



Kutsche Office director, Veta Tucker at the Erastus Hussey—Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Monument in Battle Creek, Michigan

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## Community History Partnerships

### ***The Museum 101***

***Workshop series*** grew out of the partnership established between the Kutsche Office and the Lakeshore Museum Center of Muskegon. Last spring, three hands-on workshops were presented to interested museum staff, volunteers and GVSU students. For a minimal cost, participants took away valuable ideas, essential information and handy resource guides that will enhance their ability to work or volunteer in a museum. The Kutsche Office forged relationships with two new partners in 2010-11: The Grand Valley Native American Indian Lodge and the Holland Center for African American Art and History.

The Grand Valley American Indian Lodge approached the Kutsche Office searching for seed money to produce a book to commemorate the Lodge's 50th anniversary coming in September 2011. After a number of

discussions, the Lodge submitted a proposal to the Kutsche Office outlining the book's purpose and charting the stages of production. The Kutsche Office accepted the Lodge's proposal. Lodge members gave an update on the book's progress to the annual Roundtable meeting in April 2011. The final publication will be available in September 2011.

The Kutsche Office director met with Ruth and Wayne Coleman, residents of Holland who have secured a building and funding to open an African American Art and History Center in Holland. Impressed with the Colemans, the facility and the potential for community history education, the Kutsche Office suggested that the Holland CAAAH collaborate as a Kutsche Office community history partner. The Kutsche Office is providing the

***We listen to our partners and strive to assist them with comprehensive history projects.***

CAAH with student interns, research assistance, web design support, exhibit and programming ideas, and review of print and promotional materials. The Kutsche Office is also working with the CAAAH to write a grant to produce a documentary film, "Blacks in Holland," which promises to be an eye-opener for those in the area who thought that Holland was and is a preserve for the Dutch only. The Center for African American Art and History is slated for opening in February 2012.

## Kutsche Local History Student Internships

***Through our Local History Student Internship program, we help Grand Valley students engage in the community too.***

Students selected to become a Local History Intern can get hands-on experience understanding how to store, preserve and organize historical documents and artifacts; they get real world experience in a historical archive, museum or organization; they get up-close and personal acquaintance with history professionals and volunteers; and they gain practical skills that prepare them to obtain employment in history institutions and organizations.

With a generous donation from a Grand Valley faculty member who supports the mission of the Kutsche Office, we were able to hire our own student intern during the summer of 2011. Abby D'Addario had interned for the Kutsche Office in 2010 at the Jenison Historical Museum, so we knew what she could do. She helped launch the Local History Student Internship program, which, as the summer began, was just a conceptual plan the Kutsche Office director had imagined.

During the summer, Abby visited many local history organizations, libraries and museums in the area. She



*Abby D'Addario  
Student Intern at Jenison Historical Museum*

researched each organization's needs and created a list of internship-ready sites. Abby also created ads describing each internship and the qualifications expected of student applicants. Students can find each internship listed on our web site [www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche) with instructions on how to apply.

## Local History Roundtable Considers the Meaning of the 150th Civil War Commemoration



Sandra S. Clark  
Director of Michigan Historical Center

**Another pillar of the Kutsche Office's community engagement effort is the Local History Roundtable, an association of local organizations—large and small museums, church and governmental archives, history libraries, etc.—that meet once a year and maintain a presence on a collective web site hosted by the Kutsche Office. At the 2011 annual meeting, Roundtable participants saw a multi-media presentation by Alex Forist, collections curator for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and heard presentations on the theme of the 150th year commemoration of the Civil War by local historian, Bruce Butgereit, and director of the Michigan Historical Center, Sandra Clark.**



Bruce Butgereit, Commander  
Military Order of the Loyal Legion  
of the United States

**Each year at the Roundtable meeting, a committee of volunteers is formed to plan the annual meeting for the following year. Seven new people volunteered to serve on the 2011-12 planning committee, and the 2012 annual meeting promises to be as informative and inspiring as 2011's.**

## Local History Research Grants

**In January 2011 the Kutsche Office awarded grant monies to two faculty members to engage in local history research.**

Sherry Johnson of the English department and community historian, Sonya Hollins received assistance to produce a photograph exhibit on the life of Merze Tate, an African American woman born and raised in Mecosta County who became an international scholar, world traveler, author and emissary for the US State Department. The exhibit, "Through the Lens of Merze Tate: From Michigan Farm to International Scholar," was on exhibit at the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing from February through April, 2011. Students in the GVSU Art department mounted the photographs on foam board for the exhibit and students in an African American and Women's Studies class created an interactive exercise for visitors.

A second research grant was awarded to professors Barbara Roos and Margo Greenlaw to research a moment of radical feminism in West Michigan using local, regional and national archives and by conducting interviews. One aspect of the study examines the undergraduate major, Women World and Wonder, offered by Grand Valley's Thomas Jefferson College in the 1970's.

Faculty and community historians may submit grant applications when the next call for proposals opens in November 2011. Check our website [www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche) for details.



Merze Tate  
in Oxford University Graduation Regalia

# Advisory Council

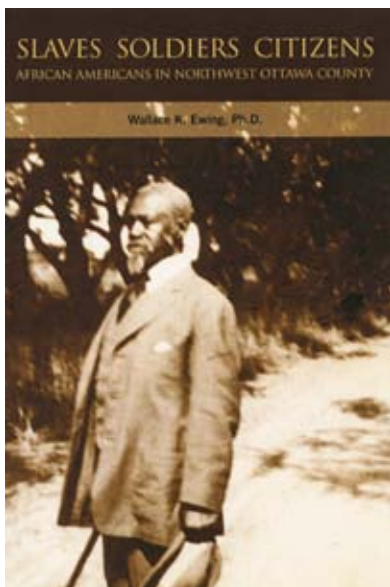
***An Advisory Council was organized in the spring of 2010 and has met over the 2010-2011 year to give guidance to the Kutsche Office and to help the Office fulfill its mission.***

Gordon Olson, the president of the Advisory Council is no stranger to the local community and has extensive knowledge of local history. He has published many books on local groups and served as the Grand Rapids city historian for many years. With Olson's experience and leadership and many concerned Council members, the Kutsche Office is poised to achieve its mission: to use history as a means to strengthen the intellectual and social bonds of West Michigan communities and to foster an earnest appreciation of our common humanity and common destiny.

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## Local History Publications



***The Kutsche Office is proud to announce its support of two new local history publications:***

*Slaves Soldiers Citizens* by Wallace Ewing, PhD and *A New Home in Michigan The Mexican American Experience in Muskegon* by Daniel Yakes, PhD and Connie Navarro.

Dr. Ewing's book documents the presence of a vibrant black community in the Grand Haven-Spring Lake area beginning in 1845. Dr. Yakes' book chronicles the migration of Mexican Americans from Texas to Muskegon from the 1940's and charts the impact the migrants made on their new home. Orders for both books can be taken by the Kutsche Office at [www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche).