



Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Fall, 2016

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*Dedicated to
educating the
community and
celebrating the
legacies of local
women, preserving
knowledge of their
past, and inspiring
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future.*

WACs, WASPs, SPARs, and Marines: Nicknames, Recruiting, and the Wartime Experience of Servicewomen from Grand Rapids

by *Will Miner*,
Grand Rapids Public Library History and Special Collections

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council is pleased to provide the November 10th program of the Grand Rapids Historical Society--just two days after the historic 2016 presidential election and one day before Veterans Day. Honoring the latter, the Grand Rapids Public Library's Will Miner will highlight the WWII experiences of local women Marines to illustrate the first large-scale employment of women in the United States armed forces.

Having committed their entire societies to the Second World War effort, warring nations lost fifty to eighty million people while tens of millions more were wounded or taken ill. Such losses led both Allied and Axis nations to employ more women than ever before as workers, nurses, clericals, and auxiliaries. Some countries also used women in combat roles.

Early on, geographical location allowed the U.S. to resist the idea of women in the military, so American women were invited into military roles relatively late. The argument of proponents of women's service--that having women fill non-combat jobs allowed more men into combat units--prevailed in early 1942, near the peak of Axis success when the cost to the Allies was very high. Initially, the armed services were unwelcoming, but women were first accepted by the Army, later the Navy and Coast Guard, and finally the Marine Corps.

Using their portrayals in the media, how women were recruited and trained, and even the nicknames they were given, Miner will illustrate women's struggles for acceptance. Though their integration continues to the



Marjorie Newton Barrett, of Cascade Township, was the first woman in West Michigan to be admitted to the Marine Corps.

present, the Second World War can be viewed historically as when women were finally accepted into the armed services of the United States.

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November 10, 2016, 7 p.m.
Grand Rapids Public Library,
Ryerson Auditorium
Free parking in the library lot

*Co-sponsored by the
Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council,
with the Grand Rapids Historical Society
& the Grand Rapids Public Library*

In the Name of All Marys

Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

The Mary Free Bed Guild of Grand Rapids was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on October 19 in Lansing. The celebration the 125th anniversary of the Guild is a very good time to recognize the tremendous contribution that this group of women has made in our area and over the entire state. Congratulations to the Mary Free Bed Guild!



Members of the concert series ticket sales team pose for a group photo in 1912. Top row (left to right); Mrs. Maud Miller, Mrs. Mary Wykes, Mrs. Lottie Thoits, Mrs. Charlotte Irwin, Mrs. Muriel Montelius, Mrs. Amelia Keegan. Bottom Row; Mrs. A.B. Smith, Rosamund Rouse, Mrs. Curtis Bunting.

The Mary Free Bed effort dates back to 1891 when a small group of women decided to raise funds to cover the cost of a "free bed" in the Union Benevolent Association Hospital. They came up with a fund-raiser, calling on everyone whose name was Mary, a very popular name at the time, to donate ten cents. And they encouraged everyone to donate in honor of a Mary they knew, family or friend. This free bed took on the name of the Mary Free Bed. A Mary Free Bed committee was formed to continue the support.

In 1911, the committee formalized itself as Mary Free Bed Guild to expand membership hoping to raise enough to support a free bed in the hospital for an entire year. The expanded Guild soon came up with other fund raising ideas, including a benefit concert bringing famous operatic soloists and big-city orchestras to Grand Rapids.

The concerns of the Guild also expanded. Guild-sponsored rehabilitation initially focused on children, with the opening of the first pediatric orthopedic clinic in 1920. The first for-

mally trained physical therapist was brought to town in 1921.

The Guild worked with the Grand Rapids Public Schools in 1923 to establish accessible classrooms for children with disabilities. The Guild's Children's Convalescent Home opened in 1930. After being designated the orthopedic center for western Michigan by the Michigan Crippled Children's Commission in 1934, it was renamed the Mary Free Bed Guild

Convalescent Home and Orthopedic Center. A brace shop was established in 1938 and the Juvenile Amputee Training Program developed in 1946 became a national model. Thalidomide and polio crises kept beds filled throughout the mid-20th century.

During these years they began using extra space in the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children and in 1950, the building was deeded to the Guild. In 1951 they opened a new addition to the original D. A. Blodgett building,

1951 Addition on Cherry Street



and in 1953 Mary Free Bed added adult rehabilitation to their programs. By 1961, all rehabilitative care in the area was centralized at Mary Free Bed. Expanded services necessitated more space, so planning for a new building began. The present hospital on Wealthy Street opened in 1976.

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Members of the Guild break ground June 28, 1974 for the new Mary Free Bed Hospital on Wealthy Street.

Mary Free Bed, continued

The venture begun by a very small committee grew to include a \$62.5 million flagship hospital, home to 167 inpatients beds, 14 inpatient and 31 outpatient programs, a medical group, and a rehabilitation network which provides expertise throughout Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The 120 women of the Guild govern Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital with majority representation on all boards and committees. In addition to governance, Guild members serve on patient committees, greeting patients when they arrive, distributing small complimentary favors, and polling patients on how to better serve them.

During the past 125 years, the Guild has created a nationally recognized rehabilitation resource that has made millions of futures better.

Goals of the Mary Free Bed Guild

To **Restore** hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

To **Ensure** a medically sound and fiscally solid rehabilitation operation.

To **See** using hearts to understand what's important.

Leading from the heart creates a genuine giving environment that is nurturing and supportive for patients, families, staff, students and women.

Mabel Balyeat, Library Pioneer

This year, as the Kent District Library celebrates its 80th year, it's a good time to remember the Kent County Library Association founder, Mabel Balyeat (1883-1985), who devoted herself to the cause of making books available to children and adults throughout Kent County. Envisioning a "new deal for books," Balyeat was determined to offer a library service to rural areas in Kent County that had none. In 1927 she led the Kent County Federation of Women's Clubs in the initial effort.



When the nation was plunged into economic depression, Balyeat attended one of Sparta's P.T.A. meetings where the speaker was encouraging people to apply to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) for recreational programs. Balyeat asked if reading might be considered a recreational activity. Yes, it might and Balyeat secured sufficient FERA funds to staff seven libraries. The county then needed to officially establish an umbrella organization, the Experimental County Library.

By 1935, the library association had 2,500 books loaned from 19 library stations in schools, grocery stores, and gasoline stations throughout the county. Before her death at the age of 102, Balyeat witnessed in 1971 the continued growth of the library system and the opening of the new central headquarters for what is now the Kent District Library. She remains an inspiration for members of the library community.

Another West Michigan Woman Inducted into the Hall of Fame

Lottie Wilson Jackson (1854-1914)

The woman we know in Grand Rapids as "Lottie Wilson Jackson" will be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame under her birth name "Charlotte Wilson."

Hundreds attended the 1899 national suffrage convention held in St. Cecilia's auditorium led by Susan B. Anthony. Wilson Jackson was the lone representative from the National Colored Woman Suffrage Association.

She was a popular interview subject for the local press and reported that her organization's efforts were "all for the uplifting of our colored sisters. If white women need the ballot, the colored need it no less." Her convention resolution, that "colored women ought not be com-

pelled to ride in smoking cars and that suitable accommodations should be provided" them when traveling, caused the biggest stir at the convention and illustrates the decades-long tensions between reform movements.

Finally, after stirring debate among southern and northern representatives at this meeting held right when Jim Crow legislation was beginning to take hold, the resolution was tabled as a cause "outside the province of the convention."

Michigan native Wilson Jackson had studied art in Chicago, and in 1899 lived in suffrage-stronghold Bay City, reportedly devoting the proceeds from her miniature portraits on ivory and porcelain to the cause of equal suffrage.



From Our Oral History Collection

Beginning with this newsletter, we will highlight one of our oral history subjects, recorded over the years by members of the GGRWHC. These recordings and transcripts are stored in Collection 167 of the Grand Rapids Public Library archives on the fourth floor. Transcripts and audio are both accessible to the public upon request. You can view a list of the subjects on our website at <http://www.ggrwhc.org/our-projects>. Summaries like this one (edited for space) are added to the website as they become available.

Marie Jay Cady, Veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force

Marie Jay Cady ((1903-1996) was a smart, outspoken woman best remembered for her long-time role as the executive director of the World Affairs Council in Grand Rapids. Cady's vibrant early career in public relations provided the backdrop to many of her life accomplishments--in journalism, politics, and the Air Force, as well as the World Affairs Council.

Cady was born in Oklahoma territory on December 19, 1903, and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She attended Stephens College, graduating in 1924. After her first job with the *Daily Oklahoman*, she moved north to take a job with the *Capitol News* in Lansing,

During the Great Depression, the Cadys moved to Grand Rapids where Marie began her work in public relations for the Pantlind Hotel. She described that job experience as "fantastic." Her duty was interviewing all the celebrities who came to Grand Rapids, including Winston Churchill, Nelson Eddy, and Amelia Earhart. During this time, Cady was introduced into the world of Republican politics. Through financier Joseph Brewer, she worked on Alf Landon's 1936 presidential campaign and handled Wendell Willkie's 1940 campaign in West Michigan.

When at the onset of World War II Cady's husband was called up to serve, Marie decided that "If he was in, I might as well be" and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Force. After she returned to Grand Rapids to run the Civil Air Patrol, she received a more interesting post in public relations at Selfridge Field. This led to work in New York City that made her Air Force career "unbelievable." Cady arranged speaking engagements for eight combat pilots from the South Pacific at service clubs, women's clubs, and schools to promote the Air Force movie *Winged Victory*.

After the war the Cadys settled again in Grand Rapids, though after Carleton died in 1961 Marie took a job in Washington with a Michigan congressional representative a few years later. While she enjoyed the work, she says the representative "turned out to be not very smart." When he decided to run for the Senate, she informed

At Selfridge Field, Macomb County



him that "he wasn't smart enough to be a Senator."

So it was back to Grand Rapids. There, Gerry Elliot of the *Grand Rapids Press* was instrumental in recruiting Cady to run the local World Affairs Council—which she did for fifteen years as its executive director. Not once did Cady receive a pay check. In fact, she paid all of her expenses! But she enjoyed the work and would travel to Washington twice a year to line up speakers. Under her leadership, the World Affairs Council grew to 200 members;

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Marie, center, on her Civil Air Patrol duty, 1942



(L) MARIE JAY Cady, Oklahoma City, Okla.,
Published September 1934. Reprinted in *Journalism*. Reprinted in C. E. 1940. From country edition
in Lansing, Mich., Lansing, Mich.

Michigan. One fateful day a reporter from the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, Carleton Cady, stopped by the office to visit a friend. The *Capitol News*' sports writer had just quit, and Carleton was offered the position. Soon after, Marie and Carleton were married and had one child that died in infancy.

Member News

Julie Tabberer, board member since 2015, was recently appointed as supervisor of the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department (formerly known as “Local History” and earlier as the “Michigan Room”) at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Julie has been working in the department for six years, first as a part-time librarian’s assistant and then as a full-time librarian when she earned a Masters in Library and Information Science. In the past she has worked with the archives at Steelcase, Frederick Meijer Gardens, and Davenport University. Congratulations, Julie.

And Julie recently represented Grand Rapids on C-SPAN’s “Cities Tour” of Grand Rapids talking about the Library’s Furniture Design Collection of famous and sometimes rare books, folios, furniture periodicals, and furni-



ture company catalogs. She gave a brief shout-out to the long-time history of women working in Grand Rapids furniture factories.

Ruth Stevens, board member since 2013 and professor at GVSU, came across a reference to Ella Mae Backus a few years ago while researching the history of female attorneys in the federal courts. She discovered that Backus was the first woman in the state of Michigan to be appointed to the position of Assistant U.S. Attorney and the first female member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. Backus was admitted to practice in 1895 in Traverse City and served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Michigan in Grand

Rapids from 1903 to 1938. Backus’ career overlapped with that of Elizabeth Eaglesfield, an 1878 University of Michigan law graduate who is considered the first woman attorney in Grand Rapids.

Stevens submitted a profile of Backus to the *Michigan Historical Review*. It was accepted and printed in the September 2016 issue. Stevens was helped in her research by GGRWHC colleagues and by librarians at the Grand Rapids Public Library. The original of Backus’s certificate of admission to the bar was found in one of the library’s special collections, an example of the many local history treasures waiting to be rediscovered. Stevens will be continuing her research on women in law with a focus on female attorneys in government service in western Michigan after World War II.



Kristin Du Mez, a new board member in 2016 and history professor at Calvin College, is author of *A New Gospel for Women: Katharine Bushnell and the Challenge of Christian Feminism* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Last summer, Du Mez became a regular contributor to the Anxious Bench blog hosted by the *Patheos* website. In July, they posted her



“Trump and Hillary By Their Words,” a linguistic analysis of their speeches. In August Kristin sent in “History, Empathy and Race,” describing how studying history can make one more empathetic to those suffering racial discrimination today. Also in July, the *Washington Post* printed her essay on the opinion page titled “Hillary Clinton’s History of Faith is Long and Rich.” Indeed, for years Du Mez has been researching the faith formation in Hillary Clinton’s life in the Methodist Church and how that has shaped her thought and policies. This has developed into a book, almost ready for publication.

Member **Dixie Anderson**, director of the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan for 20 years, will receive the Foreign Policy Association Medal in New York City on October 27. The medal recognizes individuals who demonstrate responsible internationalism and work to expand public knowledge of international affairs. The local World Affairs Council is known for the Great Decisions

Lecture Series held every February and March since the 1960s. Anderson joins an illustrious list of recipients including former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner.



Anderson, right, with Jo Ellyn Clarey at the Bissell unveiling. See page 7.

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Shelley Irwin, member and supporter of our events, is the recipient of the 27th annual Athena Award by the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

The award "honors an individual who has demonstrated leadership in their professional field, mentored and opened doors of opportunities for women, and contributed time and talent to the community." They note that Irwin is a vocal supporter of women in our area and encourages young leaders. Irwin has been active with many events and causes related to women and girls including Girls on the Run, Gazelle Girl Half Marathon/5K, Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore, Girls Choral Academy, and the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. You can visit the Chamber's website for the full story.



Kim McKee, member and an assistant professor in GVSU's Liberal Studies Department, was recently appointed director of the Kutsche Office for Local History. Melanie Shell-Weiss, former director, holds the position of associate professor in the Liberal Studies Department at GVSU. We wish both of these members success in their positions.

Periodically, people contact us through our website with questions involving women in our history. **Lizzie Williams** wrote in to see if we knew anything about **Thelma Patterson**, a previous owner of the Williams house. Planning to celebrate the 100th anniversary of her house, she wanted to find out as much as she could about it and the people who lived there. Having seen a campaign poster in possession of the previous owner, Williams knew that Thelma Patterson had run

for public office. Indeed, Patterson is listed in the GGRWHC's elective database as running for County Commission in 1974 as a Democrat. But beyond that, little was known. Ruth Van Stee met Williams at the library and together they found Patterson's obituary and an informative article featured in the *Press* upon her death in 2003.

They learned that the 1974 campaign was not the only way she had involved herself in politics. Mrs. Patterson was active in the Democratic Party on the local and state levels over the years, serving on the executive board of the Kent County Democratic Committee, as campaign manager for several Democratic hopefuls including Richard Vander Veen and on the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee. She attended many of the county and state conventions. Gerald Ford sent her a signed photograph addressed "to my good Democratic friend."



We also found that the first owner of the house was Otto Jiranek, another well-known citizen, a famed furniture designer in the early 1900s.

In addition to uncovering another influential woman in our history and the creation of a biography file on her at the library, Williams has joined with GGRWHC membership. Welcome!

Cady, *continued from page 3*

but Cady quit abruptly when the Council offered a large salary to a man to run it.

Overall, Cady described her life as "lucky," adding that she always returned to Grand Rapids because "there wasn't a more interesting place to live." She was just as interesting in her own right, and her colorful life contributed greatly to this city's rich history until her death on March 7, 1996.



Read about the current director of the World Affairs Council, Dixie Anderson, in Member News on page 5!

It has been a good year for membership with 26 new members in the 2016 calendar year. If you're not already a member, there is still time for you to join!

Anna Sutherland Bissell Honored

On July 21, 2016, a statue of Grand Rapids businesswoman Anna Sutherland Bissell was unveiled along the river walk outside DeVos Place, south of Michigan Street where the Bissell Carpet Sweeper factory once stood. The Community Legends series, sponsored by the family of Peter Secchia, honors men and women who have shaped Grand Rapids. The statue of Anna Bissell (1846 - 1934) is eighth in the series, the second of a local woman. The ceremony was attended by members of the Bissell and Secchia families, the sculptor, city dignitaries and interested citizens, including members of Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council.

The seven-foot bronze statue was created by artist Ann Hirsch of Boston, who chose to use the likeness of Bissell when she was in her mid 40s in 1889, the year her husband Melvin died and she took sole charge of the company. Unlike other Legends statues, this one is mounted on a slanted base, showing one foot stepping out from under skirts. The artist catches Bissell in mid-stride, moving forward uphill, ahead in her life.

An innovative and progressive businesswoman, Anna Sutherland Bissell moved on to build a small carpet sweeper company into an international giant. Anna and husband Melville started their company thirteen years before his death and were a well-matched team, personally and professionally. They had five children as they worked together on the business—Melville, a skilled inventor and craftsman; Anna, a specialist in marketing and sales.

training, kindergarten, youth clubs, and a branch library for immigrants and the poor. Bissell was involved in the Union Benevolent Society, which established Blodgett Hospital; the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children, where she was personally involved in the work of adoption; Clark Home, which began as a retirement home for Methodist ministers; and she sat on the board of the First Methodist Church after Melville died. When she took her husband's seat on the church

A week after the July Legends dedication, Bissell Company executives gathered on the De Vos Center plaza to see the statue and honor the woman. After company president Mark Bissell talked about the lasting legacy of his great grandmother's early business practices, GGRWHC board member Ruth Van Stee told them of Anna Bissell's influence in Grand Rapids beyond the world of business.

As a philanthropist, she sponsored Bissell House, a site offering

board, Bissell became one of the first women to serve in that capacity in a Methodist church.

The history of businesswomen in West Michigan includes the early example of Madeline La Framboise, an Indian-French fur trader who assumed full responsibility for the family business after the murder of her husband in 1806. Women have, of course, always worked; but for thirty years in the burgeoning industrial world of the late-nineteenth century Anna Bissell set a formidable example.

Her presence as head of a large international organization no doubt influenced the women of her time—perhaps Minnie Hodges, who in the 1880s built Valley City Desk Company alongside her husband and also managed the business across the river from Bissell after his death. Just a mile north upstream, Clara Morley was confident enough to take over her family's company, Quimby Lumber, which she managed through the 1890s and kept solvent through the panic of 1892. After Louise Taylor finished school, she worked for a few years and then started her own company in 1905. Perhaps she thought that if Mrs. Bissell could do it, she could too.

Next time you're taking a stroll down Grand Rapids's beautiful river walk, take a few minutes to view this work of art depicting one of the city's amazing women.





Midwest Regional Oral History Forum
November 19: 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Portage District Library, Kalamazoo, Michigan

In collaboration with the 2016 Summit on Racism, the MOHA forum will bring together oral history practitioners and those interested in developing oral history projects. Sessions will cover the basics of conducting an oral history project, the latest technology involved, and oral history in the classroom. A networking luncheon following the program will allow participants to connect, report on projects, and share ideas. A registration fee of \$25 includes registration, materials, and a box lunch. Register online at <http://MOHAMidwestforum.eventbrite.com>.

The opening reception of the Forum will be held on November 18 at 4:45

pm at the 2016 Summit on Racism, "Understanding Racial Equity; Transforming Our Community," sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA) provides cooperation and communication among persons, programs, and institutions concerned with the techniques, uses, and promotion of oral history in Michigan. Contact MOHA at <https://michiganoha.org/> or 5580 West State Road, Lansing, MI 48906-9325; 517-321-1746; info@MichiganOHA.org.

Getting it Right:
Best (and Worst) Practices of Oral History

A workshop sponsored by GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History

Oral history is a method that preserves the voices and memories of individuals, as family members and community members, as leaders of organizations and members of political or social movements. This workshop will discuss the importance and value of oral histories as method and examine (un)successful practices in conducting oral histories.

James Smither, Professor of History at GVSU and Director of the GVSU Veterans History Project, will facilitate.

RSVP by noon on 10/26/2016:
email kutsche@gvsu.edu
or call 616-331-8099



Jane Hibbard Idema
Women's Studies Center
Celebrates 30 years

The Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center at Aquinas College is celebrating its 30th anniversary with programs throughout the year that highlights its mission.

The history of the Women's Studies Center reflects the Dominican Sisters' work for social justice, as well as a larger history of women's movements over the last 40 to 50 years.

It grew out of the Encore Program, which was created in 1969 for returning women college students, during a time of national educational transformation in what was known as the "second wave" of women's movements.

By 1980, Dominican Sister Yvonne Greiner and Sister Nancy Flumerfelt, Jane Hibbard Idema and Betty Jennings evolved the Encore Program into the Women's Studies Academic Program. And in 1986, the Women's Studies Center was opened to offer programs and resources to complement the academic program.

It was renamed the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center in 2000 after an endowment from Mary Caroline "Twink" Fry and James E. McKay.

According to Amy Dunham Strand, director of the Women's Studies Center, many women's issues from 1986 still persist. Dr. Gina Baraca spoke at Aquinas in September. In her book *If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? Questions and Thoughts for Loud, Smart Women in Turbulent Times*, she discusses today's "turbulent times" as gender-based violence, the gender wage gap, the ongoing need for intersectional feminist activism, and debates over gender-neutral language.

WACs, continued from page 1

This presentation will highlight the record of struggle in Grand Rapids and examine how, though being the most resistant of all the forces, the Marine Corps ultimately became the most progressive branch of the armed services in its acceptance of women.

Please join us on November 10th when Will Miner will use local press reports, oral histories, and historical photographs to illustrate the experiences of area women as they challenged popular opinion and military tradition for the opportunity to defend their country.

Will Miner served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996 and is currently a library assistant in the archives of the Grand Rapids Public Library. A 2003 graduate of GVSU, he earned a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University in 2013.

Co-sponsored by the Greater Rapids Women's History Council, the Grand Rapids Historical Society & the Grand Rapids Public Library

They're Lady Leathernecks Now

Grand Rapids Herald headline, August 1, 1943.



Local women Madelen Staskiewicz, Rosalind Kleine, and Barbara Shoen taking the oath with recruiter Lt. Nancy McKenna.

Grand Rapids Herald, August 1, 1943, page 1 of the women's section.

Set aside a Saturday in January

History Detectives

January 28, 2017

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Grand Rapids Public Library,
111 Library NE, Grand Rapids, 49503

Details on the GGRWHC-sponsored History Detectives program and others will be in the Winter/Spring 2017 Newsletter

Support us with your membership!

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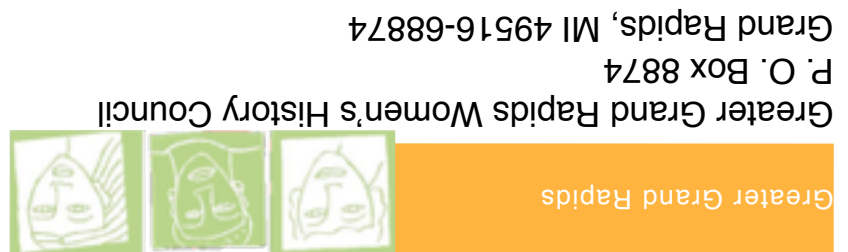
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The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council was started in 1987 when founder Twink Frey was doing research for a paper on the role of women in the history of Grand Rapids. She found little or nothing, either at the local or state levels about the many women who had helped found and shape the city and its surrounding area. Knowing that women had played an enormous role in the development of the region, Frey began to contact others who had a similar interest in systematic research, documentation, and preservation of the lives and contributions of former Grand Rapids and West Michigan women.

In the ensuing 28 years many others joined Frey in this work. A great deal has been accomplished and many women continue to be discovered because they had played important roles in Grand Rapids history.

Visit our website: ggrwhc.org

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council is dedicated to educating the community and celebrating the legacies of local women, preserving knowledge of their past and inspiring visions for their future.