



# Grand Rapids Historical Society

*Since 1894, collecting and preserving our history for future generations*

*For immediate release*

*April 30, 2011*

**Grand Rapids Historical Society Annual Banquet  
At the Women's City Club  
Featuring program by Tim Gleisner of  
The Grand Rapids Public Library's Local History Department**

Contacts: John Morrison, 616 248-2706

Join the Grand Rapids Historical Society at the Women's City Club on Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. for the society's annual banquet, the May program - **Lost and Found at the Grand Rapids Public Library** - and tours of the Women's City Club. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$27 for members and their guests and \$32 for non-members.

For over one hundred years, the Local History and Special Collections Department of the Grand Rapids Public Library has been growing into the premier local collection of photographs, letters, maps and other invaluable historical documents we know today. Many in our community depend on the department's resources, though some mysteries still remain about the holdings. Tim Gleisner, head of the department, will share some of the highlights of the collection covering such episodes as the canoe routes of French voyageurs; wars of conquest for North America; shipbuilding on the Grand River; missionary Catholic priests; the election of 1896; founding of the Grand Rapids Historical Society; centennial of Grand Rapids founding in 1926; Christmas Eve in Grand Rapids at the end of the second World War and much more.

The historic Women's City Club, originally the hill district mansion of Martin Sweet, is the venue for the banquet. Tours of the 1860s era structure will be a feature of the evening as well as dinner in the club's beautiful dining room prepared by its renowned chefs.

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