

## President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends:

One sign of summer in Lowell is when the wheat trucks begin lining up at the mill. Although a busy time at the mill, summer has also become an especially busy time for the Museum. The Riverwalk Festival was a great success with attendance and food booth revenues making records. The historical pontoon boat rides were very popular once again. The Thursday evening concert series has kept Museum volunteers busy selling burgers, hot dogs and plenty of cold drinks. We miss the shade provided by the old Showboat but know a new boat will be arriving sometime next summer.

Speaking of volunteers, we congratulate Carolyn Jane Blough on her receiving the Robert Graham Volunteer of the Year Award. She has been a dedicated member of the Museum since its inception serving in a variety of capacities, including board member, program chairperson, artifact accessioning, food booth volunteer and many others. We also welcome new staff member, Shantell Ford and say goodbye, best wishes and many thanks to long time administrative assistant, Linda Barnes who recently retired.

Another sure sign of summer is the Museum's

Summerfest Fundraising event scheduled for August 16th. This year's addition will feature food, craft beer, cider and wine from 10 Lowell food and beverage establishments. The Easy Idle string band will provide their toe-tapping musical entertainment. So, the only thing needed now is you! Please come and enjoy the festivities with friends or family at this delicious, fun, summertime event. We especially would like to thank our prime Summerfest sponsors: Addorio, PFCU, River Valley Credit Union, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Greenridge Realty and Reagan Family Dentistry.

Work is underway this summer on a new Museum exhibit on the Graham Family and the Graham Building. I have seen some of the preliminary story boards and I know you are going to find this exhibition very interesting and educational as well as beautifully executed. It will open sometime this fall.....so stay tuned.

I hope you are having a great summer and keeping cool. We'll see you in the garden on the 16th!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Jim Doyle  
President

## Introducing Darcy Stubbs, Intern

Darcy Stubbs is our intern this year. The internship focuses on computerizing the Fallasburg Historical Society collection.

Her focus has been on documenting items in the photographic collection. The information is all publically accessible on the Fallasburg website [www.fallasburg.org](http://www.fallasburg.org).

She is also completing research on the historic post office building in the historic district in Lowell for an upcoming project to

document and create a historic sign for each building in the district.

Darcy is a senior at Calvin University. Next year she will pursue her graduate studies in Classical Archaeology at the University Arizona.



## HISTORICAL MUSEUM

### LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

616-897-7688  
[history@lowellmuseum.org](mailto:history@lowellmuseum.org)  
[www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org)

We are on the web!  
[www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org)



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### Upcoming Events

- April 16**            7:00pm  
Life of Madame  
LaFramboise, Fur Trader  
Lowell Township Hall
- May 2**              11-5:00  
Spring Into the Past
- May 3**              12-5:00  
Spring Into the Past
- May 7**              6-8:00  
Graham Exhibit Opening  
with remarks at 7:00pm
- July 10-11**  
Riverwalk Festival
- July 10**            5-7:00  
Guided tours of Historic  
District
- July 21**  
Youth Summer Camp
- August 21**          6-9:00  
Summerfest Museum  
Fundraiser



Explore the fur trade interpretive cabin in the Lowell Township park this summer.

**Open Thursdays June-August  
12-1:00pm**

**3rd Saturday of month 2-4:00**  
**May 16**  
**June 20**  
**July 18**  
**August 15**



HISTORICAL MUSEUM

## Save the Date Summerfest Museum Fundraiser August 21

The Lowell Area  
Historical Museum  
receives funding from:

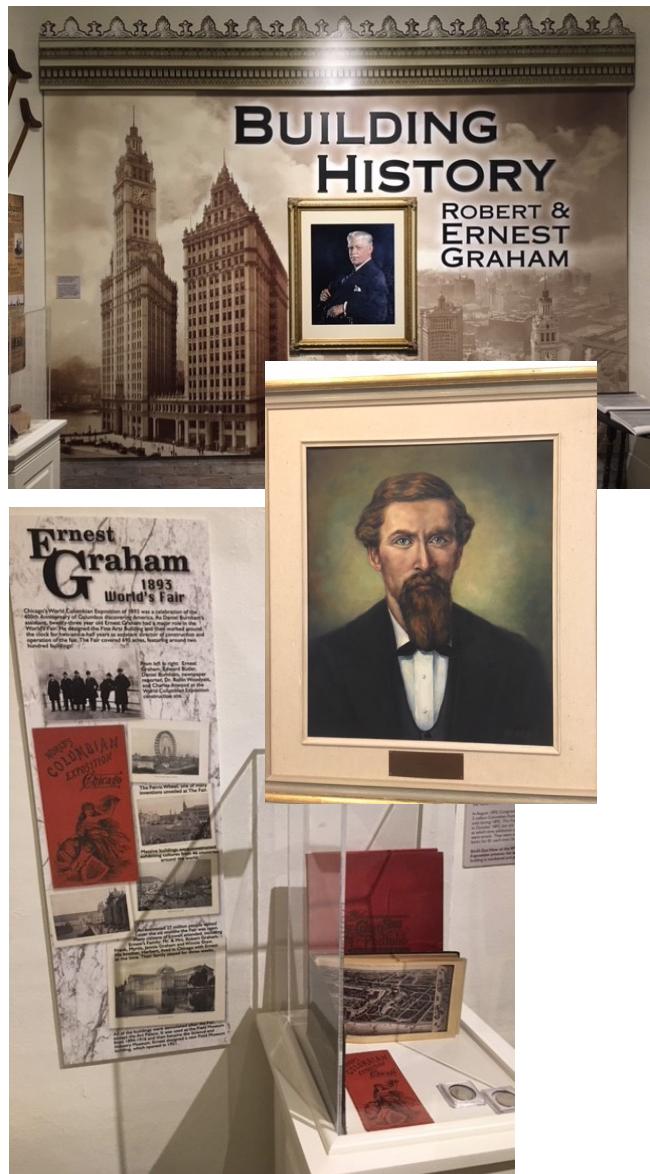


Literacy Legacy  
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# Lowell Area Historical Museum Newsletter

Spring 2020

## Exhibit Opening!



Changing exhibit space is an important way that the Museum can study and interpret various aspects of Lowell Area history not covered in permanent galleries.

The new temporary exhibit, "Building History: Robert & Ernest Graham," focuses on the history of the Graham Family.

Robert Graham built the building the Museum is housed in. Born in England, he came to Lowell in his 20s. His family immigrated after him and settled just south of Lowell. Robert became a farmer, a local builder, businessman and community leader. He built several buildings in Lowell including the building currently home to North Country Trails.

His son, Ernest Graham, grew up in the building now the museum before going on to become a world famous architect in Chicago. He assisted Daniel Burnham in building the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. After the fair his career as an architect took off. His works included many famous public buildings such as the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, U. S. Post Office in Washington DC, and many more.

This exhibit explores the careers of Robert and Ernest Graham. It also explores their family and community lives. This father and son contributed greatly to the fabric of Lowell's past as well as making valuable contributions to our national history.

## GVSU Class

Professor Abigail Gautreau's public history class from Grand Valley State University is working with the Museum this semester to develop signage for historic district buildings. Part of a larger project to document and interpret each building in the downtown district, students are researching and writing interpretive labels for their class project.

This collaboration gives a future generation of historians the opportunity learn how to research and write labels using an actual project. They have visited the museum, learned about local resources and toured the historic Main Street of Lowell. By the end of April they will have completed their research and writing and presented them to Museum staff.



## Maple Syrup

Students from Lowell Area Schools learn how maple syrup is made at the Wittenbach Wege Center. Museum volunteers show how pioneers made syrup while Wege Center volunteers show how Native American's and modern producers process sap. On Saturday the Center offers the same stations to the general public as a part of its annual Maple Syrup Fest and Pancake Breakfast.

## Raffle

## Youth Summer Camp

The Annual Summerfest Fundraiser is to be held at the Museum August 21st. Stroll the garden and galleries enjoying local food and drinks while listening to a band in the garden.

Contact the Museum for tickets.  
897-7688 or [iplank@lowellmuseum.org](mailto:iplank@lowellmuseum.org)