-1191.

Tours start at Bear Park/Old St. Joseph Neighborhood Park at the corner of State and Market Streets in St. Joseph.

Madge Bibler Joins the History Center Staff

The History Center welcomes Madge Bibler to the staff as our new Museum Services Coordinator. Madge takes over the position from Kristen Patzer, who left us to take a job with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in Chicago.

Some of you may know Madge as the long-time owner/manager of Edgewater Gifts in downtown St. Joseph. She has also served as president of St. Joseph Today, where she worked with other downtown merchants to manage and promote events in the city. Now a resident of Berrien Springs, she most recently volunteered with activities at Woodland Terrace Assisted Living in Niles.

Madge holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University in science, health and physical education. As Museum Services Coordinator, she will manage the museum store, coordinate volunteers for events and programs, record memberships, and handle many of the other day-to-day aspects of the museum operations.

Madge has “hit the ground” running and is working to reorganize the museum store and manage our booth at the Berrien County Youth Fair. Stop by our booth or at the museum store and say hello!
The Marguerite Photo Shop Revealed!

In the last issue of *The Docket* we asked for information about the Marguerite Photo Shop in New Buffalo. We had received a large collection (over 800 images) of photographs and negatives created by that studio, but had no knowledge of its history.

An attendee at one of our Thursdays at the History Center programs this summer told us that, “Marguerite Parmalee was the photographer.” That one piece of information helped us discover the studio’s owner.

We found that Marguerite Parmalee was a Chicagoan, born about 1893. The 1920 U.S. Census recorded that she was working as a photographer for an engraving company and living with her parents, Charles and Mary Parmalee. Ten years later the 1930 Census listed her as a head of household living with two boarders. That census gave her occupation as “none,” suggesting that she had given up her photography business.

A directory of early Michigan photographers compiled by the Clements Library at the University of Michigan noted that Marguerite was active in New Buffalo from about 1920 to 1925. Those dates seem to agree with the photographs in our new collection.

We have yet to learn more about Marguerite Parmalee. We don’t know, for example, why she quit her photography business or what happened to her later in life. We’re glad, however, that her work is now properly attributed and recognized.

History Center Eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Financial® members can now direct their Choice Dollars® to the History Center at Courthouse Square.

The Thrivent Choice® program is a charitable grant program that allows members to recommend where Thrivent Financial® distributes part of its charitable grant funds each year. It is a joint program of Thrivent and its member chapters.

Thrivent Financial is a non-profit organization that provides its members with a variety of services, including insurance, annuities and investments. Its Choice Dollars program allows eligible benefit members to help direct grant money to thousands of nonprofit organizations. A benefit member must nominate an eligible 501(c)(3) organization before it is enrolled in the program - that has been done and the History Center can now receive Choice Dollars.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member and would like to learn more about directing your Choice Dollars to the History Center, either contact a Thrivent Financial representative directly or call Thrivent at 1 (800) 847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice.”

Thursdays at Courthouse Square Series Draws Record Attendance!

Our summer program series, Thursdays at Courthouse Square, keeps growing in popularity. A total of 646 people enjoyed the six programs that ran in June and July. Program topics ranged from sports history to Mary’s City of David to Theodore Roosevelt to Native American archaeological finds.

Our thanks go to Indiana Michigan Power and the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club for providing financial support for the series, and to the Berrien Springs Community Library for co-sponsoring Valerie Van Heest’s program, “The Disappearance of Flight 2501” and Gib Young’s one-man show as Theodore Roosevelt.

We’re already planning our Afternoons at Courthouse Square series in January, February and March as well as next summer’s series. If you have ideas for program topics, let us know. We’d love to hear from you!
Enjoy Our Local History!

Greetings from Three Oaks ($25.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Benton Harbor ($27.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from St. Joseph ($27.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Berrien Springs ($21.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Buchanan ($24.95) Quantity: Total: $
The Story of Buchanan ($14.95) Quantity: Total: $
The Heyday of Hinchman ($18.95) Quantity: Total: $
Historical Sketches of Berrien County ($23.95) Quantity: Total: $
Autotram: Clark’s Aluminum Railcar ($16.95) Quantity: Total: $
Locomotives Along the Lakeshore ($24.95) Quantity: Total: $
Twin City Trolleys ($8.95) Quantity: Total: $

SPECIAL: Greetings from Buchanan & Story of Buchanan Quantity: Total: $
Get both for $29.95!

Subtotal: $
Discounts (Library 20% BCHA Members 10%) $ $
State sales tax (6% for Michigan orders only) $ $
Shipping ($4.95 for 1st book, $1.00 each additional book $ $

Total: $

Save on shipping and pick up your books from the History Center Store!

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[ ] Family $30 [ ] Sustaining $50
[ ] Institutional $40 [ ] Patron $100
[ ] Benefactor $500

Additional donation: $ _________ Amount enclosed: $ __________

Please make checks payable to the Berrien County Historical Assn. or Please charge my credit card: (circle one)
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Some Background on the 1859 Land Ownership Map of Cass, Van Buren & Berrien Counties

By Le Roy G. Barnett, PhD

Prior to the Civil War, Michigan drew the attention of two great cartographers: John Farmer, of Detroit, and Samuel Geil, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. During the antebellum period, John Farmer published dozens of maps of Michigan as a territory and state while Samuel Geil produced dozens of maps of Michigan counties. One of Geil’s most ambitious local projects was his “Map of the Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, Michigan,” the only time he tried to include three whole counties in one enterprise.

Because Geil’s work in southwestern Michigan occurred over 155 years ago, and because he was from out-of-state, little was known about the history of his early map of the tri-county area. But with the discovery of some of Geil’s business records at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, a few facts have now come to light about his cartographic labors in Michigan’s portion of the lower St. Joseph River watershed.

The oldest document found relating to Geil’s effort to map the Lower Peninsula’s three most southwestern counties is an agreement that arranges for the project to proceed. The language of this instrument is as follows:

“This agreement made the twenty-eighth day of April, A.D. 1859, between Geil & Jones of Bucks County in the state of Pennsylvania of the first part, and John F. Geil of Detroit in the state of Michigan of the second part, witnesseth that for the consideration hereinafter mentioned, the said Geil & Jones agree to deliver to the said John F. Geil at some point in Michigan to be by him specified, a complete manuscript map of the counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien in said state of Michigan, from surveys by Michael Lampen [Jr.] and S[amuel] L. Jones and [from] county and state records, and other necessary documents, drawn by Geil & Jones. The said map is to be on a scale of not less than one inch to one mile, and is to contain an accurate representation of all public roads, railroads, streams, lakes, &c., the location of villages, cities, hotels, mills, schoolhouses, churches, dwellings, mechanic shops, and everything else necessary to make said map a complete and accurate work, as accurate in detail as Geil & Jones’ manuscript map of St. Joseph County, Michigan. With said manuscript map are also [to be] included plans of the villages to be made in the same style as those of [the aforementioned] St. Joseph County [map]. In consideration of the party of the first part performing faithfully the above contract within three months of the date of this instrument, the said John F. Geil agrees to pay to the said Geil & Jones seventeen hundred dollars, one thousand dollars of said amount to be paid within six months after said delivery of complete draft to the said John F. Geil, and the remaining seven hundred dollars within eight months after the delivery of said draft. The said John F. Geil further agrees to grant to the said Geil & Jones the use of said map for the purpose of drawing a state map [of Michigan] but for no other purpose whatever. The said J[ohn] F. Geil further agrees to furnish such supervisors in Cass, Van Buren and Berrien counties as may have orders for maps for material they may have furnished, with the proper maps, provided there are no more than thirty maps required to supply said orders. If more maps should be required, the said Geil & Jones shall pay at the rate of $2.50 for each map above thirty so required.”

Though the team of Geil & Jones signed the above document, the second member of the team apparently had second thoughts about the agreement. This conclusion is reached because in a transaction less than two weeks later, Jones exited the scene. The governing statement reads:

“Know all men that I, Samuel L. Jones, in consideration of fifteen hundred & three dollars to me paid by Samuel Geil, have bargained & sold to the said Samuel Geil all my right, title and interest in Geil & Jones’ maps of Cass, Van Buren & Berrien and Macomb & St. Clair counties in the state of Michigan. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine.”

With the issue of ownership ironed out, the next step was to market the tri-county work. With this goal in mind, in June of 1859 the following advertisement began appearing in newspapers that served residents of the southwestern Lower Michigan:

Cattaraugus, &c., New York; Monmouth, Morris, &c., New Jersey, etc. The subscribers will publish by subscription, a New, Complete, Combined Map of the Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, from official Records and Special Surveys of the entire three Counties. The Map will exhibit all Public Roads, Railroads, Location of Churches, School Houses, Hotels, Mills, Manufactories, Dwellings, &c., Section and Quarter Lines: Lakes, Ponds, Streams, and other objects of importance in the Counties. The names of Property Owners, generally, will be inserted in their proper places. Plans of the principal villages, on an enlarged Scale, with a Business Directory of each, containing the names and business subscribers, and a Distance Table, showing the distance between any two villages of the counties, will be engraved on the margin. The Map will be handsomely colored, mounted on rolls, and finished in the best style, so as to make a highly ornamental, interesting and valuable work. The price of the combined map will be at the low figure of SIX DOLLARS per copy, to be paid upon delivery, thus bringing it within the reach of every family. Views of prominent buildings will be engraved on the margin of the map by special contract. The Publishers and authorized agents will visit every portion of these Counties, to solicit patronage to the work, and upon their call will be the time of subscribe, as it is entirely a local work, and will be sold by subscription only. Communications in regard to business, should be sent to Cassopolis, Mich.”

This ad ran continuously, anywhere from four to six months, depending on the locality. Editors of the various newspapers generally encouraged readers to support the undertaking, and were often rewarded with a free map for doing so. An example of this stimulation can be found in Dowagiac’s Cass County Republican for 9 June 1859. Therein is a column inviting “the attention of our readers to the advertisement of a new Map of Cass County [and two others], which is soon to be published....” “Considering the superior character of the work, and its usefulness, and the expense of labor, time and money, necessarily incurred in perfecting it, we think it is deserving of the most liberal patronage. We hope our citizens will interest themselves in this valuable work, and give it an encouragement worthy of themselves and of their county.”

On 23 July 1859, the Niles Republican got into the promotional spirit by declaring that Geil’s maps were “truly beautiful works of art and from the numerous testimonials from the leading citizens of... [other] counties we infer that they are very complete and reliable. ‘These maps delineating with accuracy all the natural features as well as every farm and village lot, are invaluable to the business or professional man, and indeed, to everybody else who wishes to post himself on the geography of his own county.’

Armed with such endorsements, Geil’s canvassers crisscrossed the target area signing up subscribers to the map of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien counties. If the outcome of this activity in other Michigan counties is any guide, these field men got at least a thousand people to agree to purchase the cartographer’s forthcoming work. Meanwhile, efforts were underway to have engravers get the surveyor’s drawings ready for the printing presses. There apparently was some delay in this process, for Geil did not copyright the finished product until sometime in 1860.

Geil’s expenses in producing the map are not revealed in his business records, other than two entries showing disbursements of $743.04 to survey and draft the Cass County portion of the work and $800.00 to do the same for Van Buren and Berrien counties combined. Furthermore, no record has been found indicating how buyers of the map felt about their acquisition when it finally reached their hands. However, experts were impressed, as the map apparently won a prize at the 1860 Michigan State Fair for being “minutely accurate and of unsurpassed finish.”

Geil’s early depiction of three counties in the southwestern Lower Peninsula continued to have a favorable impact on people decades after its appearance at the State Fair. But because the map was six feet square, it was difficult to store or maintain. Over time, most of the original copies gave way to use or neglect, leaving a dozen or so to survive into the post-World War II era. With mainly historians and genealogists seeking information from this seminal work, the few remaining copies were suffering from overuse. To in part solve this problem, in 1983 the Cass County Historical Commission reprinted the Geil map in a more convenient atlas form, and included a name index to property owners. Thus, more than a century-and-a-half after its debut, the map of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien counties - in its initial or reproduced form - continues to serve well the instructive purposes for which it was created.

Our thanks go to our friend Le Roy Barnett for contributing this article. Now retired, Dr. Barnett served as the head of reference at the State Archives of Michigan.
**“History at Home” Class with curator Bob Myers**

Lake Michigan College offers 7-session course

History Center curator Bob Myers will present a series of seven 90-minute classes on historical research and writing this fall at Lake Michigan College. The course is entitled “History at Home: Methods and Applications,” and is a non-credit Community Education course. Class sessions are 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. every Thursday evening from October 13 to November 24. The cost is $10 per session or $50 for the entire series.

Classes are open to the public. You can register on the Lake Michigan College website, www.lakemichigancollege.edu/home/programs-majors/community-education, or by calling the college at (269) 926-6832.

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**History at Home: Methods and Applications**

Discount: All seven HISTORY AT HOME presentations:

Registration Deadline: Thursday, October 8, 2015
Dates: Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015
Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
Cost: $50 (Save $20)
CRN: 50646

1. **Introduction to Local History Sources: the Good, the Bad and the Indifferent**

   Enthusiastic amateurs produce most of the secondary sources in local history. This session explores typical community history books and articles, and how historians can use them as springboards for more in-depth research.

   Registration Deadline: Monday, Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
   Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
   CRN: 50728

2. **Archives and Libraries: Working with the Primary Documents**

   What can researchers expect from an archives or library? What sources are available? How do letters, diaries, official reports and the like compose the “bones” of history? We will discuss the use of primary sources in researching and writing local history.

   Registration Deadline: Monday, Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
   Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
   CRN: 50822

3. **Oral History: the Past Talks to the Present**

   Local history often means interviewing the actual participants in an era or event. We will explore the “how tos” and “why should we’s?” of oral history, the practical aspects of preparing for and conducting an oral history interview, and how to use the information to supplement more traditional sources.

   Registration Deadline: Monday, October 26, 2015
   Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015
   Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
   CRN: 50644

4. **Genealogy – Shaking the Family Tree’s Branches**

   Academic historians often dismiss genealogy as antiquarian – mildly interesting to the parties involved, but largely irrelevant in historical analysis. Understanding family relationships, however, can in fact lead to important discoveries about key people. We will examine genealogical resources and the significance of family to the larger historical narrative.

   Registration Deadline: Monday, November 2, 2015
   Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015
   Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
   CRN: 50404

5. **My Old House: Researching the Built Environment**

   Local history often involves documenting a community’s domestic and commercial architecture – the construction dates of buildings, their original uses, and how owners have altered them over time. Property tax rolls, fire insurance maps, newspaper accounts, city directories, and other sources help local historians interpret their community’s built environment.

   Registration Deadline: Monday, November 9, 2015
   Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015
   Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
   CRN: 50520

6. **Historical Writing: It’s Not a Letter Home**

   Good history should be entertaining, but also accurate and well-documented. Solid research does not equate with dull writing. Here’s how to produce a clear, concise – and readable – narrative.
Motorcoach Tours for 2016

We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario's Agawa Canyon in July. The weather was picture-perfect for both our Soo Locks Dinner Cruise and the all-day train ride to the Agawa Canyon. Tour planner Bob Myers wanted to take credit for the 1,000-foot ore freighter Stewart J. Cort steaming by right on cue as we neared the end of our dinner cruise, but Kathy says it was really just a coincidence. Lucky or not, the Cort was an impressive sight!

People are already asking what's on the horizon for next year's tours, so here we go:

• A three-day tour to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site near St. Louis in the spring. This World Heritage Site was larger than London, England, in A.D. 1250 and home to the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico. We'll include a visit to nearby Fort de Chartres and Ste. Genevieve.

• A “Founding of America Junior Tour” for parents or grandparents and children during Spring Break in April. We'll tour Washington, DC; Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestowne, Mount Vernon, and the Gettysburg Battlefield National Military Park.

• An eight-day tour to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in June, including Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum on Whitefish Point, the Quincy Mine in Hancock, the Fayette Historic Townsite iron smelting ghost town in Garden, and other great attractions.

• New Orleans! This nine-day tour in September will take in The National World War II Museum, St. Louis Cathedral, Chalmette National Historical Park (the 1815 Battle of New Orleans site), Old Ursuline Convent, The Historic New Orleans Collections, Vicksburg Battlefield National Military Park, and much more.

Regulation Deadline: Monday, November 16, 2015
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
CRN: 50645

7. Putting It All Together: Publishing and Presenting

Now that you've researched that local history topic and written a story that's sure to win the Pulitzer Prize . . . what can you do with it? In our final session we will look at venues for publishing books and articles, or how to turn that story into a fascinating presentation for community groups and organizations.

Registration Deadline: Monday, November 23, 2015
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Place: M-TEC at Lake Michigan College
CRN: 50814

Agawa Canyon Adventure

Our gang at the Soo Locks Dinner Cruise

Bernice Tretheway with a new friend at Hartwick Pines State Park

Luann Griese & Melanie Gardner ready to board the Agawa Canyon train.
Continuing and Upcoming Events

**Ongoing: New From You!** Exhibit at the History Center. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mondays - Saturdays.

**September 12-19:** “Southern Hospitality Tour” bus tour to Charleston, South Carolina.

**October 1:** U.S. 12 Heritage Trail program. 6:30 p.m. Free.

**October 16-17:** Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour. 5 - 7 p.m. $5

**October 29:** Signature Event 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. An Evening with FDR.

**October 13 to November 24:** History at Home classes at Lake Michigan College. 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. every Thursday.

**December 3:** Kindle the Christmas Spirit, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**April 2-9, 2016:** Founding of America Junior Tour” bus tour to Washington, DC, Virginia, and the Gettysburg Battlefield.