



Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI **Speaker Series at Historic Charlton Park**



This series is presented in partnership with the Barry County Historical Society. All talks will be given at Historic Charlton Park in the Stone Building on the first floor at 6 pm. There is no cost to attend, although donations are welcome. For more information please visit www.charltonpark.org or call 269-945-3775.

May 10, 2017

A Great and Vital Hysteria: America Joins the First World War
Dr. Matthew Daley, Associate Professor of History, Grand Valley State University

Less than six months after a campaign by President Wilson claiming "He Kept Us Out of War," the United States joined the maelstrom of the First World War. The passions unleashed by the entry into the war shaped industries, volunteering both for military and civilian service, and the efforts to marshall the nation's strength. This talk discusses these efforts to get the nation ready for entry into the killing fields of Europe and how it reshaped the nation.

June 27, 2017

United States Air Service in World War I: Problems, People, Planes
Kevin Kenz, Air Zoo Docent and Member of The League of WWI Aviation Historians

This presentation will cover America's difficulties in trying to get a viable air service up and running, a brief review of aircraft used, and note some of the men (including Eddie Rickenbacker) who flew for the United States Air Service.

July 11, 2017

The Psychological Effects of World War I - 'Shell Shock' and its Legacy Today
Dr. Jason Crouthamel, Professor of History, Grand Valley State University

This presentation will focus on the history of psychological trauma ('shell shock') in the First World War and its long-term legacy. The talk will give an overview of the medical diagnosis of 'shell shock' in World War I, its cultural significance, and the social and political significance of psychological wounds for veterans' health care and the memory of the war.

August 8, 2017

The War That Should Not Have Happened
Dr. James Smither, Professor of History at Grand Valley State University

World War I was one of the most catastrophic events in human history, and, and one that could have been prevented. This presentation examines the long and short term causes of the conflict, and what might have been done to prevent it, and goes on to consider why the war was so long and so costly, and why it still matters today. Dr. Smither also directs the Veterans History Project at GVSU.

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