

2:00 – 2:45 PM

## Lost and Found: Local Civil War Treasures Rediscovered

In the first of a two-part session, John Gelderloos will tell us about 18-year-old Mariette Hutchins who proved to be a friend and comforter to many Civil War soldiers she may have never met.

This Berlin, Michigan resident became a “pen pal” to over a dozen Michigan soldiers. Gelderloos will share some of the soldiers’ letters as well as reveal more about this remarkable woman.



In the second part of the session, Dave Broene will talk about a particular Spencer Rifle #1919, which was found to be part of “Copland’s Michigan Rifles” issued to Custer’s brigade prior to the battle of Gettysburg. Broene will also discuss the diary, letters and journal of Reuben Randall, of Co. B 3rd Michigan Infantry, which were found at a west side estate sale several years ago.

*Presented by the Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable, the Grand Rapids Public Library, and the Kutsche Office of Local History.*



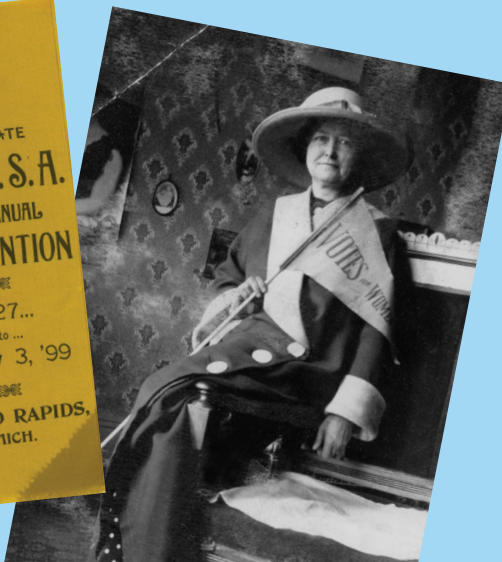
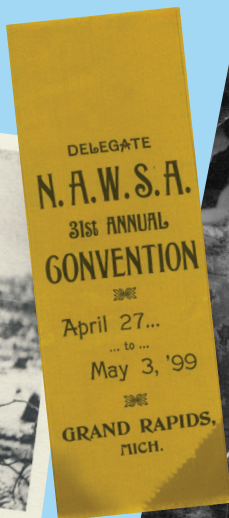
3:00 – 3:45 PM

## Building a Case: Grand Rapids as an Important Suffrage Center

In the fifty years preceding the accomplishment of universal suffrage in 1920, Grand Rapids women did it all. In the 1890s, they lobbied in Lansing, lectured at the Chicago World’s Fair, hosted national conferences, and addressed the U.S. Congressional Judicial Committee. Over the movement’s last decade, Grand Rapids activists paraded, published a special edition of *The Grand Rapids Press*, and mailed six tons of literature during a single year’s referendum campaign.

We can view images of local suffrage paraphernalia – telegrams, badges and floats – and celebrate major players and events, but the full story, revealed to us today by Jo Ellyn Clarey, includes an account of how we lost and rediscovered this significant piece of Grand Rapids history.

*Presented by the Greater Grand Rapids Womens’ History Council, and the Grand Rapids Public Library.*



# HISTORY DETECTIVES: Sleuthing for Local History

Saturday, January 22 • 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



MAIN LIBRARY • 111 LIBRARY STREET NE  
WWW.GRPL.ORG • 616.988.5400

9:30 – 10:15 AM

### **The Rest of the Story: Ramona Park from the Inside Out**

Gail Snow will share some of the little-known facts uncovered while researching her forthcoming book, *Remarkable Ramona Park*. She will present some strange attractions that didn't last through the years; the life of the Ramona Park miniature railroad; the design, construction and maintenance of the Derby Racer; and what put the fun in the Fun House.

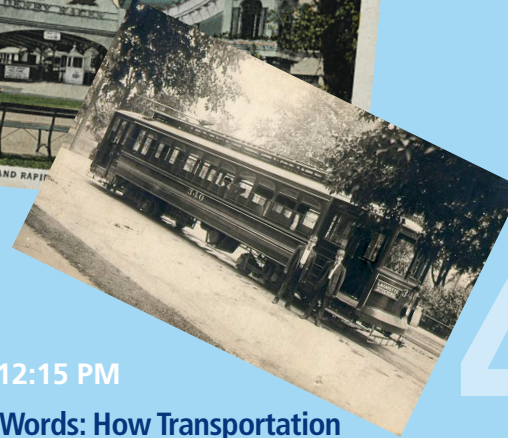
*Presented by the Grand Rapids Historical Society.*

10:30 – 11:15 AM

### **Uncovering the Unexpected: Curiosities of Heritage Hill History**

In researching individual homes for the Heritage Hill Home Tours, Tom Logan has discovered a variety of previously unknown owners, buildings that were razed and replaced early in the 20th century, family connections among properties, and other curiosities. His research led him through the wonders of city directories, moldy tax records, and title searches.

*Presented by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.*



11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

### **In Their Own Words: How Transportation Shaped Early Grand Rapids**

Few things in daily life are taken more for granted than our transportation systems and methods of conveyance. But getting around West Michigan a hundred years ago involved more than automobiles. Using oral histories of early Heritage Hill residents recorded in the 1970s, Don Bryant will focus on transportation and the effect rapid progress had on neighborhood dynamics and family traditions during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From ponies, horses, carriages and cutters, to bicycles, streetcars, trains and automobiles, we'll hear in the words of early local residents how and why life changed.

*Presented by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society.*

12:15 – 12:45 PM

### **Lunch – Reserve ahead of time!**

Boxed Lunches are \$6.00 and must be ordered in advance. Please call 616.988.5492 or email [rsvp@grpl.org](mailto:rsvp@grpl.org) by 5:00 pm on January 19th to reserve your lunch. Choices: Chicken salad, turkey, ham, or vegetarian. Included with the sandwich are fresh fruit, potato salad, a cookie, and a bottle of water. Although lunches must be reserved in advance, payment will be made when the lunch is picked up on January 22nd. Attendees may choose to bring their own lunch as well.

12:45 – 1:45 PM

### **Imagining Michigan Experiences in the Civil War**

During this multi-sensory program, Grand Rapids Public Museum staff will explain how original letters, diaries, documents and actual objects are being used to create a temporary exhibit celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Participants will hear the personal stories of the battlefield and homefront as they listen to the letters between a battlefield commander and his young wife; view military gear used by a Grand Rapids soldier; and taste hardtack, a hard, flour biscuit that made up a large portion of a soldier's daily rations. This program will also familiarize participants with the methods the Museum uses to make history accessible and explain how to access and use these resources.

*Presented by the Grand Rapids Public Museum.*