

1:00 – 1:45 PM

### Under the Dome: An Early History of Women in a Man's World, the Michigan State Capitol

Kerry K. Chartkoff

Grand Rapids' Eva McCall Hamilton made history in November 1920 when she won a state senate seat, making her the first woman ever elected to the Michigan legislature. But Hamilton was not the first woman to work under the dome. Chartkoff will place Hamilton's legislative experience into a continuum of women—from the humble to the notable—who worked for a living, lobbied for change, made laws, and, finally, led the state from the Capitol.

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



2:00 – 2:45 PM

### Inside a 1950s Black Barbershop: An African American Cultural Oasis

Dan Groce

What goes on in a black barbershop besides shaving mustaches and cutting hair? How important is a barbershop to a black community?

Where did black men learn this trade? Learn about an early black barbershop in Grand Rapids from the son of Mr. Daniel S. Groce, who owned and operated his barbershop on Grandville Ave. from 1951–1972. Daniel Groce, Jr. shares what he remembers from listening, working, and growing up in his father's barbershop in the 1950s.

*Sponsored by the Kutche Office of Local History.*



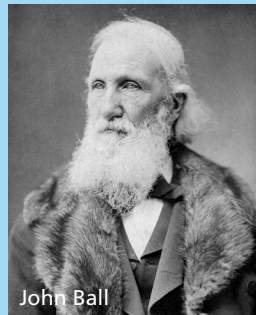
3:00 – 3:45 PM

### Powers & Ball: The Family, Furniture and Factories

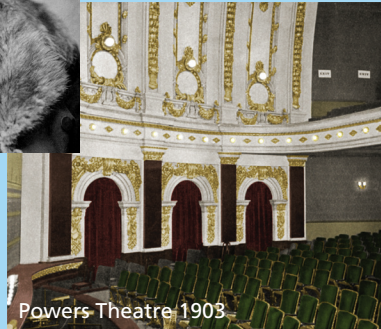
Jim Winslow

This presentation will follow John Ball and his extended family from the White Mountains of New Hampshire through family tragedy in Lansingburgh, New York to the Village of Grand Rapids. Learn what knowledge they brought with them that benefited the family's business ventures, which included Powers & Ball Furniture, West Side Power Canal, E.K. Powers Confectionery, Grand Rapids Paper Box Company, Grand Rapids Electric Light & Power Company, Powers Opera House, and the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Museum.*



John Ball



Powers Theatre 1903

### Parking

Limited parking is available in the library lot. Parking is free in the library lot with a validated parking lot ticket. Additional parking will be available at the GRCC Bostwick and Lyon student parking ramp. Guest parking vouchers will be available from volunteers on the day of the event.

# 2013 HISTORY DETECTIVES:

## Sleuthing for Local History

Saturday, January 19 • 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



MAIN LIBRARY • 111 LIBRARY STREET NE  
WWW.GRPL.ORG • 616.988.5400

9:30 – 10:15 AM

## Michigan's Great Time Confusion

Dave Smith

Who read and interpreted the sundial for Grand Rapids in the 1880s? Did Michigan once have 27 time zones? How many different times were observed in Detroit? In 1883, the railroads operated by over 50 different time standards; how many different times were used at the railroad depots in Grand Rapids? (Hint: Pittsburgh had six.) Did the confusion end when the U.S. Congress passed the Standard Time Act of 1918? We will explore these questions and more. Come prepared to go back in time, to imagine life without clocks, to appreciate a different pace of life, and to recognize the forces that pushed our communities to a new national identity.

*Sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society and the Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable.*



South Knob from East Meadow

John Ball Park



Pavillion from North Pond

10:30 – 11:15 AM

## How Did Michigan Become the "Tourist Empire of the Inland Seas?"

Christine Byron and Tom Wilson

At the turn of the 20th century, long before the "Pure Michigan" campaign, the state was just starting to become a prominent tourist destination. The various steamship and railroad lines, hotels and resorts promoted the areas that they served. But until 1917, when the West Michigan Tourist Association was formed, there was no organized body promoting the entire West Michigan region. At the time there was little cooperation between nearby communities and few resources for hotel and resort operators. Under the direction of Hugh Gray, the West Michigan Tourist Association took on the role of promoting and advertising the charms and scenic beauty of the 31 western counties of Michigan's lower peninsula. Under Gray's guidance and untiring enthusiasm, the tourist industry of West Michigan grew bit by bit, then by leaps and bounds, becoming the second largest industry in the state.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Society and the Grand Rapids Public Library.*



11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

## Saving John Ball Park's Historic Legacy

Jack Hoffman

Grand Rapids' historic John Ball Park was originally designed according to principles now called urban American "country park." This program will illustrate how early theories of landscape design, developed first in England and continental Europe, were applied in the United States, specifically to John Ball Park. The park's historical status as a designed landscape became an important factor in the recent past when the John Ball Zoo Master Plan called for the park's demolition. A fight between 2002 and 2004 to preserve the park was successfully resolved when the zoo board adopted development principles based on the strengths of historical landscape design.

*Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission.*

12:15 – 1:00 PM

## Lunch – Reserve ahead of time!

Boxed lunches are \$7.00 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 15 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. Although lunches must be reserved in advance, cash payment must be made when the lunch is picked up on January 19. Attendees may choose to bring their own lunch as well. Pop will be available for an additional \$1.00. Please note the library cafe is not open on Saturdays.

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