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For Immediate Release

2018 STATE HISTORY AWARDS PRESENTED IN STURGIS, MICHIGAN

STURGIS, Mich.— The Historical Society of Michigan awarded 18 top honors during its annual Michigan History Conference, which was held in Sturgis, Michigan, Sept. 21-23, 2018. The Society presents the State History Awards every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation, collection, preservation and/or promotion of state and local history. The awards are the highest recognition presented by the Historical Society of Michigan, the state’s official historical society and oldest cultural organization.

The winners are:
(Detailed descriptions of each recipient are listed at the end of this news release.)

- **Lifetime Achievement Award— Stanley “Stan” Bozich** of Frankenmuth
- **Distinguished Volunteer Service—Joan Bulley** of East China
- **Distinguished Professional Service—Karl Crawford** of Petoskey
- **Books: University & Commercial Press—**



- **“Building the Modern World: Albert Kahn in Detroit”** by **Michael Hodges** (Wayne State University Press)
- **“Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan”** by **Barbara J. Barton** (Michigan State University Press)
- **“The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy”** by **Anna Clark** (Metropolitan Books)
- **Books: Private Printing—**
 - **“Armand Merizon: His Life and Art 1920-2010”** by **Muriel Zandstra** (Muriel Zandstra)
 - **“Before Fair Lane: Historic Homes from Henry Ford’s Hometown—Dearborn, Michigan (1832-1916)”** by **Glenn O’Kray** (The Museum Guild of Dearborn)
- **Books: Children & Youth—**
 - **“To the Copper Country: Mihaela’s Journey”** by **Barbara Carney-Coston** (Wayne State University Press)
- **Businesses—Detroit History Tours** in Highland Park
- **Communications: Websites—Lin Starr Pollard** of Dowagiac for the website for the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County
- **Education: Educational Programs—Diana Agy** of the **Jackson College Heritage Center** in Jackson for the documentary **“Answering the Call”**
- **Education: Educator—Murphy Darden** of Kalamazoo
- **Institutions—Flint Public Library** in Flint
- **Media—Holland Film Group** in Holland for **“Wilderness to World Class”**
- **Restoration/Preservation—Historic Ottawa Beach Society** in collaboration with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation in Holland
- **Special Programs/Events—Barnes-Hecker Mine Remembrance Committee** in Negaunee
- **Best Article in Michigan History Magazine—“Pedaling Beyond the Petticoats: Women Cyclists in the Gilded Age”** by **Roger Gilles** of Grand Rapids

The Michigan History Conference explores significant people, places and events in Michigan’s past through a diverse offering of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, workshops and tours. Each year, the conference moves to a different location to feature the local history of that area and to address notable statewide historical matters.

The lead sponsors of this year’s Michigan History Conference were The Meijer Foundation and

the Sturgis Area Community Foundation Newell A. & Grace A. Franks Fund. The conference was also sponsored by Abbott Nutrition, Burr Oak Tool & Oak Press Solutions, the City of Sturgis, Designs by Vogt's, Glen Oaks Community College, GT Independence, River Country Tourism Council, the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging and Sturgis Bank & Trust Company.

The Historical Society of Michigan also hosts the Upper Peninsula History Conference, which focuses on the history of the Upper Peninsula, and Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference, which concentrates on Southeast Michigan and statewide history.

The Historical Society of Michigan is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan's rich history.

The Historical Society of Michigan presented its 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award to Stanley "Stan" Bozich of Frankenmuth, Michigan, who founded Michigan's Military & Space Heroes Museum. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy and while enjoying a career as a firefighter for the city of Royal Oak, Bozich established a fledgling nonprofit museum to showcase his collection of military artifacts donated to him by Michigan veterans and their families. He has traveled all over Michigan and throughout the United States to acquire more stories and collect memorabilia. Today, the museum houses the stories and collections of nearly 800 individuals.

This year's State History Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service went to Joan Bulley of East China for her years of service to the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society. Bulley serves as president of the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society, an all-volunteer organization focusing on local history. She has spearheaded many society projects, including the organization of its artifacts into reference notebooks and the acquisition of the area's old Fifth-Third Bank building to become the society's Maritime Museum. Through her decades of volunteering, strong leadership and willingness to mentor others, she has helped the Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society grow and better display its local history.

The Historical Society of Michigan presented a State History Award in the category of Distinguished Professional Service to Karl Crawford of Petoskey. As the superintendent of Petoskey's Greenwood Cemetery, Crawford created a series of highly successful history tours that feature costumed actors standing at gravesites and speaking about the people who were buried there. To accompany the tours, Crawford wrote a series of booklets entitled "Petoskey Stones Speak." He also initiated a project to digitally scan newspaper obituaries and place them on the cemetery's new website as a research source.

A State History Award in the category of Books: University & Commercial Press was presented

to Michael Hodges for “Building the Modern World: Albert Kahn in Detroit,” published by Wayne State University Press. Author Michael Hodges details the remarkable story of one of America’s greatest architects. Albert Kahn was a German-Jewish immigrant whose family came to the United States in 1881. Kahn rose from humble beginnings to create buildings that defined downtown Detroit, including the General Motors Building, the Fisher Building and the Detroit Athletic Club. His automobile factories for Packard and Ford revolutionized both industry and architecture. At his death in December 1942, Kahn was deeply involved in creating the industrial works that would turn the United States into the Arsenal of Democracy.

A State History Award in the category of Books: University & Commercial Press was presented to Barbara J. Barton for “Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan,” published by Michigan State University Press. In “Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan,” author Barbara J. Barton introduces readers to the history, culture, biology, economics and spirituality surrounding this sacred plant. She begins her story in the days before European colonization and travels in time through the logging and industrialization eras. Barton explores the worlds of the Anishinaabek and the colonizers as she contrasts their different perspectives and relationships with Manoomin. Readers will learn the full story of one of Michigan’s iconic natural resources, including the destruction of most of the state’s rice beds and the hope for its recovery.

A State History Award in the category of Books: University & Commercial Press went to Anna Clark for “The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy,” published by Metropolitan Books. During the last four years, Flint has gained national notoriety for the Flint Water Crisis. The disaster is the subject of “The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy,” a new book by investigative journalist Anna Clark. In the book, the author describes how Flint residents held protests and public meetings, collected water samples, created social media pages to share information and gained access to public documents. The overwhelming evidence of contaminated water that they presented led the city to switch back to its former water source in the fall of 2015. By then, however, the city had been exposed to toxic water for 18 months.

A State History Award in the category of Books: Private Printing was presented to Muriel Zandstra for the self-published book “Armand Merizon: His Life and Art 1920-2010.” Michigan artist Armand Merizon was born in Kalamazoo in 1920 and, at the age of three, moved with his family to Grand Rapids. There, he spent the rest of his life in a conservative Dutch community where his drive to create art prevailed despite discouragement from his family, church and community. His astounding body of work ranged from realism to abstraction to impressionism. This book showcases some of Merizon’s best paintings, but this is not simply a coffee-table art book. The author also provides readers with an overview of the artist’s life and work, including his struggle with macular degeneration and arthritis.

A State History Award in the category of Books: Private Printing went to Glenn O’Kray for “Before Fair Lane: Historic Homes from Henry Ford’s Hometown—Dearborn, Michigan (1832-1916),” published by The Museum Guild of Dearborn. Editor Glenn O’Kray and photographer Bruce Harkness set out to document the domestic architectural history of Dearborn in the years prior to the construction of Henry Ford’s landmark home, Fair Lane, in 1916. This book showcases both existing homes and, through archival photographs, houses that have been demolished over the years. “Before Fair Lane” creates awareness of the importance of the built environment in preserving the sense of community in Dearborn and the need to maintain these fine old homes.

“To the Copper Country: Mihaela’s Journey” by Barbara Carney-Coston, published by Wayne State University Press, received a State History Award in the category of Books: Children & Youth. History sometimes comes alive through works of historical fiction. This book captivates young readers with the story of an 11-year-old Croatian girl’s journey to Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. The year is 1886, and Mihaela, her mother, and two younger brothers have immigrated to the Copper Country to join Mihaela’s father, who has found work in the mines. Youthful readers will learn about U.P. history, along with recipes for Croatian food and Cornish pasties and a pronunciation guideline for Croatian words.

A State History Award in the category of Businesses was presented to Detroit History Tours of Highland Park. Since its founding in 2015, Detroit History Tours has hosted more than 1,200 tours and taken 41,000 people around the city by bus, boat and foot. The company offers tours that cover more than 20 different topic areas, including a “Wild Women of Detroit Tour”; a tour of “Secret Detroit: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure”; a Detroit architecture tour; and the “Felony and Misdemeanors: The Detroit Cops and Mobsters Tour.” The company is committed to quality history education, to the preservation of Michigan and Detroit stories and to a unique approach of making history fun.

The Historical Society of Michigan presented a State History Award in the category of Communications: Websites to Lin Starr Pollard of Dowagiac for the creation of a website for the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County. When the society discovered the importance of its online presence, it quickly began ventures into the digital sector with a website centered on the history of the Underground Railroad in Cass County, as well as an update on the society’s activities and restoration processes in the area. The society’s website is an excellent example of the power of technology to deliver relevant history.

A State History Award in the category of Education: Educational Programs went to Diana Agy of the Jackson College Heritage Center in Jackson for the documentary “Answering the Call.” This past year, the center created a documentary film and two genealogical quilts recognizing the life’s work of William Maher and his quest to keep the memory of his friends’ service alive for future generations. “Answering the Call” is a multimedia project focused on the history of Zenneth Pond, one of Maher’s

friends who lost his life during a military flight mission. Students organized the documentary and worked with the Jackson Michigan Recruiting Center's active military to provide a tribute to the fallen soldier during the program's presentation.

The Historical Society of Michigan presented a State History Award in the category of Education: Educator to Murphy Darden of Kalamazoo in recognition of his outstanding work in African-American history education. Darden has devoted the last 20 years to the preservation and interpretation of African-American history. His grasp of the importance of history and material culture has led him to acquire a priceless collection of artifacts pertaining to African-American history in Kalamazoo; his home state of Mississippi; African-American cowboys; and other artifacts that relate to the Jim Crow Era, agriculture, and the military.

The State History Award for Institutions went to the Flint Public Library. Through a 60-year partnership with the Flint Genealogical Society, the library has helped cultivate a strong and thriving interest in genealogy by offering an irreplaceable collection, relevant knowledge and a committed staff. Researchers from all over Michigan and beyond are drawn to the library's vast collection. Several other unique items in the collection include the Genesee County Biography File, the Flint City Directory and a more recent curated collection of articles and resources on the Flint water crisis that has potential value to future researchers.

The State History Award in the category of Media went to "Wilderness to World Class" by the Holland Film Group. In this feature-length documentary, the story of Holland, Michigan, comes to life through interviews, local footage and historical artifacts in a compelling documentary designed to keep Holland's past within easy reach for the community's educational purposes. The Holland Film Group began in 2016 with local historians, advocates, teachers and technicians who were dedicated to the idea of sharing Holland's history in the digital age. "Wilderness to World Class" focuses on Holland's "Midwestern" experience, in addition to the area's natural resources, agrarian roots, industrial developments, faith and philanthropy and placement along an inland waterway.

A State History Award in the category of Restoration/Preservation was presented to the Historic Ottawa Beach Society, which worked in collaboration with the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation in Holland. The brick building in Ottawa Beach known as the Pump House originated in 1901 as an electric generating plant. In 1987, local residents formed the Ottawa Beach Historic Committee to preserve and restore the building and to collect and interpret the area history in a museum. The Historic Ottawa Beach Society incorporated in 2010 to raise money for a restoration and renovation of the Pump House to its condition in 1924. The Pump House Museum and Learning Center opened in 2018 with three permanent exhibits and a temporary exhibit about Holland's iconic lighthouse. More than 600 people toured the museum in its first month of operation.

The Historical Society presented a State History Award in the category of Special Programs/Events to the Barnes-Hecker Mine Remembrance Committee in Negaunee. A November 3, 1926, cave-in at the Barnes-Hecker Mine, located west of Ishpeming in Marquette County, claimed the lives of 51 men and became the third-worst underground mine disaster in the history of the United States. The Remembrance, which took place in October and November 2016, educated the general public about the historical tragedy. An impressive outpouring of local support helped aid the Remembrance and has led to the donation of photos and documents about the tragedy to museum collections.

The 2018 State History Award for the Best Article in Michigan History magazine was presented to Roger Gilles of Grand Rapids for his article entitled “Pedaling Beyond the Petticoats: Women Cyclists in the Gilded Age.” The article appeared in Michigan History’s March/April 2018 issue and explored how the widespread popularity of bicycles in the 1890s spurred women to compete in athletic competitions otherwise reserved solely for men and “emancipated” them from binding gender norms of the era. By participating in dangerous, high-speed races that resulted in impressive victories, both on and off the track, women cyclists defied Victorian norms of female frailty and proved they were every bit as good as male athletes.

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Individual high-resolution photos are available for award recipients. Contact HSM at hsm@hsmichigan.org

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