

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2022 Annual Museum Activity Report



“The Best Small Town Museum In America”

Lowell Area Historical Museum
325 West Main Street
P.O. Box 81
Lowell, Michigan 49331
Email: history@lowellmuseum.org
Website: lowellmuseum.org
(616) 897-7688



LOWELL AREA
COMMUNITY FUND



Literacy Legacy Fund of Michigan
Look Memorial Fund
Lowell Cable TV Fund
Lowell Women's Club

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM:

2022

Annual Museum Activity Report

Prepared By:

Lisa Plank, Executive Director

Board of Directors

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

Director of Education & Programming - Luanne Kaeb

Administrative Assistant - Shantell Ford

Volunteer Staff– Jeanne Straub

Lowell Area Historical Museum

2022 Annual Museum Activity Report

	Attendance Totals	Child	Adult
General Museum Admissions	330	33	297
Fur Trade Interpretive Cabin Open Houses	59	6	53
Totals	389	39	350
 Museum Tours –Schools			
1st Grade Tours Murray Lake	105	75	30
2nd Grade Cherry Creek	122	109	13
2nd Grade Alto	62	58	4
2nd Grade Murray Lake	117	72	45
Totals	406	314	92
 In-School & Other Youth Programming			
Maple Syrup School Program	367	290	77
Youth Summer Camp-River of Time	343	277	66
3rd Grade Fur Trade	856	565	291
3rd Grade Pioneer Farming	856	565	291
3rd Grade Native American	856	565	291
Grandma’s Trunk Alto	78	75	3
Grandma’s Trunk Cherry Creek	130	125	5
Grandma’s Trunk Murray Lake	78	75	3
Immersion Program 3rd Grade (22 days)	512	490	22
Totals	4,076	3,027	1,049
 Online Historic Content Programming			
Direct Email Posts	17,144		17,144
Facebook	204,680		204,680
Website Views	6,481		6,481
Oral History Interviews Online	1,260		1,260
Totals	229,656		229,656
 Exhibits & Community Tours			
“Interpretive Board” - Lowell History	16,000	5,000	11,000
21 boards in Downtown Historic District			
Lowell Township Park Interpretive Cabin & Sign Boards	10,000	3,000	7,000
Lowell Expo (25% of 5,000)	1,250	625	625
Riverwalk Booth & History Scavenger Hunt (10% of 10,000)	1,000	200	800
Totals	28,250	8,825	19,425

Lowell Area Historical Museum 2022 Annual Museum Activity Report - Continued

Activity	Total Attendance	Child	Adult
Public Programs & Workshops			
Maple Syrup Program at Wittenbach	200	100	100
River of Time Youth Pageant	300	50	250
Oakwood Cemetery Tour	30		30
Madame LaFramboise Program	84	4	80
Green Acres Talk	8		8
Chestnuts on Riverwalk	300	100	200
Volunteer Appreciation	40		40
Michigan Museums Association Conference Presentation	52		52
Speaker-Emma Cole	58		58
Speaker-Fur Trade Archaeology	50	1	49
Spring Into the Past	22		22
Pioneer Barn and booth Fallasburg Event	1000	400	600
Summerfest on Showboat	100		100
City Hall Presentation	25		25
Vergennes Presentation	30		30
Lowell Township Presentation	20		20
Christmas Through Lowell	885	285	600
Totals	3,204	890	29% 2,264 71%

Total Physical Attendance 36,325
Total Number Reached through online programming: 229,656

Donations Fully Accessioned in 2022

From 25 donors (97 artifacts)

Education and Research Library added 6 books in 2022

This brings us to a total of 1723 books, in our E&R Library.

Education and Research Objects added in 2022

0 objects

Volunteer Acquisition Committee: Bev Anderson, Dale Kropf
with staff members Luanne Kaeb and Jeanne Straub

~Continued on next page

Lowell Area Historical Museum 2022 Annual Museum Activity Report—Continued

Community Service - Free Museum Admission

First Thursday of Each Month for City Residents (12 days)

Spring Into the Past-Region wide Museum Open Days (2 Days)

Museum Volunteer Service - 3179.75 Hours

Special Exhibits, Interpretive Boards, Historic Downtown Walking Tour & Publications

“Interpretive Board Project”- A four year project to install 21 interpretive boards throughout the historic downtown to highlight the unique history of our community. Funded through the generous support of The Lowell Area Community Fund, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, King Milling Company and the Lowell Rotary Club.

“Lowell Township Park Project” A four year project to populate the Lowell Township Park with 16 interpretive boards and a Fur Trade Interpretive cabin. The Cabin and the first four interpretive boards were opened and installed in 2019. The second set of four boards were installed in 2020. The third set of four boards were installed in 2021.

“The Fur Trade in Lowell” - Funded through the generous support of The Lowell Area Community Fund and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs - Housed in the Special Exhibit Gallery of the Museum.

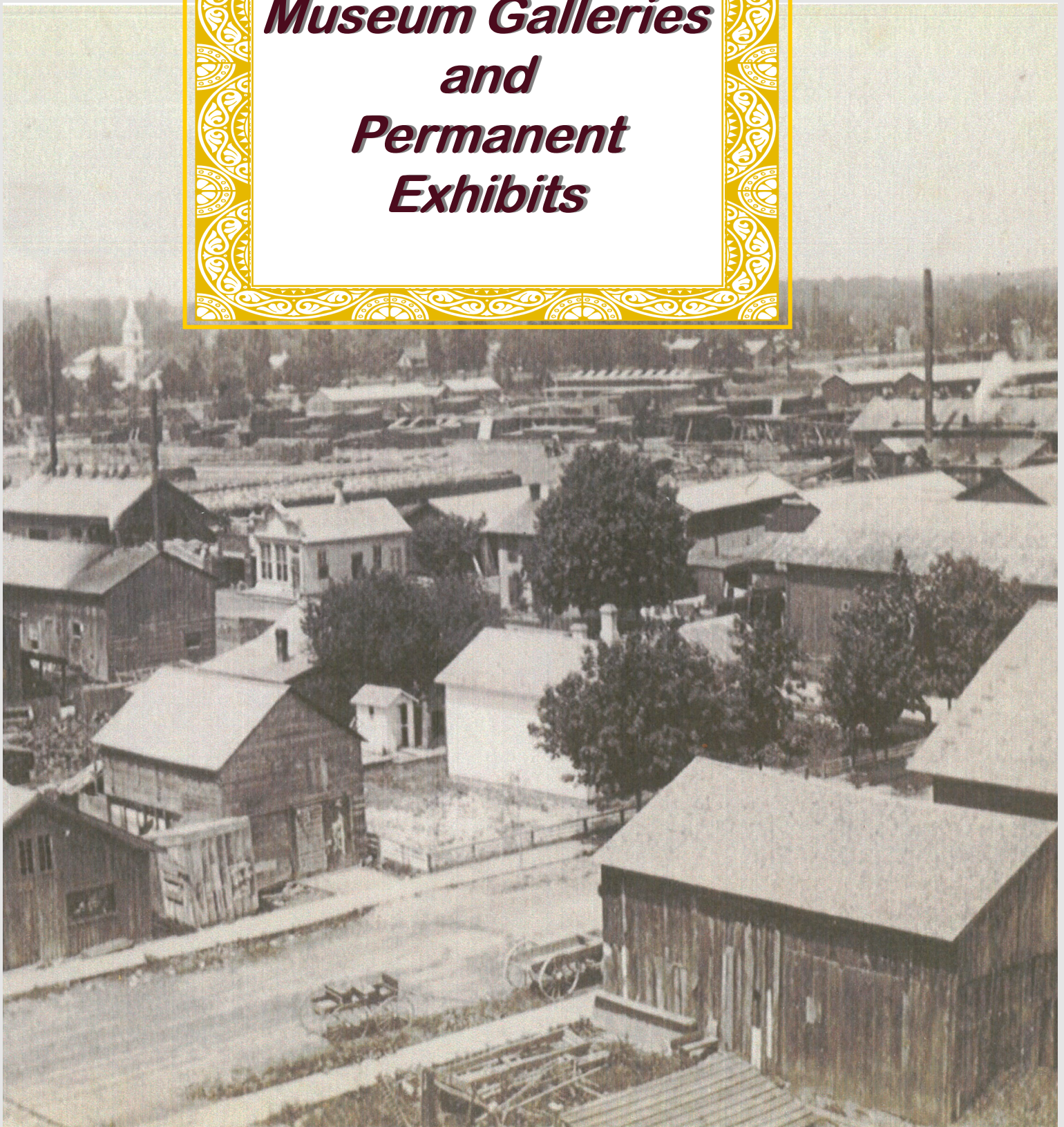
“Downtown Historic Walking Tour Brochure” - Printing funded through the generous support of the LCTV Fund. - This self guided walking tour highlights unique historic information in the historic downtown district. Presenting the history of Lowell, one piece at a time. Released in 2011, reprinted in 2019 through the support of the Lowell Rotary Club.

“Lowell” - Our newest publication of Lowell’s history - The book, entitled *Lowell*, is a part of the national *Images of America* series published by Arcadia Publishing. The book features a wide variety of historic photographs of Lowell, some never before published. The photographs were from the Museum’s archives and local residents. Released July 2010.

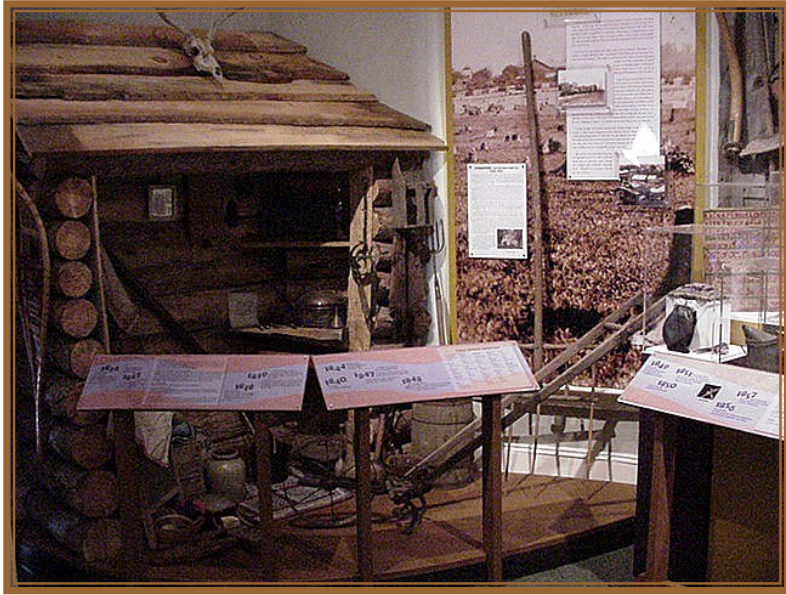
“Where the Rivers Meet - A Pictorial Journey through Historic Lowell, Michigan” - This wonderful 160 page book with over 280 fully captioned photographs depicting the history of our community, was published by the Museum to commemorate Lowell's 175th Anniversary. Released in 2007.

“ABCs of Lowell History Volume I and Volume II” Two booklet series containing the ABCs of Lowell History Series that began during the covid pandemic as a method to connect the community to history.

***Museum Galleries
and
Permanent
Exhibits***



Lowell's History Galleries



Early History Gallery



Industry & Retailing Gallery

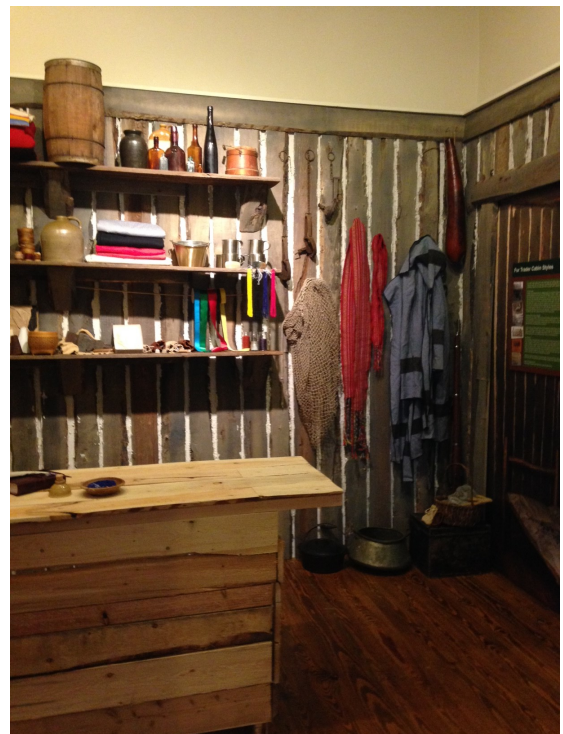


"The Fur Trade in Lowell" Exhibit Gallery

A look at the history of the fur trade in Lowell.



**Funded through the generous support of the
Lowell Area Community Fund
and
Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
and
The Lowell Rotary Club**



Victorian Rooms & Gardens



Parlor



Porch & Garden Area



Dining Room

Special Exhibit: Building History: Robert & Ernest Graham



“Keeping History Alive”

***Some of the many
Community
Programs and Exhibits
presented by the
Lowell Area Historical
Museum***



City Hall, Lowell, Mich.

In the News 2022

the Ledger

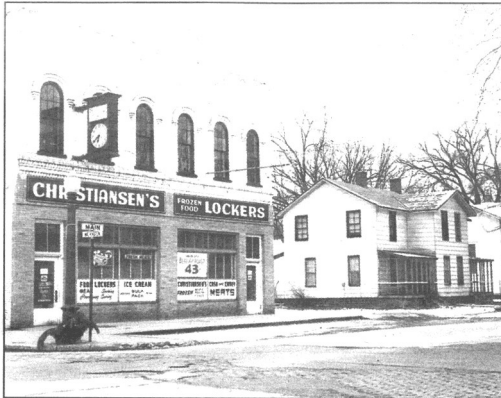
Wednesday, December 7, 2022

ABCs of Lowell history

Address: 411 E. Main
Date Built: c. 1867
Built by: Frank T. King
and Joseph Amphlett;
remodeled by J. C. Hare
& M. C. Barber (1883)
1st business: Joseph
Amphlett's Carriage and
Wagon Works

The address of this building was originally 403 E. Main Street. It was built between 1866 and 1869 by Frank T. King and Joseph Amphlett. In 1870, Amphlett was using it as a carriage and wagon works factory. From 1880-1882, Delos G. Henry, Carriage Painter, advertised that he was working here. J. C. Hare purchased the west-half for Lowell Marble Works in 1881. In July 1883, M. C. Barber was making preparations to dry fruit during harvest and was fitting the east-half of the building up for that purpose.

By 1883, it must have fallen into disrepair because the east side residents wanted to fix it up. They collected \$1200 to be given



Christiansen Ice Cream Company at 411 E. Main St., 1930s-early 40s. Christiansen offered bulk ice cream and meat sales, as well as Frozen food locker rentals, 1940s-50s. The two houses to the east were later removed in subsequent expansions of the building and parking lot.

to the owners, J. C. Hare and M. C. Barber, to put the hotel into shape. Loren W. Davis, from Muir, was hired to be the new landlord hotel-man.

The "Davis House" hotel opened on June 1, 1884. He operated it until 1895. Then with a succession of owners, it was called Brace Hotel (1899), Lowell House (1903), and Hotel Lowell (1910). The hotel prospered, as long as the railroad depot was a block away on South Washington St, but when the depot was moved to the west side of town in 1900, patronship dwindled and the hotel eventually closed.

In 1929, E.C. Foreman used the building for a poultry hatching facility; in 1930, John Heyboer sold eggs from here; and in 1931, it was Beigle's Motor Sales. New life was infused when, in 1936, William Christiansen bought the

building and installed an ice cream and paddlepop manufactory. The building was once three stories tall, but rather than fix the roof, Christiansen decided to remove the third floor. (His remodelers noted square cut iron nails and the absence of modern metal bracing in the building.) A neat store was made at the front, with new walls, new counters and plate glass in place of smaller windows. All of Chris's ice cream was made at this location. This store featured ice cream cones and package sales; his downtown location



From 1884 to about 1910, this building served as a hotel. William Christiansen removed the third floor rather than fix the roof after he purchased it in 1936.

ABCs
continued page 10

LAHM to hold fundraiser on the new Showboat

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) will hold the 6th annual Summer Fest Fundraiser, on Aug. 19 from 6 to 9 pm, on the new Showboat.

"We wanted to spotlight our local history, local food, and beverages," Lisa Plank, museum director said.

And the icing on the cake is this year's venue - the brand-new Showboat, in all its soft elegance and beauty. In the past years, the fundraisers were held in the museum garden and galleries.

"We wanted to give people the opportunity to see the new Showboat," Plank said. "All the proceeds go to the exhibits and the programs at the museum. We have all local sponsors."

Tables on both levels of the Showboat will feature different local restaurants and caterers showcasing food from their businesses. Miss P's Catering will have mini grills including San Marino with pesto mayo, Campari tomato, mozzarella, and mini Italian with salami, pepperoni, marinara, and mozzarella; Mynt Fusion's crab rangoons; B.C. Pizza's assorted pizza bites; Heidi's assorted fruit turnovers and a selection of local melons, Big Boiler's cheese dip; and Ripple's quesadillas.

You can enjoy a magnificent selection of wines; from Michigan's Burgundy, known as Black Star Farm's Pinot

Continued on
page 2

The River of Time Pageant

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and presented

by Alto Active Achievers & Friends, The River of Time Pageant is set for July 23 at 1 pm on the banks of Flat River on Lowell

Fairgrounds. Bleacher seating will be available or bring a chair.

Its main purpose is to teach the early history of Lowell that begins in Wabwindego's Odawa village.

"It looks at the early history of the fur trade in the village," said museum director, Lisa Plank. "The students are learning the roles they're going to play based on real historical figures."

These roles include Madame LaFramboise, early settler Daniel Marsac and Chief Wabwindego, and many more people. The students make their own period costumes and build the village props.

"They're learning about actual people and the pageant showcases local history," said Plank.

Local resident, Helen



Alto Active Achievers & Friends play different historical roles in the River of Time Pageant.

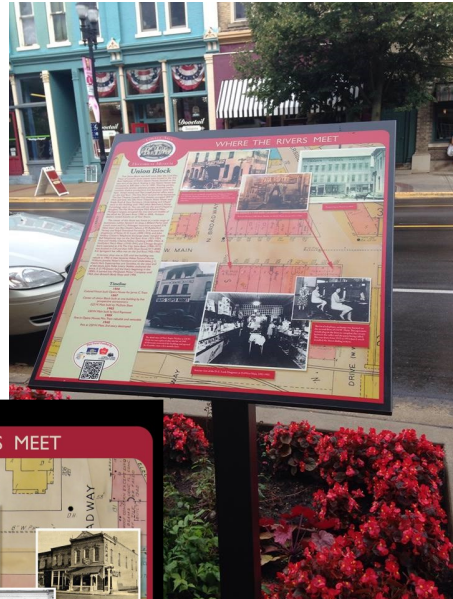
Continued page 2

Interpretive Board Project

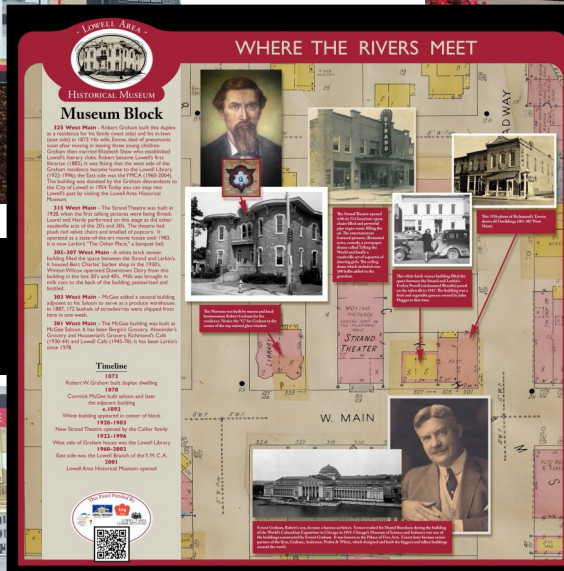
Historic Downtown Lowell



South Broadway Street



Union Block



Museum Block



Waverly Hotel Block



Lyon Block

*Interpretive Board
And Fur Trade Interpretive Cabin Project
Lowell Township Park*

[illegible][illegible]

Summer Fest Fundraiser 2022

The 2022 Summer Fest Fundraiser was held on the new Lowell Showboat. Food and drinks from local restaurants, breweries and caterers were enjoyed in this beautiful setting.

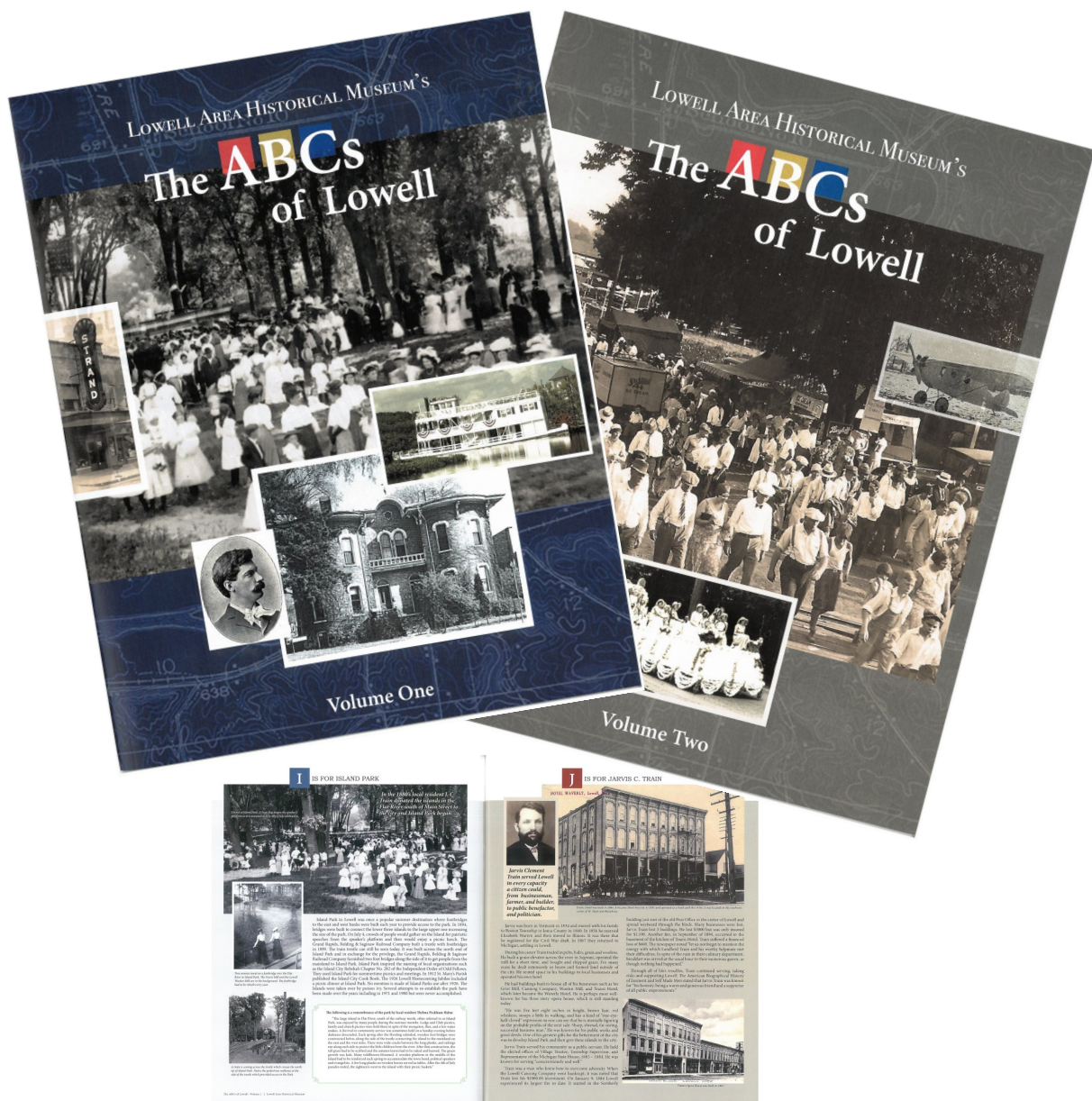
LOWELL MUSEUM SUMMER FEST



The “ABCs of Lowell History” weekly series explored a wide variety of topics in Lowell’s history.

Begun in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent closing of public programming, the series proved very popular. In 2021, the Museum continued this weekly series of historical articles into a third and fourth round.

In 2022, the series was printed in a two volume booklet form.



Along Main Street Series

The Along Main Street Series debuted in 2022. It documents the history of buildings in the Historic District. The series is released by email and social media weekly. It was also picked up by Lowell First Look and the Lowell Ledger weekly.



Along Main Street



Address: 411 E. Main
Date Built: c. 1867

Built by: Frank T. King and Joseph Amphlett; remodeled by J. C. Hare & M. C. Barber (1883)

1st business: Joseph Amphlett's Carriage and Wagon Works

The address of this building was originally 403 E. Main Street. It was built between 1866 and 1869 by Frank T. King and Joseph Amphlett. In 1873, Amphlett purchased the building.

Along Main Street



The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

Address: 229 E. Main
Built: 1869

Owner/Builder: Robert Graham did masonry work; Reuben Quick did carpentry work

Building name: Graham Block

1st business: Devendorf & Blain, Dry goods & carpets

Robert Graham built this two-storefront building in 1869. It was originally three stories high; the top story was removed in 1910. In 1872, Devendorf and Blain opened a store.

Online Presence

Website www.lowellmuseum.org:

The website was created to showcase the events, exhibits, resources and programs of the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Features include online signups for programs, online oral histories, a link to online local newspapers, a printable walking tour and expanding information on the museum and its programs.

Direct Email:

In order to communicate more effectively with our audience the Museum developed a direct email list. Using Mailchimp, a free service, we can now send information about upcoming events, exhibits, programs and other relevant update directly to people identified as a part of our audience. We collected the emails from our members, local community members, schools, through signups at events and on our website, Facebook page and emails. Our list has currently grown to 616 people.

Social Media:

The Museum has social media sites dedicated to sharing Lowell area history and events hosted by the Museum.



Facebook site with 2,195 followers



Instagram site with 161 followers



Twitter with 7 followers

Programs for Students

1st Grade Tours



Keeping History Alive

**Maple Syrup Days
2nd Grade**

**Grandma's Trunk
In-School Program
2nd grade**



"We look forward to this every year.
It really brings history alive for the
students."



Programs for Students

Native American Lifeways, Pioneer
Farming and Fur Trade
Programs 3rd Grade



Museum Immersion Program

3rd Grade



What do you get when you invite third graders to their local museum for two full days? You get excitement, learning, connections and ownership.

The Program began in 2017 with a pilot project with one class.

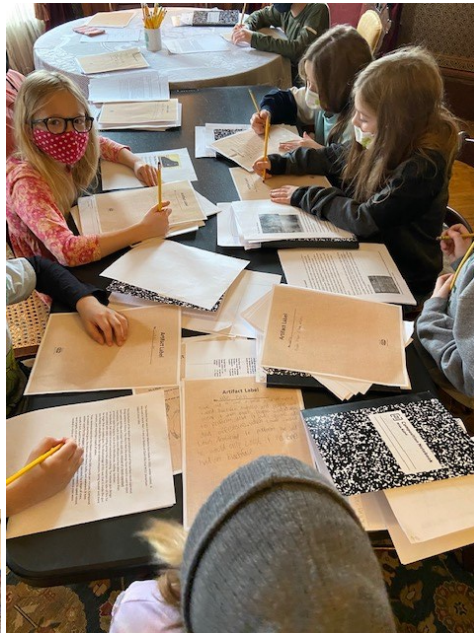
In 2019 the Immersion Program expanded to all third grade classes in the Lowell Area School District.

Students learn about local history and museums in this dynamic program.



"I really love the Lowell Historical Museum. Thank you for letting us go places other people can hardly do. It was the coolest, funnest, and most breathtaking adventure in my life!"

"I think it was the best time in a museum I ever had."



"I think the Lowell Museum is like the constitution, it is of the people, by the people and for the people."



Programs for Students Michigan History Days 4th Grade



Youth Summer Camp

The Lowell Area Historical Museum offers a camp for area youth each summer.

The 2022 Summer Camp was a pageant “The River of Time” that is put on every five years. Area youth learn about the early people of the Lowell area-Odawa, fur traders and pioneers. They take on a role of one of the people living here then and present their stories to the community audience on the last day. During the course of the week students build the sets, make their clothing and learn about early Lowell history.




Oral History Program

The Lowell Area Historical Museum Oral History program gained momentum with new committee members working to conduct new interviews and digitalize existing interviews.

The oral histories were digitalized in 2020/2021 to better preserve the content. They are now being shared on the Museum website along with new interviews as they are completed.



Oral Histories



Flag Day at City Hall

Veterans

Johnson, Howard... WWII. Not many men has spoke of their turbulent time in the war- this one was an eye opener for me. Thank you Mr. Johnson for your service to our country- you are a remarkable man.

Butler, Rex, Dean... shares the trials and turbulent life some of us ever knew. How he couldn't leave Lowell forever, how he loved this community and knew, we deeply loved him back.

Beacham, Don... you know him as one of the pillars of this community, a wonderful, kind man that told just about everybody in this town their very first coach. Well, in this interview you will see how he was able to make a life out of it.

Citizens

Miss. Adelle... who raised most of Lowell! Yes, she finally agreed to an interview. She shares with us her early days attending our Fallisburg school to where she is now. Oh but don't be fooled- she did mention one or two of you kids she sat and the fun times she remembered.

Henry, Keith... Keith Henry! Yes we do!! This is a very old interview of an Artist- Post- Cowboy. This is definitely a Thanksgiving Special for all of us! Grab your leftover pie and tall glass of milk, this one will leave you wondering how in the world???

Henry, Sharon... The very first artist from Lowell I was told about. It was in the early 1900s. She had a very unique style of art. She was known as the 'Queen of the Quill'.

Public Speaker Program

The Lowell Area Historical Museum presented four public speaker programs in 2022.

March: Emma Cole-Local Botanist
April: Archaeology of the Fur Trade-the Daniel Marsac and Rix Robinson Sites
September: Oakwood Cemetery Tour
October: The Life of Magdelaine LaFramboise


Where have all the Flowers Gone?
Rediscovering Emma Cole's 19th-Century Grand Rapids Flora

Thursday, March 10
1:00pm
Lowell Township Hall-2910 Alden Nash

Emma Cole moved to Vergennes Township between 1855 and 1859 with her family. After graduating she taught at the Vergennes District and Lowell Union Schools. In 1876 she attended Cornell University to study Botany, beginning just six years after they started admitting women. After 2 years she began teaching at Central High School and was elected a Vice President of the Kent Scientific Institute, later the Grand Rapids Public Museum in 1900. She created an extensive herbarium for the institute between 1891 and 1900 and in 1901 published *Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids Michigan*. It remains the only comprehensive survey of wildflowers in this area.

Today, the Emma Cole Project is seeking to visit the locations Cole recorded and observe what is currently there. Join us to learn about the career of Emma Cole from these two experts.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library
and the
Lowell Area Historical Museum



Lowell Area Historical Museum

2022 Museum Demographics

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	4	33%
Female	8	67%
Retired	7	58%
Employed	5	42%
City Resident	5	42%
Township Resident	6	50%
County Resident	<u>1</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	12	

MEMBERSHIP

Individual	22	13%
Family	124	73%
Business	5	3%
Patron	7	4%
<u>Donor</u>	<u>11</u>	7%
Total	169	

City of Lowell	56	37%
Vergennes Township	30	19%
Lowell Township	28	19%
Other-Kent County	26	14%
Other-Michigan	14	3%
Out of State	<u>15</u>	8%
Total	169	

PROGRAMS, SCHOOL TOURS AND EXHIBITS

Children	13,106
Adults	22,830
Total	35,936

MUSEUM ADMISSION-General, no program

Children	39
Adults	350
Total	389

ONLINE CONTENT Total 229,656

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS AND PARTICIPANTS 265,981

Lowell Area Historical Museum

Profit & Loss Budget 2022

Income

Admissions	\$ 570.00
Contributions	\$ 6,070.00
Facility Rental	\$ 650.00
Fund Drive	\$ 18,890.00
Fund Raising	\$ 12,640.00
Grants	\$ 49,370.00
Interest	\$ 5.00
Investment Dividends, Gains/Loss	\$ 0.00
Membership Dues	\$ 5,450.00
Memorial Contributions	\$ 620.00
Property Tax	\$ 25,470.00
Sales	\$ 16,620.00

Total Income **\$ 136,355**

Expenses

Building Repair	\$ 530.00
Computer/Tech Repair	\$ 2,590.00
Credit Card Fees	\$ 970.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 300.00
Exhibit Expense	\$ 1,850.00
Insurance	\$ 2,610.00
Licenses & Permits	\$ 650.00
Marketing Expense	\$ 820.00
Misc. Expense	\$ 30.00
Office/Equipment/Software	\$ 3,080.00

Payroll Expense	
Fees stipends & speakers	\$ 400.00
Contract labor	\$ 200.00
Contract labor-Immersion program staff	\$ 2,850.00
Wage taxes	\$ 4,840.00
Payroll Expense (3 part-time staff)	\$ 62,630.00

Postage & Delivery	\$ 1,300.00
Professional Fees	\$ 300.00
Rent	\$ 3,600.00
Sales Tax	\$ 310.00
Staff Development	\$ 2,070.00

Supplies	
Curatorial Supplies	\$ 240.00
Educational	\$ 810.00
Events	\$ 10,700.00
Gift Shop	\$ 13,800.00
Office	\$ 1,960.00

Utilities	
Security System	\$ 460.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,380.00
Web hosting	\$ 600.00

Total Expense **\$ 121,880**

. LOWELL AREA .



HISTORICAL MUSEUM