



Museum Matters

the quarterly newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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

Spring 2020

Elk Rapids First Grade Fall Visit



First grade classes from Lakeland and Mill Creek Elementary Schools made their annual visit to the History Museum in October. After a short introduction to the entire class, students were divided into four groups to learn how history teaches about the past.

At Station One, students learned about making soap, hanging clothes on clothesline, milking a cow, and using a chamber pot.

Station Two was a one-room schoolhouse where students used individual chalkboards, replica *McGuffey* readers, and modeled a dunce cap.

Students learned how butter was churned and sampled cornbread muffins at Station Three.

At Station Four, students were taught barn dancing including the Virginia Reel.

As the classes left the Museum, each student was given a Snickerdoodle made from a Museum cookbook and paper dolls to color and cut out. The first grade visit each year is a memorable experience for both the students and the volunteer Museum teachers.



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

ERAHS Board of Trustees:

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History Museum
 301 Traverse St. (corner of Pine)
 Open June through August
 Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-4 pm
 or by appointment by calling (231) 264-5692

Admission by donation
Free to members, children, students
Non-members: donation gratefully accepted

Thank You to the Lions Club and ER Rotary

Thanks to grants from the ER Lions Club and Community Foundation – Rotary received in December, ERAHS was able to purchase storage units for our elementary school program.

Over the last five years, ERAHS has developed and established an on-going school program for K-4 Elk Rapids elementary school students. First through fourth grade students from Mill Creek and Lakeland Elementary visit the History Museum each year and participate in interactive activities which simulate early history in Elk Rapids. Volunteers visit kindergarten classes to provide requested instruction.

In order to offer these experiences, clothing, utensils, props, etc., that are not part of the Museum’s basic collection, need to be available for student use. Storage of items for repeated use had become an issue. With help from both the Lions Club and Rotary, we now have adequate and appropriate storage for our Elementary School Program. ERAHS, and especially the two School Program Planners (Ann Craig and Cathy Walle), are extremely grateful.



In Memoriam



We were saddened to hear of the passing of ERAHS Vice President, Dan Ernst. Dan was born on September 30, 1931, in Evanston, Illinois, the only child of Daniel Ward Ernst and Elaine Pearson Ernst of Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1949, he graduated second in his class from Dubuque Senior High School. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1953 and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1956. After a brief stint in the law department of a Chicago bank, he was commissioned into the Judge Advocate General’s corps of the Air Force and was on active duty for three years, principally at Fairchild Air Force base near Spokane, WA. He later served three years in the Air Force Reserve. Dan returned to Dubuque to practice law, where he once served as city attorney.

He also loved spending summers with his wife and family on Lake Michigan’s Grand Traverse Bay, near Elk Rapids. He volunteered for fifteen years for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, including serving as flotilla commander and coxswain. In addition to serving as Vice President of the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society, Dan was a member of the town’s Lions Club, happily staffing its hot dog stand during Harbor Days in August. Dan co-authored three self-published books: *The Wadena Rock Festival* (2014); *The Diplomat and his Daughter* (2016), based on the diaries of Dan’s maternal grandfather, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Poland and Finland, and Dan’s mother, who served as her father’s hostess; and an autobiography, *Judgment Yet to Be Rendered* (2018).

Our sincere condolences to Dan’s wife of sixty-three years, Ann Robinson Ernst of Dubuque, as well as his three children, Ellen Ernst Kossek of Indiana and Michigan; Daniel Robinson Ernst and Ruth Ann Ernst of Washington, D.C.; and eight grandchildren.

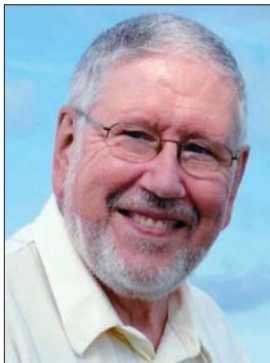
Community Cash Reminder

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society will again be participating in Village Market’s Community Cash program. This year’s program will end Memorial Day. Any receipts from Village Market dated between Labor Day 2019 and Memorial Day 2020 will count toward a Community Cash award. As a result of last year’s participation, we received \$862.24.

There is a mailbox on the back door of the Museum where you can drop off your receipts if the building is not open. Thank you everyone for your help and *keep up the good work!*



President's Report:



Dan LeBlond

My 17th year as president of the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society should prove interesting! My wife, Margaret, and I have sold our Elk Rapids condominium and last October moved permanently to a home we bought in The Villages, Florida.

I will now do my museum computer work remotely from "down south" and attend Board meetings via the latest teleconferencing's audio/video technology. My remote work has and will continue to include:

- Recording donations from our annual and February appeals into our PastPerfect software's database
- Attending Fundraising Committee meetings via a teleconference, which affirms future Board and Committee meetings can be attended this way
- Creating specialized PastPerfect reports for our Board officers and trustees
- Designing and distributing "e-mail blasts" which announce our monthly programs and summer exhibits
- Maintaining our Society's webpages: www.elkrapidshistory.org as the "Webmaster"
- Searching for program speakers for the next year
- Making program flyers for our History Guides to distribute to downtown Elk Rapids merchants
- Assisting ERAHS's Secretary with grant application writing by supplying specific information requested by a grantor

In conclusion, borrowing a few words from the science fiction television series: Star Trek: the original series, "Beam Me Up [North] Scotty!"

ERAHS Secretary and Treasurer



Flo Wettlaufer joined the History Museum by volunteering to take Board minutes back in 2014. After doing that job for a year, it was decided that she might as well be the Board Secretary. After doing that job for two years, it was decided that she should be both the Secretary and the Treasurer, which she has been doing for the last two years.

Flo was born and raised in Detroit and she received her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. She worked for thirty years as a teacher and elementary principal in Garden City, Michigan. After retiring she worked as an Educational Computer consultant for ten years before deciding to go to law school. Since graduating from Law School in 2011, she has worked for the Florida Attorney General in Fort Myers, FL two days a week, on-site in the winter and remotely from Michigan in the summer.

Flo and Dan, another Board member, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in July. They have one son who lives in Ann Arbor with his wife and dog, Pepper.

Flo enjoys line dancing twice a week in Michigan and four days a week in Florida. She works at the Film Festival each year during the month of July at the main box office and at the Bijou during Festival week. Needless to say, she enjoys her volunteer time at the Museum.



SAVE THE DATES AUGUST 14, 15, 16 ELK RAPIDS HISTORY MUSEUM GARAGE SALE

We will start collecting donations at the History Museum for the Garage Sale on Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning June 3rd



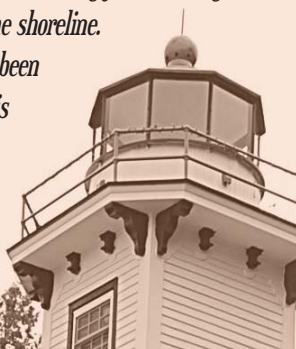
Questions?
Call the Museum at
(231) 264-5692

May 2020 Program
Thursday, May 7 - 7:00 p.m.
at the History Museum

"Ladies of the Lights"
Presented by: Diana Stampfler

They were women before their time, taking on the romantic, yet dangerous and physically demanding job of tending to the beacons that protected the shoreline.

In all, some 40 women have been identified who excelled in this profession over the years, dating back as early as the 1840s and as recent as present day.



Nearly 70 images of keepers, their families and their lights make up this presentation. The program includes readings from newspapers and autobiographies, as well as handouts including the list of featured ladies and additional reading references for attendees.

Dianna is a passionate professional speaker, with a degree in communications from Western Michigan University and 20+ years experience in radio broadcasting and public speaking.

June 2020 Program
Thursday, June 4 - 7:00 p.m.
at the History Museum

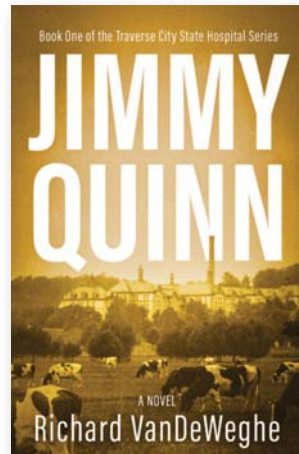
"Traverse City Hospital in the 1950's
using Historical Fiction"
Presented by: Rick Vandeweghe

JIMMY QUINN is historical fiction set at the Traverse City State Hospital in the 1950's. The novel chronicles the events that led to the closing of the very successful farm program and that ended opportunities for patients to work at the farm.

Through historical photographs of the State Hospital, the presentation will examine the intersection of history and fiction from the perspective of a writer.

Anyone who has ever told a story from personal experience knows that there are many intersections between history and fiction.

Richard VanDeWeghe is Professor Emeritus of English from the University of Colorado, Denver. **JIMMY QUINN** is the first novel in the Traverse City State Hospital Series. Two other novels are in preparation.



Collecting Memories

This summer, the theme for our summer exhibit at the History Museum will be "SCHOOL DAYS". We would like to feature MEMORIES from former students who attended and current students who now attend Elk Rapids schools. With the memory, please include your name (first, last, maiden), school attended, years attended. If you have a memory that you would like to share (one sentence but not more than one page), send it to the Museum before June 1st.

Mail it: ER MUSEUM/Memories.....P.O. Box 2 Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Drop it: into the black box attached to the back door of the Museum

E-mail it: research@elkrapidshistory.org.

We are hoping that informal reunions will occur between former and current students visiting the Museum. The exhibit will be open Wednesday and Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00pm from June 3 - August 29 (closed July 4 and Aug. 8 and 15).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

Valentine Tea – Feb 14th

With the help of Ann Craig (ERAHS School Program Planner), Mill Creek kindergarteners from Kim Ranger’s class celebrated Valentine’s Day again this year with a tea. Ann showed them how to make Ikebana centerpieces. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging. Activities included putting together heart-shaped puzzles and making a heart-shaped cake out of round and square cakes that they frosted and decorated with sprinkles. Students enjoyed 2 kinds of cookies, strawberry and cherry Jello Jiggles, red fruit, pink lemonade, hibiscus tea and finger sandwiches. The Valentine Tea is the first experience Elk Rapids students have with Museum personnel. Read about their second experience involving Quilting in a related article to the right.



Elk Rapids Kindergarten Visit



Ann Craig, ERAHS’ School Program Planner, visited Kim Ranger’s kindergarten class on February 21st for a Quilting lesson. A sandwich was used to illustrate the parts of a quilt. Quilts have a top, bottom, and middle, just like sandwiches. The kindergarteners explained quilts to their 5th grade buddies who joined the class later. K/5 pairs then used their bag of samples to locate the shapes in the displayed quilts. Everyone signed the quilt, which is in its third year of signatures. The opposite side of the quilt has Celebration squares. The quilt has one more year to go before it is finished. The lesson ended with brownies for all.

Antrim County Historical Societies Network Meeting



Last fall, four members of the History Museum met with other historical societies from the area at Fife Lake for their Annual Meeting. Don Gaskell, Judy Hahn Fishbeck, Jackie Weber, and Flo Wettlaufer toured the three historic buildings that Fife Lake maintains.

They visited the one-room schoolhouse where Don modeled a dunce hat, the fire station where Jackie rang the fire bell, and the Museum itself where artifacts are displayed. Some members took the 27-station walk that showed photos from the last 19th and early 20th century in Fife Lake.

The historical societies, including Bellaire, Ellsworth, Mancelona, Samels Farm, as well as Elk Rapids and Fife Lake shared their summer events after a pizza and salad dinner, with delicious brownies. Next year’s meeting will be hosted by Samels Farm in September.




*** 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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 P.O. BOX 515 • CENTRAL LAKE, MI 49622 • (231) 544-8237

VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

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*** Program Sponsors ***

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2020 programs!

All Smiles Dentistry	Elk Lake Floral & Greenhouses	Kellie Sergeant	Re/Max of Elk Rapids
Anthony Wittbrodt, Attorney	Elk Rapids Animal Hospital	Century 21, Northland	River Pharmacy
Bill & Diana Cooper	Elk Rapids Chiropractic Center	Kolu's \$5 Meal Deal	Shorts Brewing Company
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Program Lineup for 2020

May 7th	Diana Stampfler....."Ladies of the Lights"
June 4th	Rick Vandeweghe....."Traverse City Hospital in the 1950's using Historical Fiction"
July 9th	Onalee Marsh and Ginny Johnson....."Love and Kisses, Max: an Untold Story of WW II"
July 30th	Jory Jonas, Michigan DNR "Elk and Torch Lake Native Fish Species"
September 3rd	John Mink..... "Civil War Uniforms and Memories"
October 1st	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*.

Thank you for your support!



In February, we began our “**Repair the Cracks**” appeal and have received a tremendous response. In one month, 30% of our goal of \$6500 was received.

A grant is being written for another 30% of the funds needed. BUT, we still need your help. Please use the enclosed envelope and check the donation box “Repair the Cracks” below to send in your donation.

Thank you again for your continuing support. We couldn't do it without you!

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**

and mail to:

**ERAHS, P.O. Box 2
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002**

**Credit Card Payments
Now Accepted!**

Card Number

Expiration Date: _____

Three digit code: _____

Signature

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:

2020 Summer Exhibit **SCHOOL DAY'S: MEMORIES**

June 3 – August 29

(closed July 4 and Aug. 8 and 15)



Wednesday and
Saturday,
1:00 – 4:00pm

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!!!!**