

BCD UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

“An American Bookseller in London: The Future of Bookshops on Two Continents”

Gene Alloway of Motte & Bailey Booksellers in Ann Arbor will discuss bookshops and their future. Alloway recently spent a week in London visiting bookshops and attending a day long workshop among the trade discussing the future of Foyles bookshop. He will share his impressions of the workshop and his views on the future of bookshops new, used, and rare. Alloway will bring several fine items for viewing.



Gene Alloway at his book filled workspace and shop in Ann Arbor.

With degrees in classical history and librarianship, Alloway was a University of Michigan librarian before opening Motte & Bailey in 1996. He brings a wealth of insights on book collecting and selling. Alloway has an avid interest in the history of libraries and is a specialist in books about books. With in-store and web book selling experiences, Alloway’s observation and prediction about the bookshop will likely educate and entertain. In addition to the Alloway talk, BCD members will have an opportunity to socialize before and during dinner.

Kiernan’s Steak House, 21931 W. Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48124

Friday-Saturday, March 28-29

56th Annual Local History Conference

BCD will participate at Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference. This annual event brings historians, genealogists, librarians, education specialists, writers, and historical society volunteers to celebrate and advance Michigan’s rich history.

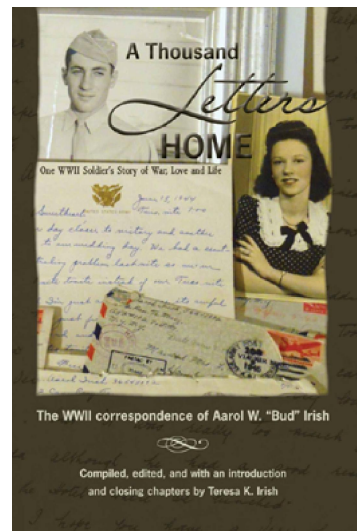
Breakout topics include preserving Detroit music history, Great Female Artists of Detroit (by BCD’s own Suzanne Bilek), Hank Greenberg’s sometimes testy relationship with Detroit, endangered buildings of Detroit, and more.

BCD member Bilek in addition to speaking at the conference will have brochures to educate attendees about BCD and share membership information. Visit [Historical Society of Michigan](#) for further details and to register for the conference.

Tuesday, May 6

“A Thousand Letters Home”

BCD is proud to sponsor Teresa K. Irish, author of *A Thousand Letters Home.* Featuring WWII letters on war, love, and life, Irish’s book accounts her experiences and insights as she discovered and explored her father’s personal mementos, including nearly 1000 letters he wrote to his family between 1942-1945 while a young soldier.



Book cover compiled and written by local Michigan author Teresa K. Irish.

Irish’s presentation is a tribute to our history, our freedoms, family values, and a call to individual citizenship in today’s world. She has been a featured speaker on ABC News, National Public Radio, The National Defense, Veterans Radio, and Military Author Radio. Visit [A Thousand Letters Home](#) for further details about the author. Dinner 6:30 p.m. with talk at 7:15 p.m. Traffic Jam, & Snug 511 Canfield, Detroit.

Do You Know the Ways Winter Shaped Michigan?

By Beverly Ostrowiecki

Wintry weather in Michigan today may cause you to fret about driving, go skiing while the snow lasts, or stay indoors and browse your library and books. Though, wintry weather in Michigan past not only formed our peninsular land mass through glacial movements but shaped Michigan's entry to statehood and its industries.

It was *Michigan, A History of the Wolverine State* by Willis F. Dunbar that showed me the ways winter established Michigan and its lumber and salt industries. The Dunbar book, though not necessarily rare, is certainly influential as a standard text for college and university courses on Michigan history and entertains with its numerous sketches.



Sketch by Reynold Weidenaar of Michigan Governor Mason in Dunbar's *Michigan, A History of the Wolverine State*. Mason did not stop the frost-bitten convention and accepted its outcome.

The "Frost-bitten Convention"

It was 1836. Michigianians have already stopped their armed aggression over the Toledo strip and favored to continue the border debate after statehood was granted. The feds proposed a politically driven compromise to Michigan entry to statehood: give up the Toledo strip and append the territory of the upper peninsula to the State of Michigan. According to Dunbar, "Sentiment against the proposed compromise was almost universal at first." Editor of the *Detroit Free Press* wrote that the northern area was, "a region of perpetual snows—the

ultima Thule of our national domain of the north." In September, newly elected Michigan territory officials met in Ann Arbor, convened for four days, and decided to reject the proposal.

Second thoughts emerged immediately. Gains of lucrative federal Democratic political appointments, increases to state coffers by 5% of the proceeds from sale of Michigan public lands, and \$400,000 distribution from the surplus of the US Treasury suddenly made the offer more appealing. Wayne county democrats took liberty and decided to have a second "convention of assent" in December. Viewed by many as an illegal, the convention had "irregular" delegate representation according to Dunbar. The appointed day in December was bitterly cold leading to this second convention to be dubbed the "Frost-bitten Convention." Delegates voted overwhelmingly to accept the compromise. Documents were quickly drafted and sent to President Jackson. Senate debate over propriety of the Frost-bitten Convention lasted several days while the house debated it briefly. Michigan was granted statehood on January 26, 1837.



Frost-bitten Convention historical marker, near Main and Huron streets, Ann Arbor, MI. Photo source: Dwight Burdette

Early Lumber Industry Relies on Snow

Right about the time Michigan became a state, local settlers, prairie homesteaders up scaling from sod houses, and growing cities placed an ever-increasing demand for wood. By 1840, lumber expertise from Maine, Canada, and elsewhere poured into Michigan with its vast stands of softwoods, especially pine, that grew north of the 43rd latitude. Now trees are critical to a lumber industry, but it was also the complex network of rivers, and yes, winter weather. Logging camps initially operated only in the winter because lumberjacks relied on snow to transport the large, heavy, cut logs economically to waterways. Loggers pre-1876 in Michigan used a bobsled, based on a design from state of Maine, on which lumberjacks stacked logs and then slid the bobsled on snow covered ground to the river. The bobsled expanded the lumberjack's range away from the river and provided access to seemingly unlimited tree stands deeper in a forest.



Logging bobsleds moved heavy cut logs over snow to a river landing.

Source: McMillan Library, Of Sleds and Sleighs, Wisconsin Logging Book 1839-1939.

Wintry weather also enable another early logging method: sprinkler sleds. Horse drawn sleds sprinkled water to make ice roads to facilitate the hauling of logs. When rivers melted, lumber rivermen maneuvered the log stacks, broke free the key log, and tumbled logs into the spring flooded rivers to be floated downstream to the saw-mills.

Sprinkler sleds helped make ice roads to transport logs.

Source: Glimpses of Early Dickinson County, by William J. Cummings, March 2004.



Railway Helps Lumbermen Elude Winter's Grasp

It wasn't until 1876 when railway technology transformed the lumber industry and broke reliance on cutting only in the winter. According to Dunbar, Winfield Scott Gerrish visited the Centennial 1876 Exhibition in Philadelphia and saw an exhibit on a small Baldwin locomotive. He returned to Michigan and organized the Lake George and Muskegon Railroad. Mocked by lumbermen, Gerrish started operations and proved the new technology successful. It enabled even more isolated forests to be harvested economically and year round cutting. Freed from winter, Michigan's lumber industry thrived and peaked its production in 1888 when 4,292,000,000 board feet were sawed.



Early narrow locomotive used in Michigan logging. Source: Glimpses of Early Dickinson County, by William J. Cummings, March 2004.

Lumber Morphs into Salt Industry

Around 1850-1860 Michigan residents faced several challenges: access to salt and labor shortages due to the Civil War, which pushed lumbermen to explore new businesses. Salt came to Michigan from the east on railroads. This made salt prices high and access somewhat dependent on rail lines. A bill was introduced by Senator James Birney of Saginaw to pay a bounty of 10¢ a barrel for the production of salt. According to Dunbar, the proposal faced “substantial ridicule” because no one believed salt could be produced in Michigan. In jest, those ridiculers proposed to make it 10¢ a bushel—and it passed in that form.

Henry H. Crapo, a lumberman in Flint, shrewdly provided seasoned wood for the construction of salt vats in Saginaw while a company of investors drilled the mine and set up operations to evaporate salt brine. The fuel, of course, to evaporate the salt was cordwood. First year production yielded 10,772 barrels of salt of five bushels each. Second year production tripled and the state quickly repealed its bounty, which pushed the nascent salt industry to be unprofitable. When the salt vat operations, however, switched to burning scrap wood from the sawmills, the salt business model worked and profits crystallized. Lumber sawmills then entered the salt business using the exhaust steam from the sawmills to evaporate the brine. By 1880 Michigan produced 2,500,000 barrels of salt and supplied half of our nation's salt needs.

When the lumber industry started to diminish, the manufacture of salt became even more important. Salt production continued to evolve in Michigan by tapping the deep vein of rock salt below Detroit. At first, a “fracking” method was used by driving water into the vein, removing brine, and evaporating salt until a deep shaft was sunk to mine the salt. One salt development led to another and numerous by products from salt emerged including bromine.

Sawmills everywhere in Michigan made salt wells, evaporated brine and sold salt products. Sawmills in Midland, Michigan were especially productive and by 1888, Midland had become the largest bromine producer in the world. According to Dunbar, this attracted Herbert H. Dow, a native from Ohio and chemist, to Midland. Dow organized the Dow Chemical Company, a company that leveraged the lumber industry that was built on snow.

Does Winter Continue to Influence Michigan Industry? A Resounding YES!

In 1995, Weather Underground formed in Ann Arbor and became the world’s first commercial weather website. Early products at Wunderground.com were daily forecasts and hourly conditions, something we take for granted today, and the first zipcode search for weather. Its name is a reference to the 1960’s radical group, which also had Ann Arbor roots. Over the years Weather Underground grew to 57 employees and a leader in innovative weather display. It was purchased by The Weather Channel in 2012 and continues to innovate with 23,000 personal weather stations in the USA and another 13,000 worldwide to give users the most accurate local weather, a tornado tracker, crowd sourced weather photos, plus more.

Michigan winters contribute to the \$18 billion tourism coffers with ice fishing, snowmobiling, and skiing. This year will surely be a boom year!

Moose! Moose, native to Michigan, require wintry, cold, arctic weather. Only a few states have the wintry weather to support moose—and the Michigan Upper Peninsula—ultima Thule—qualifies. To repopulate Michigan herds, the Michigan DNR moved in 1980 59 moose from Canada to Michigan. By 2009 there were 420 animals—lower than expected but an increase nonetheless. In 2010, the Michigan legislature established a seven-member Moose Hunting Advisory Council to

explore a moose hunting season in Michigan. Currently, the state is monitoring the biological progress of the moose herds and holding public meetings. A moose hunting season is yet to be declared, but moose surely add a majestic dimension to our tourism industry.

And with a quieter yes, several Michigan companies continue to operate brine processing plants in Michigan. According to a State of Michigan publication, the status of salt had decreased from earlier times—I was unable to find production numbers. Our state’s salt bearing rocks, which span from the Keweenaw Peninsula to Detroit, remain as bedrock and a tribute to our state’s early days.



Michigan Coat of Arms with elk and moose (right). Nurturing moose in Michigan substantiates having that majestic moose on our state seals! Source: Wikipedia, seal of Michigan, seal designed by Lewis Cass.

Further Winter Economy Reading:

Michigan, A History of the Wolverine State, Willis F. Dunbar

[Mitten History](#)

The Wisconsin Logging Book 1839-1939, by Malcolm Rosholt, Rosholt House, 1980

[Dickinson County Library, Iron Mountain, MI, Local History and Genealogy](#), see local history PowerPoint presentations for the Glimpses of Early Dickenson County presentation and more

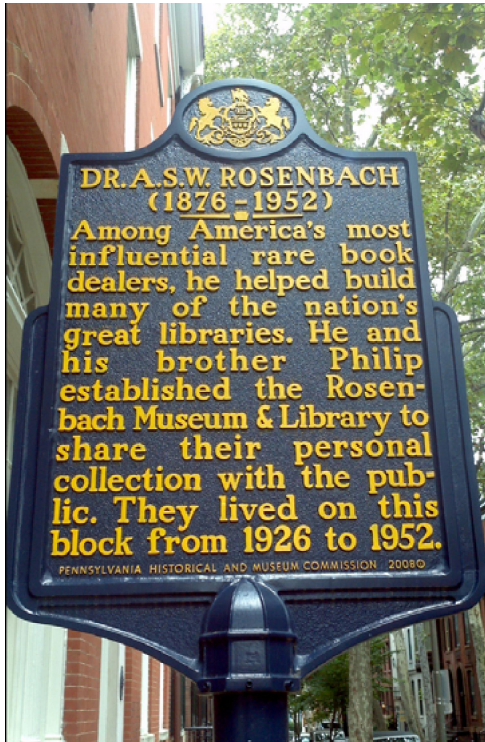
Michigan DNR, [Moose in Michigan](#)

Visit Wunderground.com

Rosenbach Continued from page 3

From the Rosenbach Museum & Library web site:

“The Rosenbach Museum & Library was founded in 1954 through a testamentary gift by Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach (1876-1952) and his brother, Philip (1863-1953). Renowned dealers in books, manuscripts, and fine art, the brothers played a central role in the development of private libraries that later became our nation’s most important public collections of rare books, such as the Folger and Huntington Libraries. The brothers’ own personal collection, now the core of the Rosenbach, features treasures the brothers were unable to part with, including the only surviving copy of Benjamin Franklin’s first Poor Richard Almanac and the manuscript of James Joyce’s Ulysses. The collection has since grown to include the papers of poet Marianne Moore, Bram Stoker’s notes for Dracula, and the drawings of Maurice Sendak, adding richness and relevance to the experience of visiting the Rosenbach.”



In 1993, an adjacent townhouse was acquired to provide additional space for the museum’s expanding collections. Both buildings date from 1865. Source: Tom Ipro

EVENTS, EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS

Detroit Public Library

[2014 Hackley After Dark Lecture Series](#)

Wednesday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.

Jimi Hendrix: Purple Haze

Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.

James Brown: Soul Brother Number 1

[59th Annual Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show](#)

Sunday, April 12, 2014

Lansing Center, East Lansing

9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Printers Row Lit Fest Chicago](#)

Saturday-Sunday, June 7-8

Syracuse University Libraries

[Rare Skills for Rare Books: Book Conservation Education](#), Free online lecture by Chela Metzger, book conservator at University of Texas.

[Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America \(ABAA\)](#)

Thursday-Sunday, April 3-6

54th Annual New York Book Fair

Friday-Sunday, November 14-16

38th Annual Boston Fair

[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#)

May 30- August 8

“Fire Burne and Cauldron Bubble: Witchcraft at the Dawn of Modernity

[International League of Antiquarian Booksellers Book Fairs](#)

London, March 22, Children’s Illustrations & Modern First Editions

Paris, April 11-13

Spain, May 15-17

[Rare Book School at University of Virginia](#)

Summer Course Schedule Available

[Library of Congress National Book Festival](#)

Saturday, August 30

[University of Michigan](#)

Hatcher Graduate Library

March 14. 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Beautiful Books, Subversive Ideas

Shapiro Undergraduate Library, 3rd Floor

Science Covers,

Wednesday, April 2 4:00-6:00

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Annual dues: \$35 individual, \$50 couple/family, \$100 sustaining. Lifetime: \$350 individual or \$500 couple/family. Send check payable to The Book Club of Detroit to:

The Book Club of Detroit
c/o Scarab Club
217 Farnsworth
Detroit, MI 48202

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Benjamin R. Donaldson, 1959
Franklin G. Laucomer, 1958

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