



Museum Matters

the newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

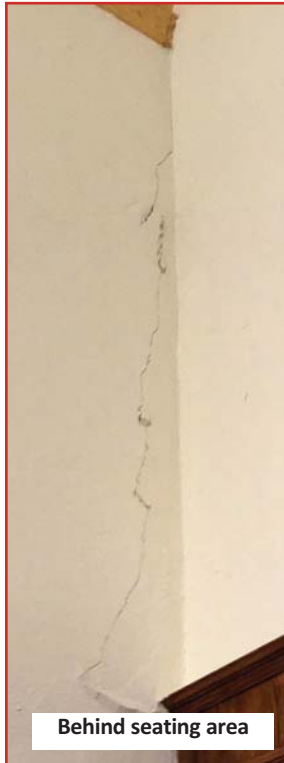
Exploring the past... Understanding the present... Envisioning the future

Fall 2020

“Repair the Cracks” Project

The summer has come and gone. Our hope to have the cracks repaired and the interior walls and ceiling of the History Museum painted during the summer ran into a major problem. From the painter we found that the cracks, which were somewhat minor two years ago, had expanded to the point where professional plastering was needed. This increased our cost three-fold from \$6,500 to \$15,000. To save some money, we decided to postpone the painting of the ceiling. Together, the walls and the plaster repair will now cost \$12,750.

Thanks to a generous response to our second appeal along with a grant from Great Lakes Energy we now have \$9,500. We are continuing to accept donations and have written another grant to cover the remaining \$3,250 of the cost. The repair and painting are scheduled to start in late November. We are looking forward to a freshly painted interior by Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has financially supported us with this project. We appreciate the continuing generosity of the Elk Rapids community.



Behind seating area



Over back seating area



Exit to downstairs



65th Anniversary of Elk Rapids Harbor Days

On August 8th, Elk Rapids held a one day celebration of the 65th Anniversary Harbor Days. The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society was one of the partners who contributed to this event. Karen Szymanski, Museum Chairperson, put up 9 bulletin boards, 5 easels and 2 display cases containing historic information about Harbor Days and the Ed Grace Harbor. In addition, an updated Historical Tour booklet of Elk Rapids was printed for distribution. With the Museum being closed this summer, it was beneficial that the ERAHS was able to share its collection of photos, news articles and memorabilia. The exhibit was open to the public for 25 days afterwards at the Blesma Pavilion.

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
Mailing address: P. O. Box 2
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002
www.elkrapidshistory.org

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President's Report:



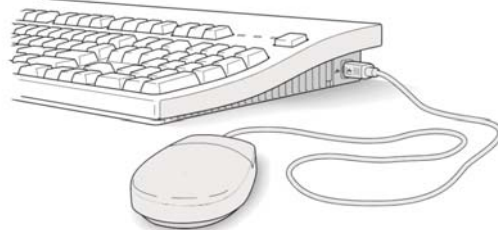
Dan LeBlond

During this coronavirus epidemic I'm pleased to hear quite a few Society members are enjoying the weekly Historical Society of Michigan's (HSM) History Hounds® ZOOM meetings! Rich and Carol Smith wrote: "We have really been enjoying these presentations each week. We haven't missed one yet!" The Senior Manager for Events, Historical Society of Michigan personally sent me an email thanking me for promoting and sharing their programs with our membership.

If you listen closely to the moderator of weekly HSM programs, he often thanks the members of Elk Rapids Area Historical Society for joining the meeting.

I'm also pleased to report that as of August 20, 2020, 93.2% of our ERAHS members have renewed their membership. We were able to achieve this goal within 2 months of sending out notices! Membership renewal is "the third leg" of our funding "stool." Our other support comes from donations and grants.

Please consider giving family members, neighbors or friends a membership in the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society as a Christmas gift this year. For an application go, to our website: <https://elkrapidshistory.org/> and click on the "Membership" selection.



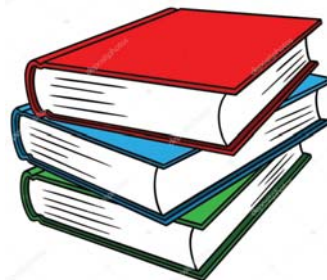
*****Annual Appeal*****

Like everyone else, this year has been tough on the Historical Society in many ways. Fortunately, through the generous support of people like you in response to our Annual Appeal last year, we have been able to survive financially. Not knowing what the next year will bring, as far as the coronavirus, we hope that we can again depend on you to keep us in mind as you make your donations. Join us in planning and preparing for the future by donating to this year's Annual Appeal.

Time again for Community Cash!

Please save your Village Market and Village Gas Station receipts for us again! You can place them in the drop-box located on the rear door of the Museum.

This program, sponsored by the Village Market, has been extremely successful and helped so many people over the years. Thank you in advance for your receipt donations. *It really does pay to shop locally!*



Elk Rapids History Book Update

With the Best of Intentions!

For the past year, we have been updating our readers on the progress of our intended "Because of the Water" Elk Rapids history book. Due to publication issues, the book project has been put on hold until we can give a definite availability date.

As a **temporary alternative**, ERAHS is offering Gordon Converse's recent book chronicling his memories of Elk Rapids. The History Museum will receive \$6.95 profit from the sale of each book made through ERAHS. The order form for the book is located on the next page of this Newsletter.

THE TROPHY CASE: STARTING SPOT FOR ELK SPORTS HISTORY

By Tim Peterson



The doors of the gymnasium at Elk Rapids High School are set among the long rows of the school trophy case. The most recent awards are on display at the far right, the names and teams are still familiar. Travel way back to the first Elk Rapids school, built in 1874 and demolished in 1953, and achievements of the many Elk Rapids athletes and teams over the years become lost and largely forgotten. For these long ago years, the far left of the trophy case houses the hardware of the earlier triumphs.

A tarnished sterling cup is etched with "Baseball 1914," another cup reads "MHSAA Tennis Singles 1926." Squinting to read a tarnished plaque on a faded black pedestal with a dusty gold statue, the inscription reveals the

aging trophy is for the 1929 Elk Rapids varsity basketball team, runners-up in the Class D state championship tournament. There are many colorful coaches, playing fields and courts, record milestones and even hardcore fans that deserve mention in the local sports history. Elk Rapids has a long history of community pride for high school sports, and there is much to be remembered and recorded so that it is never forgotten.



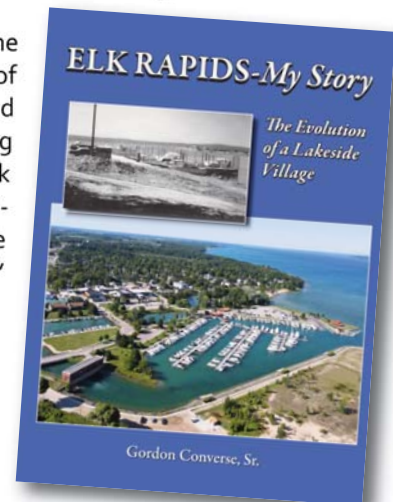
Elk Rapids – My Story, The Evolution of a Lakeside Village By Gordon Converse

Distributed by the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

This limited edition soft cover book contains memories of Elk Rapids through the years by Gordon Converse beginning in the mid-1950's. As co-founder of Wanigan Corporation Builders and a member of the Rotary club, Gordon helped his new hometown grow into the thriving village it is today. From inspiring others to help him build the beautiful Edward Grace Memorial Harbor to the Elk River Inn Restaurant, as well as dozens of other village projects, his community-minded imprint remains. "This story is intended to be about Elk Rapids, the beauty of the area, the people and events that have so influenced our lives," Converse said.

Retail price \$26.95 plus \$7.75 shipping and handling
Pick-up available at Elk Rapids History Museum w/o shipping and handling.

Mail your order in the enclosed addressed envelope to:
ERAHS, P.O. Box 2, Elk Rapids, MI 49629.



_____ Copies of *Elk Rapids-My Story* @ \$26.95 each
 _____ Shipping and Handling @ \$7.75 (if applicable)
 _____ Additional donation to ER History Museum
 _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Credit Card Information:

Card Number: _____
 Exp. Date: _____ 3-Digit Code _____
 Zip Code of Credit Card: _____

Make checks payable to *Elk Rapids Area Historical Society*.

Name _____ Email _____
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History



How to register online

Visit Historical Society of Michigan's website at: Click on "Programs/Awards" at the top of the screen:

Click on "History Hounds Lecture Series"

a) Click on "H.H. Lecture Registration -Members"

b) Fill out form (ERAHS is an Organizational Member of Historical Society of Michigan)

c) Submit form

d) You will receive an email confirmation and a second email with instructions for remote access. (Note: You may need to download the latest version of ZOOM if you are using ZOOM for the first time or have not used it recently.)

NOTE: You need to register by 3:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduled presentation.

How to register by telephone, call 1-800-692-1828

History Hounds Trivia: Kibbles of Knowledge

with Robert Myers,
Historical Society of Michigan

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, noon-1 p.m.

How well do you know your state? Grab some paper and a pencil to play along in this Michigan history trivia game. The 15-point multiple-choice game will determine your mastery of useless knowledge that will earn you bragging rights among friends and family. No fair Googling or phoning a friend!

A Woman's Place Is Under the Dome:

Michigan's Capitol and the Woman's
Suffrage Movement

with Valerie Marvin, State of Michigan

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7-8 p.m.

The fight for woman's suffrage began in Michigan in 1846, when woman's rights advocate Ernestine Rose gave two speeches in Michigan's first Capitol. Women continued to come to the Capitol to advocate for voting rights, but actual suffrage remained an elusive goal. Join us to relive important suffrage moments under Michigan's dome.

The Bark and Bite of the White Pine Logging Era

with Hillary Pine, Michigan History Center

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 noon-1 p.m.

The white pine logging era pumped \$4 billion into Michigan's economy—that is more than was made during the California Gold Rush. Join us for a look at the effects of nineteenth-century logging on Michigan's landscape, life in a logging camp, and the early conservation efforts that brought our forests back to life.

Salvaging History: Rescuing WWII Warbirds from Lake Michigan

with Taras Lysenko, A & T Recovery

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 7-8 p.m.

A & T Recovery has salvaged about 40 rare World War II aircraft from Lake Michigan. Lost in aircraft carrier training accidents, these airplanes have been located, recovered, and restored on behalf of the National Naval Aviation Museum and are now displayed in America's most prestigious aviation museums and airports.

Fayette: From Company Town to Historic Townsite

with Troy Henderson, Department of Natural Resources—Fayette Townsite

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 noon-1 p.m.

Fayette was once a bustling U.P. industrial iron-smelting town from 1867 to 1891. Today, it is a historic townsite located within a state park. Join us to learn the history of Fayette, its community, and its buildings. The speaker will also highlight the continued preservation and interpretation efforts at the remarkably preserved historic site.

PBB: The Poisoning of Michigan

with Edward Lorenz, Alma College (Ret.)

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 7-8 p.m.

In 1973, workers at a St. Louis, Michigan, factory accidentally mixed a flame-retardant chemical, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), into livestock feed. Millions of affected farm animals were destroyed, but not before Michiganders had consumed PBB in contaminated milk, meat, and eggs. Join us to learn about this tragic episode in Michigan's history.

Of Style and Structure: The Architecture of Detroit

with Wendy Evans, Wayne State University

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 noon-1 p.m.

Detroit's history would not be complete without including its remarkable architecture, which offers a mix of styles of buildings designed by a variety of well-known architects. This session will explore the city's architectural history from the nineteenth century to the present, focusing particularly on those buildings which still exist today.

How to Find a Lost French Fort (and what to do with it once you do)

with Michael Nassaney,
Western Michigan University

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 noon-1 p.m.

Come learn about the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project's latest discoveries. This joint initiative of the city of Niles and Western Michigan University seeks to excavate, interpret, and preserve the site of Fort St. Joseph, a French—and, later, British—mission, garrison, and trading post occupied from 1691 to 1781.

Pedaling Beyond the Petticoats: Women Cyclists in the Gilded Age

with Roger Gilles, Grand Valley State University

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7-8 p.m.

The bicycling craze of the 1890s led to a wildly popular—if brief—era of women's professional bicycle racing. Society discouraged women from engaging in athletics, but some bucked the norms and jumped on their bikes. Learn how these speed and endurance contests helped pave the way for professional women's sports.

Roosevelt's Tree Army: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan

with Hillary Pine, Michigan History Center

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 noon-1 p.m.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a New Deal program, set up camp. CCC enrollees worked on conservation projects throughout Michigan, altering the landscape in ways still visible today. Was your grandpa or dad a "CCC Boy"? Learn about the important work he did and the program's impact on its participants.

*** Program Sponsors ***

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2021 programs!

All Smiles Dentistry	Elk Rapids Animal Hospital	Ken's Body Shop of Elk Rapids	River Pharmacy
Anthony Wittbrodt, Attorney	Elk Rapids Chiropractic Center	Kolu's \$5 Meal Deal	Shorts Brewing Company
Blackmore Property Maintenance	Elk Rapids Primary Care	Lochenheath Golf Club	Team Elmer's
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Corner Drugs	Kellie Sergeant Century 21, Northland	Raymond James	
Elk Lake Floral & Greenhouses		Re/Max of Elk Rapids	

Program Lineup for 2021


May 6th	Diana Stampfler....."Ladies of the Lights"
June 3th	Rick Vandeweghe....."Traverse City Hospital in the 1950's using Historical Fiction"
July 8th	Onalee Marsh and Ginny Johnson....."Love and Kisses, Max: an Untold Story of WW II"
July 29th	Jory Jonas, Michigan DNR "Elk and Torch Lake Native Fish Species"
September 2nd	John Mink....."Civil War Uniforms and Memories"
October 7th	Al Bryant....."The Titanic"

All Programs will be held at the Museum - 7:00 p.m. In case of cancellation or rescheduling, notification will be sent by email, put on our website, and advertised in *The Elk Rapids News*.

*** Business Partners ***

Alden State Bank and the Village Market have annually made generous donations to our operating budget. We are grateful for their support!

LOBBY HOURS: M. - Th. 9:00 to 4:00 / Fri. 9:00 to 5:00 / Sat. Closed
DRIVE THRU: M. - Th. 8:30 to 5:00 / Fri. 8:30 to 6:00 / Sat. 9:00 to 12:00



Alden State Bank
www.aldenbank.com

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Crumbling Stairs Now Repaired

While examining the lower area of the History Museum building this spring, it was discovered that the stone entrance stairway was beginning to crumble. Some patching had been done by volunteers in the past, but it was not holding up. From the pictures, it can be seen how extensive the damage had gotten. Bernado Lipari, who repaired our chimney last year, was able to make the repairs and secure other areas at the bottom of the steps and along the building next to the steps. The unexpected cost of \$1575 was taken out of our Reserve Building Improvement Fund. A handy Museum volunteer then painted over the repairs.



***Yes! I want to support
The Elk Rapids Historical Museum!***

Gift amount: \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000 Other

I would like to support the Elk Rapids Area Historical Museum

I would like to support the "Repair the Cracks" project

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to give my gift in honor of _____ in memory of:

Name _____

I would like a letter acknowledging my gift Yes No

Please include a note with acknowledgement information

**Make checks payable to
ERAHS**

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**Credit Card Payments
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Thank you for your support!



Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Post Office Box 2, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629-0002

Contact: Dan LeBlond, President (231) 264-5692 Email: president@elkrapidshistory.org Web site: www.elkrapidshistory.org

Deliver to:



National Register of Historic Places Plaque Mounted

1. Positioning Plaque
2. Drilling Anchor Holes
3. Jackie Weber helping Dan Wettlaufer place and secure Plaque
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