



The Herstory Chronicles

Newsletter of the Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan

September 2012

Interviewers get together

By Carolyn Micklatcher

Members, former members, the Board, and a number of people interested in becoming oral interviewers gathered at the History Center on June 20 to celebrate our newest oral interviewers, class of 2011.

The highlight of the event was History Center Archivist Peg Siciliano speaking about using PastPerfect-Online software. After keywords are entered from each oral history, researchers can access them from the Internet. A lively discussion followed.

Are you interested in learning oral history interviewer skills? Or perhaps you've done them in the past and need a refresher? We're planning a training session for oral history interviewers in late September 2012. There is no cost for WHP members.

Jane Purkis supplied flowers on the tables from her garden, Participants snacked on hors d'oeuvres in addition to cookies made by Martha Vreeland. Karen Anderson handled the publicity and Carolyn Micklatcher was the event coordinator.

Please contact Carolyn with questions/registration at 922-9418, cmick@chartermi.net.

Democracy is a bandwagon and there are too many empty seats

By Jane Purkis

Join us at our annual meeting on Saturday, October 27, 11:30 am at the History Center as we explore democracy through the words of the founders of the League of Women Voters (see enclosed reservation form).

Following the passage of the 19th amendment in 1919, many women felt the fight was won but Carrie Chapman Catt proposed a new organization: "Let us then raise up a league of women voters... a league that shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian in nature."

We will go back in time and meet Catt, Alice Paul, and long-time League of Women Voters activist, Maud Park, who will be with us (in costume). They will reminisce about the struggle of getting the 19th amendment passed and the early work of the LWV.

You'll also hear an update on the current activities of the League. Luncheon from the Centre Street Cafe will be served.

This is a meeting you won't want to miss. Bring your friends too!



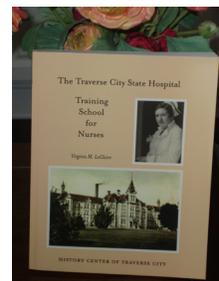
Carrie Chapman Catt

History of local nursing book published

The History Center of Traverse City has published the book, *The Traverse City State Hospital Training School for Nurses* by Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan member Virginia LeClaire.

This school was open from 1906 until 1947 and many Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, Wexford, and Antrim county families sent their daughters there.

In addition to describing the school, characteristics, and backgrounds of the students, and life choices after graduation, the book includes a biography of one nurse from each class.



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Celebrating women's accomplishments

by Kathi Houston, president

I hope everyone has enjoyed this warm summer and are looking forward to the start of fall.

The past year has seen our group challenging each other to find ways that “recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women from Northwest Michigan.”

Board member Carolyn Micklatcher became the coordinator for our oral history project. She recently organized a get-together where fifteen people, who wanted to know more about the project and perhaps get involved, spent a couple hours doing just that! We are all looking forward to an interview training in the fall.

The board decided to enter into a formal archiving agreement

with the History Center, which includes having members learn more about the PastPerfect computer software and be able to enter data from the oral histories. They then will be available for research. Peg Siciliano, History Center archivist, held a training for people who expressed interest and will be holding another one in August.

The Legends Project grant has started at the History Center and our group was asked to have a board member participate. Carolyn Micklatcher is representing us for this first round of the project. You will be getting more information in the near future.

I hope to see all of you at our annual meeting on October 27, which will include a delicious

lunch from the Centre Street Cafe.

Needless to say, national and local elections have taken a front seat in news coverage. Our program will be an entertaining reminder to participate in the process that was afforded us by our hardworking foremothers!

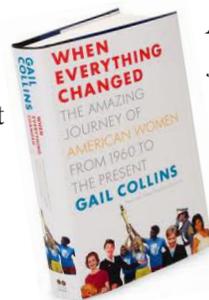


Women's History Book Group

By Ann Swaney

The Women's History Book Group, after a low participation this year, is reorganizing. Those in the group responded by email that they continue to be interested in the book group.

At the meeting on October 26 at the History Center, we will discuss an alternate book discussion schedule as well as brainstorm ways to increase attendance.



We also will discuss the book *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present* by Gail Collins. These are the times we all have lived through but probably never thought about with any perspective as to their influence on us or the country. Just one example is that before 1960 the ratio of

male pronouns to female pronouns in books was over 4:1. It is now closer to 2:1. We are making progress!

We also will choose the books we will read through next summer. If any of you have book suggestions, please send them to aswaney@acegroup.cc.



Gail Collins

An interview with Helen DeVol

The interview was conducted on November 15, 2003.

I was born in Detroit in 1922. It was about thirteen miles to go downtown. We used to think it was just great to ride the streetcar downtown so we could go on the escalators at Hudson's.

We used to come up (to Old Mission) during the Depression to pick cherries. Oh, I remember how pretty it was here. And I remember the beautiful water.

The cherries were all picked by hand; they didn't have shakers then. We had buckets with harnesses to hold them. And then when you climbed up the ladder you had two hands to pick with. It was quite fast.

You filled your bucket and filled a lug and then pretty soon they'd come along and load them on a truck. Then they would take the truck down to the dock.

There used to be a dock down at Hasrot with a cherry boat there. They would load them on the cherry boat and the cherry boat would take them over to Northport where there was a canning factory.

I met my husband, Bob, when we were just kids. We picked cherries at his father's orchard. And then he started writing to me. We were married in 1944 when he was in the service. We came up here to live in February of 1946, when he got out of the service. I had never seen so much snow in the winter as what was here.

The whole community grew a lot, of course, while we were there. There's a picture on the wall of what the area used to look like when my kids were little. See, there's no houses down in that whole field there by the bay. There were no homes here at all as you can see. This is the store... and post office. All this is all built up now.

Our house was slightly kitty-corner from the Old Mission Store. Henry Lardie had the store and the post office. It had been the Lardie Grocery Store for years and years and years.

I worked for Henry Lardie for



Here's a woman picking cherries back in the day.

a couple of summers and then we bought it when he wanted to retire. I worked at the store because I didn't want to work too far away from home when I had kids. It worked out pretty well that way. I could walk to work, so it really didn't matter whether it was snowing.

Henry Lardie had a real good business going because in those days people didn't run into

Traverse City two or three times a day for stuff they forgot. They would do a lot of their shopping for staples and things... they would buy it at the store here.

There were a lot of farmers that he carried on credit. He was also the postmaster for 43 years. And then when he died, his daughter was postmaster. We bought the store in 1962.

And then she died in 1963 and then I got (the post master position). I had to take a civil service test in Traverse City. I remember I took it the day after we had a tornado. I hadn't gotten much sleep the night before and I thought, oh, dear. I hope I do all right. We had the store and post office for twenty-five years.

In the summer we really were swamped with the Mexican migrants, because in those days they didn't have all the shakers they have today. That was a much different era when we had all the Mexicans that would flood into the community in the summer. But you know, you'd really get to know them because they would come up year after year and you'd know the families. And it was really kind of nice. There were some really nice families that came up.

We just had the post office boxes. We did not have any rural carriers. Our mail was delivered to us from Traverse City from the rural carrier once a day. I can remember being so busy at

(See interview on p. 4)

Interview *continued from p. 3*

Christmas-time, the carrier didn't have room to put everything in his car, so Bob used to take a load of parcel post into Traverse City. That surely has changed over the years. A lot of people don't bother sending anymore because it costs too much money. We used to do an awful lot of parcel.

We had a lot of tourists up here. Robert McNamara used to come in. He used to be Secretary of Defense. People from the World Bank and from the United Nations were customers at the post office that you wouldn't expect to find here.

Area business groups here in Old Mission? There are none! That's Traverse City. Bob had a jacket that the kids gave him one Christmas that said, "President, Old Mission Chamber of Commerce." He was it! He got the biggest kick out of wearing that jacket. So did everybody else. The kids thought it was hilarious. "President, Old Mission Chamber of Commerce."

The thing I liked most about the post office work was the people, I really did. And when I quit in in 1987, I really missed the people.

"I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well."

—Diane Ackerman

May 15—On this date in 1869

from the Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor

It was on this date in 1869 that Elizabeth Cady Stanton (l) and Susan B. Anthony (r) formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. The 15th Amendment was being considered, granting voting rights to African American men, but not to women.



The women's suffrage movement was divided over whether to support the bill. One faction felt that any advancement in civil rights would eventually help women. But the other faction, led by Stanton and Anthony, opposed giving these



rights to another group of men who, they felt, would then have no further interest in advancing the cause of women. They split from the American Equal Rights Association, forming their own national organization to be run by women.

Stanton and Anthony worked together for 50 years, and they made a good team.

Anthony never married, so she was free to devote her life to the women's movement. Stanton wasn't free to travel for many years. She stayed home, raised the kids, did the research, and wrote the speeches that Anthony delivered.

Stanton once said, "I am the better writer, she the better critic... and together we have made arguments that have stood unshaken by the storms of thirty long years; arguments that no man has answered."

Volunteers needed!

September offers two new opportunities to get involved in the Women's History Project as volunteers.

First, you can train to become an oral interviewer (see p. 1)

Second, you can be trained to archive our interviews into the History Center Archive for public use. Peg Siciliano will teach a class about how to select and enter key words into the PastPerfect-Online software on Wednesday, September 26, 10:30 am, at the History Center Archive Office.

Check out our list of our completed oral histories on our website www.whpnm.org.

If you're interested or have questions, contact Carolyn Micklatcher at 922-9418, cmick@chartermi.net.

Remembering local artist Maude Miller Hoffmaster

by Dotty Wilhelm French

The famous Michigan artist Maude Miller Hoffmaster was born in Manistee, Mich., on December 29, 1883. She lived in Aghosa on East Bay in Traverse City when I took painting classes from her in the 1930s.

One of her famous paintings was “The Country Doctor.” It showed him in a horse-drawn buggy going to see a patient in a snowstorm.

She also wrote and illustrated books for children. She died in Traverse City on October 2, 1969. I often visited her when

in Traverse City visiting my mother.

In the summer of 2002, while I was at The History Center, a man came in and asked if I had ever heard of Maude. He was one of her nephews. She never had any children. He told me that he had a lot of her books and information about her and asked if the Center would like to have them. He sent them to me and I did a display for the Women’s History Project of NWM.

All of this plus an original painting are in the archives at The History Center.



Maude Miller Hoffmaster was a member of The American Artists Professional League and The American Federation of Arts.

Did you know...

By Dotty French

During World War II, there was a shortage of people to pick the cherry crop. I was home from the University of Michigan for the summer and working at Wilhelm’s Store. The merchants decided to close for a day and go out and pick the cherries.



It was not a good year and there were only a few cherries on each branch. This meant moving the ladder many times. I picked all day and only filled one lug!

Volunteer at Heritage Days

By Maddie Buteyn, History Center exhibits and events coordinator

The History Center would like to invite you to participate in this year’s Heritage Event, which will be held on Thursday–Saturday, September 6, 7, and 8. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

- **September 6 and 7: Help usher students** through the exhibits and help set up and take down the exhibits.
- **September 8, 4 pm, State Theatre:** Help out at the movie premiere of “We’re in the Movies,” a 1940s film from Traverse City that the History Center received a grant to restore. We need volunteers throughout the day to help direct people to events, sell tickets and DVDs. You can also dress in 1940-era costumes!
- **September 8, 10:00 am–3:30 pm: Help staff a Women’s History Project booth** at the Heritage event in Hannah Park. This will be open to the public. There will be scheduled events throughout the day and booths of local groups for people to visit.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Maddie at 995-0313, ext. 106, maddie@traversehistory.org. If you would like to staff the WHP booth, contact Kathi Houston at 510-1721, kathwithani@gmail.com.

“In search of my mother’s garden, I found my own.”

— Alice Walker

Calendar

*All meetings are held at the History Center
unless designated otherwise.*

September

10 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM.

October

14 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM.

26 Book Group. Friday, NOON. *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present* by Gail Collins.



27 Annual Meeting. Saturday, 11:30 AM. Theme: *Democracy is a bandwagon and there are too many empty seats* with words of the founders of League of Women Voters. Luncheon served. *History Center.*

November

6 VOTE!

Board of Directors

Karen Anderson
Nancy Bordine
Dotty French
Kathi Houston
Carolyn Micklatcher
Jane Purkis
Etta Rajkovich
Sandra Seppala
Martha Vreeland

Sandra Seppala,
Newsletter Editor

Send articles and announcements for the newsletter to Sandy, sansep19@earthlink.net, or contact her at 421-3343 or 703-597-7925.

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Women of Wisdom: \$10
Students: \$10
The Rest of Us: \$15
Business/Organization: \$25
Dues payable to WHPNM;
send to address below.
Thank you for your support!

WHPNM Mission

To preserve and recognize the contributions of women to their families and communities in northwest lower Michigan.



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