

History Center News

February 13, 2016

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person

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From Chairman Siciliano's Desk

The History Center has been making some history of its own since Thanksgiving. After careful deliberation by the Traverse Area District Library and History Center Boards, TADL and the History Center formally agreed on January 24, 2016, to transfer ownership of the Center archives to the ownership of the Library.

The Board believes that with the transfer of the archives to TADL, the History Center will be able to become a stronger organization and more effectively meet its mission to protect, preserve, and present the history of the region. We will continue to work with TADL on preserving the archives and we will have greater ability to present the history of the area through programs and publications.

Through the wonderful generosity of Team Elmer's, the archives was transported without cost to the History Center from the Carnegie Building to the Library on February 12th. Thanks to several hard-working volunteers coordinated by our long-time archivist Peg Siciliano, the archives safely arrived at its new home.

Also this winter, the History Center was selected by Northwestern Michigan College's Visual Communications Program as one of the non-profit organizations to be provided student assistance to provide our organization a redesigned logo,

website, and informational film. We have met with the students who will present their work within the next month.

In light of these developments, the Board has decided to explore options to hold a visioning workshop next month to chart our new course to meet our mission. The Board will keep you fully informed of these new efforts.

Stephen Siciliano

Recent History Center Events

On January 24, after a week's delay because of a snowstorm, Dave Pennington launched the 2016 series of programs with "Timber! The Logging Era in the Grand Traverse Region." The McGuire room at the library was packed with members and the general public as Dave enlightened us as to "peaveys" and crosscut saws. We are pleased with the outpouring of interest among our members.

Upcoming History Center Events

February 21, 2016 "Preserve, Protect and Promote Our Local History." Marly Hanson, retired librarian, and Amy Barritt, Special Collections Librarian, will speak on TADL's local history collections, the Digital Public Library of America, The Making of Modern Michigan, the Fading Memories Project, and other efforts to preserve, protect and promote our history locally and nationally. This program will introduce members and interested persons to the newest incarnation of the archives at TADL's Woodmere branch.

March 20, 2016 "A Mile in Their Shoes." Nancy Bordine, local textile and costume collector, will bring in parts of her collection, and discuss the evolution of footwear. Attendees will be invited to bring in historical costume items of their own to share.

April, 17, 2015 "Northern Michigan During the Second World War," is the title of this program presented by Tom Gordon, professor at Northwestern Michigan College.

May 1, 2015 “Seeking a Fair Contract: Labor Struggles of Traverse City Teachers in Past Decades,” Irene Brown, former teacher and Traverse City Education Association president, tells us about Michigan’s first teachers’ strike as well as later efforts to secure a fair teaching contract.

All programs will be held in the McGuire Room of the Woodmere branch of the Traverse Area District Library, beginning at two o’clock in the afternoon.

Other Events to Come

March 12: History Day in the public schools. At least five members of the History Center will judge exhibits of students participating in History Day. The top three projects from each category (paper, exhibit, documentary, website, performance) will move on to the state competition in April. If members wish to become judges, they may register by calling Brandi Reynolds at 231-492-0477.

May 18: Senior Expo. The History Center will host a table at the Senior Expo. If you wish to volunteer to staff the event, you may contact Richard Fidler at rafidler@sbcglobal.net