



The Spindle

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARION OHIO
P.O. BOX 1091
MARION, OH 43301-1091

August 25, 2020

PROFESSOR MARGARET SUMNER BUSY, BRILLIANT, AND BOSSY: DISCOVERING HISTORIES OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Bio:

Margaret Sumner is an associate professor of History at The Ohio State University-Marion. She received her A.B. in History from Mount Holyoke College and her PhD in American History from Rutgers University. She regularly teaches courses on the American Revolution, Jacksonian America, the history of Social Reform, the Civil War, and the Gilded Age. She also trains OSU-Marion history majors in an historical "methods" course each Autumn, and teaches a general survey course on US women's history each Spring. Her research focuses on topics in nineteenth century educational and intellectual history. Her first book explored the everyday working lives of families who founded the first generation of American colleges after the American Revolution: *Collegiate Republic, Cultivating an Ideal Society in Early America*. She is currently working on a second book that traces American women's intellectual networks in the 19th century, *"Moveable Salons": Intellectual Women and Institution-Building in 19th Century America*

Presentation Description:

Professor Sumner will describe how she partnered with the Marion Women's Club this Spring 2020 and turned the Women's Club Home on East Center Street into a classroom for her undergraduates. In her new course, HI2610: *"Busy, Brilliant, and Bossy: Discovering Histories of American Women's Community Activism,"* history students became historians – carrying out research in the Club's archives, managing their own research projects, interviewing Club members, flexing their critical thinking skills, and professionally presenting their findings. Drawing on their historical discoveries, students are now helping the Club design exhibits for a future museum space at the WCH, assisting in cataloging the archives, and participating in public programs that spotlight the Club's history and its legacy of women's leadership, community activism, and Marion's "civic improvement." This course will be offered each spring, and the Club hopes to build on this new social and intellectual engagement with young adults with future mentoring and internship possibilities.

"Service Above Self"

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MARION, OH 43301-1091

President
Vickie McClellan
B – 740-382-2115
H -
vickie@boydbornfh.com

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B - 740-386-6911
H -
daniel.wigton@stifel.com

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Gary Branson
B-740-383-9701
H-614-746-9571
gbranson@marionlibrary.org

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B - 740-382-9737 C: 740-360-1731
pattig341@frontier.com

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