



Museum Matters

the Fall 2012/Winter 2013 newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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

Renovation from the Ground Up



Hmmm, maybe we should look into this...

By Bill Chrisman

Most things historical require a little digging to get at the facts and that certainly was the case when the Museum's Building and Grounds Committee began to question the dampness in the basement and the condition of the foundation walls.

It all began when the damp plaster in the lower level, on the north wall, raised a question about water seeping under or through the field stone foundation of the old building. Dan Wettlaufer, Ross Graham and Howard Richter agreed to do a little digging into the moisture problem. Ross explained that removing the plaster and lathe to get a good look, exposed some old fashioned, true 2 inch by 4 inch studs which "waved in the breeze" as they were no longer connected to the bottom plate which rested directly on sand next to the stone wall. Ground water had wicked up through the bottom plate, rotting it and the lower portions of the vertical wall studs.

please turn to "Renovation" on page 4



Ross Graham & Howard Richter removing plaster and lathe .

Treasures from the "Toy Chest"

By Gerry Sell

When you ask people to tell you what they liked to do when they were little they will say something like, "Oh, you know, the usual . . ." or "Well, we didn't really have toys then . . . Fridays through Sundays."

If you are patient, their eyes will get that faraway look and they will say, "There was this one thing I remember."

Please turn to "Toy Chest" on page 3

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

Visit us online at www.elkrapidshistory.org
and "like" us on facebook.

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We had two types of volunteers who contributed towards the completion of Phase One: board members and non- board members.

Non- board members included: Ross Graham; Rick Fishbeck; Howard Richter; Royce Ragland; Marge LeBlond. Sally Fye and Gerry Sell.

Board members included: Dale Dillon; Marcia Graham; Dan LeBlond; Glenn Neumann; Marjorie Paradis; Jane Lund; Adam Schuler; Dan Wettlaufer; and Judy Hahn Fishbeck.

There were many others that contributed time, energy and money to Phase One. Their work was accomplished separately from what the construction crew was doing.

We are grateful to Rotary Charities of Traverse City for awarding the Society a \$24,000 capital improvements grant. Gerry Sell assisted the Development Committee with the writing of this grant and "coached" Dan LeBlond with his presentation to the Rotary Charities Visitation Committee.

Eighty-one people contributed a total of \$6,705 to our June 2012 Building Fund campaign.

Dennis Fitzpatrick, Elk Rapids Rotary Club member assisted with the move of artifacts and objects to the new location.

Sally Frye facilitated the Museum Committee with the inventorying of the 401 River Street (old location) exhibit space

President's Report:



Political Campaign Sign

On Sunday afternoon, 11/04/2012, I was made aware that a Village of Elk Rapids citizen has a political campaign sign on his property with the words, "I rebuilt it twice ask the historical society." Beneath these words, also as part of the sign, were the names of the president and vice-presidential candidates he's supporting.

I've received several phone calls from members and friends of the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society concerned that this sign is being inter-

preted that the Society also supports these politicians and the party they represent. They asked that I clarify the Society's position on this matter.

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society, a non-profit 501 C-3 organization, never has nor ever will endorse any political candidate or party.

Open wide...

All Smiles Family Dentistry at 100 Cedar Street Suite 201 Elk Rapids will donate \$25 to the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society for each new patient appointment* completed now through November 2013.

New patients must mention this offer when scheduling.

Our thanks to Scott Perron, D.D.S. for this generous offer.

* New patient appointments include a dental exam, cleaning, and

any necessary x-rays. All Smiles Family Dentistry can be reached at (231) 264-6300.

Save those receipts!

From October 1st, 2012 through Memorial Day 2013, all Historical Society members and friends are asked to save their Village Market cash register receipts.

For the sixth year in a row, the Society is participating in the market's "Community Cash Program." Since 2007 we have received over \$920 as a result of your efforts. We look forward to another good year!

Your Community Cash receipts can be handed to Linda Pillsbury, Dan LeBlond, Glenn Neumann, any Society Board Member, or mailed to the Museum at:

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 2
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0002

Toy Chest

continued from page 1

The next thing you know you're rummaging through boxes in the attic or pulling out photo albums or laughing together at stories of homemade sleds or giving a doll a haircut or finally beating your brother at checkers.

We've been asking that question around town, and now we know stories about a Buck Rogers spaceship and a tiny chair carved from a corncob and handkerchief mice and Little Golden Books. We've been collecting dolls and dollhouses and tractors and trucks and Viewmasters and vintage stereoscopic cards. We found a cache of 1940s-50s toys in their original boxes in a 70-year-old family store. We found tea sets and marbles, little red wagons and Cracker Jack toys in our own archives. We're learning how to make birch bark horses and do magic tricks.

We can hardly wait to share Treasures from the Toy Chest, this year's holiday exhibit at the Elk



Rapids Historical Museum. It will open on Dec. 1 & 2, 2012, with a sneak preview for volunteers on Nov. 29, 2012.

The programs will continue Fridays through Sundays throughout December and also the first Friday through Sunday in January.

Bring the whole family. There will be games to play and things to make and cookies to eat. We will tell stories and sing songs and show you wonderful things you had forgotten. You will be surprised and delighted. You will say Look at that! I had one of those! Or you will say, "What is that?" and we will tell you.

The best part is that we are still collecting stories and other treasures. If you have some you'd like to share, please get in touch:

Marcia Graham @ (248) 542-4208
Linda Pillsbury @ (231) 264-9475

Renovation

continued from page 1

It was clear that all the plaster and lathe had to be removed on the north and west sides of the basement to assess the damage. Ross, Howard and Dan took hammers and pry bars to the old basement walls to get a complete look.

In the midst of the dust and debris, it was worse than anyone expected. There was a water problem and, if there were drainage tiles on the outside of the foundation, which hopefully led to the sump pump to the north of the building, the tiles and pump needed to be checked. After digging down next to the north side of the building, drainage tiles were detected but, alas, the pump to move the water from the tiles to the storm sewer was not working.

A new pump was installed, but the water still would not flow to the storm sewer under the intersection of Pine and Traverse Streets. After deciding to not dig up the intersection, a shorter route was found to a storm sewer directly north across Traverse Street.

Talking about trying to locate the pipes underground, Ross told about the Elk Rapids city utility men who located the pipes using a historically appropriate method- a witching stick or rod! "They grabbed a piece of wire and bent it into a shape and they found the lines!" Ross said. The wire, held horizontally, pointed downward when over the pipe. "They had all this instrumentation in the truck and they didn't use it. It was the coolest thing of all!" he said. A former A.P. Physics teacher, Ross added, "I have no clue why that happened, but I saw it."

However, the underground drainage tiles around the building were old and broken in places, so committee members began digging a trench to locate the old tiles, which only existed on the east and north sides of the building. These drainage tiles were replaced.

It was discovered, also, that drainage ties and a sump pump did not exist on the west and south sides of the building and water and mois-



Worse than we expected!



Exhibit A-Rotten wood.



It's here somewhere... Searching for a drain.

ture was creating a problem on those sides of the basement as well. This would certainly not be acceptable as the archive storage room is located in that section of the lower level. More digging, trenching, tile installation and another sump pump! One has to wonder how long the fieldstone walls would have held up with all the moisture invading them.

The addition of new gutters, to run the water away from the foundation, and a new heating/cooling/humidifying system by K&K Heating and Cooling rounded out the moisture control issues, hopefully. Artifacts will be much more protected than they would have been and the upcoming winter and spring weather will provide the test.

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Board member Dale Dillon digs in.



Howard Richter, Ross Graham, Dan Wettlaufer and Dale Dillon take a break from digging out the east perimeter.

Buttons n' Bows

continued from page 2

and archive/object storage area. She also arranged for de-accessed and non-assessed items to be put in our booth #82 at the Harbor Antiques Mall.

Contractors employed for Phase One:

- Drought Excavating**
- Powell Excavating**
- Steuer Excavating**

Elmer's Construction

K & K Heating and Cooling

Elk Rapids Electric

McPherson Dry Wall

Pine Hill Nursery

N.W. Lock and Key

Michigan Gutters

Ted Hoadley Masonry

Howard Collister Construction

It should be noted that each of

these contractors did exceptional work at a reasonable price.

In many cases I believe that they went beyond what was required and contributed to ERAHS additional materials and labor at their expense.

We are grateful to all whose names are mentioned as well as those inadvertently overlooked!

*Contributed by Dan Wettlaufer
ERAHS Board Member*

Other major renovations included extensive interior oak trim window work by Dale Dillon and new storm window fabrication by Howard Collister, who also repaired and painted main floor walls and even moved a sink to the utility room!

Deserving of special recognition is Glenn Neumann who assisted in almost every phase of the work, from digging trenches to moving artifacts to working with contractors and even hauling debris away.

All in all, the dedication of the members who contributed their time and effort has been remarkable. Some could more often be found at the museum than at home. Dale's wife commented to him that he was away from home

so much, he must be with his girlfriend...the Museum.

(Editor's Note: So much has been accomplished at the Museum, this story does not cover. The moving of artifacts, cleaning, moving of shelves, tables, caulking, painting, installing door hardware, plumbing, searching for holiday items, cleaning some more, moving items for the second time and then again...it has truly been an industry of dedicated and unselfish volunteers making a place for the community's past, present and future. See the list of repairs and names of volunteers, contractors and other contributors submitted by Dan Wettlaufer included in this issue.) ✚



Ross and Dan in the trenches.



Applying a water barrier.



"Good as new," says Board member Marsha Graham.

Museum Upgrades: Phase One Accomplishments

The following is a detailed list of all improvements, large and small, made to the Historical Museum since last winter:

Replaced north sump pump

Repaired damaged drain tile for north sump pump to Traverse Street storm sewers

Dug seven test holes to determine if the north, east, west and south sides of museum had drain tiles (only the north side had drain tiles and they were defective)

Digging three trenches to footings (east, west and south sides of museum) for installation of 8 inch drain tiles and 10 inches of gravel added

Discovery of deteriorated exterior mortar (between foundation stones below grade), on east, west and south sides of museum

Removal of all exterior mortar and reinstalling new N Type mortar

Application of two coats of water proofing product to east, west and south walls below grade

Installation of rain gutters (period correct to match museum façade)

Installation of separate drainage system (below grade) for rain gutters (5-inch line)

Installation of second sump pump (south side) to collect water from drainage tiles and rain gutters

continued next page



Old furnace.



New heating and AC.

Installed drainage line from south sump pump to Pine Street storm sewers

Installation of new natural gas line from front of museum to the rear of building (digging trench to accomplish)

Installation of new phone and Inter-net lines to west side of museum (digging trench to accomplish)

Improving grade next to building so ground water runs away from museum

New landscaping for the east side of museum

Reorganized landscaping for north side of museum

Installed "crash bar" for front door (suggestion of fire chief)

Retooled door locks

New electric plugs were installed throughout the 1st floor (walls and floor)

First floor lobby light repaired

Repaired and/or replaced all basement storm windows

Repaired first floor broken windows

Had stained glass windows inspected by an expert from Lansing

Built new storm windows for four large decorative windows (west side of museum)

Approx. 80% of the museum's old wiring was replaced

New electric service panels were installed (200 amps)

Two high efficiency furnaces were installed



Let there be light - new basement lighting.



Moving day has arrived. Board members Jane Lund and Dan Wettlauffer load up.



Dan goes backward to the future with a trailer load.

Two high efficiency air conditioners were installed

Two humidifiers were installed

New duct work was installed throughout building

Two programmable thermostats were installed

Flooring was installed in Archive Room

Walls and ceiling were patched and painted in Archive Room

Three interior latte and plaster walls were removed from basement

Approx. 60% of latte and plaster ceiling was removed from basement

New 5/8 inch dry wall was installed to repair basement ceiling

Heavy plaster was removed from basement yellow brick walls

Old mortar was removed from stone foundation, basement walls

New mortar was applied to stone foundation, basement walls

Moisture sealant was applied to basement walls

New high-efficiency lights (5) were installed in the Archive Room

New high efficiency lights (7) were installed in basement exhibit area

Electric circuits (4) were installed for track lighting (to showcase basement exhibit areas)

Exhibit area carpeting was cleaned

Staircase to basement was reinforced

Interior basement windows (exhibit area) were encased in pine and oak (approx. 8)

continued next page



The Museum has Moved! President Dan LeBlond and Board member Glenn Neumann take one last look around the former museum space.



Glenn Neumann and Sally Frye close the door on the old museum

Basement window (west walled) was bricked closed (previously was covered by rotting wood)

Shed (west side of museum) was secured to building (lack of foundation)

Floor vents on the first floor were reinforced and painted

A portion of first floor walls, including office, were painted

Oak molding/trim was added to conceal thermostat wiring

Moved exhibit materials from Township Hall to Traverse Street Museum and commercial storage facility

3,800-pound safe (Dexter & Noble) moved from Township Hall to Traverse Street Museum (private donor paid for moving expense)

Organized and moved shelving into Archive Room

Removed old kitchen from Archive Room

Moved sink from Archive Room to furnace room

Moved all archive materials from Township Hall to Traverse Street Museum Archive Room

Now, on to Phase Two! ✈️



Heavy equipment was needed to get the safe out of the Township Hall.

Election of Historical Society Officers and Trustees

At the October 18th, 2012 Annual Meeting, four officers were elected to a two year term and two Trustees were elected to a two year term. Three Trustees were elected to a one year term. They are taking the place of three trustees who stepped down mid-term. Two Trustees are not up for election.

President	Dan LeBlond	term ends September 2014
Vice-President	Greg Reisig	term ends September 2014
Secretary	Judy Hahn Fishbeck	term ends September 2014
Treasurer	Adam Schuler	term ends September 2014
Trustee	Dale Dillon	term ends September 2013 **
Trustee	Glenn Neumann	term ends September 2013 *
Trustee	Marcia Graham	term ends September 2014
Trustee	Inez Gotts	term ends September 2013 **
Trustee	Jane Lund	term ends September 2013 *
Trustee	Daniel Wettlaufer	term ends September 2014
Trustee	Craig Handley	term ends September 2013 **

* Not up for election, currently serving a two year term

** Taking the place of three trustees who stepped down mid-term

Reviewing Your Year-end 2012 Tax Strategy?

Are you taking some time to review your year-end 2012 tax strategy before December 31st?



If a charitable contribution seems to be to your advantage, would you consider a gift to The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society?

Donations (check made payable to Elk Rapids Area Historical Society) can be mailed to:

**Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 2
Elk Rapids, MI 49629-0002**

“ We Don’t Want You To Give A Million... We Just Want A Million To Give!”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Thursday, December 20, 2012
5:00 - 7:00 PM

The Historical Society is pleased to host the **Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce’s monthly Business After Hours event**. It is a great opportunity for the Society to interact with other area business people and to meet decision makers in our community. **All Business After Hours events are free and open to the public.**

For additional information, contact Misty Youngson, Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce at (231) 264-8202 or (800) 626-7328.

June 2012 Annual Appeal Letter

The Society is proud to announce our June 2012 Annual Appeal to the Building Renovation Fund to date is an overwhelming success. 80 members and friends showed their belief in the Society by making a gift to our campaign. Contributions, as of Labor Day, are \$6,670 which will help offset our "Phase 1" capital improvement project expenses. The Elk Rapids Area Historical Board thanks our donors for their deep and unwavering commitment to our mission "to provide a center that inspires people to explore the past, understand the present and envision the future."

Bruce Barnes	Donald & Lucille Gaskell	Fred Lovell	Norb Rooke
Laurette Bender	Diane Geddes	Barbara Lyon	Verna & Jim Sak
Mary Terese Bristol	Kay Goodall	Steve & Marcia Major	Delores Salveta
Byrdie Butka	Tom & Inez Gotts	Ralph & Esther Martineau	Joyce Simmons
Maureen Ann Casey	Don W. Grundell	Edward McDuffie	Richard & Carol Smith
Felix T Casillas	Richard & Linda Gruss	Olive Anne McGuire	Bonnie Sobby
Don & Joan Cavanaugh	Tom Guldberg	Carl & Dorothy Merillat	Tom & Marilyn Sommerfeldt
Gordon & Joan Converse	Thomas J. Haverbush, M.D.	Robert & Mary Ellen	Dorothy Soper
Roberta L. Cornelissen	Morgan Henika	Morrison	Phyllis Staley
Harold & Kathryn	Wallace & Dolores Hibbard	Kirk Munro	William & Carole Jean
Dombrowski	Carol Holmes	Ralph & Sandy Naples	Stockhausen
Don & Diane Dowker	Jim & Rita Hresko	Larry & Sarah Peck	Leigh Stocking
Julie & Chris Doyal	Keith & Rosanne Hubbell	Roger & Janet Perreault	Robert & Charlotte Streit
Lois Eaton	Mike & Abby Husband	Ms. Patricia M Pioszak	Nancy & Dick Thompson
John & Ruth Edick	Jerry R. Jackson	Richard & Susan Pixley	Pauline Truesdell
Charles & Sue Ellinwood	Ruth Klein	Royce Ragland & Ken Bloem	Jessica Hatch & Al Vasquez
Dan & Ann Ernst	Eugene W. Koesters	Joan & Arnie Ratkowski	Al & Elaine Vasquez
Mary Fierle	Pam Krogh	Greg Reisig	Nancy & Woody Wright
Kenneth & Beth Foster	James Lagowski	Adele & Conrad Reiter	Michael & Patricia Young
Alden State Bank	Richard & Jean Lamphier	Bill & Lee Renis	Ray & Thelma Ziegler
David Fox	Shirley Landon	Jerald Rives	

Welcome New Members!

Ben Weyhing	Mercer Island	WA	Kevin Kuhn	Elk Rapids	MI
Betty O'Malley	Davison	MI	Lee Norling	Elk Rapids	MI
Bill & Judy Avitts	Williamsburg	MI	Linda Pillsbury	Elk Rapids	MI
Bob & Carol Kindt	Traverse City	MI	Macey Lauback	Kewadin	MI
Catherine Walle	Elk Rapids	MI	Margaret & Pete Van Den Berge	Elk Rapids	MI
Charlene Bussa	Lansing	MI	Maria & John Jones	Traverse City	MI
Dale Claudepierre	Rapid City	MI	Marjorie A. Wright	Elk Rapids	MI
David Fox	Mesick	MI	Marlene Boik	Elk Rapids	MI
Donald & Barbara Green	Kewadin	MI	Mary Ann Tucci	Rochester Hills	MI
Donald & Lucille Gaskell	Kewadin	MI	Mary Foster	Elk Rapids	MI
Dr. Charles E. Morrison, DVM	Elk Rapids	MI	Michael & Patricia Young	Elk Rapids	MI
Elyse M Rogers	Midland	MI	Michael Cohrs	Elk Rapids	MI
Fred Lovell	Livermore	CA	Nancy & Dick Thompson	Elk Rapids	MI
Gerry Sell	Kewadin	MI	Nancy Zobel	Traverse City	MI
J. C. / Madelyn Bolt	Rockford	MI	Nina Sgriccia	Howell	MI
James Koch	Portland	OR	Paul & Pam Boesen	Williamsburg	MI
James L. Roach	East Lansing	MI	Rick & Betty McCaghy	Elk Rapids	MI
Jean Livingston	Kewadin	MI	Roger Birks	Manistee	MI
Jeanne & Pat Ballew	Elk Rapids	MI	Royce Ragland & Ken Bloem	Elk Rapids	MI
Joan & Arnie Ratkowski	Brighton	MI	Steve Ball	Traverse City	MI
John & Nancy Taylor	Williamston	MI	Verna & Jim Sak	Williamsburg	MI
John T. Sala	Ferdale	MI	William &		
Kathie Carpenter	Elk Rapids	MI	Carole Jean Stockhausen	Northville	MI
Kent & Mary Ann Reynolds	Rapid City	MI			



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:



These boys knew how to embrace the Elk Rapids winters of long ago. We hope you have an enjoyable winter as well, and we wish you the very best of the holiday season.