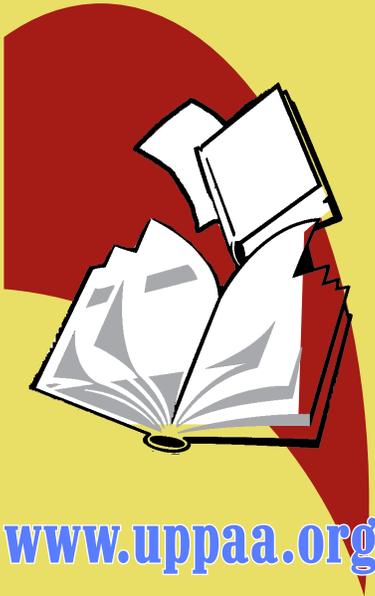


# The Written Word

NO. 1 • VOL. V • 1ST QUARTER 2013



[www.uppaa.org](http://www.uppaa.org)

TO READ A BOOK, TO THINK IT OVER, AND TO WRITE OUT NOTES IS A USEFUL EXERCISE; A BOOK WHICH WILL NOT REPAY SOME HARD THOUGHT IS NOT WORTH PUBLISHING.  
M. MITCHELL

## Fall Meeting Small but Productive

*October 17, 2012, UPPAA Fall meeting minutes*

In attendance: Tyler Tichelaar, Donna Winters, Gretchen Preston, Jenifer Brady, Sydney Giovenco, Larry Buege, Ben Mukkala, and Mary Soper.

We reviewed the minutes of the spring meeting as recorded by Jenifer Brady. Donna Winters motioned to approve, Mary Soper seconded, and the motion passed.

Donna Winters read the treasurer's report. So far in 2012, UPPAA has taken in \$1,752.85 and had expenses in the amount of \$1,350.20. This is not counting any income prior to 2012, so we have more in the bank than those figures account for.

We discussed the resolution of the newsletter situation. There will be one paper newsletter in the spring and three others throughout the year via email.



Members gather for discussion at the fall meeting.

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Nicole Walton conducts a mock interview with Jennifer Brady, seated on the left.

Gretchen Preston brought up the possibility of creating a spreadsheet of information of UPPAA authors that could be made available to bookstore owners. She is willing to take on the job of compiling all the data, including authors' names and contact info as well as stats about their books.

Tyler Tichelaar told us about an idea Lon Emerick had of organizing a U.P. Author Day. We had much lively discussion about this, including the possibility of choosing a day to hold multiple book events across the U.P.

Nicole Walton from Public Radio 90 joined us to give advice about interviewing. She said to talk in nuggets, strive to get the most important information out in the least amount of space, sound excited about your topic, practice, and never answer a question with "yes" or "no." She conducted mock interviews and helped us each identify our personal strengths and weaknesses in the interview process.

We discussed dates and subjects for the spring conference. A couple of names to look into for speakers were mentioned, and the possible subjects for panels or sessions brought up were online marketing/social media and what we need to know about the probable book industry trends in the near future.

## SPAN Partnership

BRIAN JUD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPAN

UPPAA members continue to get a \$29 discount off the annual \$89 membership (33%). The link for them to join is <http://www.spanpro.org/join-application>

Your members will get discounts on information, services, tools and personal assistance that will help them sell more books, to more people, more quickly.

A complete list of benefits for SPAN members is at <http://www.spanpro.org/member-benefits-public>

## Go Iron County!

VICTOR VOLKMAN

Some 600 people reached the top of Mt. Everest in 2012. This UPPAA blog got about 7,500 views in 2012. If every person who reached the top of Mt. Everest viewed this blog, it would have taken 13 years to get that many views. In 2012, there were 43 new posts, growing the total archive of this blog to 115 posts. There were 44 pictures uploaded, taking up a total of 12 MB. That's about 4 pictures per month. The busiest day of the year was March 17th with 99 views. The most popular post that day was <http://uppaa.org/book-catalog/adult-nonfiction/history/iron-county-mi/> Iron County, MI. More fun facts at <http://uppaa.org/2012/annual-report/>



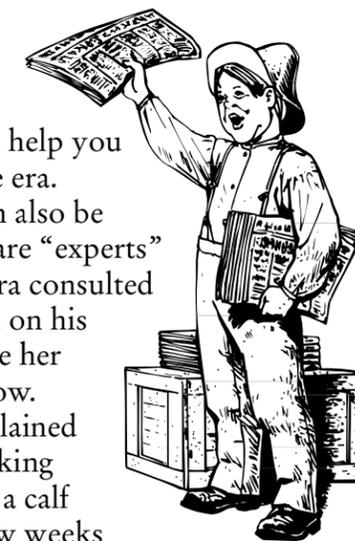
## Historical Fiction Writing

BY DONNA WINTERS AND DEBORAH K. FRONTIERA

Deborah Frontiera has written many books in many different genres and personally feels that historical fiction is the most challenging. "You not only have to do all the research you would for non-fiction, you have to have all the elements of great fiction writing as well: believable characters, dramatic scenes and dialogue, internal and external conflict, motivation, pacing, etc." Historical fiction can be written for either adults or young people and often can be tied to school curriculum, enhancing a book's market. Deborah and Donna Winters, who specializes in historical fiction, teamed up to write this article.

### Researching History and Defining your setting in detail

Let's assume you have decided on a setting, i.e., a definite time and place for your story, and now you want to dig out the details to make your fiction believable. One of the best ways to start is with the most knowledgeable historian for the area you plan to write about. He/she will guide you to the most important archival material available on the subject, material that is often available nowhere but in its local repository. Here, you may uncover gems such as diaries, journals, local newspapers, and photographs. All of these might be currently unpublished and unavailable on microfilm. Details from these sources give



your story credibility and help you develop a plot that fits the era.

Friends and family can also be valuable resources. They are "experts" in their own way. Frontiera consulted with a cousin who carried on his father's dairy farm because her character's family had a cow. Deborah's cousin had explained that usually they stop milking a cow a few weeks before a calf is born and then wait a few weeks afterward before starting to milk the cow again to be sure the calf has enough. This is called "freshening." He also told her that on one occasion he had forgotten to check the calendar for one of his cows and milked her straight through. It was hard on the cow, but she was okay. Frontiera used this knowledge to have her character's family decide that their cow needed to "sacrifice" this freshening to their hunger during hard times. Another time, a childhood friend was making "squeaky cheese" (Finnish juustoa, an "oven cheese") when Frontiera was visiting her for coffee. Deborah grabbed her notebook as her friend explained the process. This turned into a scene where the mother of her character teaches her to make this family staple. Details like these can enrich any piece of historical writing.

### Another great resource for historical fiction writers is newspapers on microfilm.

By reading issues published at the time and place of your story, you can grasp the zeitgeist, or spirit of the times. Advertisements by businesses, listings of social events, the weather, and editorials on politics appear in these old "rags." They also include train and boat schedules, prices for farm commodities and dry goods, and perhaps recipes ("receipts" in 19th century parlance) and household hints. Newspapers and directories from your era can provide you with "popular" names of the times for your characters, too.

In addition, one of the most valuable assets you can gain from reading old newspapers is the manner in which the language was used in the time and place of your story. The meanings of words and phrases change quickly and local use of them varies from region to region, even within the same state. Your characters' dialog will be defined by words and phrases in use at the time, so pay attention.

Steeping yourself in the language of the newspapers will help you "think" in that language when you sit down to write. Note, however, that the "newspaper as a major source of info" only holds true from about the mid-1800's on. In earlier eras, newspapers reported very little local material other than ads and events. Social

happenings did not make the pages of the press and therefore you will have to dig them out through other means.

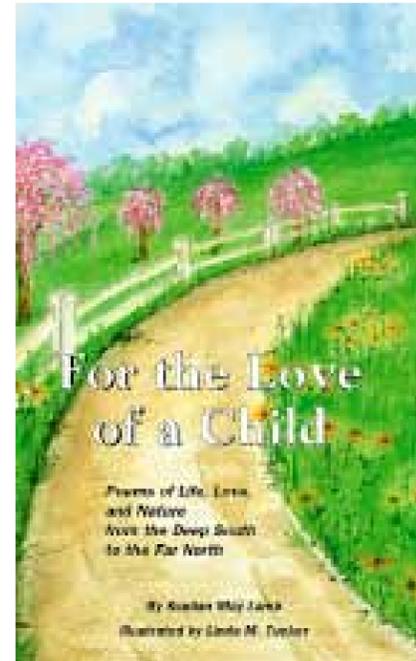
Aside from newspapers, diaries and journals from your setting are of immeasurable value. Here, you learn the personal concerns of those who lived at the time, their routines, how the weather affected their lives, and much more. In addition to these first-hand, true-to-life sources, you will want to read the fiction published in that day—books your characters might have read. These sources become very important if your setting is farther back in time than newspapers reach. Also look for recently released fiction similar in setting to what you plan to write so you can get an idea of how writers are approaching

such projects. If none exists, great! Yours will be the first. Of course, it's not great if you've got your heart set on a time and place that no one is interested in reading about (a non-viable market).

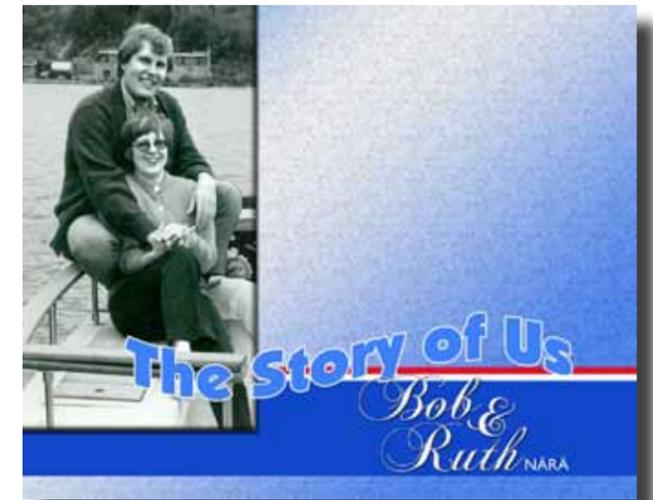
On the other hand, it's often said, "write your passion." Perhaps a market will develop where none currently exists. A good example is Amish fiction. Beverly Lewis pioneered the genre and now dozens of new titles appear every month. All it takes is one breakout title and a new genre craze is born. It could happen to you!

When you put it all together, and get it right, you will make your readers feel like they are right there in the middle of the action of history. That is a very satisfying feeling for reader AND writer.

# Member News



**Suellen May Lamb** has a new book of poetry titled, "For the Love of a Child." It contains poetry from the Far North of the UP to the Deep South of Louisiana where Suellen and her husband moved to care for their granddaughter. It is being printed by Lake Superior Press. It is scheduled for release in January of 2013. Suellen and her family spend their summers in Michigan and they hope to spend time in the U.P.



**Margaret Helminen** at Designotype Printers has published two books this past year – the first one for a client as a legacy to his family, "The Story of Us, Bob and Ruth Nara." It is a compilation of their lives beginning from youth up to the present. Margaret interviewed them over the course of the year-long project, translating their thoughts, tidbits of wisdom, and personal stories into book form; then sorted through hundreds of photos to choose the ones she felt best "told" their story. The hardcover, full color book is a guide to living life to the fullest – complete with the principles Bob and Ruth live by, and filled with photos of their colorful travels, adventures, and family. You may view the entire book at [www.RobertNara.com](http://www.RobertNara.com). Margaret is available to interview, sort through photos, and write a "Story of Us" for anyone wanting to record history for their families. Visit [www.designotype.com](http://www.designotype.com), and click "Bring your Memories to Life" link at bottom to read reasons why you should have us help you publish your own story.

The second book, "My Footprints in The Sand," is currently being printed and published in memory of her great aunt who wrote poetry her whole life. Her shoebox of poetry, thoughts and adventures were typed and artistically arranged into a hardcover keepsake. It will be available in February 2013.



# HISTORICAL WRITERS' ONLINE LINKS

*Great overall source for links:*

<http://www.charlottedillon.com/ResearchLinks.html>

19th Century page with loads of links: <http://www.teacheroz.com/19thcent.htm>

## CLOTHING LINKS:

Victorian and Edwardian clothing and accessories

<http://www.gentlemansemporium.com/gentlemans.php>

Clothing through the ages book

<http://www.amazon.com/What-People-Wore-When-Illustrated>

<http://www.costumes.org/>

Fashion plate links: <http://content.lib.washington.edu/costumehistweb/>

<http://www.fashion-era.com/sitemap.htm>

<http://vintagefashionguild.org/fashion-history/the-history-of-womens-hats/>

<http://www.antiquedress.com/gallery.htm>

<http://www.costumegallery.com/>

Sutlers and Vendors of 19th Century wares: <http://www.lhsmn.org/links/sutlers.html>

Western Emporium: <http://www.westernemporium.com/western.php>

Victorian Clothing: <http://www.victoriana.com/Victorian-Fashion/>

[http://www.vintagevictorian.com/costume\\_1860\\_det.html](http://www.vintagevictorian.com/costume_1860_det.html)

<http://harpersbazaar.victorian-ebooks.com/>

<http://www.vintageskivvies.com/pages/archives.html> - history of men's undergarments

<http://walternelson.com/dr/?q=node/18>

<http://www.digitalchangeling.com/sewing/periodResources/Delineator-Sept1880/>

Historical knitted garments links, 1850-1890:

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2009/12/ladies-knitted-under-jacket-1875.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2009/12/knitted-under-stays-1875.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2009/12/ladies-knee-caps-1885.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2009/12/ladies-mitt-1850.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2008/07/knitted-beaded-cuffs-1890.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2007/01/gentlemans-socking-1885.html>

[http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2006/11/knitted-bodice-1870\\_20.html](http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2006/11/knitted-bodice-1870_20.html)

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2006/08/ladys-mitts-1890.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2006/06/ladys-silk-socking.html>

<http://vintagestitchorama.blogspot.com/2005/12/free-vintage-pattern-5.html>

## WILD WEST LINKS:

[http://www.vlib.us/old\\_west/](http://www.vlib.us/old_west/) (Note: Under the words "What's Inside" on the right-hand side there are links to other pages. Click on the down arrow to highlight a topic)

A Writer's Guide to Horses: <http://www.lrgaf.org/guide/writers-guide.htm>

Old West slang: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~poindexterfamily/OldWestSlang>

[http://www.linecamp.com/linecamp/camp\\_fire/camp\\_fire.html](http://www.linecamp.com/linecamp/camp_fire/camp_fire.html)

## TEXAS LINKS:

Texas Handbook Online: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook>

This is a fabulous resource for Texas history.

Texas Timeline: <http://www.texasbob.com/timeline/index.php>

Page that links to Texas Genealogy and History Societies:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgenweb/society.htm>

The Portal to Texas History: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

Women in Texas History: <http://www.womenintexashistory.org> (Be sure to check out their timeline)

Images from the NYC public library

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>

## OCCUPATIONS:

A collection of the occupations or job descriptions of the people living in London in the 1890's.

<http://www.census1891.com/occupations-a.htm>

History by decade:

<http://www.writersdreamtools.com/view/decades/default.asp?Decade=1960#events>

## HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

[http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced\\_search](http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced_search)

<http://www.loc.gov/library/libarch-digital.html>

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

## WEAPONS INFO:

<http://www.gunsinfo.org/>

<http://www.realguns.com/>

<http://gun-sword.stores.yahoo.net/flintlock-pistol.html>

## TELEGRAPH HISTORY

<http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/nonnenmacher.industry.telegraphic.us>

Western Union Telegraph History

<http://www.scripophily.net/wesuntelcom1.html>

## HOME MEDICINE AND HYGIENE:

<http://www.doctortreatments.com/>

history of stethoscope: <http://antiquemed.com/>

Herbal remedies: [http://www.anniesremedy.com/remedy\\_use76.php](http://www.anniesremedy.com/remedy_use76.php)

<http://historyundressed.blogspot.com/2008/07/history-of-hygiene-bathing-teeth.html>

<http://www.homeoint.org/cazalet/oldnames.htm#C>

## TRAVEL

Carriage house: <http://library.thinkquest.org/J0111463/carriagehouse.htm>

<http://www.uprr.com/aboutup/history/passengr.shtml>

Delaware, Lackawana, and Western Railroad: <http://jcrhs.org/dlw.html>

## WORDS AND PHRASES

Early 19th century vocabulary: <http://celticfringe.net/history/vocab.htm>  
<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/index.html>  
Etymology dictionary <http://www.etymonline.com/>  
Western slang:  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~poindexterfamily/OldWestSlang.html>

#### WEATHER HISTORY:

<http://www.wunderground.com/history/>  
<http://www.history.noaa.gov/morehistory.html>  
The meaning of names: <http://www.meaning-of-names.com/>

#### ETIQUETTE & MANNERS

A list of Google books on etiquette and manners:  
1835 Pencil Sketches  
1839 Miss Leslie's Behavior Book  
1842 Elegant Extracts  
1843 Etiquette or, A Guide to The Usages of Society with a Glance at Bad Habits  
1854 Etiquette Social Ethics and the Curtiousy of Society  
1854 The Behavior Book  
1860 The Hand Book of Etiquette  
1866 Marine's Sensible Letter Writer  
1868 Manners or Happy Homes  
1870 Good Manners a Manual of Ediquette  
1872 The Ladie's Book of Etiquette and Manual of Politeness  
1873 The Gentlemen's Book of Etiquette and Manual of Politeness  
1884 Don't: A Manual of Mistakes and Improprieties More or Less  
1888 Manners  
1889 American Etiquette and Rules of Politeness  
1889 Perfect Etiquette or How to Behave in social...  
1892 Etiquette An Answer to the Riddle, When? Where? How?  
1896 Social Etiquette or Manners and Customs of Polite Society  
1897 Manners for Men  
1897 Practical Letter Writing  
Chicago history <http://www.chicagoancestors.org/#tab-tools>

#### RECIPE AND COOKBOOK LINKS

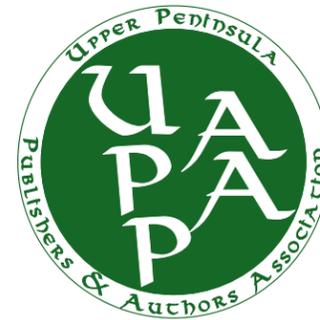
<http://www.foodtimeline.org/>  
19th century kitchens and recipes: <http://www.housemouse.net/hkitch.htm>

#### TIMELINES OF HISTORY

<http://timelines.ws/>  
Library of Congress Index: <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>  
Library of Congress American Memory Site: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

#### LIBRARY WORLDCAT SITE

<http://www.worldcat.org/>



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1ST QUARTER 2013

### Editor's Note

*Continue to send me your announcements of new books.*

*Send all newsletter information to:*

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