ON THE COVER: Election giveaways have been around since George Washington’s campaign gave away copper clothing buttons in 1789. To see more about the items on the cover, as well as other artifacts from the Museum’s collection, visit page 12 and 13 of this issue.

Look for the icon at right throughout the magazine. It indicates objects you can view in the special Museography display case, located next to the reception desk on the main floor of the Museum, or in other exhibit areas throughout the KVM.

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This magazine is composed of recycled products and is recyclable.
I have some good news and some bad news. First, the bad news: we got it wrong. We misidentified a photograph on page 13 in the spring issue of Museography. Take another look at Fig. 5—Oakwood Parade, 1943: “The residents of Oakwood watch a neighborhood parade near the corner of Oakwood Drive and Parkview.”

Now the good news: 12 readers of that issue took time to point out that this neighborhood parade really took place several miles south—in Vicksburg.

Thank you all for warming the hearts of everyone connected with Museography because you showed us that you read closely and that you want us to get it right.

For the record, here’s why we concluded that the photograph (shown again below) was located at Oakland and Parkview in Kalamazoo’s Oakwood neighborhood.

The photo from our Kalamazoo collection is identified only by the words “Parade, Kalamazoo.” Using two clues in the picture, Beatties Food Center and Theisen on the horse-drawn tank wagon, we turned to the city directories for the 1930s and 1940s. There we learned that J.J. Theisen was president of the Diamond Oil Co., and later the vice president at the L.V. White Area. In each, we look closely at three themes: economic development and re-play the hand. The trays were rapidly adopted for use in tournaments across the country and numerous references can be found about them in stories about whist tournaments in the “society” pages of national newspapers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Perhaps it shouldn’t be so surprising that Kalamazoo contributed to the popularity of card games. There were two prominent manufacturers of playing cards in Kalamazoo at the start of the 20th century—the Kalamazoo Handle Manufacturing Company, established in the mid-1870s by Calvin Forbes. While the factory housed a profitable business making baseball bats and handles for hammers, axes, picks and other tools, it struck gold when it began manufacturing croquet mallets and balls.

The game experienced a burst of popularity in the 1870s and Forbes was unable to keep up with demand. He shipped at least one railroad carload to buyers across the country every day. In 1876, Hale Page bought the firm that became known as Page Manufacturing. When croquet’s popularity declined, the company struggled to find a new niche. It succeeded in 1894, when it was re-organized as the Kalamazoo Sled Company. For the next 70 years, it was one of America’s major manufacturers of sleds.

Similarly, the Kalamazoo firm of Ihling Brothers & Everard won an award at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago for its development of a tray for Duplicate Whist. Whist was a popular 19th-century card game that was a predecessor of modern bridge. The tray, also known as a board, made it easier to arrange the dealt cards identically so that the teams could switch positions and re-play the hand. The trays were rapidly adopted for use in tournaments across the country and numerous references can be found about them in stories about whist tournaments in the “society” pages of national newspapers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Even history detectives get it wrong, sometimes. There was yet another Beatties Food Center—this one located in Vicksburg. Theisen’s oil wagon also had four wheels and a good home to get it to Vicksburg, and there were at least three eyewitnesses among the readers who contacted us. Robert Springer, now 95 years old, worked at Beatties Food Center in Vicksburg. In fact, it was his first real job, and that was, he assured us, his workplace in the photograph.

Then there is Clara Briggs Bolhuis who wrote: “In 1943 I was 4 years old and lived in Vicksburg. It looks like my brother and me sitting on the curb.”

Finally, J.R. Fulton identified the parade itself. “This parade,” he wrote, “was probably at one of the Gay Nineties or Frontier Days celebrations held in Vicksburg between 1947 and 1951.” He also told us the photograph’s location—“the picture was taken at the corner of East Prairie and Kalamazoo Avenue.”

Why is this really good news for those of us here at the Museum? We love to be corrected because it means that we and our readers are making local history together. Thank you again, Robert Springer, Clara Bolhuis, J.R. Fulton, and the other folks who e-mailed and called us.

In his famous essay, “Everyman, His Own Historian,” Carl Becker defined history as “the memory of things said and done.” Things said or done are the actual events, words, and objects of the past, the facts of history: where this parade really took place. Memory is our understanding of what those facts mean, our historical interpretation. Your memory in this case was better than ours.

Keep it up, please.

In the next two years, we will be updating the second-floor history gallery, moving its furniture (cases) around, adding new furniture (exhibits), updating our computer interactives, and looking again at the story of the Kalamazoo area. Our working title for the new exhibition is “Making History.”

We will explore the relationship of our place and our people through three eras: The Village, The City, and The Metropolitan Area. In each, we look closely at three themes: economic development—how we made a living; education—how we cared for the future; and philanthropy—how we built a community. Tower Pinkster, the architects who helped us build the Kalamazoo Valley Museum 12 years ago, will assist in the process. We will update you as we go.

A final thanks to Pat Henry of the Oakwood Neighborhood Association, for the rest of the story. Below is another photograph showing the Beatties enterprise that really did stand “near the corner of Oakland Drive and Parkview Avenue.”
The toys of our childhood—some of which are still going strong—will turn the third floor of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum into a mecca for memories and mirth when the next nationally touring exhibition arrives.

Created by The Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass., the exhibition, which will be in downtown Kalamazoo through Jan. 4, is based on a book of the same name by David Hoffman.

Showcased in 10 categories that reflect familiar childhood expressions and offer ample playful encounters with classic toys of the last half century, “Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood” will spark a bit of nostalgia and flashbacks to the way things were when it opens on Oct. 4.

For example, Erector sets, Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys are clustered under “Look What I Made,” while “Go Outside and Play” features balsa airplanes, Frisbees, Hot Wheels, a Radio Flyer wagon and Tonka toys.

Under the umbrella of “Don’t Make a Mess” are an ant farm, Crayola crayons, Magic Rocks, an Easy-Bake Oven, and that bastion of flexible creativity, Play-Doh.

Hoffman said, “Meanwhile Barbie will be 50 in 2009. Mr. Potato Head is nearing 50, and View-Master is nearly Social Security age.”

“Many of the toys are the result of an engineering or scientific endeavor gone awry,” said Sharon Blume, the Berkshire director. “Others were created by economic necessity and some were simply made for the fun of it. The stories behind the toys are part of the exhibition.”

Three of the best-known toys of the Baby Boom generation are the Barbie doll, G. I. Joe, and Etch-A-Sketch. Many of that generation’s toys are still in production today including (on opposite page, counterclockwise from top right) the Easy Bake Oven; Whee-Lo “the magnetic walking wheel,” an Erector set made into a merry-go-round, Twister, the floor game; and Mr. Potato Head.

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Great Lakes Native Quilting

Great Lakes native quilts and the artists who create them are featured in the exhibition *Great Lakes Native Quilting*, organized by the Michigan State University Museum and showing at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Sept. 20 through Jan. 25. It is the first exhibition devoted to North American Indian quilting in the Great Lakes region.

Of the various North American Indian art forms that resulted from contact with Euro-Americans, quiltmaking is perhaps the least well known. Quiltmaking in native communities was first learned through contact with primarily Euro-Americans who possessed commercially manufactured cloth and steel needles. Traders, missionaries, government agents and settlers all played roles in introducing quilting fabrics and techniques. It is not surprising that native peoples became adept at quilting and began to use quilts for purposes unique to their own cultures. They had already mastered similar craft forms such as fabricating tapa cloth (made from pounded bark) and hide garments, and embellishing these garments and other objects by embroidering with porcupine quills and moose hair.

Quilts have been used in nearly every native community for everyday purposes such as bed coverings, shelter coverings, infants’ swing cradles, weather insulation, and providing a soft place to sit on the ground. In some communities quilts also play important roles in tribal ceremonies, the honoring of individuals, and other activities.

This exhibition examines the historical introduction of quilting as well as the contemporary use and meaning of quilts made by Oneida, Odawa, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, Mohawk, Cree, Winnebago and Menominee quilters living in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, and Ontario. It showcases the diversity of native quiltmaking and pays tribute to the artists who continue to work in this expressive cultural medium.

The 16 quilts included in the exhibition are primarily drawn from the Michigan State University Museum collection with additional loans from other private and public collections. The exhibit also includes photographs of quilters and quilting activities, biographical sketches of contemporary quilters, explanatory text panels, and four contextual settings that visually demonstrate the uses of quilts in Great Lakes native communities, both historically and today.
**The Sins of Kalamazoo**

In his poem “The Sins of Kalamazoo,” Carl Sandburg describes Kalamazoo’s sins as neither scarlet nor crimson but “dishwater drab.” This series will look at some sins that were neither drab nor gray.

Sensational murders have become the staples of today’s tabloid newspapers and cable TV news shows. Such sensationalism is not new. In February 1935, Kalamazoo attracted its share of national attention in the case of the “flying Bandit” murder.


The story began on Jan. 30 when Frechette accompanied Brown, for whom he worked, from Kalamazoo to Howell, Mich. Brown boasted of his exploits as a ladies’ man. Frechette said that his 19-year-old Grace Curran, who worked at the Kalamazoo Laundry, would never betray him. Brown mockingly replied that he had already seduced Curran.

An argument ensued that quickly became a scuffle. Frechette claimed he wrestled a gun away from Brown and then shot him. He then put the body in the trunk of Brown’s car and returned to Kalamazoo where he picked up Miss Curran for a date.

The next day Frechette decided to leave town before people began to question Brown’s disappearance. With the dead man’s body still in the trunk, he headed toward California, planning to sell the car there and use the proceeds to flee to China.

For the next eight days he made his way west. When he ran out of cash in Colorado, he robbed two Denver drugstores and a restaurant, using the stolen $41 for gas and food.

In Salt Lake City, he went to a dance hall and picked up three people who each gave him $6 to take them to California. On the road, they all listened to the radio, unaware of the gruesome cargo in the trunk.

They reached Elko, Nev., where Frechette, still short of cash, telegraphed Brown’s parents and, pretending to be Brown, asked them to wire him $50. Suspicious about their son’s sudden disappearance, the elder Browns notified the Nevada State Police.

On Feb. 7, Frechette’s odyssey came to an end. Stopped by the California Border Patrol, Frechette claimed to be Brown. After the police searched the vehicle and found Brown’s body, he was arrested. Following what The New York Times described as “sharp questioning,” he confessed to the murder.

Three days later, the Livingston County sheriff and prosecutor (where the murder occurred) took a train to Nevada to take custody of Frechette, planning to drive him back to Michigan.

The national newspapers not only reacted to the sensational nature of Frechette’s cross-country flight, but they also recounted his earlier criminal history for which he had earned the nickname of the “flying Bandit.” In 1928, Frechette hired a flight instructor, Harry W. Anderson. On a flight from Pontiac to Kalamazoo, he hit Anderson over the head with a hammer, crash-landed the plane in Kalamazoo, and rifled through it for valuables. He spent six years in Jackson State Prison.

The murder involving these two young men from Kalamazoo captured the attention of a sensa-
tionalist news media back in 1935, not very different from news reports of today.

Throughout the cool autumn evenings, a familiar deep-sky object glitters overhead. The Pleiades star cluster, also known as the Seven Sisters, sparkles with the faint light of a half dozen stars spread over an area a little larger than the apparent diam-
eter of the moon. When examined with binoculars, the few stars visible to the naked eye are joined by a crowd of fainter stars arranged in curving lines that fill the field of view.

Alongside, there may be as many as 100 stars packed into this tiny region of the sky.

This autumn the moon’s path crosses the cluster so each month the moon will briefly hide the cluster’s stars from view. An event where the moon blocks the light of a distant star is called an occultation, and when the moon passes over the Pleiades there are dozens of occultations in just a few hours. These events will be easily seen with just a pair of binoculars.

The first event occurs at about 10 p.m. on Sept. 19 when the rising moon is imbed-
ed among the cluster’s stars. Some stars will be disappearing along the brightly lighted eastern edge, or limb, of the moon. Other stars will be revealed as the dark western limb of the moon drifts out of their way. The last of the cluster’s stars will emerge from behind the moon before midnight.

The moon returning to the Pleiades 27 1/3 days later, on Oct. 17. That night the moon will gradually move nearer to the Pleiades until it starts occulting the cluster’s stars around 3 a.m. The event continues until daylight fills the sky.

The moon’s final visit to the Pleiades this year will be on Dec 11. That night the nearly full moon enters the star cluster around 2:30 a.m., and exits the cluster around 7 a.m., well before moonset and sunrise.

For more information on planetarium shows featured at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, see the listings on page 22 of this issue.
Presidents, Veeps & “Wanna-bes” Who’ve Been to Kalamazoo

(Editors note: We hope that this first in a series of articles about “Famous Folks Who’ve Come to Kalamazoo” will stir the memories of readers and encourage you to send us your own stories of notable visitors we’ve overlooked.)

Of the 73 people who have served as president and vice president of the United States since Michigan was admitted to the union in 1837, 16 have been to Kalamazoo as the holders of the highest offices in the land, as candidates for those positions, or in some other capacity.

Scores of others seeking to become the CEO of the nation or to be No. 2 in the pecking order pointed their political campaigns here, arriving by carriage, train, plane or car. While most Kalamazooans will flash back to Abraham Lincoln being the first in this line of notables, the honor actually belongs to Lewis Cass, governor of the Michigan Territory, a member of Andrew Jackson’s cabinet, and a U. S. senator. He was the Democratic nominee for president who lost out to Whig Zachary Taylor in 1848.

A few days following Lincoln’s speech in Bronson Park in 1856, the village heard John C. Breckenridge, who was stumping for the Democrats’ nominee, James Buchanan, and was accompanied by Cass on that occasion as well.

As part of the welcoming, a federal cannon fired at sunrise prematurely discharged, killing one local fireman and blowing the arm off another. Four years later, southerner Breckenridge was one of three candidates who lost the White House to Lincoln.

When Gerald Ford brought his 1976 campaign to Kalamazoo that May, he became the first sitting president to visit the community.

Gerald R. Ford.

Michigan’s own native son, Gerald R. Ford.

Commemorative ribbon from Taft’s visit to Kalamazoo in 1911.

Campaign banner for Democratic candidates Lewis Cass and William G. Butner, produced for the 1848 presidential election. (Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division)

Hertha G. Grayly last to Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.

Just as interesting is the roster of presidential candidates who have drawn both sparse and monstrous crowds here during their bids for election.

Legendry New York journalist Horace Greeley, who Grant beat for his second term in 1872, is credited with giving Kalamazoo its first national compliment. After “going East, young man, back East” from “the largest village in the United States,” Greeley wrote: “Kalamazoo is the most beautiful place this side of the base line of Paradise.”

A Lincoln challenger inside the new Republican Party was William Seward, then a senator from New York who would serve as Lincoln’s secretary of state and gain fame for the purchase of Alaska.

Seward had been supported at the party’s 1860 convention in Chicago by the Michigan delegation so he repaid that backing with a visit. Hailed for his speaking ability, Seward did not impress a Kalamazoo judge, who wrote: “A crowd gathered to hear him, but his speech was pointless and valueless, as it was obvious that he was highly intoxicated.”

Charles Evans Hughes, edged by Woodrow Wilson in 1916, received the gift of a cane that Lincoln reportedly gave to famed Kalamazoo politician David Walbridge 60 years earlier.

The giver was Walbridge’s daughter. It has been reported that Wilson visited here in 1916, but that couldn’t be verified.

Two candidate visits made national news. Robert Kennedy, building up steam to win the Democratic nomination in 1968, spoke in Bronson Park and was departing for his next campaign stop. As he slipped into his car, a local woman reached out to touch him.

With a campaign worker pulling him into the vehicle, her hand slipped down and off came Kennedy’s shoe. CBS News’ Walter Cronkite reported the incident and wrapped up his nightly broadcast with “and that’s the way it is in Kalamazoo.”

George Wallace brought his third-party campaign to Kalamazoo that same year. Some 6,000 listened to his perspectives from the steps of the county building.

Four years later in a second bid, the former governor of Alabama spoke at the Kalamazoo Armory.

Kalamazoo Gazette photographer Rick Campbell took scores of shots of the event. A few days later when Arthur Bremer shot Wallace in Maryland, Campbell looked through his negatives and there was Bremer in the audience. The photo of the stalking would-be assassin was published in national magazines.


Fresher in the community’s collective memory are Hillary Clinton (when she was First Lady), John Edwards, and, most recently, John McCain.

Stevenson and Bryan, who made 25 speeches in 19 cities on that day in October of 1896, have something in common other than whistlestops. Both were presented with stalks of celery as mementos of their Kalamazoo visits.
Political Souvenirs

“Campaign giveaways started in earnest in 1840,” says Smithsonian curator William L. Bird. “That was the first time consistent imagery began to be applied to items given out during campaigns.”

It was 1840 when William Henry Harrison used the log cabin as a symbol for the common man. Since then, political giveaways have run the gamut—paperweights, potholders, pens and pencils, to name a few. Pictured here are a variety of campaign souvenirs from the Museum’s collection.

**Campaign Buttons**

William McKinley’s 1896 campaign popularized the pin-back button. Twin-portrait buttons are called “jugates,” such as the 1900 McKinley/Theodore Roosevelt button. “Flashers,” first produced in 1952, were popular for only about 20 years. The 1964 “LBJ for the U.S.A.” flasher alternates with an image of Johnson when the button is tilted.

**Taylor Snuffbox, 1848**

This lacquered papier-mâché snuffbox capitalized on Zachary Taylor’s successful military career, showing him in uniform and inscribed “Old Rough and Ready—The Hero of the War With Mexico.”

**Harrison Cup Plate, 1840**

Campaign souvenirs for William Henry Harrison not only included the log-cabin motif but also played up his military actions against Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811.

**LBJ Cap, 1964**

Wearable campaign souvenirs range from scarves to ties to hats. This plastic folding cap is from Lyndon Johnson’s 1964 campaign. This issue’s cover features a printed red bandana from the Grover Cleveland campaign of 1888.

**Shaped Buttons**

Not all political buttons are simple and round. The mechanical “Gold Bee” pin promoted McKinley’s 1896 gold-standard campaign; the photo of his running mate, Garret Hobart (right), is a recent replacement. The Bull Moose pin was worn by Progressive Party supporters of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912.

Alfred Landon of Kansas used the state flower as his 1936 campaign motif. His opponent, Franklin D. Roosevelt, countered with the slogan “Sunflowers die in November.”

**U.S. Grant Stanhope, 1868-1872**

The bone eyeglass above (shown next to a dime for size comparison) contains a microscopic image of Ulysses S. Grant (right). It was sold by L. Black & Co. Opticians of Detroit during Grant’s 1868 campaign. Miniature optical novelties are called “stanhopes” or “peeps” and can be found in sewing accessories, writing implements, jewelry and many other forms. They were first marketed in 1859 when René Dragon of France combined microphotography, invented in 1839, and the Stanhope microscope lens, developed by Charles, the Third Earl of Stanhope, in the late 1700s.

**McKinley Campaign Giveaways, 1896 & 1900**

McKinley’s campaigns produced a variety of giveaways. The four-inch oversize “An Honest Dollar” button represented his priority to make gold the standard of the money system. The rally horn is inscribed with his 1896 slogan “Patriotism, Protection, Prosperity,” while “The Great Presidential Race for the White House” was a game produced in Battle Creek for the 1900 campaign.

**LINCOLNANIA**

Lincoln’s campaign produced such items as the “Wide Awakes” ribbon in 1860 and the hand-held flag in 1864.

**Tabs**

Metal campaign tabs were worn in a buttonhole or a shirt pocket and first produced in 1924.

**Washington Copper Clothing Button, 1789**

The oldest presidential collectible is the George Washington clothing button. A couple dozen styles were produced for his 1789 campaign. This copper button with the “GW” in the center and surrounded by “Long Live the President” is considered “ultra rare.”
When Thomas W. Merrill first encountered Titus Bronson's small cabin on the banks of Arcadia Creek in 1830, the two men had ambitious visions. Merrill hoped to establish a Baptist college in Michigan while Bronson wanted to found a village bearing his name. For more than 175 years, the dreams of these two men have been intertwined.

Merrill was born in 1802 in Sedgwick, Maine, and, like his father before him, became a minister. He moved to Michigan in 1829 with the hope of opening a Baptist “literary and theological institution” in Ann Arbor. His efforts to win a corporate charter from the Michigan Territorial Legislature were unsuccessful so he went to west Michigan. In the summer of 1831, Merrill met Caleb Eldred, then living in Comstock Township. Eldred was a pioneer settler in both Comstock and Climax townships. He shared Merrill’s dream of a Baptist school and would serve for more than 30 years as the first chair of the school’s Board of Trustees. Together the two men pursued their goal of gaining authorization from the American Baptist Home Mission Society and a charter from the Michigan Territorial Legislature. The society provided its approval and on April 22, 1833, after receiving a legislative charter, the Michigan and Huron Institute became a reality.

Another four years would pass before the school began to offer instruction. Among other issues, no determination had yet been made on the institute’s approval and on April 22, 1833, after receiving a legislative charter, the Michigan and Huron Institute became a reality. Another four years would pass before the school began to offer instruction. Another four years would pass before the school began to offer instruction. Another four years would pass before the school began to offer instruction. Another four years would pass before the school began to offer instruction.

Dr. James A.B. Stone and his wife, Lucinda Hinsdale Stone

In the first capital campaign by an institution of higher learning in the village, Hall gained subscriptions that allowed him to purchase more than 100 acres of land south of Cedar Street between Park Street and Westnedge Avenue. By September 1836, the institute occupied a two-story frame building near the corner of Walnut Street and Westnedge Avenue. A Mr. Harvey was appointed as the first principal and instruction probably began that same month. The first official announcement of instruction did not come until March of 1837 for fall classes that year.

Important changes were taking place for the institution. Just as the name of Titus Bronson’s village was changed to Kalamazoo in 1836, the Michigan and Huron Institute was renamed the Kalamazoo Literary Institute in early 1837. As for Merrill’s vision of a Baptist school, the renamed institute’s charter now indicated that it was open to members of all Christian denominations and students would not be required to profess any specific religious faith.

From 1837 to 1843, the institute sought to stabilize its funding, secure full status as a college, and define its relationship with the University of Michigan “Branch” system. Besides the main campus in Ann Arbor, the state legislature also authorized the creation of branch campuses in other Michigan towns. Although a Kalamazoo Branch was established, both it and the institute were effectively merged from 1840 until 1850. The legislature eliminated funding for the Branch system after 1845 to concentrate on building the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, ending financial support to the Kalamazoo institute.

The most significant appointment in the early history of the school came in 1843 when Dr. James A.B. Stone and his wife, Lucinda Hinsdale Stone, came to the institute. Dr. Stone became the principal and Mrs. Stone would serve as an instructor, particularly in promoting higher education for young women. Together, they would oversee the institution’s transition from the “Branch” system back to an independent Kalamazoo Literary Institute and finally, in 1855, to a fully chartered Kalamazoo College.

The Stones were remarkable educators. Enrollment peaked at slightly more than 400 for the 1857-58 academic year but then began to decline, perhaps in response to a tightening of entrance requirements. Mrs. Stone pushed for greater rigor in the women’s curriculum so that it was comparable to the men’s curriculum. They attracted nationally known lecturers to Kalamazoo including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horace Greeley, Frederick Douglass, and the early women’s rights advocate, Lucy Stone. Their lectures were open to the public as well as the college’s students and added to the intellectual ferment of the village.

The Stones resigned in 1863 amidst controversy. The college’s financial situation had deteriorated. There were complaints that Dr. Stone had diminished the school’s Baptist orientation and that Mrs. Stone had too vigorously promoted equal education for women. There were also allegations of immorality against Dr. Stone.

In the aftermath, Kalamazoo College entered a difficult period that would last some 30 years. Yet it would eventually emerge stronger and, as time went by, become a highly regarded liberal arts college.

Despite difficulties and changes, perhaps not precisely as they had wished, Kalamazoo College and the city of Kalamazoo have fulfilled the promise that both Thomas W. Merrill and Titus Bronson had anticipated on that summer day in 1830 when they first met near the banks of the Arcadia Creek.

The Kalamazoo College Board of Trustees adopted black and orange as the college colors in 1912.

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Remember doing reports in grade school? Remember going to your Encyclopedia Britannica or a similar source to get your information?

As it turns out, there are encyclopedias for nearly everything under the sun. The root of the word “encyclopedia” comes from the Greek paideia—meaning child-rearing; it is the full compass of human learning! Thus encyclopedias, as we have come to understand them, are very broad in scope of information. Many do not go deeply into any particular subject or aspect, and some are not entirely reliable. Usually, they present no interpretation or point of view. Still, encyclopedias can be valuable sources of information. A favorite of historians is Denis Diderot’s Encyclopédie, an illustrated 18th-century compendium of knowledge of the arts, sciences and trades collected from more than 140 intellectuals of the time. It was published in 32 volumes—a monumental work in a time when the cost of printing was quite high, and when the literate in western societies were among only privileged classes, for the most part.

In our modern literate society, most of us have access to a thing called the Internet. In fact, Google Denis Diderot and the first listing that appears is Wikipedia, the now-famous—and infamous—online encyclopedia. Why infamous? Because anyone can contribute their knowledge about any subject, regardless of their expertise. Truly, it is information for and by all people. Wikipedia has become the bane of teachers! Students assigned essays or research papers rely all too heavily on this quick and easy-to-access source of information, just as many of us relied on the Encyclopedia Britannica in grade school. Still, it might not be such a bad place to begin.

But can you go to the Internet when you want reliable scholarship? Yes! Archives, universities and museums, among others, are increasingly giving free online access to original documents, photographs and maps. If, for instance, you wanted to see original papers of Thomas Jefferson, an Internet search would yield some very good sources, such as the Thomas Jefferson papers at www.thomas Jeffersonpapers.org or www.monticello.org (where you will find an American Memory and exhibits page). These excellent sources would not necessarily pop up first; you would have to sift through many web sites before finding those dedicated to reliable historical scholarship about Jefferson.

There are more and more web sites that are essentially clearing houses for other web sites devoted to historical scholarship. One designed for both teachers and students is www.historyday.org. It directs students to online research sources and educators to lesson plans and other resources. While you’re there, check out information about History Day, an annual nationwide contest for 5th–12th-grade students, and you’ll eventually find that the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is the location for one of Michigan’s regional History Day competitions. You see, it is a circle of learning! woven into the fabric of learning!

What do John Kerry, the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate in 2004, and a 19th-century Kalamazoo fishing club have in common?

They share a link to a small salute cannon on display in the Museum’s “Time Pieces” exhibit. Not every artifact in the Museum’s collection has as many interesting connections as does this cannon. To get to Sen. Kerry, we have to start at the beginning:

On June 30, 1866, Turf, Field and Farm magazine reported the formation of the Kalamazoo Gun Lake Fishing Club “composed of the very first gentle men of Kalamazoo, well known in the front ranks of the business, political, professional and literary world.” The club’s purpose was “amusement and recreation for health, and boating and fishing.”

A little more than a year later, the members of this elite club received the salute cannon as a gift. Inscribed on its side was: “Presented by Capt. R. B. Forbes of Boston to the Kalamazoo Gun Lake Fishing Club, September 20, 1867.”

According to the 1866 article, Forbes was not among the list of club founders, so what was his connection?

Robert Bennett Forbes (1804–1889) came from a prominent merchant family in Boston engaged in the China trade. He was also an avid sportsman and “com modore” of Boston’s first informal yacht club.

His brother, John Murray Forbes (1813–1898), a railroad investor, served as president of the Michigan Central Railroad from 1846–1855. John M. Forbes almost certainly ran into a Jefferson wiki, an encyclopedia limited only to contributions from Jefferson scholars), or www.loc.gov (the Library of Congress web site where you will want to explore the American Memory and exhibits pages). These excellent sources would not necessarily pop up first; you would have to sift through many web sites before finding those dedicated to reliable historical scholarship about Jefferson. They were among only privileged classes, for the most part.

By 1938, the Badgers had stopped summering at Gun Lake and the children were living in California. They finally sold the property to the Michigan Synod of the United Lutheran Church in 1948.

When the Badgers were clearing out the property, they found the old cannon in the clubhouse and brought it to the Museum.

Today it is on permanent display—a reminder of summers at the Gun Lake Fishing Club when the cannon’s loud “BOOM!” could be heard at the start of a race, to herald the arrival of guests, or to signal a special event.
The Great Influenza Epidemic of 1918

In the late summer of 1918 as World War I was grinding to a bloody halt, an epidemic of influenza spread across the United States and then around the world. Before the outbreak diminished more than a year later, it had killed between 20 and 50 million people—one of the most lethal pandemics in recorded history.

Unlike other epidemic diseases, the Great Influenza exacted an inordinately high toll among healthy young adults. While more than half a million Americans in cities and rural areas died, locations such as college campuses and military training bases were noticeably hard hit. In southwest Michigan, these included the Western State Normal School and Camp Custer.

Although the deadly outbreak was known as “The Spanish Flu,” recent research suggests that it probably originated on a chicken farm in Kansas near a World War I army training base, Camp Funston.

As the disease spread to cities and towns, people panicked and local governments reacted with emergency measures. Unlike other epidemic diseases, the Great Influenza exacted its full awful fury.

In October 1918, medical staff at Camp Custer (above) established convalescent companies in every regiment for its soldiers who survived the influenza outbreak, but were in a run-down condition and susceptible to life-threatening pneumonia. Fourteen miles away in Kalamazoo, the City Commission prohibited public gatherings and established rules for streetcars and interurban cars as reported by the Kalamazoo Gazette in the clipping shown at left.

In Michigan, few cases were reported during September. It would be different in October. Early in the month, public health authorities reported 50 deaths from influenza. At Camp Custer, straddling the Kalamazoo/Calhoun County line, the count would be dramatically higher in the weeks to come.

Between Sept. 24 and Oct. 31, 1918, the division surgeon at Camp Custer reported 11,626 cases of influenza, approximately 30 percent of the men at that camp. Of those suffering from influenza, 2,417 developed pneumonia and of those, 669 died—a mortality rate of 29 percent.

In Kalamazoo, all public meetings, including funerals, were banned. The Kalamazoo City Commission ordered all movie theaters, pool halls, dance halls, reading rooms and other places where people congregated to close. The ban on public gatherings remained in effect from Oct. 17, 1918, until Nov. 9, by which date the flu had run its course in the city.

People wore face masks to protect themselves from infection. Posters with tips on how to avoid spreading germs were posted throughout the city as well as in all schools and factories. Bronson and Borgess hospitals reported that all their beds were full with patients.

Medical and government authorities, as well as ordinary citizens, had reason to fear. The virus struck suddenly. It was not uncommon for victims to be healthy in the morning, come down with the flu during the day, and die within 36 hours.

In addition to Camp Custer, whose base hospital was in Charlestown Township, there was a second concentration of young people in Kalamazoo, the Western State Normal School. That fall, enrollment peaked at around 1,000 students.

An all-school assembly met on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and the head of the school’s health committee, Dr. L.H. Harvey, discussed methods to avoid catching the flu.

Dr. Harvey’s tips included such sensible ideas as healthy diet, proper rest, good hygiene, avoiding crowds, and physical exercise. Physicians today, however, might question his advice of using laxatives to insure daily bowel movements as a means of warding off the disease.

Although the Normal School made efforts to protect its students, the campus was not immune to the disease. The students came from throughout the region and some probably brought the virus with them. Large numbers of students became ill and several died.

The campus was devastated by the deaths of two student leaders who succumbed to the disease—Gabriella Payne, president of the Woman’s League (the female student organization at Western) and Elsa Nelson, president of the Western YWCA. While they were the most prominent students to die, they were not the only ones. The student newspaper, The Western Herald, noted other deaths throughout the fall. Several cadets in the Student Army Training Corps fell victim as well. And four students died while on holiday break at the end of 1918.

Influenza patients are crowded into an emergency hospital at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, in Kansas, which was near the original outbreak of the flu (photo courtesy National Museum of Health).

Military camps fueled the spread of the epidemic that eventually infected the public, including students at schools such as Kalamazoo’s Western State Normal School (left, as it appeared at the time of the flu outbreak). Dr. Le Roy N. Harvey (above), head of the Department of Biology and the school’s health committee, outlined 10 measures to follow, saying, “The conscientious co-operation of every member of the institution is demanded if we would escape an epidemic.”


1. Also called a “fruit lifter,” “fruit auger,” or “dried fruit loosener,” it was used to remove food stuffs from shipping barrels. In the 19th century, sugar, dried fruit and meat, or meats packed in brine, were shipped to grocers in tightly compacted wooden barrels. To remove the contents, the auger was inserted in the center of the open barrel, twisted, and pulled out. A couple dozen styles were created by Henry J. White of Green Bay, Wis., in 1875. It sold as Hiddleson’s Dried Fruit Auger.

2. It’s called a Placido’s disk and was developed in 1880 by Portuguese ophthalmologist Antonio Placido to map the surface of the cornea. While looking through the center open ing, with the concentric circles pointing toward the patient’s eyes, he could see a reflection of the circles on the cornea. Reflected as concentric lines, they showed deviations wherever there was corneal topography for mapping the surface curvature of the cornea. Today it is carried out with digital equipment that is used to diagnose and treat a number of eye conditions, to plan surgery such as LASIK, and to assess the fit of contact lenses.

3. These were known as “come-alongs,” a handheld device police used to quickly restrain a suspect. This and then given a tight twist. The suspect would “come-along” willingly to avoid the excruciating pain or tearing of the flesh that could occur if he or she struggled. This particular chain was used by Detective Charles H. Grotemute of the Kalamazoo Police Department from 1899–1929.

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of Southwest Michigan? Send your question to Tom Dietz, curator of research, tdietz@kvcc.edu or (269) 373-7984 and you might see it answered in a future issue of Museography.
ACCESSION SERVICES
The Museum is barrier-free. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled for programs with a minimum of two weeks’ notice. Assistive-listening devices are available free in the planetarium. Our TDD number is (269) 373-7962.

GROUP ACTIVITIES
The KVM is a great destination for parties and group activities. Attend concerts, planetarium shows, Challenger Learning Center missions, movies, special classes or hands-on programs! Call the reservation coordinator at (269) 373-7965 for more information on programs available to groups of all ages.

VOLUNTEER ALERT!
Call (269)373-7960 to learn about the benefits of volunteering at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
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SPECTACULAR SIGHTS AND SOUNDS GUIDE YOUR IMAGINATION THROUGH OUR AMAZING UNIVERSE. 13/person

SKY LEGENDS OF THE THREE FIRES
Saturday, 11 a.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. • Oct. 4 – Nov. 23
Native American storyteller Larry Plamondon weaves tales about how Coyote placed the stars, how Mud Turtle made the Milky Way, and how a bear was placed in the sky. Elementary and higher, 40 min.

SEASON OF LIGHT
Saturday, 11 a.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. • Nov. 28 – Jan. 4
Discover the origins of our holiday traditions. Elementary and higher, 50 min.

CONSTELLATIONS TONIGHT
Wednesday, 3 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. • Oct. 1 – Jan. 3
A live presenter will guide you in using a star map to find constellations visible in the evening sky. Once you can read the map, the presenter will show you some of the more interesting sights you can see with binoculars or a small telescope. Upper Elementary and higher, 40 min.

GALAXIES
Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. • Oct. 4 – Jan. 4
Timothy Ferris narrates this show based on his book Galaxies. He guides viewers on a tour of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, and compares it to other galaxies scattered across the universe. Upper Elementary and higher, 45 min.

Burton Henry Upjohn

CHILDREN’S LANDSCAPE
Designed to introduce preschoolers and their parents to an interactive museum setting. Children’s Landscape offers hands-on activities, exhibits, and programs designed for children 5 and under. Children older than 5 may participate only if accompanying a preschool buddy, and their play must be appropriate to preschool surroundings. Free

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

Extended hours and limited program times during holiday breaks.

OCT./NOV. • NATIVE AMERICANS
Hands-on discovery explores the rich traditions and lives of Michigan’s native people at a preschool level.

DEC./JAN. • WARM & FUZZY
Explore blankets, quilts, and clothes that keep us warm.

CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS
Offered. FEE to families and preschool groups; these programs are approximately 20 minutes long and may include stories, musical activities, games, and art projects appropriate for ages 3 to 5. Monday-Friday 10 a.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m.

MONDAY: Math
TUESDAY: Science
WEDNESDAY: Stories
THURSDAY: Music
FRIDAY: Art
SATURDAY: Stories

Burton Henry Upjohn

Preschool & Family Performances

Performances are offered the first Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. for preschoolers and 1 p.m. for families.

Tickets for all performances are $3 per person.

Oct. 4: ZEEMO—YO-YO MASTER
Yo-yo master Paul Eyphre will amaze you with tricks using a variety of different types of yo-yos. Also see his traveling museum of tops and yo-yos.

Oct. 26: Murder Most Foul
Stories of the people & events that sparked some of Kalamazoo’s most infamous murders.

Nov. 9: Four Corners of the County
Visit the small four-corner settlements that were once the focus of township life in Kalamazoo County.

Dec. 14: Things of History
Discover some of the KVM’s most intriguing artifacts.

Burton Henry Upjohn

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER
IN MEMORY OF ALVIN H. & EMILY T. LITTLE
The Challenger Learning Center is an innovative educational facility complete with Space Station and Mission Control—that takes thousands of visitors each year on simulated space missions. Public and special group missions are available. Call (269) 373-7965 for more details and to make reservations.

GROUP JUNIOR MISSIONS
Specially designed 90-minute missions for ages 8 and up. Pre-flight activities prepare junior astronauts for an exciting flight in our spacecraft simulator. An excellent program for scouts and other clubs. Ages 8 & up; minimum of 8, maximum of 14 participants. Registration and $80 non-refundable deposit required at least two weeks prior to mission date; $10/person.

CORPORATE TRAINING MISSIONS
Three-hour hands-on team-building experiences for corporate groups with pre- and post-mission activities and a full two-hour space flight simulation. For details, call or visit our web site.

Burton Henry Upjohn

Sunday History Series

Curator of Research Tom Dietz offers a look into local history from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater. For more information, visit www.kalamazoomuseum.org.

Sept 14: Edward Israel
Kalamazoo’s Arctic Pioneer
Learn about Kalamazoo native Edward Israel and the ill-fated Greely Arctic expedition in the 1880s.

Sept 28: Kalamazoo College: 175 Years of Academic Excellence
Former Kalamazoo College Trustee Marlene Francis talks about her new book on K’s 175th anniversary.

Oct. 12: Toys & Games from Kalamazoo
Hear about our contributions to the world of play.

Oct. 26: Murder Most Foul
Stories of the people & events that sparked some of Kalamazoo’s most infamous murders.

Nov. 9: Four Corners of the County
Visit the small four-corner settlements that were once the focus of township life in Kalamazoo County.

Dec. 14: Things of History
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Burton Henry Upjohn

Yo-yo master Paul Eyphre will amaze you with tricks using a variety of different types of yo-yos. Also see his traveling museum of tops and yo-yos.

Burton Henry Upjohn
This presidential collection is no bust

The head-swirling, mind-numbing process of electing a new president is in our midst, so it was with much joy that we received a timely donation that gave us a few chuckles about our presidential heritage.

It was 42 sculpted caricatures, from George Washington to Bill Clinton. Each caricature captures a president and a few of his unique physical features. These are the work of someone with a wry sense of humor and a lot of artistic talent.

Their creator was Oliver “Ollie” Rosenberger, a local commercial artist who designed products for KVP–Sutherland and packaging for Crescent Engraving. According to his nephew, Craig Vestal, Ollie was the artist in the family—a talent that starting showing itself when Ollie was in the third grade.

His sculpted caricatures didn’t start showing up until the early 1980s. They were made from Ollie’s own “Pla-Doh” mixture of flour, water and toilet paper. Vestal says “he used whatever he had around the house as a base—a plunger, soup can, beer can.”

The family first realized that Ollie was making caricature sculptures when he gave his big brother Roger a bust of himself (of Roger, that is). From then on, Ollie began showing up at family gatherings and events with a caricature figure for someone.

It wasn’t until after Ollie’s death in 2002 that the family realized he had made an entire collection of U.S. presidents. They were discovered by Ollie’s niece, Lavonne Vestal. “I found them all over the apartment, hanging on walls—some had fallen down and broken.”

It was family member Vicky Pierce, librarian at the Van Buren District Library’s Bloomingdale branch, who took the collection under her wing. “My brother Eddie and I identified all of them. He built the cabinets and I wrote the little blurbs.”

They’ve since been on display at library branches in Bloomingdale, Mattawan, and Lawrence. But they needed a permanent home.

Vicky said, “If I had a dollar for every time someone said I should find a bigger home for them... well, that’s when I started thinking about the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.”

And so, from the off-hours musings of a graphic artist, to the stuff museum acquisitions are made of, these little pieces of folk art found a home.

“Ollie was a very modest man,” Vicky said. “He’d be blown away to think anyone would be interested in his work.”

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum collects objects that help tell the stories of people, businesses and events of Southwest Michigan. If you think you have something that belongs in a museum, please contact Tom Dietz at (269)373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu.

Our current wish list includes: photographs of street scenes, businesses, buildings, local events, or other people and places in Kalamazoo and Portage from 1920 to 1970.
CONSTITUTION DAY FILM  Sept. 17 —Free
Visit our web site www.kalamazoomuseum.org for more details.

K’ZOO FOLKLife ORGANIZATION
First Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. —Free
Oct. 5 – Bloomquists
Nov. 2 – Duffield/Caron
Dec. 7 – Holiday Sing-A-Long
Jan. 4 – Friends of K’zoo Folklife
Soulful piano and vocals bring blues to the ‘Zoo.
Bring your instrument and jam with members of the KFO!

MOVIES AT THE MUSEUM  7:30 p.m.—$3
Oct. 23 – How to Make an American Quilt
A touching and often hilarious story of one family’s
women and their loves lost and won.
Dec. 11 – A Christmas Story
Nostalgic and witty remembrance of a time gone by.

MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM  7:30 p.m.—$5
Oct. 2 – Mark Duval, local singer-songwriter
Nov. 6 – Ben Luttermoser, ’08 Fretboard Festival upright bassist
Dec. 4 – Jim Cumming Band
Join us for an evening with a funk/blues feel, including work from the band’s latest album
Basically.

FESTIVAL OF SPACE
Jan. 29–31
Join us for Challenger Learning Center mini-missions and space-related documentaries in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater. Visit our web site for more details.

FILM MOVEMENT SERIES
7:30 p.m.—$3. For more information, visit www.filmmovement.com
Sept. 18 – August the First (USA, 2007)
The morning of Tunde’s graduation party and things have already begun to unravel. Layer by layer, deception and half-truths are peeled away as secrets are uncovered in what will be become the most unforgettable day the family has ever experienced.

Oct. 16 – Grocer’s Son (France, 2007; English subtitles)
Thirty-year-old Antoine is forced to leave the city to return to his family in Provence. His father is sick, so he must assume the lifestyle he thought he had—driving the family grocery cart from hamlet to hamlet, delivering supplies to the few remaining inhabitants.

Oct. 30 – Noise (Australia, 2007)
A story about the wrong person in the right place at the wrong time. Two heinous crimes have left a suburban town reeling. Police quickly connect them but are desperate for witnesses as the local community enfolds itself in a shroud of secrecy, borne from fear and mistrust of authority.

Nov. 20 – Days and Clouds (Italy, 2007; English subtitles)
Well-to-do, sophisticated couple Elsa and Michele have a 20-year-old daughter, Alice, and enough money for Elsa to leave her job and fulfill an old dream of studying art history. After she graduates, however, their lives change.

Jan. 15 – Ben X (Belgium, 2007; English subtitles)
Ben’s life is a universe all to itself, playing his favorite online computer game in an attempt to train for and block out the reality of his daily life with Asperger’s Syndrome.

FREE SUNDAY DOCUMENTARIES
These events augment our special exhibits, Kid Stuff: Great Toys from Our Childhood, and Great Lakes Native Quilting —Free
1:30 p.m. — Quilting Features
Oct. 19 – A Century of Quilts: America in Cloth
This documentary celebrates the art of quilting with selections from the best 100 American quilts of the 20th century, the stories behind their creation and the quilters as they work.

Nov. 16 – American Quilts
From the days of the earliest settlers to modern times, quilts and their kaleidoscopic colors have adorned U.S. homes. Follow the phases of quilting history and learn more about their unique symbolism in both the family and the arts.

Nov. 30 – Art of Quilting
Explore the diverse techniques and artistry reflected in contemporary American art quilts. Discover how the boundaries of traditional American quilt-making have expanded to an art form that now adorn the walls of exhibit halls and art galleries worldwide.

3 p.m. – Kid Stuff Features
Oct. 19 – Pioneers of Primetime
Through rare clips and never-before-seen interviews, television’s first superheroes, including Bob Hope, Milton Berle, Jack Benny, Sid Caesar and Red Skelton, recount their careers from vaudeville to the small screen.

Nov. 16 – Pioneers of Television: Part 1
Nov. 30 – Pioneers of Television: Part 2
Featuring sitcoms, late-night hosts, variety and game shows, and primetime stars, these films meld compelling new HD interviews with archival clips to offer a fresh take on television’s first celebrities, with fascinating stories, never-before-seen images and timeless clips that still entertain decades later.
HOLIDAY HANDS-ON PROGRAMS

Toylicious

Come explore our traveling exhibit, Kid Stuff, then create a variety of toys and games to play with.

Dec. 29: Optical Illusions
Make tops, 3-D glasses, tangrams, and more. Brownies—earn your Colors and Shapes try-it today.

Dec. 30: Games and Codes
Solve codes and make a variety of games including card tricks and board games. Brownies—earn your Math Fun try-it today.

Dec. 31: Kites and Motion
Put together paper bag kites, kite bookmarks, and dragon kites while learning about things that fly. Brownies—earn your Mover try-it today.

Jan. 1: Teddy Bears and More
Construct dolls, puppets, and other cuddly friends. Brownies—earn your Puppets, Dolls, and Plays try-it today.

Jan. 2: Trucks, Cars and Traffic
Build cars, put together trucks and make a traffic bingo game. Brownies—work on your Numbers and Shapes try-it today.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum
230 N. Rose Street
Downtown Kalamazoo
FREE General Admission—Open Daily
HOURS: Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(First floor re-opens at 6:30 p.m. for Thursday-evening events in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater)
Sundays & Holidays 1 to 5 p.m.
(Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)
(269)373-7990 • (800)772-3370
www.kalamazoomuseum.org