FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:
Bob Sadler, Detroit Historical Society
(313) 833-7937 or cell (313) 819-5761
bobsadler@detroithistorical.org

DIVE INTO GREAT LAKES HISTORY AT THE DOSSIN MARITIME SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21

DETROIT - The Dossin Great Lakes Museum will be the place to be on Saturday, April 21 from Noon – 3 p.m. for an exciting day of maritime history and educational presentations. Guests will have a chance to meet maritime authors, shipwreck divers and historians.

The event features Lori Feret, who will present “The Boblo Steamers: Matriarchs of the Detroit River.” Her presentation will focus on the history of Boblo Island and the steamers that transported visitors to its docks. In addition, guests will learn the current status of the S.S. Columbia and the S.S. Ste. Claire. Feret is involved with lighthouse organizations, the Belle Isle Conservancy, the Friends of the Detroit River, Project Hope League of Greater Detroit, Fellowship Lutheran Church and the Detroit Zoo. She is also a member of the Boblo Boat Ste. Claire Restoration Team and is the Detroit contact for the SS Columbia Project benefits.

Tony Gramer, a renowned diver, will present “Tragedy Strikes in Seven Minutes: Loss of the Steamer Fred McBrier.” The Fred McBrier, built in 1881, sank in seven minutes 10 miles west of old Mackinaw point in Lake Michigan after being hit by the larger steamer Progress. Gramer has been diving since 1977. He is on the board of the Detroit Historical Society’s Dossin Maritime Group, is a certified PADI Divemaster and is the president of Silent World Information Masters, Inc. (SWIM). His images have appeared in several publications including Skin Diver magazine, Dive Boat Calendar & Travel magazine, Michigan Living magazine, Great Lakes Diving magazine and Michigan Underwater Preserve pamphlets.

Featured speaker Ross Richardson will present “The Search for the Westmoreland.” The Westmoreland sank in 1854 and was rumored to be carrying casks of whiskey and large collection of gold coins. Since the ship sank 150 years ago, it has become one of the most sought after shipwrecks in the Great Lakes with more than a dozen expeditions launched to recover its treasures. Richardson has spent the last decade searching for and documenting
shipwrecks off the coast of west Michigan. He has worked with David Trotter, Clive Cussler’s NUMA (National Underwater and Marine Agency) Team and was on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates for nearly a decade.

Admission to the symposium is free, thanks to the support of the Michigan Humanities Council. Refreshments will be available for sale. For more information, call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum, located at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free at the Museum during 2012, but donations are welcome. During the week, the Museum is open for group tours by advance reservation. Permanent exhibits include the Miss Pepsi 1950s vintage championship hydroplane, a bow anchor from the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, the pilothouse from the Great Lakes freighter S.S. William Clay Ford, and one of the largest known collections of scale model ships in the world. New exhibits include Bells and Whistles, Flags and Flashes: Lost Languages of the Lakes and To Scale: Great Lakes Model Ship Builders. For more information, call (313) 833-5538 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

###