

Grown-Up Group GATHERS



History Programs for Adult & Senior Groups

Explore history with your group! Schedule a virtual or in-person Group Gather presentation for your next meeting, get-together, or resident activity.

Choose a format:

- **In-person at Troy Historic Village:** We are offering history talks at the Village inside Old Troy Church on our site. You can book a private lecture for your group of up to 75 people. *Price: \$10/person (minimum 10 people)*
- **At your site:** \$125/presentation (you provide projector) or \$150/presentation (we provide projector). Total program time is approximately 45-60 minutes, plus set-up and take-down.
- **Virtual:** We can bring Group Gather history presentations to your group via Zoom or another online platform. Price: \$75/presentation.

Request a program date:

Programs are offered year-round, Monday – Friday, and must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. **To book or request information, call 248-524-3570 or email info@thvmail.org.**

Choose a topic:

Michigan History Topics

Michigan Women

Michigan women have rocked the boat and the cradle for centuries. Learn about fur trader Magdelaine LaFramboise, suffragist Anna Howard Shaw, artist Gwen Frostic, and more.

Michigan Women's Suffrage

Michigan women fought for the right to vote years before the 19th Amendment passed. They rallied, marched, lectured, fundraised, demonstrated, and were sometimes even incarcerated. Learn the stories of Michigan suffragists and see how clubs and suffrage organizations in Detroit and around the state worked to change 19th- and 20th-century understandings about a woman's place in society.

Michigan in the Civil War

We don't often think of Michigan as a Civil War state, but over 90,000 Michigan men and women served as soldiers, nurses, politicians, or activists during the war.

Michigan Coasts: Keweenaw Copper Country

“Visit” Michigan’s northernmost coast, where geology and rich mineral deposits gave rise to Indigenous cultures, our state’s mining industry, and the Cornish pastie. This history talk is a blend of earth science, ancient and modern history.

Foods, Fads, and Funky Dishes

Celery vases, rhubarb triangles, sugar beet farms...join us for some tasty history with a special focus on unique trends and Michigan’s food and agricultural heritage.

Natural History of Oakland County

Take a metaphorical walk on the wild side of Oakland! Learn about edible plants, mammals, and more as we explore our county’s history with a guided ramble through time.

Street Smarts

Learn which local streets, like Livernois, Dequindre, and John R., were named for ribbon farmers, war heroes, and businessmen and why our roads follow their modern-day routes.

Detroit Baseball, 1920-1935

The historical shifts of the Roaring Twenties and Great Depression coincided with major changes in the sport of baseball and Detroit’s line-up of star players.

Golden Age of Radio

Travel back in time to the “golden age” of radio. Learn about the radio’s invention and how it grew to be our main source of news and entertainment in the 1920s-1950s. We’ll give extra attention to our own Detroit radio stations.

History of Troy, Michigan

Learn how Troy changed from pioneer settlement to farming community to the City of Tomorrow, Today.

Local History: Niles-Barnard House

Moved to the Village in 2010, the 1837 Niles-Barnard House has had a storied history as a pub operated by pioneer settler Johnson Niles, the private residence of the Judge Norman Barnard family (and their sheep!) and as a museum building preserved and restored by the Troy Historical Society.

“Hidden Half” AnceStories

Using the Troy community as a case study, examine the unique challenges of uncovering the stories of female ancestors, sometimes referred to as the “hidden half of the family” by researchers.

A Decade of Change: 1901-1910

Get acquainted with a formative ten years! A nationwide shift to cities outpaced rural changes, yet Troy's connection included the growing streetcar lines, dairy farms, and the popularity of Kodak cameras. Look at 20th century inventions, entertainments, and a growing Detroit, as well as architecture, fashion, and people of the era.

Troy in the Roaring Twenties

In 1927, we opened the doors to a brand-new Troy Township Hall at 60 W. Wattles, but what did the rest of the township look like? Were the Caswells still living in their house? What was the latest news down at the General Store? Discover what life was like in quiet little Troy Township during the Roaring Twenties.

Union Corners Cemetery: Odd Deaths & Unique Markers

Learn some fascinating underground histories of the Union Corners cemetery in Troy. Explore a few odd demises, including pals in life and death, suicide by streetcar, a murder on the farm, and more. Examine unique grave markers made of white metal and disappearing marble.

Around the Country / World Topics

Christmas Traditions

Learn how pre-Christian traditions of winter solstice, yule and Saturnalia influenced modern Christmas celebrations.

Winter in the Civil War

Wintertime posed unique challenges to soldiers and civilians during the US Civil War. Learn how they survived the coldest and darkest months of the year, staved off boredom in winter quarters, kept themselves fed when food was scarce, and celebrated winter holidays like Christmas.

History of Men's Fashion

Men's style endured its share of change over the centuries. Enjoy a crash course in three centuries of men's fashions, fads, and flops.

World Explorers, 19th and 20th Century

Overcoming the challenges of weather, terrain and societal norms, 19th & 20th century adventurers explored deserts, jungles, mountains, and secret cities all over the world.

Harvest History: Scarecrows

Learn thousands of years of scarecrow history that takes you from the fields of Ancient Egypt to the rolling hills of Japan and beyond.

Golden Age of Television: Part 1

Learn about the invention of television and how it became the dominant media in the 1940s-1960s. This talk covers the invention of television, networks vs. stations, “high culture” shows, as well as comedy/variety, the “vast wasteland” speech, sitcoms, and popular television theme songs of the era.

Golden Age of Television: Part 2

If your group enjoyed Part 1, bring us back for the second episode! This talk covers the rise of popular westerns, adventures, science fiction, dramas, thrillers, soap operas, children’s shows, game shows, and other unique programs, as well as news and sports, commercials and jingles, and the history of the Emmy Awards and Nielsen Ratings.

Preservation, Conservation, and Recreation in the National Parks

Explore how the National Park Service has had to strike a balance between preserving natural and historical resources while making them accessible to scores of visitors. Bring your favorite souvenir, photo, or memory from a national park for show-and-tell, too!