



Museum Matters

the Winter 2013-2014 newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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

Christmas at the Island House

Come and enjoy this special holiday exhibit

by Dolores Hibbard

This holiday season the Elk Rapids Historical Society will be offering displays reflecting an Island House Christmas from the Victorian Era. The Parlor and Dining room of the Island House will be replicated to accurately reflect the holiday season of the Victorian Era and the life style of the Noble family living there. The family included the parents, three children, and a Grandmother. This will be done utilizing materials in the Historical Society's archives.

The Historical Society will be open December 6, 2013 through January 5, 2014 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The Elk Rapids Area Library is located in the Noble House, the family home of one of Elk Rapids' early settlers and businessmen.

This holiday season in, conjunction with the Elk Rapids Historical Society, the Library will be decorated in the Victorian style.

There will be multiple decorated trees, mantle pieces, and something special in the Children's area. It is hoped the community will come to the library to share in the holiday decorations.

To provide additional opportunities for community involvement, a WREATH MAKING class is planned for December 7, 2013 at 10:00

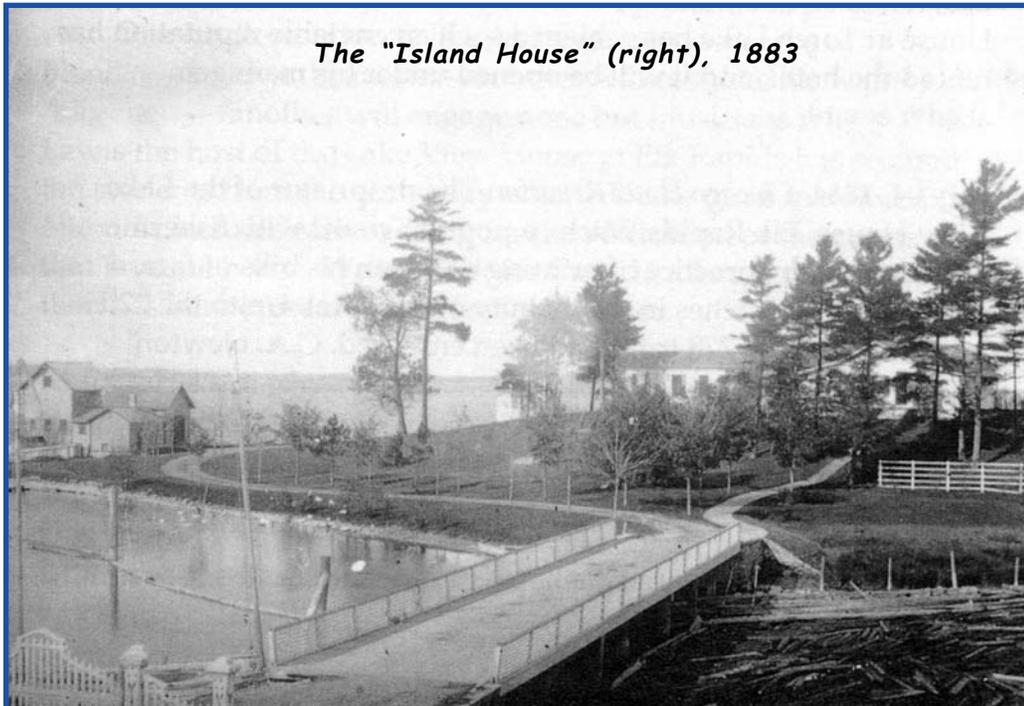
am in the Meeting Room downstairs. Some supplies will be provided, including a wreath frame and wire to make an 12 inch wreath. Participants are asked to bring greens and their choice of decorations. Since room is limited, it is necessary for those interested to call the Library at 264-9979 to sign up.

There will be a Victorian Wreath Contest. Those wishing to enter can bring their wreath to the Library between December 1 through 7, 2013. All the wreaths should be no larger than 18 inches in diameter and

contain no live or perishable materials. They should be decorated in the Victorian theme. All wreaths will be displayed in the Library for the community to vote for their favorite from December 8 through 22, 2013. The top three choices will be awarded prizes announced on December 26, 2013.

In addition, the Library

will host the Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" on December 19, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This offers the community an additional opportunity to vote for their favorite wreath and share the holiday decorations.



The "Island House" (right), 1883

Vision Statement

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society and Museum will be a distinguished leader in defining the unique history of the region by connecting the past, present and future through:

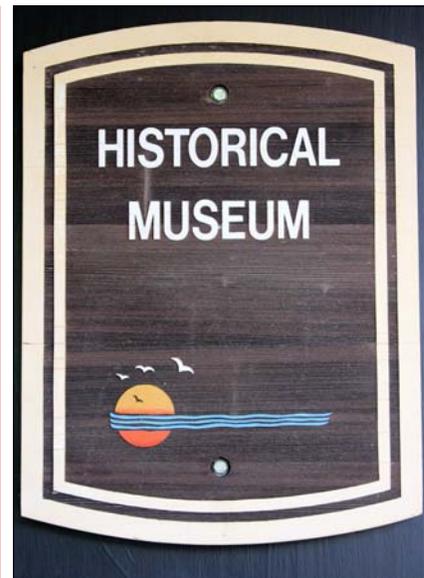
- Historical Preservation
- Community Collaboration
- Educational Programs
- Research Documentation

Mission Statement

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society and Museum is a center that inspires people to explore the past, understand the present and envision the future.

We accomplish this by:

- Serving as the authority on regional history
- Preserving artifacts pertinent to the region
- Promoting, collaborating and supporting community activities
- Providing a center for community engagement and education
- Assisting with research and learning
- Ensuring history is an integral component of community development
- Sharing our past as the foundation for the future



ERAHS Board of Directors:

- Dan LeBlondPresident
Craig HandleyVice President
Adam SchulerTreasurer
Marcia Graham ...Interim Secretary
Inez GottsTrustee
Jane LundTrustee
Daniel WettlauferTrustee



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Contributors: Karen Szymanski, Dolores Hibbard, Dan LeBlond, Glenn Neumann.

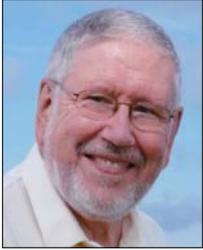
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email: president@elkrapidshistory.org

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President's Report:



The end of the year is always a good time to look back and take stock in the many accomplishments, as well as all of our good friends who have helped make them happen. 2013 was significant for ERAHS in many ways. After months of building maintenance, repair and renovation, we were able to open our new permanent exhibit to the public. Glenn Newmann's committee worked extremely hard to organize the museum layout and set up displays on both levels - all in time for the summer season. We're still working on the building, itself. As with any old building, this will be a never-ending process.

Board Vacancies

Two of our most tireless workers, Glenn Neumann and Dale Dillon have decided to retire from the board of trustees, although both will remain active as volunteers. We are grateful for their years of service on the board and are thankful for their continued involvement. This leaves us with some vacancies on the board. If you would like to participate in making ERAHS a more dynamic force within our community, we'd welcome the opportunity to have you on our team. Please contact me at president@elkrapidshistory.org.

IRA Charitable Distributions

As a year-end reminder, IRA holders can still make charitable distributions to the Elk Rapids Area Historical Museum. The US Congress, in passing the tax bill at year-end, approved the continuation of the IRA charitable rollover option until December 31, 2013.

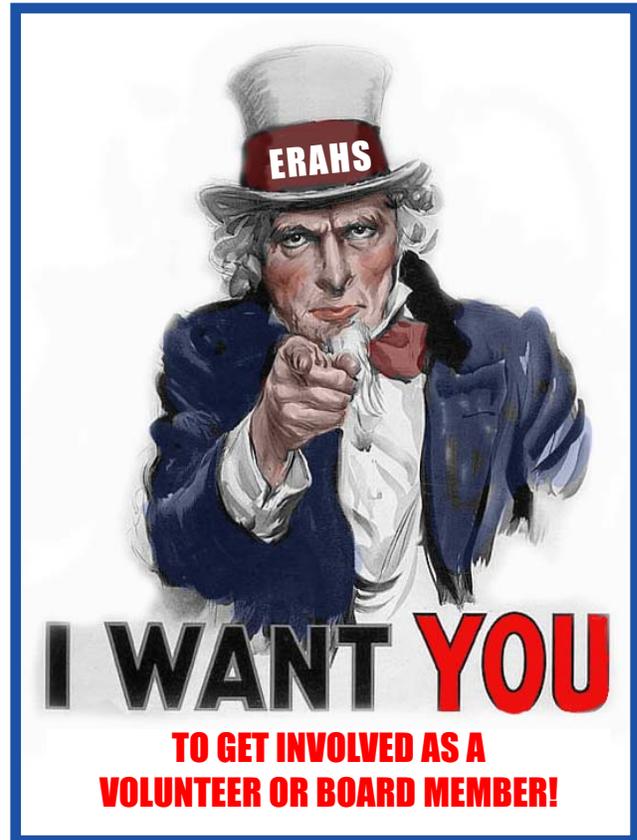
Museum members who are aged 70½ or older and have an IRA account are eligible to move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to the Museum without having to pay income taxes on the money.

With the stock market strength in recent months, many donors may have gains in their IRA accounts. Qualified members can donate to the Museum without paying taxes on the gains—a "win-win" for the donor and the Museum!

Community Cash

The Village Market's "Community Cash" program is in full swing. From now through Spring, shop at any Villiage Market location and save your receipts for the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.

On behalf of our entire ERAHS family, I would like to wish you the very best of the holiday season and happiness and health in 2014



In Memoriam



We are sorry to report that **Ray Graham**, the local railroad buff who was behind the building of the display on our upper level lost his battle with cancer in early November.

He was frequently available at 401 River Street as a "greeter" when we had school groups touring the museum. Young and old alike enjoyed his stories and anecdotes as he pointed things out on the railroad display. Ray will be greatly missed.

Volunteers are the heart of ERAHS

by Dolores Hibbard

A community needs many things to be a good place to live. In addition to safety, good schools, parks and green space, they need good people. People who help others, acting as volunteers. A small community like ours runs on volunteers - Garden Club, quilt groups, Lunch Buddies, service clubs, and the Elk Rapids Historical Society.

In the Historical Society, the volunteers provide numerous services. From collecting and cataloging, to planning and setting up displays, to greeting the visitors, cleaning the building and maintaining the grounds, it is all done by volunteers. We would like to recognize these generous people. Those who acted as Greeters and Docents, providing 425 volunteer hours through the Summer, and those who maintain the building and grounds since the beginning of 2013 giving 1,800 hours of volunteer time.

Let's start with the Maintenance Committee, co-chaired by **Dan Wettlaufer** and **Dale Dillon**. These ten people worked 1,800 hours! They include:

Ray Graham	Dan LeBlond	Glenn Neumann	Howard Richter
Ross Graham	Jane Lund	Greg Reisig	Margaret VanDenBerg

What makes people want to help? **Karen Symanski**, who has a special skill from her previous life, was asked to help arrange some of the displays. It is something she knows and is good at, and is willing to share through volunteering.

There are many more Volunteers to recognize, including:

Catherine Allegrina	Marcia Graham	Judy Lopus	Sandy Ramee
Christine Ault	Peg Graham	Jane Lund	Kim Ranger
Marge Baldwin	Nancy Gray	Dale Lupak	Jain Ratkowski
Jan Bassett	Amy Grzesiak	Dale Mankin	Diane Richter
Joani Braun	Susan Hall	Carol Merillat	Adam Schuler
Linda Boos	Craig Handley	Marcia Merillat	Carol Smith
Kathleen Carpenter	Dolores Hibbard	Bonnie Miller	Annie Spence
Marilyn Cobb	Keith Hubbell	Glenn Neumann	Mary Ann Tucci
Virginia Colucci	Rosanne Hubbell	Michelle Norling	Ned VerHage
Roberta Cornelissen	Judy Johnson	Lou Pach	Lorraine VerHage
Marge Fedrigon	John Kassen	Marjorie Paradis	Cathy Walle
Janet Francisco	Ann Kassen	Bobbie Patterson	Elizabeth Webb
Mary Fierle	Betty Kirkby	Sarah Pierson	Jane Weiss
Sue Finlayson	Jean Lamphier	Linda Pillsbury	Flo Wettlaufer
Peg Frick	Dan LeBlond	Jo Polk Mathews	Dorothy Wonacott
Elaine Glowicki	Margaret LeBlond	Sue & Chuck Pryde	Carl Wroubel
Inez Gotts	Dale Lopus	Royce Ragland	Kaye Yokum

In the case of **Linda Pillsbury**, she feels the Historical Society reflects the story of her family which has been in the area for generations. She is related to an early settler, Asa G. Maxwell, whose name appears on the backdrop on the stage in the old Township Hall. Her grandparents attended the church that now houses the Historical Society. Linda enjoys participating in the events and activities, and was instrumental in the Wild Game and Fish Dinner fundraiser conducted in November (see story on next page).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The list above was compiled from several sources. If we missed you, please accept our apologies. The work you have done on the society's behalf is appreciated by everyone who enters our museum doors to experience the rich heritage of the Elk Rapids area. C. H.

A tasty benefit for ERAHS

Delicious food and good friends were the order of the day at a fish and game dinner that was held on November 8 as a fundraiser for the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society. The event was orchestrated by Linda Pillsbury and held at the AMVET Hall on Bridge St.

Linda and her mother, Marcia Merillat, did a wonderful job preparing the dishes with several people donating the fish and game.

Among the door prizes were three original watercolors donated by Joani Braun.

For some it was a last chance to see friends before heading south for the winter. For others, it was a chance to sample delicacies such as sweet and sour venison meatballs, corned beef venison, venison stew, goose, Swiss steak venison, partridge, salmon, perch, walleye, meatloaf, venison summer sausage as well as numerous side dishes and desserts.

One thing is for sure -- If you walked away hungry, it was your own fault!



Help us select a new motto

Since the earliest recorded times, man was drawn to the area by the water. It is the water that allowed the area to flourish over the centuries through fishing, industry and recreation. The Historical Society is looking for a motto to support the theme of people and water that unifies the museum's various exhibits and displays.

Below are ideas that have been submitted. We'd like our members to get involved by either voting for one of the mottos below or suggesting one of your own.

PEOPLE BY THE WATER
LIFE BY THE WATER
PEOPLE SURROUNDED BY WATER
THE WONDERFUL COMMUNITY ON THE WATER
A PRODUCT OF THE WATER
HISTORY MADE BY THE WATER
WATER HELPING PEOPLE
HUMAN PROGRESS FROM THE WATER
THE WATER SUSTAINS

Let us hear from you. Contact Dan LeBlond at president@elkrapidshistory.org.



We get letters

On September 27th I traveled to Kalamazoo, where my Elders Project received the 2013 State History Award in Education from the Michigan Historical Society. I am honored to have won this award, but I want to let you know that this never would have happened without support from all of you.

My hope is to take The Elders Project to many other communities throughout Michigan. It is not only a valuable means to preserve our state's history, but it brings generations together in doing so. It links history and literature while providing an outlet that showcases creativity and offers enjoyment for the community.

Thank you so much for the time, effort and talents you put into the Elders Project to help make it so special. I sincerely appreciate your support.

Terry Wooten

When the past met the future



At a past presentation at the ERAHS location on Traverse Street in Elk Rapids, this photo captures the essence of the impact of technology on this organization. No longer can a local museum exist by being primarily a repository of relics.

Photo courtesy of Terry Miller

Didjano?

On June 15, 1905, The S.S. Illinois was the first ship to land at the new City Dock. Mr. C. A. Wayland of Chicago, President of "Elk Cement & Lime Co.," had the honor of being the first passenger to set foot on the new dock.

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

Gift Amount: \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 Other

I have enclosed a check payable to ERAHS

Please print clearly:

Name _____

Summer address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Winter address (if different) _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

I wish to be recognized for this donation Yes No

If yes, please list my/our name(s) as _____

I would like to give my gift in Honor of in Memory of

Name _____

(please include a note with acknowledgement information)

I would like to volunteer for the following:

- Development
- Programs & Events
- Finance
- Technology
- Assist Archivist
- Greeter

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society is a 501C (3) non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you for your support!
www.elkrapidshistory.org

Mail to: ERAHS, P.O. Box 2, Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002

ERAHS Honor Roll

The following people have generously donated to The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society in 2013:

Catherine E. Allegrina	Ross & Marcia Graham	Dale & Judy Lopus	Greg & Terri Reisig
Jan & Bob Bassett	Donald & Barbara Green	Fred Lovell	Howard & Dianne Richter
Clifford Birge	John & Rosemary Grossa	Carole Marlatt	Ken Rudisel
Roger Birks	Richard & Linda Gruss	Herbert Mayer	Louis H. Sanford, President
Phyllis Brothers	Susan & Bob Hall	Edward McDuffie	Adam & Chris Schuler
Byrdie Butka	Craig Handley	Lin & Dave Meeker	Richard & Carol Smith
Kathleen Carpenter	Bud & Peggy Hatch	Stuart Merillat	John & Nancy Taylor
Dale Claudepierre	Jessica Hatch	Carl & Dorothy Merillat	Jessica Thompson
Gordon & Joan Converse	Stanley & Betty Holzauer	Connie Misico	Pauline Truesdell
Larry & Ann DeVergilio	Keith & Rosanne Hubbell	Jim & Debbie Norling	Dana Vannoy
Dale & Emily Dillon	Pat & Tom Jackson	Glenn Neumann	Catherine Walle
Harold & Kathryn Dombrowski	Jerry R. Jackson	Lou & Estelle Pach	Anne Watson
K. Wayne Dukyea	Bob & Clarice James	Marjorie Paradis	Cheryl Werth
John & Ruth Edick	Darwin & Kay Johnson	Paul & Violet Patchen	Maribeth Wescott
Daniel & Ann Ernst	Katie King	Patricia Payson	Daniel Wettlaufer
Donald Fedrigo Jr.	Ruth Klein	Harriet Pellow	Florence Wettlaufer
Charles & Mary Fierle	Richard & Jean Lamphier	Scott R. Perron, DDS	Dr. & Mrs. Burt Weyhing
Joseph C. Fisher	Dan & Margaret LeBlond	Christine Petersen	Frank & Judy Wilhelme
David Fox		John & Kathy Peterson	Nancy & Woody Wright
Curt & Peg Frick		Richard & Susan Pixley	
		Royce Ragland & Ken Bloem	

Welcome New Members!

Bev Vert Troy MI	Sally Gross Elk Rapids MI
Michael & Karen Szymanski Elk Rapids MI	Darwin & Kay Johnson Clarkston MI
Rod & Kimberly Kuncaitis Williamsburg MI	(as of 11/22/2013)

Didjano?

04/19/1888

It is claimed that the climate is so healthful at Elk Rapids that once a year they import a dead man so as not to forget how a funeral is to be conducted.

-- Detroit Journal

08/09/1895

Home lots are fenced to keep out roving live stock.

12/03/1940

Miss Ethel Levin, teacher of 1st and 2nd grades in Elk Rapids married Felix Schlag of Chicago, who is the sculpter who designed the Jeffersonian nickel.



Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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

Contact: Dan LeBlond, President (231) 264-5692 or (231) 264-8984, Email: president@elkrapidshistory.org, Web site: www.elkrapidshistory.org

Deliver to:



This image from long ago shows Charlie Anderson and Burt Fitzpatrick crossing Elk Lake near Kewadin during a cold winter with a two-horsepower engine.

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