



## CLARKE HISTORICAL LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

**July 2014**  
(Best viewed on-line)

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### Featured Item From Our Exhibit

One of our favorite things to show off whenever we have classes and tours at the Clarke is the hornbook. This item dates to the 1700s-1800s and was a device used to teach children how to read. Oftentimes, hornbooks display the Lord's Prayer, a short syllabary, or as in the case of ours, all of the letters of the alphabet. The piece of paper with this text on it is attached to a paddle-shaped piece of wood that is covered in what seems to be plastic. In actuality, it is a piece of shaved sheep or goat's horn for protection.



It was a great (and durable) tool used for teaching children to read all those years ago and we love the history behind it!

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### Upcoming Speakers

**Tuesday, July 22**

Robert Knapp, author of *Mystery Man: Gangsters, Oil, and Murder in Michigan*

Robert Knapp will discuss his new book, *Mystery Man* -- the story of Isaiah Leebove, Jack Livingston, and a cast including gangsters and oil barons, set in the days of Michigan's oil boom. A personal grudge led to Leebove's murder – or was it the perfect gangland slaying?

This event will begin at 7:00 pm in the Park Library Auditorium with a reception to follow in the Clarke Historical Library.

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### Clarke Summer Hours Reminder

Just a reminder, because Central Michigan University is on summer schedule, the Clarke is not open on Saturdays. We are open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. You can visit us in person, call the reference desk at 989-774-3864, or send an e-mail to [clarke@cmich.edu](mailto:clarke@cmich.edu).

Our Saturday hours will resume in September, when Central Michigan University fall classes are in session.

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### Recent News Posted on the Clarke Blog

There has been quite a bit of news on the [Clarke News and Notes](#) blog in the past month. Marian Matyn wrote about the project that she and her interns completed -- a 9-month long endeavor to process additions to the Aladdin Company Collection! Read more about their work and what's going to be added [here](#). Frank Boles wrote about [his trip down the St. Mary's River](#) and how it related to the book, *Life on the Great Lakes: A Wheelsman's Story* by Fred Dutton. Casey Gamble also wrote about [Gwendolyn Frostic's](#) life in Michigan, and the many great works by Ms. Frostic that the Clarke has.



The blog also featured a post [recapping the presentation of one of our speakers from June, Michael Schumacker](#). He spoke about his book, *November's Fury: The Deadly Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913* and we have written about some of the highlights from his presentation. Make sure to visit the blog to learn more information about what's going on at the Clarke!

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