



Timeline of Lakeshore Museum Center History

1879 - At a reunion of area settlers, people discuss the importance of preserving historical documents and materials.

1887 - The Muskegon County Pioneer and Historical Society is organized.

1937 - Plans for a museum materialize during the Centennial Celebration. The Muskegon County Museum Foundation is organized.

1938 - Funded through the WPA, staff installs exhibits in the corridors of Hackley School on Webster Avenue.

1939 - The Museum moves to 917 Third Street in a storefront building provided by National Lumberman's Bank. 50,000 people visited the museum the first year.

1940 - The Museum moves to larger quarters in the vacated Vanderlaan School, located at the corner of Wood Avenue and Myrtle Street.

1942 - Purpose of the Museum redirected to focus on West Michigan in general and Muskegon County specifically. Space is needed at Vanderlaan School and Museum puts collection in storage. Membership Drive is held to rally support.

1944 - Museum sponsors a contest for students. A \$25 War Bond was offered to the student who presented the best artifact from the Lumbering Era (1837-1900) to the museum. Museum moves back into Vanderlaan School at 731 Wood Street.

1946 - A lack of funding threatens the museum, but the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and other concerned citizens campaigned for money for the museum and acquire \$1500. City Schools raise \$783 for Museum Fund.

1947 - School groups keep attendance high as the Museum welcomes 2,336 visitors in June alone. Museum membership subscription drive raises \$2,086.66 toward a \$3,000 goal.

1948 - 12,000 people visited the museum before it closed in October due to lack of funding.

1949 - The Museum reopens in February.

1950 - The museum is reorganized and incorporated as a non-profit corporation. Funding increases and facilitates a year-round operating schedule. 15,400 people visited the Museum. Of these 2,494 were school children. The Museum made 273 loans of display and classroom material.

1955 - Vanderlaan School is needed and Museum is forced to place exhibits in storage. The Occidental Hotel donated display cabinets for use in its lobby to exhibit log marks and marking hammers.

1957 - Museum moves to new location at Marquette School, at the southwest corner of School and Marquette Streets.

1960- In May, 1,422 people visit the Museum before it closed for the summer, 688 were organized groups from rural areas. Chief Solomon Shalifoe, president of the Muskegon Indian Club, granted 14 year-old Per Svenson's request to take a tomahawk from the area home to Sweden. The prize was awarded at the Museum.

1961 - Museum moves to the Old Jail on 30 West Muskegon Avenue.

1962 - Museum holds an Open House on January 20th and 21st to show off the new location and draws a crowd of 1,075. At the open house, the Museum displayed the contents of the old court house cornerstone to the public for the first time. The cornerstone was removed from the old court house in 1960 but was not available for viewing at the time.

1964 - Museum celebrates its silver anniversary, 25 Years. A new policy of changing exhibits every month attracted the largest crowd in the Museum's 25-year history. During the month of May alone, 2,878 people visited the Museum.

1967 - Museum becomes involved in a weekly television program, aired on channel 54, which dealt with various aspects of the museum.

1975- Museum conducts a search for the oldest living Muskegon County lumber era citizen, and bestows the honor on Caroline A. Sibley who is 100 years old.

1976- Museum celebrates America's Bicentennial and features an exhibit of Civil War artifacts.

1979- In an effort to continually and adequately fund the Museum, the Board of Trustees approves placing a .2 mil proposal on the ballot for the support of the museum. The millage proposal fails. The Museum exhibit commemorating the 1938 "Lumbering Era" travels to 16 different locations in Muskegon.

1980- Artifacts are placed in storage due to lack of funds. "Friends of the Muskegon County Museum" organized to help meet the needs of the Museum and build support.

1981- On September 8, a 5 Year .2 Mil levy is passed. The Museum is able to purchase the old YWCA building for \$150,000 and gain 27,000 square feet of space. Museum holds a Diorama Contest for both adults and children to build a diorama on biological, historical, cultural, geological, or mechanical themes relating to Muskegon. \$100, \$50, and \$25 prizes were awarded.

1983 - Museum moves into the YWCA building and has a grand opening in December.

1986 - A proposal for the renewal of the .2 mil to support the Museum, and for an additional .125 of a mil for the restoration and operation of the Hackley and Hume Houses, passes on May 12th. It is good for five years.

1987- Museum celebrates 50th Anniversary. The Huls mastodon bones, found in Rothbury, Michigan in the 1960s, are donated to the Museum.

1988 - The 100th Anniversary of the construction of the Hackley and Hume Historic Site buildings is celebrated on May 27th with the dedication of two State Historical Markers.

1990 - Designer Showcase decorates rooms in the Hume House. Hackley and Hume mansions appeared in the TV series *Our Town* that featured Muskegon.

1992 - LMC and the Native American Council of Muskegon sponsor the first Muskegon Traditional Powwow in over 15 years. 3000 people attended the powwow in Hackley Park on August 29th.

1993 - The first annual Lumber Baron's Ball museum fundraiser held to raise funds for the Science Center. Volunteers Brian Goodman and Bill Seeback dressed as Charles Hackley and Thomas Hume and greeted guests. Museum introduces three new major educational programs: Michigan Indian Culture Days, Enviroworks Day Camp, and Science for Female Investigators (SCI-FI).

1994 - Science Resource Center/ Discovery Center Grand Opening is held on November 27th. The three part series "Our Old House" TV program debuts in May on Muskegon Channel 9 and features the Hackley House.

1995 - Education breaks record in spring with programs reaching 3,300 students.

1996 - Millage once again passed for five years on May 7th. 49,564 people visited the Museum.

1999 - Life sized mastodon replica, arrives at the Museum and visitors get to see the "New Resident." LMC sponsors the first Great Lakes Irish Music Festival at Heritage Landing September 17th to 19th.

2000 - Permanent exhibit "Coming to the Lakes" grand opening is held on August 24th.

2001 - The City Barn renovations are completed, adding exhibit and office space to the Hackley and Hume Site.

2004 - A Lawn Party with games and free tours is held at the Hackley and Hume Site to introduce the public to the Museum staff and highlight volunteer opportunities.

2005 - Voices of Muskegon Gallery opens. The first Annual Cemetery Tour is held. Body Works exhibit updated with newer content to reflect the growing health concerns in Muskegon County.

2006 - In partnership with the Hackley Public Library, LMC archivist and volunteers work to digitize 500 photographs of Muskegon.

2007- Scolnik House of the Depression Era opens for the first time in May. LMC hosts its first Women's Expo "Beauty and Fashion: Then and Now" on October 20th.

2008 - After careful research, the Hume kitchen is restored to a 1915 appearance.

2009 - Muskegon County Museum changes its name to the Lakeshore Museum Center in April. Sesquicentennial banners displayed throughout the County to celebrate Muskegon County's 150th Birthday.

2010 - Permanent exhibit "Michigan From the Depths of Time" opens to the public in March. First floor of the Fire Barn Museum is renovated.

2011- Muskegon County voters renew the millage for the Lakeshore Museum Center for ten years. Second floor of the Fire Barn Museum is renovated and features a replica of the living quarters of Muskegon's early firefighters.

2012 – “Joe Beyrle: A Hero of Two Nations” opens and tells the incredible story of Muskegon's own World War II paratrooper.

2013 – Groundbreaking for Michigan's Heritage Park at Hilt's Landing in Whitehall is held in August. Construction of the Visitor Center and 1900 Farmhouse begins.

2014 – Construction continues at Hilt's Landing. “Fossils of the Michigan Basin” on display in the Temporary Gallery.

2015 – “Armchair Archaeology: From Hobby to History” on display in the temporary gallery. Michigan's Heritage Park opens on June 6.

2016 – “Shifting Shoreline” exhibit opens and explores 200 years of changes to Muskegon Lake.

2017 – “Body Works” exhibit reopens after an extensive renovation. New barriers installed in the Habitat Gallery.