

Detroit Historical Society Archival Interns - Spring 2020

The Detroit Historical Society is offering one or more internships that focus on archival work. These internships include artifact processing, cataloging, research, writing, and interpretation. The interns will learn how to enter material into a Past Perfect database, digitize and interpret the material, and store the physical and digital artifacts properly. The intern may work on one or more of the following projects.

The **first project** involves processing glass plate photographic negatives created by regional photographer Louis James Pesha. In 1901, Pesha opened a studio on the St. Clair River in Marine City, Michigan, and began capturing images of passing ships. Following his death in 1912, his wife sustained this tradition. Because of the high quality of the plates and the studio's location, Pesha's photographs offer some of the finest images of early 20th century Great Lakes ships. The collection includes 1000 plates, half of which have been processed and can be viewed online. The archival intern will learn how to process the remaining 500 plates.

The **second project** involves processing approximately 1,000 plans for Great Lakes ships, from passenger and freight vessels, to yachts, survey craft, lightships and salvage equipment. The artifacts represent the work of naval architects throughout the Great Lakes region; they include original vellum drawings, incidental sketches, and shipyard blueprints. Most notable are the works of Frank Kirby, Detroit Dry Dock Company, Great Lakes Engineering Works, Defoe Shipbuilding, John Hacker, Russell Pouliot, and Mack Earle.

The **third project** involves extensive research and is conducted in partnership with the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History (AGLMH). The project includes locating and documenting art pertinent to Great Lakes maritime culture – vessels, ports, sailors, passengers – and entering the material's metadata into an existing beta database. This project will concentrate on art in the form of paintings, sketches, sculptures, models, and lithographs. Some of this material will be found in large institutional collections and can be gathered from existing database files. However, a majority of material will be located in smaller collections, such as local libraries, colleges, and with private individuals.

The internship supervisor for these projects will be Joel Stone, DHS Senior Curator, with direction provided by a variety of archival and curatorial staff. The bulk of activity will take place at the Collections Resource Center (CRC) located at Historic Fort Wayne.

To apply, please send your application materials to: greatlakesthemesemester@umich.edu