



Loutit District Library

407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417

(616)850-6900

www.loutitlibrary.org

PRESS RELEASE

[2/19/2026]

For Immediate Release

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Website link: <https://www.loutitlibrary.org/ehlectureseries/>

America250: Native American Lecture Series

The Loutit District Library welcomes historian Eric Hemenway to kick off our America250 programming and explore our country's history. Eric will be speaking on topics relating to Michigan's Native American tribes across four West MI libraries.

Attend these free, educational lectures to learn about the little-known experiences of some of Michigan's Native American tribes and how they made an impact on US history.

The System of Assimilation:

Indian Boarding Schools

Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Spring Lake District Library | Baird Program Room

From 1879–1983, the federal government operated more than 400 Indian Boarding Schools designed for Native American children. These schools aimed not only to educate, but to erase Native cultures, languages, and identities. Michigan was home to five of these institutions.

Michigan Anishnaabek in the Civil War

Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Loutit District Library | Program Room A



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AND

March 20, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Hackley Public Library

Michigan had the largest, all-Indian regiment in the Union Army: Company K. This group of Anishnaabek fought in pivotal battles that helped shape American history, yet little is known about them. This talk will discuss the details of the company and the complexity of their involvement in the war.

[Chief Waukazoo's Band of Odawa Indians](#)

March 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Herrick District Library Main Branch

Before Holland, Black Lake. The Odawa history of the Holland area before Dutch settlement. This conversation will touch upon the history of Chief Waukazoo's band of Odawa at Black Lake and their odyssey to maintain a permanent home in their ancestral lands.

[Meet The Presenter](#)

This series is presented by Eric Hemenway, an Anishinaabe/Odawa. Eric is Humanities Manager for the School of Environmental and Sustainability at the University of Michigan.

He has a lifelong involvement in researching Odawa history. He has collaborated widely with museums, universities, the National Park Service, schools, and various governments in conducting and presenting research to a wide range of audiences, including to students, staff, faculty, and the general public.



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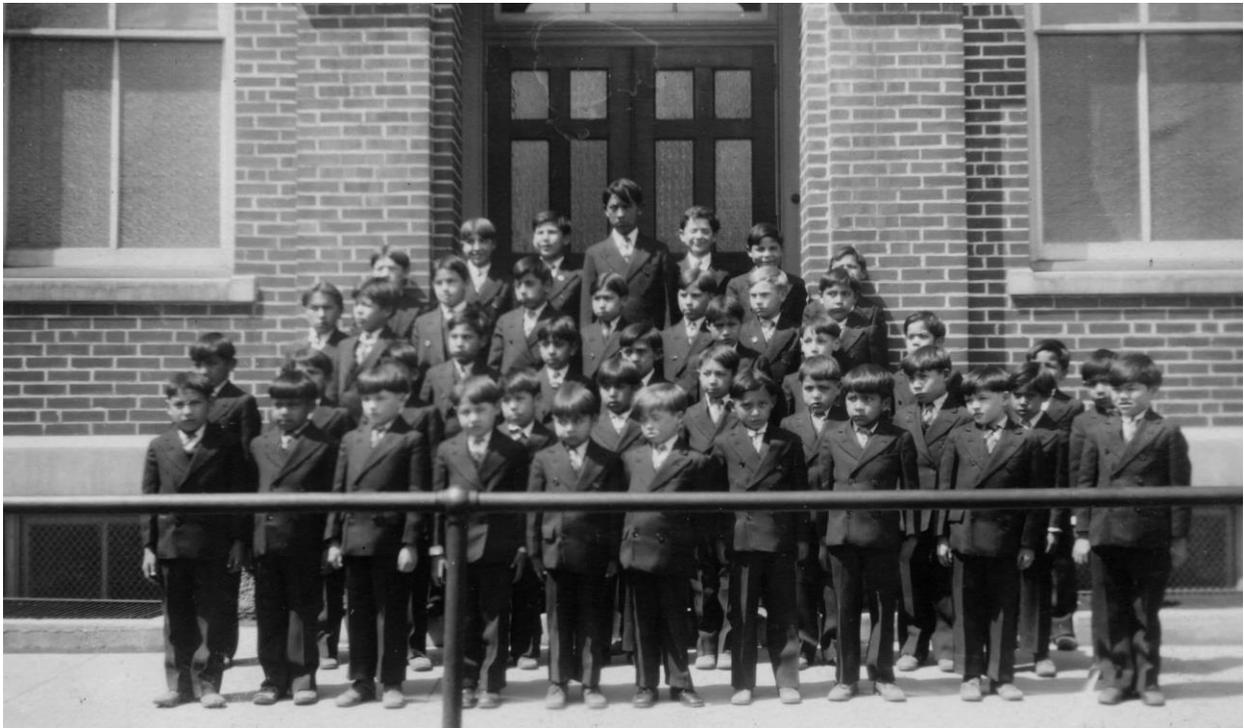
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AMERICA250

Lecture Series with Eric Hemenway

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