

## **Programs offered by Susan L. Nenadic, The History Maven**

### ***American Expansion:***

#### ***Michigan Mania***

One woman compared the opening of the Michigan Territory to the frenzy caused by the discovery of gold in California. Unlike the far west, Michigan was settled by families, so stories about women and children are included. Why did they come, how did they come and what problems did they face? I actually have two versions of this program. One includes men and women. The other focuses only on women

#### ***Women of the West***

We think of the far west as a male dominated experience during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While demographics support that, there were quite a few fascinating women who made their mark. Beginning with pioneers in early 1800's and including early settlers, professional women and reformers, this program will provide an entirely new perception of the western experience.

### ***Education:***

#### ***Dangerous Experiment***

The great issue of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was not suffrage but education. Advocates of women's suffrage, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, were educated women. Washtenaw County boasted not only many co-ed high schools but the nation's first normal school west of the Alleghenies. The University of Michigan opened its doors to women in 1870 and became the foremost University to do so. A University degree allowed women to enter the professions and rise to prominent positions in the state and nation.

#### ***A-maize-ing Alumnae***

Once the University of Michigan opened its doors to women in 1870, coeds flocked to Ann Arbor to study a variety of subjects. This program presents the first woman to teach at UM as well as the first woman to teach at Harvard. The list includes engineers, doctors, dentists, attorneys and a university president.

### ***Occupations:***

#### ***A Purse of Her Own***

This program derives from my book of the same title which examines the changes in women's employment in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Though the examples are from southeastern Michigan, the background trends apply throughout the United States. It will dispel many of the stereotypes promulgated in novels and film. In addition to the typical roles, women also operated businesses and joined the professions. Medicine was the most popular; however, women did practice law.

### ***Health:***

#### ***Fainting Couches and Physical Fitness***

We have been told that women of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were weak and fragile needing the protection of men. This program examines the effects of urban living, fashion, and lack of physical exercise on women's health. It also concerns women's mental health issues. Depression was common and often led to suicide.

#### ***Awakenings***

This is a sequel to "Fainting Couches and Physical Fitness." It discusses marriage and intimacy. We have been told that women wanted to be married but were uninformed and unhappy about the sexual side of marriage. This program demonstrates just how wrong that stereotype is. Listeners will be shocked to know that the last three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had more unmarried women than ever before. They will also learn about the methods of contraception commonly practiced and the misconceptions we have heard about the dangers of childbirth.

## ***Crime and Punishment:***

### ***Michigan's Criminal Past***

This program presents a perspective seldom considered by most people interested in Michigan history. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Michigan was the nation's leader in prison reform. Not only was it the first state to ban the death penalty, Michigan gained fame for its enlightened treatment of young people, first time offenders, and women. Michigan considered punishment vs reform and chose the latter.

### ***Female Felons***

This program focuses on the problems that arose concerning treatment of women who have been convicted of a crime. Judges hated to send women to prison because those facilities were dangerous for girls and women. Michigan was the first state to address these problems and provide suitable confinement and training for the women to obtain employment upon discharge.

## ***The Civil War:***

### ***Seeing the Elephant***

The Civil War has been presented from the male perspective. Most of us have not heard about the hundreds of women who dressed as men and fought with men and/or spied for the Union. Some went to prisons such as Andersonville, and many perished unsung during that ghastly war. This presentation focuses on Michigan women though there were many more in both the Union and the Confederacy.

### ***History on the Go***

This program provides a review of the Civil War through National and State Parks including ones west of the Mississippi River. Sites not commonly known would be the U.S. Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville, GA; Ft Bent in Colorado and The Civil War Medical Museum in Frederick, MD And I confess I added a few state sites which are too good to exclude.

## ***Shakespeare***

### ***The Shakespeare Authorship Debate***

What do we really know about the man from Stratford? Did he really write the works of Shakespeare or have we been played? And if he did not, who did? What is the evidence related to this controversy?

### ***Dining with Shakespeare***

Using quotations from the Bard as well as historical data about Elizabethan England, this program offers a peak at culinary matters of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## ***Significant 19<sup>th</sup> century Women:***

***The Whole Loaf*** This program concerns the "Woman Question" Its most well-known goal was woman suffrage, but it also worked towards equality of the genders. Issues such as property law, divorce law, guardianship of children etc. were equally important. The enigmatic title reflects a Michigan Senator who helped write the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and said it was only half the loaf. In Michigan half the loaf meant the ability to vote in local school elections but nothing else. This program focuses on the obstacles that stood in the way of achieving all of these objectives.

### ***Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History #1 and #2***

There are so many interesting women most of whom we have never heard. This theme had resulted in two different programs: #1 about 19<sup>th</sup> century women, the other about women born in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but made their in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Examples include reformers, professionals, and adventurers etc

### ***Famous (and not so Famous) American Sisters***

Each in her own way they contributed to country's history. Examples include the Beechers, the Grimkes, the Blackwell, and the Peabody sisters made their mark in education, medicine, and social reform. This program also includes three sets of sisters whose lives were more notorious.

### ***Significant Men and Women***

#### ***Fascinating American Families***

Certain family names reverberate through American history: Booth would be one example. The Rogers and the Clarks merged two families by marriage as did the Biddles. In addition, there are less famous, but no less important, families like the Levys whose ancestor save Monticello from ruin.

#### ***Husbands and Wives***

This program takes a look at 20<sup>th</sup> century spouses who collaborated in their various life's work. Examples include spouses in different fields, such as cryptology, architecture, politics, science and entertainment.

### ***The Problems in Researching 19<sup>th</sup> century Women***

#### ***Ghost Hunting***

Focusing on my own experience, this program considers the problems intrinsic to researching 19<sup>th</sup> century women who have been eradicated or distorted by the historical record. They are history's ghosts. They were there, but we have not acknowledged their lives and contributions. It offers a potpourri of interesting stories and the various ways I learned about them.

To reserve a program email Susan at: [slnenadic@gmail.com](mailto:slnenadic@gmail.com)

All programs utilize power point and are approximately 50 minutes in length