

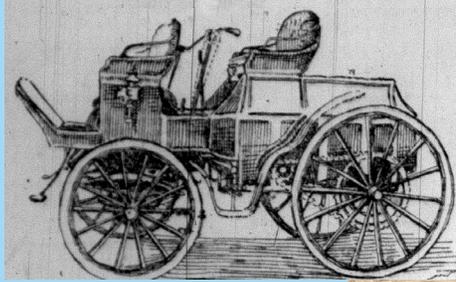
9:30 – 10:15 AM

## Women and WW II: New Roles and Old Stereotypes

Dr. Richard Harms

Using Grand Rapids as a case study, Dr. Richard Harms will highlight the important roles played by World War II-era women answering their nation's "call to arms." For the duration of World War II women entered the workforce, demonstrating that there were few tasks they could not do as well and efficiently as men. The images shown will illustrate how sudden opportunities complicated women's traditional roles and created social changes leading to a renewed women's movement. We often ignore the 50 years of women's history between 1920 and 1970, the years between earlier struggles for the basic rights of citizens and later struggles for equality under the law. Harms will elaborate how the war years in particular built upon the former and laid foundations for the latter. World War II touched every aspect of life in Grand Rapids, its reach extending well into the future.

*Sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council Genealogical Society.*



12:15 – 1:00 PM

## Lunch – Reserve ahead of time!

Boxed lunches are \$8.00 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 10 to reserve your lunch and include your sandwich choice. Sandwich choices: turkey, ham, roast beef, or vegetarian. Included are a fruit cup, pasta salad, individual condiments, and bottled water. Lunches must be reserved in advance and paid for in cash when the lunch is picked up on January 18 at the event. Attendees may choose to bring lunches as well. Pop will be available for an additional \$1.00. Please note, the library no longer has a cafe, but does have vending machines.

*Lunches sponsored by the Cherry Deli; bottled water by Meijer; afternoon cookies by Lomonaco Sicilian Cookies.*

*Additional sponsors include the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University and the Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table.*

10:30 – 11:15 AM

## When the Automobile Came to the Furniture City

Chuck Snow

Chuck Snow will present some facts about the early history of the automobile in the United States and Europe, with emphasis on developments in the Grand Rapids area. He will address when automobiles first appeared in Grand Rapids, who participated in local developments before 1905, and what immediate effects were experienced on city streets and in local businesses. Prepare for surprises in this history of a revolutionary machine that we nevertheless take for granted.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Museum.*

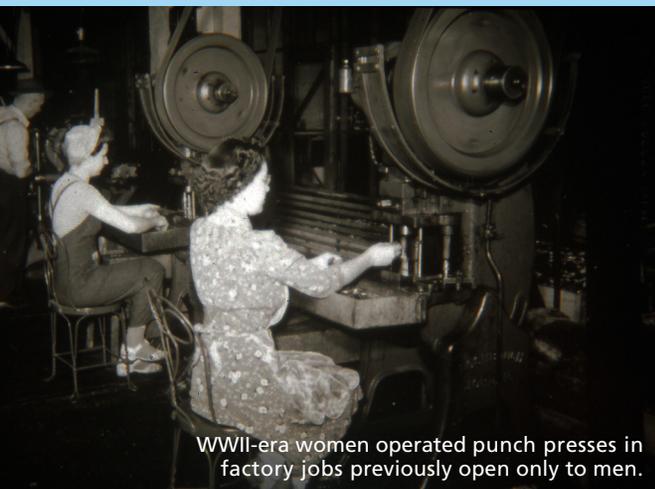
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

## Mr. Rover Visits Grand Rapids

Melissa Fox

Highly sought after by collectors, the Mr. Rover postcards feature larger-than-life images of Mr. Rover as he makes his way around Grand Rapids, from the Kent Country Club to the Grand River to old City Hall. Maybe more interesting than the postcards themselves is the story behind them, the intersecting lives of Harry Wykom, the model for the Mr. Rover postcards, and his father-in-law Lafora S. Baker. Using genealogical resources and newspaper clippings, this program uncovers an almost unbelievable tale featuring missing persons, embezzlement, and an unearthed body.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library.*



WWII-era women operated punch presses in factory jobs previously open only to men.



1:00 – 1:45 PM

### The Mystery of West Michigan's Sunken Canoes

Kevin Finney



Over the past century, hundreds of dugout canoes have been recovered from inland lakes and rivers across Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Until recently, little has been known about the technology, science and cultural history of this unique part of our region's heritage. Researchers from the Great Lakes Lifeways Institute are using a combination of ancient technologies, detailed historical research and careful examination of archaeological artifacts to expand our understanding of how these watercraft were built and why they may have been intentionally sunk.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Society.*



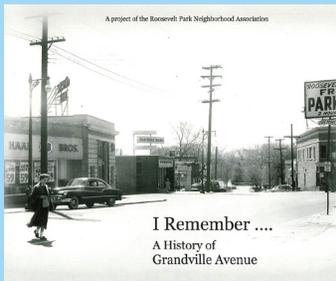
2:00 – 2:45 PM

### Remembering Grandville Avenue

Mary Angelo

In 2012, the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) published the book *I Remember.... A History of Grandville Avenue*. The book was inspired by RPNA's creation of the Grandville Avenue Neighborhood Museum, which opened at 1260 Grandville Avenue in 2010. Written by RPNA's then-director Mary Angelo, the book has been especially well received by people who once lived in the neighborhood.

*Sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society.*



3:00 – 3:45 PM

### Still Standing: 40 Years of Historic Preservation

Rebecca Smith-Hoffman

In 1973, the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Ordinance was enacted in reaction to the destruction of the central city under the guise of urban renewal. Hundreds of buildings fell victim to the evisceration caused by the construction of the freeways and the demolition of a large portion of the downtown business district. Unlike most Michigan cities, Grand Rapids is recovering from the destruction and now celebrates its vibrant urban character. Smith-Hoffman will explore the major role that historic preservation played in the city's rebirth and the ongoing effort to maintain the city's urban character through the preservation of its buildings and the revitalization of its neighborhoods.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.*



Before Rehabilitation

After Rehabilitation

### Parking

Limited parking is available in the library parking lot, and is free with a validated parking lot ticket. Tickets can be validated in the library's lobby.

# 2014 HISTORY DETECTIVES: Sleuthing for Local History

Saturday, January 18 • 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



**WINNER**  
2013 State History Award for Special Programs/Events



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