

President's Letter

Fall 2021

Dear Member:

Museum Director, Lisa Plank and I recently attend the Lowell Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year event to accept its Non-Profit of the Year Award. We along with Luanne Kaeb and several Museum board members represented the Museum as it was honored for its programs, children's workshops, exhibits and involvement with the Lowell community. Over the past 20 years the Museum has really become part of the cultural fabric of the Lowell area. As a member I hope you too will feel honored for your involvement and support of the Museum.

Mark your calendars and come out to help the Museum celebrate its 20th anniversary on October 21st. This celebration will coincide with the opening of our special exhibit titled "Building History – Robert Graham and Ernest Graham". I remember all the volunteer efforts it took to create the Museum 20 years ago. There were many planning meetings and brainstorming sessions held to develop the exhibits and plan out the rooms. I remember the physical work of scraping and painting the interior surfaces. I also recall the fundraising campaign that made everything possible. The generosity and outpouring of positive support of the Lowell community was outstanding.

Our very capable Museum Director, Lisa Plank, was recently honored with the 2021

Gordon Olsen Award. This award is West Michigan's most important historical award and is given in honor of contributions to, and the advancement of, local history. Grand Valley State University's office of local history makes this award. Congratulations Lisa on this outstanding honor and for the respect it brings to the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Lisa's professionalism is also exemplified by her position as treasurer of the Michigan Museums Association.

The Museum regrets the passing of longtime, Museum volunteer and board member, Nancy Wood. Nancy always approached every event and task with enthusiasm and sincere effort. She also supported Lowell history and architecture by her work as a member of the Downtown Lowell Historic District Commission. She and her husband, Bill were wonderful community volunteers and will be greatly missed.

November 2nd is Election Day, please support the Museum by voting "Yes" on the Museum's 0.25 mill renewal request. This steady income source has enabled the Museum to employ a part-time staff who have created educational programs and exhibits, written grants, coordinated fundraisers and obtained private support for the Museum.

Thank You for your support.
Jim Doyle
President

Field Trips Return



After a year and half of remote field trips, the Museum is busy giving programs and tours again for area students. This fall the fields at Heidi's Farm Stand are active with third graders. They receive a Fur Trade, Native American and Early

Farmer history program. Students also do a Woodland Adventure which teaches about trees and All About Corn that looks at how corn grows and is used. This year we are also offering the Grandma's Trunk program. This year's 3rd graders received the program remotely last year and are getting a chance to see it in person now. Typically offered to 2nd graders in the spring, Grandma's Trunk is a special attempt to catch students up after the pandemic.

First grade tours of the Museum building are resuming in October. This is the first chance area students have to start learning Lowell history.

LOWELL AREA



HISTORICAL MUSEUM

LOWELL AREA
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

325 W. Main St.
PO Box 81
Lowell, MI 49331

616-897-7688
history@lowellmuseum.org
www.lowellmuseum.org

We are on the web!
www.lowellmuseum.org



2021 Board of Directors

Jim Doyle, President
Tony Dommer, Vice Pres.
Cathy Haefner, Treasurer
Tina Cadwallader, Secretary
Bev Anderson
Ardis Barber
Carolyn Jane Blough
Dale Kropf
Don Leeman
Kim Lum
Becky Reagan
Nancy Roth

Executive Director
Lisa Plank

**Director of Education &
Programming**
Luanne Kaeb

Administrative Assistant
Shantell Ford

Volunteer Staff
Jeanne Straub

We gratefully acknowledge these Memorial gifts

In Memory of

Rosemary Fonger
Stacy Gemmell
Sharon & Bruce Kelly
Lowell Light & Power
Michelle Mangus
Janice Mol
Smantha Norman
Barb Dey Porter
Lloyd & Judy Wepman
Lisa Zandstra

Sue Raimer
Carolyn Jane Blough

Ron Stevens
Carolyn Jane Blough

Bill and Nancy Wood
Carolyn Jane Blough
Richard & Carol Briggs
Jim Doyle

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
LOWELL MI
PERMIT NO. 81

Fall Events

October 21 **6-8:00pm**

Museum 20th Anniversary &
Exhibit Opening

November 2

Museum Millage-
Vote Yes to Renew

November 19-21

Christmas Through Lowell
exhibitors at the Museum

December 10

Chestnuts on Riverwalk

LOWELL AREA



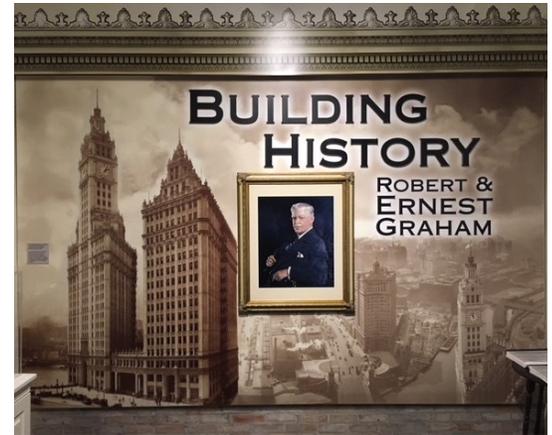
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Lowell Area Historical Museum Newsletter

Fall 2021

Museum Celebrates 20 Years

The Lowell Area Historical Museum celebrates the 20th anniversary of its opening this fall. We have planned an open house to welcome our members and supporters to view the newest exhibit at the Museum. "Building History: Robert and Ernest Graham" explores the life and career of these two men with deep roots in Lowell. Robert Graham immigrated to Lowell from England. He went on to be a farmer, mason, businessman, community leader and builder. He built the building the museum is now housed in for his home in 1873.



His son Ernest grew up in Lowell, mainly in the house now the Museum. Ernest went on to an illustrious career as a Chicago architect. He began working with Daniel Burnham helping to oversee construction of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. His works over the years included the Science and Industry Museum, Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium and Marshall Field's building in Chicago, the US Post Office in Washington DC and many other large public buildings. They were the biggest buildings in the world at that time.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum has benefitted from many talented people over the years. Their vision and work has created a professional museum that serves the community in many ways. Thank you to our first director, Judy Straub and second director Pat Allchin for their leadership. Luanne Kaeb has served the Museum from the start as the education and curatorial director and provides the public face to much of what we do. Linda Barnes and Shantell Ford have served as dedicated Museum staff over the years. Thank you also to all of the volunteers who have been involved, they make what we do possible.

Join us in celebrating the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the opening of the Graham exhibit on October 21, 6-8:00pm.

The 20th anniversary year corresponds with a millage renewal that the Museum will take to voters of the City of Lowell on November 2nd. The millage is a 10 year renewal of the one passed in 2003 and again in 2013. If you are a voter in Lowell, we encourage you to vote YES to renew your support for the Museum.

The Museum was recognized this year by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce as its Non Profit Award Winner. At a celebration on September 20, the Chamber acknowledged all that the Museum does to provide historic programming, exhibits and perspective for the community.



The Lowell Area Historical Museum receives funding from:



Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan

Lowell Cable TV Fund
Look Memorial Fund

Garden Thank you

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is housed in the historic Graham house. This beautiful building and its grounds are a source of pride to the Museum and our community.

This summer you may have noticed some changes happening on the grounds. We had a row of plantings die and need replacing. The Board of Directors acted quickly to put a plan together to replace the old trees. Thank you to Tina & David Cadwallader and their crew for removing the old plantings and Nancy Roth for making the interim space look nice.

Supported by a grant from the Lowell Garden Club the project was able to begin. Mark Anderson with Terre Verde Landscaping, stepped in to design and plant new trees and flowers to make the garden beautiful again.

Thank you to the generous Misty McClure Anderson, William Thompson, Mark Anderson, the Lowell Garden Club and Terre Verde Landscaping for making the garden a beautiful space. The Museum hosted its annual fundraiser in the garden shortly after the work was done. Guests were appreciative of how inviting the new plantings looked and made the garden feel.



Memories of the Past

Milo Hiler was a photographer in Lowell in the late 1800s. His studio was on the second floor of the corner building in Old Wooden Row. It was located on the southeast corner of Main and Monroe Streets. Hiler can be seen on the first floor roof of his building in the photo below. He was taking pictures of a parade c. 1896. He made tintypes and photographs in his studio.



Volunteers Needed!

The Museum is open and in need of volunteers. All of the programs and events that the Museum offers during the year are presented in part by volunteers. Volunteer options are very flexible. Sign up for one event a year, or one a week. Training is provided. Our volunteers are a wonderful group of people and make the Museum a great place to be.

Consider joining us!

Weekend Greeter/Docent

Welcome guests to the Museum, share information. Weekend volunteers work from 1-4pm.