



HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

CONTACT: Tony Dierckins | tonyd@zenithcity.com | 218-310-6541

Zenith City Press publisher Tony Dierckins has developed over 20 presentations covering a variety of topics concerning historic Duluth and the Western Lake Superior Region. Presentations are developed from our books and designed to take anywhere from 20 to 60 minutes. Select from the topics listed on the next pages or have us create a custom presentation* for your event.

SPEAKING FEES

CORPORATE EVENTS

(Annual dinners, fundraisers, staff retreats, client-enticing events)

COST: \$300 | *\$250 if the speaker is allowed to sell books following the presentation.*

LENGTH: Up to one hour

EQUIPMENT: Facility or host organization provides screen and projector

SENIOR FACILITIES

(Senior Living Facilities, Assisted-Living Facilities, “College for Seniors” Classes, etc.)

COST: \$200 | *\$150 if the speaker is allowed to sell books following the presentation.*

LENGTH: Up to one hour

EQUIPMENT: Facility or host organization provides screen and projector

HISTORY-RELATED NONPROFITS

(Historical Societies, Preservation Groups, Genealogy Clubs, Senior Centers, Libraries, etc.)

COST: \$100 | *\$50 if the speaker is allowed to sell books following the presentation.*

LENGTH: Up to one hour

EQUIPMENT: Facility or host organization provides screen and projector

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

(Weekly or Monthly meetings of Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

COST: Free | *Speaker must be allowed to sell books following the presentation*

LENGTH: 20–30 Minutes

EQUIPMENT: Facility or host organization provides screen and projector

*CUSTOM PRESENTATIONS

If you would like us to develop a new presentation on a topic not currently offered, we can create a custom presentation for your event. Costs include research, image procurement, presentation design, and speaking at the event itself:

20–30 Minute Presentation: \$350 | *Speaker must be allowed to sell books following the presentation*

35–60 Minute Presentation: \$500 | *Speaker must be allowed to sell books following the presentation*

SEE ACCOMPANYING PAGES FOR TOPICS AND DESCRIPTIONS



HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

DULUTH'S HISTORIC PARKS PRESENTATIONS

As we release *Duluth's Historic Parks: Their First 160 Years* in the spring of 2017, authors Nancy S. Nelson and Tony Dierckins will be developing several presentations based on the book. Speaking fees reduced during the first six months following the book's release May 11. Please email to inquire about which topics will be offered.

DULUTH'S HISTORIC BREWERIES [45 MINUTES]

Duluth's first brewery opened in 1857; by 1906 the Zenith City had three major breweries—Fitger's, Peoples, and Duluth Malt & Beverage. Prohibition forced these companies to adapt to survive, and after the "Noble Experiment" ended in failure, they retooled only to face stiff competition as larger breweries overpowered regional brands. By 1972, all three were all gone. Adapted from the forthcoming book *Naturally Brewed, Naturally Better: Historic Breweries of Duluth & Superior*.

HISTORIC GLENSHEEN [20, 30, OR 45 MINUTES]

We begin with the story of Chester and Clara Congdon and their family, how they came to make Duluth their home and how Chester built the fortune that paid for their remarkable estate. Then modern and historic images help explain what makes Glensheen a remarkable example of shifting ideals in American architecture at the turn of the twentieth century and show off the work of Minnesota's premier architect, interior designers, and landscape designers. Adapted from the books *Glensheen: The Official Guide to Duluth's Congdon Estate* and *Historic Glensheen 1905 – 1930*.

AMERICA'S ROBBER BARONS & THE IRON RANGE [20 TO 30 MINUTES]

Duluth's famous Merritt family opened the Mesabi Iron Range in the early 1890s only to lose it to John D. Rockefeller by 1895. Afterwards, Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie and Henry Oliver (with his partner Chester Congdon) battled over the Iron Range until J. P. Morgan formed U. S. Steel, creating the fortune that financed public libraries and Duluth's most famous home, Congdon's Glensheen. Adapted from the book *Glensheen: The Official Guide to Duluth's Congdon Estate*.

DULUTH'S LOST GRAND STAGE THEATRES [45 to 60 MINUTES]

Audience members travel from 1868 to 1963 to cover the life of Duluth's grand theatres—the 1883 Grand Opera House, the 1889 Temple Opera Block, the 1891 Lyceum Theatre, and the 1912 Orpheum Theatre—and goes beyond the architecture to introduce them to the civic leaders—and downright scoundrels—associated with them. It ends with the history of Duluth's iconic Art Deco movie house, the NorShor Theatre. Adapted from *Lost Duluth: Landmarks, Industries, Buildings, Homes & the Neighborhoods in Which They Stood*.

LOST INDUSTRY OF THE ST. LOUIS RIVER: [45 to 60 MINUTES]

Both sides of the St. Louis River at Duluth and Superior were once lined with ore docks, coal docks, lumber mills, flour mills, grain terminals, and metal manufacturers. From the early fur post and brownstone quarries of Find du lac to Morgan Park's giant Minnesota Steel Plant, this presentation explains the rise—and demise—of the industries that built the Zenith City. Adapted from *Lost Duluth: Landmarks, Industries, Buildings, Homes & the Neighborhoods in Which They Stood*.

CROSSING THE CANAL BEFORE THE BRIDGE 1865–1905 [45 MINUTES]

Duluth finished digging its canal in 1871, but it wasn't until 1905 that a permanent bridge spanned its piers. The presentation covers the many legends surrounding the canal dig, Duluth's legal struggle with Superior over the canal's existence, early ideas for crossing it (including a tunnel), and the struggle to build the iconic Aerial Bridge. Adapted from *Crossing the Canal: An Illustrated History of Duluth's Aerial Bridge*.

THE AERIAL TRANSFER BRIDGE 1905–1929 [45 MINUTES]

When Duluthians finally built a bridge over its 1871 ship canal—in 1905—it was one of the most innovative structures in the world. An aerial transfer bridge, it ferried passengers back and forth across the canal in a gondola car—but by 1925 the automobile had rendered it obsolete, and the presentation covers its entire life. Adapted from *Crossing the Canal: An Illustrated History of Duluth's Aerial Bridge*.

COPPER RUSH: THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE NORTH SHORE [20 MINUTES]

The “Minnesota side” of Lake Superior first opened to western expansion in the mid 1850s and was expected to become a copper-mining community that would rival Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which at one time supplied 90% of the nation's copper. But lack of minerals, an international depression, and the American Civil War postponed dreams until Jay Cooke showed up in 1866.

BOOM & BUST & BOOM & BUST: Duluth, 1855–1887 [20, 30, or 45 MINUTES]

In 1855 pioneers began platting townships on the “Minnesota Side” of the Head of the Lakes, and the air was filled with the promise of an ideal geographic location. But the next 20 years would prove to be unstable times for the fledgling communities which were depleted due to war and two major economic depressions. They came together to form a city in 1870, only to see that city dissolve by 1877—but by 1887 Duluth was back on its feet. Adapted from *Lost Duluth: Landmarks, Industries, Buildings, Homes & the Neighborhoods in Which They Stood*.

ITALIANS IN THE ZENITH CITY [20 TO 30 MINUTES]

Duluth, especially its western environs, attracted many unskilled immigrants over the years who left their homelands for a better life and found themselves in a new land often performing menial labor in a mill or on a dock. This presentation follows the Italians who came to Duluth from 1880s to 1920 and what they found here, where they settled, and how they made their way. And while it focuses on the children of Italy, the presentation is really about the experience of all of Duluth's immigrant ethnic groups. Adapted from *Lost Duluth: Landmarks, Industries, Buildings, Homes & the Neighborhoods in Which They Stood*.

PROHIBITION IN THE ZENITH CITY [20 TO 30 MINUTES]

The U.S. banned the manufacture and sale of alcohol from 1919 to 1933—but Duluth was dry from 1916 to 1934. Find out why Duluth's Prohibition outlasted the rest of the U.S., how its breweries survived, the many ways Duluthians managed to get a drink, and why in 1920 the city's chief of police stood trial for bootlegging. Adapted from the forthcoming book *Naturally Brewed, Naturally Better: Historic Breweries of Duluth & Superior*.

MURDER IN THE ZENITH CITY [20 TO 30 MINUTES]

Duluth could be a rough-and-tumble place in its formative years, and not everyone got out alive. This presentation traces some early notorious homicides in Duluth, including the city's first intentional killing in 1869, a murderer whose body was experimented on after his execution, and the last man legally hung for capital murder in St. Louis County in 1905.

OLIVER TRAPHAGEN: DULUTH'S QUINTESSENTIAL ARCHITECT [20 MINUTES]

Between 1886 and 1896 Oliver Traphagen—alone and with Francis Fitzpatrick—design more Duluth buildings than any other architect, primarily employing his signature Richardsonian Romanesque style to create powerful and often fanciful brick-and-brownstone masterpieces, some of which are still with us today. After leaving Duluth, Traphagen headed to Hawaii where his work heavily influenced the architecture of Honolulu. Adapted from *Lost Duluth: Landmarks, Industries, Buildings, Homes & the Neighborhoods in Which They Stood*.

DULUTH'S 1889 CITY HALL & ITS MAYORS [45 MINUTES]

Renowned Duluth architect Oliver Traphagen designed this brownstone jewel at the southwest corner of Superior and East Second Streets to serve the seat of Duluth's municipal government, which it did until 1929. This presentation reaches beyond the architecture to introduces audiences to the twelve mayors that served within its walls. From the forthcoming book *Duluth's Grand Old Buildings*.

DULUTH'S 1904 PUBLIC LIBRARY [20-30 MINUTES]

Duluth's Library, officially founded in 1889, has roots that go back to 1869 and did not have a home of its own until 1904, a neoclassical brownstone masterpiece designed by a teacher at Duluth's Central high School and funded by steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie. So where did Duluthians keep its public collection before 1904, and what lead to the library's replacement in 1980? The presentation explains it all. From the forthcoming book *Duluth's Grand Old Buildings*.

THE HOTEL DULUTH / GREYSOLON PLAZA [30 MINUTES]

In 1926 the Hotel Duluth opened as the most luxurious hostelry in the region and over the years played host to celebrities and dignitaries from Bob Hope to President John F. Kennedy—just weeks before his death in November, 1963. This presentation covers the construction and life of the hotel, now Greysolon Plaza, including the infamous black bear intrusion of 1929. From the forthcoming book *Duluth's Grand Old Buildings*.

THE KITCHI GAMMI CLUB & ITS PIONEER MEMBERS [30-45 MINUTES]

Duluth's Kitchi Gammi Club included the movers and shakers that shaped the Zenith City. From the pioneer grain traders who established the club to the mining magnets who cashed in during the 1890s, this presentation introduces the audience to some of the most important men of 19th-century Duluth including well-known names like Guilford Hartley and Chester Congdon. From the forthcoming book *Duluth's Grand Old Buildings*.

POSTCARD PERSPECTIVES OF HISTORIC DULUTH [45 MINUTES]

From 1900 to 1939 color lithographic postcards were not just highly collected, but were often used as advertisements for growing cities. Along with the expected vacation scenes, postcards were made of office buildings, bridges, municipal buildings, freighter and ore boats, churches, industry, and more to entice families and business owners to new communities, and Duluth was no different. Today they are often used to illustrate the past, but just how accurate are they? Adapted from *Zenith: A Postcard Perspective of Historic Duluth*.