

"Kathy's program was outstanding! She is entertaining as well as knowledgeable, and did a wonderful job engaging our audience."

—Denise Roberts, Assistant Director
Clear Lake Public Library



About the presenter

A professional historian, Kathy Wilson believes learning about the past can be fun as well as interesting. To prove that point, she endeavors to create programs that engage and entertain as well as educate her audiences.

Ms. Wilson received her BA in History from Bemidji State University in Minnesota, before traveling to England where she completed her Masters at the University of York. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Iowa and specializes in 18th and 19th-century British-American social history. Her dissertation investigates the role of kinship networks in the social transformations of Catholic families, 1760-1850.

Rates & Details

Each program runs about 90 minutes including discussion, and features a powerpoint presentation. Rates for listed titles are \$150 for locations within 50 miles of Cedar Rapids, or \$100 plus mileage to to all other locations (whichever is greater) as well as overnight accommodations, when necessary.

Don't see a topic that fits your group? Whenever possible, I'm happy to create a program more suited to your interests. Drop me an email for more information.

For more information:

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Kathy Wilson

Historian & Genealogist

presents

*What people are saying about
Programs to Go!*



"Kathy keeps everyone's attention with her skillful blend of facts and story telling."

—Sharon Happel, President
Benton County Historical Society

"Insightful & educational, Kathy brings history to life in a unique way that makes learning easy and enjoyable."

—Rosemary S.
audience member

"History was never my favorite subject, but Kathy draws her listeners in to her stories, It turns out history can be great fun!"

—Beverly H.
audience member

"Always well put together, educational, and entertaining, our patrons have only wonderful things to say about Kathy's programs."

—Molly Rach, Programming Director
Hiawatha Public Library



Looking for an out-of-the-ordinary program for your group or organization? Historian Kathy Wilson offers interesting & entertaining programs designed to challenge audiences to think differently about the past.

Current programs include:

Straight-laced Girl, Uptight Ladies, & Loose Women

In the first program of her series on 19th-century women's history, Kathy looks at the changing role of American women from colonial times through the Victorian era, including what it means to be "straight-laced and uptight". Discover what corsets and gun clubs have in common, how the house took on new importance for our female ancestors, and why a man's home wasn't really his castle, but rather his wife's!



Good Women & Bad Girls

This is the second instalment of Kathy Wilson's engaging program on 19th-century women's history; however, this time the focus is on marriage, family, & health—including sex! (Admit it, you're curious!). Discover what made Scarlett O'Hara such a "bad girl", and why she disliked Melanie Wilkes so much.



Mothers of the Milky Way

Were Victorian women really as clueless about sex when they married as we've been told? What did they know about pregnancy before it happened? What was it like for Victorian women, and how did they face childbirth knowing they could die? Were they really encouraged, as one Victorian author suggested, to die with a smile on their face? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this fascinating look at pregnancy, childbirth, and childhood in the 19th Century.



Determined, Defiant, & Self-Reliant

Our Victorian ancestors had specific expectations for women and children: kids were to be seen and not heard; women were to marry, have children, and create a home to serve as a haven from the world. Not everyone agreed, however, including Charlotte Brontë; they believed a woman could be, well, more. This program investigates how Brontë's views on those expectations led her to write *Jane Eyre*, and what the story reveals about 19th-century society and Brontë herself.



Tomorrow is Another Day

Scarlett, Rhett, Ashley—mention their names and almost everyone knows who and what you're talking about. Why? How is it that a story so blatantly racist, so regionally specific with such stereotyped characters should be one of the most famous books of the 20th century? This program investigates how the *Lost Cause*, Victorian social attitudes, and Margaret Mitchell's own family history all served as the inspiration for a book that has remained popular for more than 80 years.



Keep Calm & Read Jane Austen

Her contemporaries paid scant attention to her, and the Victorians found her passionless and parochial. Yet in the 21st Century, in an age where seemingly "anything goes," the reserve and restraint, modesty and manners of Austen's characters continue to appeal to many readers. Who was the real Jane Austen? Does she reveal herself in her novels? This program looks at her world in an attempt to find her and understand not only what influenced her writing, but also why we still love her books 200 years later.



50 Shades of Blue & Gray

Some people still think the Victorians were repressed, prudish, and avoided sex whenever possible. If that were so, how do we explain the growth of prostitution and pornography during the Civil War? This program provides an interesting, entertaining, and revealing look at Victorian society, sex, and the soldier in the War between the States.



You Want Me to Wear What?!?

If you think fashions today seem outrageous, wait until you see what sorts of things your ancestors wore! From men in high heels to women in cast iron corsets, this program introduces you to the wonderful world of historic high fashion.



Fashions to Die For — Really!

Did you know that that clothing can make you sick, break your bones, and even kill you? Its true! It can even drive you mad! This program takes a look at 18th- and 19th-century fashions and the deadly secrets hiding behind those fabulous looks. We'll tackle some of those urban myths, too, including whether it was possible for Scarlett O'Hara to have an 18-inch waist!



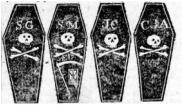
Downstairs at Downton

What was life "really" like below stairs at place like Highclere Castle? Could the chauffeur really marry the daughter of an Earl? Would a maid help move a dead body to protect her mistress' reputation? What about all that free time? Get the answers to these and other questions about one of the country's most popular television series, and discover what life was *really* like for the people working downstairs at Highclere Castle, the real Downton Abbey.



Death Comes for Us All

Victorians had a different attitude about death than we do in the 21st Century. People died at home surrounded by loved ones, families picnicked in cemeteries on Sundays, took photos with deceased (what's up with *that?*) & made jewelry from their hair (yes, really!). They also worried about being buried alive or someone stealing their bodies. This program explores the Victorians' fascination with death & the culture they developed to memorialize the dead.



The Devil has my Consent

In 1692 more than 200 people were accused of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts; 20 were executed. Why? Were evil forces really at work in Salem? If so, why did they target the people of Massachusetts Bay? The explanation of the events leading up to the trials and the motives of the key players may surprise you. This program reveals *the real story* behind the behind the Salem Witch Trials.



The Man Who Reinvented Christmas

Would you believe Christmas used to be a very low-key affair in America and Britain? It's true! Until the mid-19th Century, people did little to mark the event, businesses didn't consider it a holiday, and yet by 1900 it had become our largest and most popular annual celebration. Why? What changed society's view of Christmas? The answer may be Charles Dickens and *A Christmas Carol*. Discover how a novel about social reform resulted in the transformation of Christmas from a date on the church calendar into the holiday we know today.

