

Summer 2017

# The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 27.02: Summer 2017

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# The Joint Archives *Quarterly*

Volume 27 Number 2

Summer 2017

## *The Red Cross in Ottawa County 1909 to 1940*

By Wallace K. Ewing

The first significant Red Cross activity anywhere in the country occurred in Michigan following the great forest fires of 1881, which swept across the Thumb and moved westward. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, set up headquarters at her home in Dansville, New York. She raised \$80,000 in cash and provisions, which volunteers distributed to the affected families.

After 1881, Red Cross “chapters” were gradually organized throughout the country. In the fall of 1909, a chapter was formed in Grand Haven, only one of two in Michigan at that time. The other one was in Detroit. The American Red Cross took on new importance when the United States entered World War I in 1917. On May 10 of that year, the Ottawa County chapter received its official charter, signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The chapter was divided into two branches, one with headquarters in Holland and the other in Grand Haven. The division was symbolic of a long-standing disagreement between the two communities concerning the location of the Ottawa County seat of government. Grand Haven had had that distinction since the mid-1800s, but many people in Holland thought their community should have the honor. The best compromise, or at least the most convenient, was to separate the Ottawa County chapter into two units: the south branch, with an office in Holland, and a north branch, headquartered in Grand Haven. Although the two units worked together as a “chapter” in some endeavors, for the most part they were administered separately and each had its own board of directors.

Not long after the charter was granted, the first recorded meeting of the Grand Haven branch took place in the new Carnegie Library on Third Street. Organizational decisions were made and officers elected. The town’s leading citizens gave short talks “pertinent to the occasion.” The speakers also addressed the importance of liberty loans, sometimes called war bonds, to finance military activities during those war years.



Through the first months of the war, the Grand Haven branch concentrated on raising funds for local use and preparing clothing and surgical dressings for the wounded. By the fall of 1917, the chapter had enrolled over 2,000 members and raised almost \$8,600 for use locally and nationally. This amount would be the equivalent of nearly \$100,000 in purchasing power today. A variety of instructional efforts was undertaken by the branch during those early years: home nursing, elementary hygiene, dietetics, first aid, and “cold-pack canning.”

Financial assistance was given to families of military personnel. As one example, Mrs. Alice Stillson, “a soldier’s dependent,” received \$10 in cash, \$10 for rent, and \$5 for groceries.

Nat Robbins, a Grand Haven businessman, mayor, and recently-elected chairman of the north branch, tried to rouse the public:

*This is your war. We hope all of our good friends and members will be sure to have their Red Cross flags in their windows on Christmas eve. We hope*

*(continued on page 2)*

## From the Director



This issue of the *Joint Archives Quarterly* comes to you in August after a very busy start to summer. We just finished hosting three Hope College summer scholars and Dr. Jeanne Petit from the history department. The three students, one of which received a research grant from the Joint Archives, completed an intensive research project into the effects of World War I on the populations of Hope College and the Holland community. The result is a very interesting website they created to share their findings. The full story and website can be found at <https://blogs.hope.edu/stories-of-hope/arts-and-humanities/history-is-always-alive/>.

Inserted in this newsletter is a sneak peek of the upcoming Holland Area Historical Society programs. HAHS members will be receiving a brochure and renewal information by mail in the next few weeks. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, feel free to complete the membership form on the insert.

Lastly, please take note of the Historical Society of Michigan conference, which will be held here in Holland in September. We would love to see you there!

Geoffrey D. Reynolds

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### *Red Cross (continued from page 1)*

*their curtains will be up so the flags will show from the street with a light shining behind them. Some of our good people seem to forget this is THEIR war as well as ours, and that when they are asked to become members they should treat such an invitation as an honor, rather than in the light of a begging request. Remember those girls who are devoting their vacation to this work are receiving no pay, only doing it as their patriotic duty, which you, one and all, should do by giving the Red Cross one dollar. It won't break any one and if Grand Haven is going to be on the map, you will have to get busy and come through.*

In the fall of 1918, a special effort was made by the local chapter to collect fruit pits and nut shells. An article in the *Grand Haven Tribune* suggested, "All pits and nuts must be thoroughly dried before they are delivered to the collection centers. There is no objection to storing these materials outdoors, as rain does not injure them for the purpose, but they must be thoroughly dried when delivered to the collection centers. It is expected every man, woman, and child interest themselves in this



*The Armistice Day parade in downtown Holland included a Red Cross float, November 11, 1918*

campaign." The pits and shells were used in the manufacture of carbon, which provided protection against German mustard gas. Although the war ended just as the drive was getting underway, the newly-formed Junior Red Cross (the official organization for young people) collected and shipped 555 pounds of the commodity.

Five months after Armistice Day marked the end of the "Great War" in Europe, the following note appeared in a journal issued by the local Red Cross: "At a meeting of the Ottawa County Chapter at Holland, Michigan, April 12, 1919, it was decided pursuant to instructions from the Central Division [Red Cross regional headquarters in Chicago] to re-organize the Home Service Section of the Chapter. Mrs. Louise Thurber of Holland was appointed ex. [executive] secy. for S. Ottawa, comprising 7 twps, and Mrs. DeF. [DeForest] McNett of Grand Haven ex. secy. for the north Ottawa, comprising 9 twps."



*Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, ca. 1881*

The American Red Cross expanded exponentially during WWI. From 267 chapters in 1914, including the one in Grand Haven, the number grew to 3,864 in 1918, with 20,390,173 adults and more than eight million children working as volunteers. During the war, chapters purchased more than \$61 million worth of raw materials that had an estimated finished value of \$94 million, produced mostly by groups of women, such as those gathering in Grand Haven and Holland.

Now attention turned from the horror of war to the important but less dramatic work of tending to the needs of returning veterans and their families. To achieve this, the Home Service program was established, as noted above. One of McNett's memoes, dated June 5, 1918, provided a first-hand account: "Visited Lawrence Bredehoft Gr. Haven Twp. R.F.D. #2 [now Lakeshore Drive]. Found him still weak from his wounds gunshot in both legs. He does not wish to go to college, nor to take up working in doors—but hoped to go back to work in Story and Clark Piano Factory. He filed claim for Comp. Advised him to call at H.S.S. [Home Service Section] Office and talk things over. Promised to take him to see Dr. Cherry." Grand Haven resident Dr. Herbert Cherry was the public health physician and assisted the HSS for at least two years following the end of the war.

At the war's end on November 11, 1918, the financial support of the local Red Cross and chapters across the country began to lag. The fund appeal that started at the end of 1917 raised more than \$22,000 for the Ottawa County chapter; a year later only \$1,300 was donated during the same period of time. Still, the work went on, mostly in helping veterans adapt to civilian life and supplementing the work of other "social relief agencies," especially important in rural areas, where medical and financial assistance were badly needed.



Gerrit Diekema, ca. 1926

We learn of some improvement from a newspaper report of a general meeting held at Holland City Hall on June 12, 1926. Holland resident Gerrit Diekema served as chair of the south branch. The newspaper article noted, "The board of directors was re-elected and an increased appropriation [from chapter funds] was made for the welfare work in the county. The financial condition was found to be most satisfactory and a successful year is in anticipation."

Allendale resident Nellie Lemmer, the Red Cross nurse, was commended for her good work. Lemmer, who seemed to be a one-person chapter in herself, also taught first aid to the Girl Scouts and home hygiene and home nursing to women in rural parts of the county. In addition, the local chapter and others in the state started offering lifesaving classes "in all lake resorts in Michigan."

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Dan O'Brien

*The Junior Red Cross in Holland helped the needy around the world during the 1920s, like these members did in Muncie, Indiana, in 1918*

Clearly, the chapter had found a purpose and a means of funding its multiple missions. The Junior Red Cross reached out across the world, too. In the mid-1920s, young people sent 110 Christmas boxes to children in foreign countries, delivered Thanksgiving baskets to the needy throughout the county, and filled 100 Christmas stockings for disabled veterans who were residents of a rest home in Little Rock, Arkansas. The Junior Red Cross mounted a pageant titled "The Gifts We Bring," funded dental work for one disadvantaged child, assisted in a fundraising effort for the Elizabeth Hatton Hospital in Grand Haven, and sent \$20 for the support of a child with leprosy in Seoul, Korea.

Also in 1926, the *Holland Sentinel* praised the dedication and accomplishments of two volunteer leaders: Eleanor McNett in Grand Haven and Katherine Van Duren in Holland. The article stated,

*Two old ladies, both over 70, who are executive secretaries . . . are the most active promoters of publicity for the Red Cross in the midwestern area of the national organization, according to officials of the midwestern branch headquarters, which are in St. Louis, MO.*

*. . . Untiring in their efforts to further the best type of service in their chapter, they have never failed to apprise the newspapers of what they are doing, and the result is that where other chapters elsewhere have inches of publicity, their local papers have half-columns and sometimes even [full] columns about the affairs of their chapter.*

*These two women began their Red Cross service during the war as volunteers. Seeing the needs that came after that war, they began devoting themselves entirely to the Red Cross, making home service work—or the work which the Red Cross does for ex-*

*service men and their families—the principal activity of the Red Cross chapter. . . . Both Mrs. Van Duren and Mrs. McNett come of pioneer Michigan families and both are native of their state. Before the war, each was active in philanthropic work in her community and both always were in the lead of anything that meant service to the unfortunate.*

The chapter responded quickly and positively to the 1927 floods in Mississippi. Nat Robbins, who continued to chair the Grand Haven branch, said, “Loyally, promptly, North Ottawa responded to the hour of need in the Mississippi flood disaster. Forty three boxes of clothing were received by the health officer in charge of shipments. The local office is about to send a similar shipment in response to a fresh call necessitated by the cold wave in the Mississippi Valley. The disabled veterans of [Ottawa County] are still in need of service. The time limit of the federal bonus [for WWI veterans] expires Jan. 1, 1928. In war or peace, the Red Cross serves humanity.”

Van Duren that year, 1928, was still executive secretary of the south branch, headquartered in Holland. After attending a state-wide Red Cross conference in Battle Creek, she reported that the main speaker at the conference reminded attendees of the importance to continue educating people about the Red Cross mission, its service, and its funding sources. “He came across one man,” she reported, “who thought the \$ went to Pres, Colledge [Coolidge], and he felt that he got enough.”

The next year, 1929, Robbins summarized the work of the local Red Cross: “Besides aid to veterans of the World War, gave clerical assistance to Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans, covering applications for pensions, increase of pensions, and general ensuing correspondence.” In addition to helping heirs of deceased veterans collect insurance and otherwise assisting surviving veterans and their families, the chapter began to produce maternity kits and layettes.

Lessons in lifesaving grew in importance. Demonstrations of lifesaving skills were held in Grand River and Potawatomi Bayou in Grand Haven. Nat Robbins noted, “When disaster came to our lake shore on Sept. 9th and Oct. 22 [1929] in the loss of *Andaste* and *Milwaukee*, both from our home port, the North Ottawa Co. Chapter R.C. stood prepared with its disaster committee promptly to help those stunned by the tragedy and in need.” He also referred to the continuing work of the Junior Red Cross, and mentioned the “financial depression” and the problems the economic collapse brought upon “disheartened veterans with little or no money.”

By 1930, the Ottawa County Red Cross had been chartered for 13 years, and many of its services were firmly in place: water safety instruction and lifesaving techniques, first aid courses, home hygiene, emergency relief, assistance to veterans and their families, and civilian family relief, which was defined as helping “distressed families solve their personal and health problems.”

In her report to the board of directors on chapter activities in the year 1929 to 1930, Katherine Van Duren said that she had been working with Spanish-American War and World War I veterans, helping them with insurance settlements, government allotments, pensions, health problems, and general relief. Those kinds of assistance continued through the 1930s. In reference to a specific case, Van Duren wrote, “Secured evidence for a case that was refused seven years ago, and Regional [Veterans Administration] office took it up and asked for a resume of the case, boy was called up for examination and taken to a hospital and the result was he received \$17.00 a month compensation.” The name of the “boy” was not cited.



*Eleanor Griffin McNett in her Red Cross uniform, ca. 1917*

Louitt District Library

Although \$17 a month wasn't a substantial amount, it did go much farther than it would today. For instance, chapter records in this time period state that bus fare to Grand Rapids was 90 cents, full meals were 35 cents, a night's lodging was 75 cents at the Bristol Hotel in Holland, a pair of shoes could be bought for \$3.49, and \$3.00 covered an overnight stay in the local hospital. No longer working as volunteers, McNett and Van Duren were each paid \$50 per month.

As membership declined, so did revenues. For one dollar, the donor became a member of the chapter. Higher levels of giving prompted different titles: contributing member, sustaining member, and supporting member. Fifty cents of each donated dollar were forwarded to Red Cross national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In 1930, the Ottawa County chapter participated in the first Community Chest drive held in Holland, along with four other organizations: City Mission, Boy Scouts and

Sea Scouts, Civic Health League, and Camp Fire Girls. Including administrative costs and a contingency fund, the total campaign goal was \$16,876.63, with \$1,400 of that designated for local Red Cross programs. The campaign exceeded its goal by almost \$5,000. William C. Vanden Berg, the first person to chair the Community Campaign Chest, soon was named chairman of the Red Cross board of directors.

Red Cross work included “. . . assistance to ex-service men, first aid in case of pestilence and disaster; the Red Cross expended approximately \$11,000 for drought relief alone in 1930.” The Community Chest increased its budget to \$25,300, of which \$800 was earmarked for the chapter. Later in the decade, the Red Cross temporarily withdrew from the Community Chest drive to conduct its own fundraising campaign.

Membership in the chapter varied considerably during the decade, ranging from a low of 2,071 in 1933 to a high of 4,315 in 1937. The prospect of another war prompted substantial increases in membership, which rose locally to 7,085 in 1941.

The dominant activity through the 1930s was assisting unemployed veterans, and there were many of them. One such case was Harry Jackson, who arrived at the Red Cross office in Holland and told officials that he was a veteran and needed transportation to the Grand Rapids Soldiers Home, along with a nourishing hot meal. Because he had no credentials to prove his veteran status, the chapter referred him to the Holland police. They fed him and gave him lodging in the jail overnight. Jackson walked to Grand Rapids the next day.

In another case, an ex-service man stopped at Van Duren’s home and told her that “. . . he had slept in a rooming house the nite before and had his shoes stolen. He had some one buy him new tennis shoes with his last 75 cents and they were to [sic] short. He wanted shoes and as we do not have any, sent him to Miss Churchford [at the Holland City Mission].”

Similarly, in December 1937, a veteran washed his shirt at a camp for transients and took a bath while it was drying. Someone stole the shirt, and the veteran was given 98 cents to buy a new one at Penney’s in downtown Holland.

The Economy Act, passed by Congress in March 1933, reduced or stopped entirely the monthly compensation many veterans had been receiving. Helping the veterans find work was another Red Cross responsibility. Van Duren wrote a letter to investigate “. . . the possibility of [veterans] obtaining work on the new Boulder Dam. Received an answer in a very short time that they could

not begin to place veterans who had applied. Had heard, in the mean time, from a young man who came there, that there was a bread line with 10,000 out of work.” Locally, a lucky veteran might find a job at a Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC] reforestation camp. One veteran, Arthur Schaap, who had been shot through the lungs and who been receiving \$15.00 a month, was cut to \$8.00 a month. Times were tough, indeed.

An excerpt from the Van Duren’s report of January 1934 reads:

Acting upon a communication from [the] Executive Secretary of the Red Cross in Grand Rapids, regarding [a veteran], an investigation was conducted and we found that this man is a world war veteran. He has a crippled left arm and is not able to do manual labor. His disability is due to war service. After the cut [in pensions] in March 1933 he was reduced to \$23.25. Out of this he pays \$10 rent and has only \$13.25 with which to purchase food, clothing, fuel, coal for a family of five. He came into this office and he was almost frantic because of the way his children were compelled to go to school. They had scarcely no clothing at all. The boy had no under wear at all. We had taken this matter up with the welfare and they promised that they would see to their wants. Some coal was ordered immediately and they said that they would see about clothing also. As our Soldiers relief fund for the county is depleted there was no way to obtain aid except through the County Welfare Commission.

It was not only veterans who looked to the Red Cross for help. In May 1931 the Executive Secretary reported:

As I came to work one morning noticed a old battered up Ford parked out in front of the Building [presumably Holland City Hall, where the Red Cross office was located]. This was packed full of all kinds of junk also an expectant mother and 13 month old baby and the father. They followed me into the office, and said that the[y] arrived the nite before and [b]een given lodging and breakfast by the [American] Legion. They had only four pennies left and no gas so could not bu[y] milk for the baby or get out of town. When asked why they were so far away from home they said that they had been looking for work and asked if we could not find them something. As it is not our policy to hand out cash called A. [Arthur] Van Duren [her husband] and told him the circumstances. He advised the Sec’y to give them a couple dollars so they could move on. Gave them a check for \$2.

While investigating the home environment of Mart Besteman, also a veteran, the case worker found his wife in very poor health with rectal cancer. The worker wrote:

The [family] is very much in need of clothing and fuel. Mr. Besteman has heart trouble so he is not able to do anything but very light work. Due to the drought last summer their crop was poor. There is a fourteen year old boy in school. Two girls sixteen and eighteen do the house work, take care of their mother and do most of the chores. Two years ago they lost their oldest girl who was their main support. . . . They are getting no income from their cows and not enough for their bare necessities from their chickens. Have been without meat all summer, have not received assistance and are too proud to ask for assistance. They were given some Red Cross clothing, a blanket and some government meat. They are very much in need to sheets and pillow cases.

It was a continuing balancing act between compassion and fiscal reality. Both executive secretaries kept detailed records of services rendered and their costs. An unnamed volunteer noted that it was an “inspiration” to watch Katherine Van Duren work and a sure cure for discouragement or self-pity.

A May 1931 report from the vice chairman of the Grand Haven branch explained some of the current concerns. The staff had “. . . one work room in which all surgical dressings are made, viz.: the library auditorium. In this room there are nine tables averaging fourteen feet in length. . . . Quotas have always been turned out in record time. . . . I think our quota might be figured on a basis of one hundred workers giving six hours per week each.” Most of the cutting and sewing had to do with Christmas kits, which were put together each year and sent to servicemen around the world. In 1938, one hundred such kits were distributed, each containing articles such as playing cards, combs, toothbrushes. Seventy kits were sent from the Holland branch, thirty from the Grand Haven branch.

The two branches also worked with Traveler’s Aid in this difficult decade, sometimes helping parents expedite the return of runaway children, providing transportation for the disabled, or assisting stranded travelers. In January 1937, working with the American Legion, the chapter raised funds for flood victims, especially those in hard-hit southern Indiana.

Junior Red Cross members from both branches carried out similar work. In one year in the mid-1930s, the Grand Haven unit, under the leadership of Elizabeth

Francis, had accumulated \$12.20 in membership dues, had produced 50 Christmas boxes for foreign children, distributed 21 Thanksgiving cartons for the poor, spent \$8.00 to purchase eyeglasses for needy children, and donated canned goods to Grand Haven’s Hatton Hospital. The Holland Junior Red Cross, led by Beth Marcus, made similar efforts. Marcus later became executive director of the chapter.



*Beth Marcus, 1942*

In the mid-1930s, chapter leadership changed. In Grand Haven, Eleanor McNett retired, and Henrietta Katz took her place. In the south branch, Katherine Van Duren turned over her responsibilities to Mabel Vanden Berg. Each of the two new executive secretaries were paid \$50 a month, the same rate as their predecessors.

With the continuing support of residents throughout the area, the Ottawa County Red Cross was able to survive the depression years. Toward the end of the decade, the war in Europe was beginning to affect life in the United States, and the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent historic events would impact lives and the Red Cross even more.

#### **About the Author**

*Wallace K. “Wally” Ewing has dedicated more than 20 years to researching and writing about the history of West Michigan, particularly the area between Holland and Muskegon and east to Coopersville and Grand Rapids. The result of his research includes 18 books, 21 PowerPoint presentations, several articles in Michigan History, among other periodicals, and a bi-weekly column in the Grand Haven Tribune that focuses on local history. Wally received his bachelor and master degrees from Michigan State University and his doctorate from the University of Illinois. He was appointed to a Fulbright Lectureship at the University of Tehran in Iran, and he trained Peace Corps volunteers in Sierra Leone, West Africa. After training master degree candidates from the University of Illinois to teach English in the Puerto Rican public schools, Wally assumed the position of faculty member in the English Department at the University. Subsequently, he was named Dean and Provost of Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire. He returned to Grand Haven and in 1994 joined the Board of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. He was appointed Curator of Education at the museum, and thereafter devoted himself to research and writing. The museum has twice honored Wally as historian of the year. In 2006-2007 he taught English at Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian, China.*



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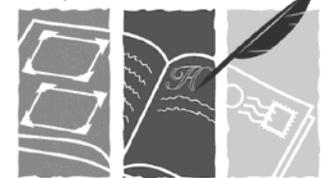
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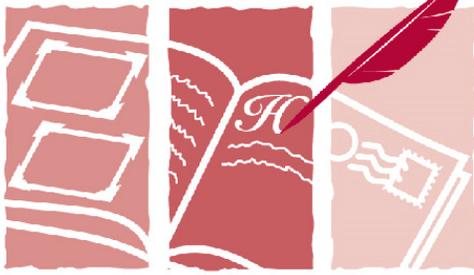
The Joint Archives of Holland



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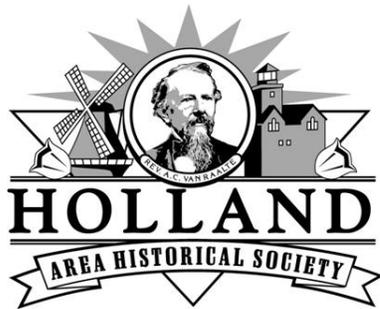
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Holland Museum Archives

*Holland division of the Red Cross members rolled bandages and folded linens for the war effort, 1918*



## Holland Area Historical Society 2017-2018

The Holland Area Historical Society focuses on the history and heritage of the Holland area. Its programs are designed to inform the membership through a series of quality presentations, tours, and other events focusing on the area's past. Programs are held on the second Tuesday of the month (except where noted), eight times per year. If you are not a member, we encourage you to join our group and participate in an exciting year of programs!

### **Hidden Treasures: The Many Collections at the Holland Museum**

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

The Holland Museum displays many wonderful artifacts for visitors to enjoy, and many more are kept in a state-of-the-art collections storage area. Museum Collections Manager Rick Jenkins will show and tell us more about what historically significant objects and images the museum staff has collected and kept safe but out of site in the last 80 years.

### **Sweet Success:**

#### **History of Holland Peanut Store**

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

Known far and wide for their Nutty Paddle Pops, handmade chocolates, and eclectic candy selection, customers from around the world have visited the Holland Peanut Store for decades. Come hear members of the Fabiano family tell the history of this landmark Holland business and their secret to success selling sweets.

### **Almost Home:**

#### **The Phoenix Disaster of 1847**

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

The steamship Phoenix was lost on Lake Michigan on November 21, 1847, with a loss of nearly 250 Dutch immigrants, many of them related to local Hollanders. Join author, historian, and shipwreck hunter Craig Rich as he presents a multimedia history of this local Great Lakes tragedy. **PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL DATE.**

### **150 Years of Grace: Grace Episcopal Church and Christmas Dessert**

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.  
Grace Episcopal Church  
555 Michigan Ave., Holland

Come hear church member and historian Paul Trap talk about this important local church and its part in our community's long history of worship. **PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME AND LOCATION.**



### **70 Years of Growing:**

#### **History of Walters Gardens, Inc.**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

Walters Gardens, Inc. is North America's leading wholesale grower of perennials. For over 70 years, the company has built its reputation by offering a wide of over 1,000 new and classic perennials of the finest quality to independent growers. Chief Operating Officer Troy Shumaker will show us a wonderful video about the company's history and answer questions you may have.

**Answering the Call: Company K Sharpshooters in the Civil War**

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

Company K of the First Michigan Sharpshooters regiment was composed primarily of Native Americans of the United States, especially members of the Ojibwa, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. Communications professor and filmmaker David Schock will illustrate through images and historical accounts the history of this famous Civil War fighting group.

**All Aboard!**

**Early Railroads of Holland**

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

Area railroad lines helped to settle immigrants and connect the small Dutch community to the world. Join railroad historian Bob VandeVusse as he explores the history of 19th century Holland area railroads through images and historical research.

**Wheels Keep Turning:**

**History of Elhart Auto Group**

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.  
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College  
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

The Elhart Auto Group has been a family-owned and operated car company in Holland since 1965. Come hear members of the Elhart family tell the story of building a successful company in West Michigan.

**Cancellation Policy:**

*Meetings are subject to cancellation due to weather and other unforeseeable circumstances. If Holland Public Schools cancels school due to bad weather, the Holland Area Historical Society will also cancel programs for that evening.*

| <b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>     | <b>TERM EXPIRES</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lois Jesiek Kayes, President  | 2018                |
| Brenda E. Bos, Vice-President | 2018                |
| Bill Van Dyke, Treasurer      | 2019                |
| John Hoogstra, Secretary      | 2019                |
| Harold Gazan                  | 2017                |
| Kristi Jo Knoll               | 2017                |
| Geoffrey Reynolds, Director   | ex-officio          |

**HAHS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

The major goal of the Society is to bring together persons with an interest in history and at the same time promote awareness in the general public of the cultural heritage of the Holland area. In accordance with this goal, the Historical Society sponsors, on a regular basis, a variety of lectures, field trips and other historical activities. Monies collected through membership fees and fundraising activities go towards financing the activities of the Society. For more details about the meetings or membership, contact Geoffrey Reynolds at the Joint Archives of Holland (616-395-7798).

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**Individual:** \$15 per year - entitles you to vote, hold office and participate in all activities sponsored by the Society.

**Family:** \$20 per year - covers all members of family; benefits same as Individual with one vote per family.

**Sustaining:** \$30 per year - this category is for individuals who would like to provide greater financial support for the Society.

**Life:** \$300 - enables you to enjoy regular membership benefits on a continuous basis.

**Student:** \$5 per year - benefits same as Individual.

**Senior Citizen (55 years and older):** \$10 per year - benefits same as Individual.

**Non-Profit Institutional:** \$15 per year.

**Corporate:** \$50 per year.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to HAHS and mail to:*

Holland Area Historical Society  
c/o The Joint Archives of Holland  
Hope College  
PO Box 9000  
Holland, MI 49422-9000