

# THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

DECEMBER



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2023

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.



**LAKESHORE  
MUSEUM CENTER**





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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Preserving History at the Lakeshore Museum Center

03

As we venture into the heart of winter, this newsletter will reflect on how each of the different departments and staff use the museum's collection. For me, each item tells a unique tale. They are a fragment of our collective history waiting to be discovered and shared. As the Executive Director, it is both an honor and a responsibility to ensure these objects are not only preserved but also used to inspire and educate generations to come.

### Nurturing Education Through Collections

I began my career in the education realm, and one of the things I observed was that objects from the past can create a deeper understanding of the world around us. By incorporating objects and artifacts into educational programs, we offer a tangible connection to history that textbooks and the internet alone cannot provide. Whether it's a small bone fragment or a lumbering era log end, these objects become living proof of our shared heritage. They ignite curiosity, foster critical thinking, and spark a genuine passion for learning.

### Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future

Behind the scenes, a significant part of my job involves fundraising for the ongoing care of our collection. Preserving these objects is not only an ethical duty but also an investment in our community's cultural legacy. Through partnerships, grants, and the generosity of our patrons, we ensure that these treasures remain accessible and intact for generations to come. From conservation efforts at the Hackley and Hume Houses to specially created storage containers, every aspect of care is meticulously planned. We employ modern techniques and follow the American Alliance of Museums' best practices to safeguard these items, preserving their integrity and ensuring they continue to serve as invaluable resources for years to come.



From the Executive Director  
**Melissa Horton**

### Building Bridges Between Generations

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the potential that lies within our collection. These objects will be the bridges that connect us to the generations that came before. They tell the stories of Muskegon and all those who built this community from its first business to those that are breaking ground today. Thank you to all of you, our members, who support our mission to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.





# COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

Not Just Old Stuff: How the Museum Decides What to Collect

04

## “What do you collect?”

Often when someone is cleaning out a family member’s home or moving a business, they ask about what the museum would be interested in collecting. While it seems like an easy question, it is difficult to summarize. Is the object historically significant? Unique to the collection? Does it help tell a fascinating story?

The Lakeshore Museum Center has many objects under our care. We follow specific criteria when determining whether to accept new items for the Muskegon County Archive & Collection. The first consideration is whether the object supports the museum’s mission.



Factors that contribute to the decision include its historical and cultural significance to Muskegon County, physical condition, ownership history, and if there is a similar item in the collection.

Also considered are storage and long-term preservation needs. Objects accepted into the collection generally meet the following basic criteria:

1. The object must relate in a significant way to the history or prehistory of what is now Muskegon County.
2. Sufficient information about the history and function of the object must be available at the time of acceptance to justify the research and interpretation value of the object.
3. The object is in good and stable physical condition.
4. The object is unique and not overrepresented in the collection.
5. The object can be acquired without restrictions such as requirements for a long-term loan or permanent exhibition.

Each object that is offered for donation is presented to the Acquisitions Committee. This committee is composed of staff and board members who review each offer and compare it with what is in the collection. They assess its condition and determine what Muskegon County story the object tells.

Brenda Nemetz, Collections Manager & Registrar



## Recent Acquisitions, August to October 2023

The Lakeshore Museum Center actively collects objects and archival material relevant to Muskegon County’s natural and cultural history. These items are reviewed by the Acquisitions Committee and the Board of Trustees for their relevance to Muskegon County, condition, and the ability for the LMC to care for the objects. Between August and October, the LMC was offered 572 objects. The following objects were accepted into the collection in August and October 2023.

### Photographs

- Scrapbooks of the Sibley boathouse
- Promotional photographs from the West Michigan Sound Company
- Aerial photographs of the Browne-Morse Factory
- Scrapbook of Shaw-Walker employees compiled by Catherine Butterfield
- Photographs of shift parties at the Amazon Knitting Mill, ca. 1940s
- Slides of the Occidental Hotel demolition. Muskegon Mall construction, Mercy Hospital demolition, and city buildings taken by Thomas Wisneski
- Photograph of the interior of the Shaw-Box factory circa 1935 with Donald Wright and unnamed co-worker
- Class photographs from Duck Creek School and Maple Ridge School owned by Lottie Bullock, administrator at the schools
- Photograph of a farmhouse on East Forest Avenue owned by Jacob and Anna Sikkenga

### Archives

- Catalogs from the Browne-Morse Company
- Telephone directory from United Home Telephone Company, dated 1925
- Postcard from the Seaway Motel
- Postcard, and advertising for Bill’s Modern Cabins
- Archival collection about Rolland Achterhoff, Achterhoff Mortuary, and Ambulance Service
- Poster diagram of the #5 paper machine at S.D. Warren
- Manuscript written by James Cole about working at S.D. Warren
- Archival collection of materials from Big Bob’s Restaurant

### Objects

- Loving cup style silver trophy for Miss Muskegon 1926 awarded to Helen Andrews
- Souvenir T-Shirt from Pleasure Island, “I Survived the Black Hole.”
- Sign from the Achterhoff Mortuary
- Salesman sample of bowling alley lanes from Brunswick
- Collection of tools from the Muskegon Barrel Company previously used by William Noor, founder of the company
- Two tokens from RENK gifted to museum employees. Tokens are given to RENK employees for gratitude or worth.



# MUSKEGON HISTORIC SITES

Collections at the Historic Sites

05

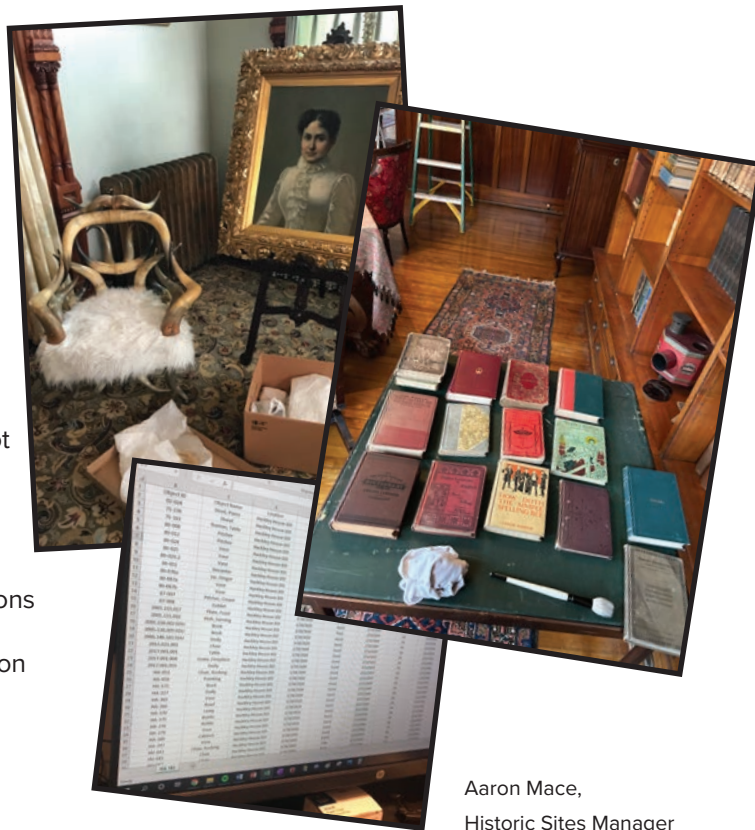
## Maintaining our Collection at the Historic Sites

While our team spends a great deal of time on the more “public” side of our work, such as creating and leading tours and programs, a large amount of time is also spent taking care of the collection items we have on exhibit.

In 2024, we will be undertaking our biennial site inventory. During this process, our team of three checks the location and condition of the more than 5,000 objects in our five buildings. While recent updates to our database system have helped speed up this process, this inventory generally takes about a month to complete. This inventory helps us not only make sure all of our artifacts are in their proper location but also address any condition concerns that might require restoration or preservation work.

Our annual deep cleaning is also a major part of our collections care at the Historic Sites. In addition to cleaning the walls, ceilings, woodwork, and floors, our team cleans the objects on exhibit to extend their longevity and prevent the build-up of dust or other materials on their surfaces.

Our collection is our Museum’s greatest asset, and we hope our work will allow for another 86 years of preserving Muskegon’s history!



Aaron Mace,  
Historic Sites Manager

## Collection Pieces Highlighted in Historic Sites Holiday Tours



It’s that time of year again, and the Historic Sites are ready to welcome visitors into the Hackley & Hume houses for Holiday Tours! If you get a chance to take a walk-through tour this month, you will be able to see objects from our collection displayed. As visitors first enter the Hume House, they will be able to see a Christmas tree that has been decorated to closely match the Hume family Christmas tree from a photo taken on December 26, 1921.

Taking a close look at that photo next to the tree today, visitors may spot something present in the photo and under the Christmas tree. At the bottom

right corner of the photo a doll stroller can be seen, and that same doll stroller is under the current Christmas tree. This doll stroller was a Christmas present to Peggy, the granddaughter of Thomas and Margaret Hume and daughter of Florence Hume McKee. A

Christmas stocking that was Peggy’s can also be seen on display during Holiday Tours. Come visit us this holiday season to see these objects from LMC’s collection firsthand!

Holiday Tours are offered December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 27th and 28th from 3-7 pm.

Hannah Erdman, Historic Sites Program Assistant





# MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & SCIENCE PROGRAMING

Artifacts Tell the Story

06

**Imagine sitting a classroom and the presenter says Native Americans in West Michigan used stones such as chert to shape tools, including their arrow heads, by hand hundreds of year ago. Interesting maybe but not too exciting.**

Now compare that experience to this: Look at that piece of stone in your hand; it was handmade by a Native American living here hundreds of years ago. You can see where the edges were chipped over time and the chert was split to make just the right arrowhead shape. Feel the weight of it. Look where the finger hold was as they gripped it to chip away the edges. Compare how sharp it feels to something like a metal knife that you use.



You can see how these experiences might provide a dramatic result in learning, especially for a child. It is for this very reason that the museum's collection is a cornerstone for just about everything we do in programming. Without our



hands-on educational collection or our collection on display, the museum is no different than any classroom in the area. However, with these artifacts we can make the past come alive and make education impactful.

Artifacts drive inquiry. If I were to just describe an artifact as above, you may be able to create an image of it in your mind, but your image only has what you already know. With the object right in front of you, your mind can ponder the fine details of it; how did it connect to another piece, what is it made out of, why is it that color? All of these types of questions are lost without the physical object in your presence.



Thankfully, at the museum, we rarely have to rely on description or lecture alone. Our collection provides us the objects to help teach and understand various topics, and the collection also provides a guide to creating new programs and activities. We line up our programs with our collection to make sure we meet our mission and can do more than just lecture. It is this reason that the museum is such a popular field trip destination.



Patrick Horn,  
Program Manager

## Sign-Up Saturdays

Starting in February, once a month, we will have a Sign-Up Saturday Program. The programs will be more involved than our typical Saturday Program, allowing visitors to gain some history and science knowledge and get hands-on experience with each topic.

Each program will have 4 time slots, with each time slot lasting about 20–30 minutes. To sign up, go through Eventbrite or in person at the museum's admissions desk. Limit of 20 people per time slot.

**Admission prices:**  
**Free for Muskegon County residents and Museum members.**  
**\$5 for out-of-county guests.**

# MUSKEGON HERITAGE MUSEUM OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Join Our Wonderful Team

07

The regular season here at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry has come to a close. **We had 2,427 guests for drop-in tours and 1,406 program participants.** The season's success is due to our dedicated volunteers who gave 1,825 hours of their time between May and October. We are on track to break 3,000 hours by the end of the year. If you are interested in joining our wonderful team, contact volunteer coordinator Marci Dalm or site manager Kirk Bunke to learn more about the opportunities at Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry.

Winter is the perfect time for our off-season volunteers to take care of the routine annual maintenance of our mechanical collection. Each engine, from our Blakely Row Boat Motors to the restored Red Seal Engines, gets individualized attention. They are cleaned, lubricated, and hand cranked to keep pistons from seizing. The operating machine shop equipment gets a deep cleaning, belts are re-laced as needed, and line shaft pulley bolts get torqued down after a steady six months of operation. The Brunswick A2 Automatic Pinsetter gets expert care following a service inspection. The entire mechanism is cleaned, lubricated, and any necessary timing adjustments are made.

The special collection project for the winter involves our Chase-Hackley Exeltone Player Piano. It was the subject of our Giving Tuesday campaign to raise the funds necessary to replace the bass strings with new custom made replicas after 94 years of dedicated service. It's not too late to contribute toward the fundraising effort. Check out MHMB&I's Facebook page or our website for more information. Any extra proceeds will go toward ongoing maintenance of our objects.

Our Chase-Hackley Player Piano, serial number 95998, was built here in Muskegon in 1929. Sixty years later, James and Paula Seastrom of North Muskegon donated it to the museum. It has become a key component of our active demonstrations at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry. Local expert, Louie Kiel of Kiel's Music, has helped us with past projects and tuning. He and his team will be here several times throughout the winter. They will remove the player mechanism and pull the bass strings to send out for replication. When the new strings arrive from the manufacturer, they will come back, install the strings and player components, and provide an initial tuning. They will come back to take up the slack as the strings stretch. By spring, the piano should sound as good as new when we reopen on Wednesday, May 1, 2024!

By Kirk Bunke, Site Manager at MHMB&I



Volunteer Dave Rice providing emergency pinsetter repair in the fall of 2022.



Louie Kiel tuning the Chase-Hackley Player Piano for the first time in 2021.



Blakely Row Boat Motor circa 1914 manufactured by the Lyons Machine and Manufacturing Co.



# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Because of You!

08

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about the items in our Collection. These are the objects that are used to tell the stories of days and people gone by, help ensure historically accurate interpretation, and give us a glimpse into what life may have been like at any particular time.

When I visit our different sites, our volunteers are there to help bring our collection to life. At the Historic Sites, our interpretive volunteers talk about original pieces that belonged to the Hackley or Hume family, items used by different family members, and how certain pieces came to be part of our collection. At Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry, many of our volunteers take ownership of the collection pieces, having donated many of the items themselves. Each time I visit MHMB&I, there is something to learn about, and there is always someone willing to teach visitors about the collection pieces on display.

Recently, I had a chance to work with one of our MHMB&I volunteers, Dick Didrickson, for the first time. Dick took the time to show me many of the ins

and outs of the Player Piano. By the end of the day, I had not only learned how to play but about the Chase Hackley Piano company, how the music rolls are made, and some of the engineering behind the piano design.

Another volunteer took the time to talk in-depth about the Raggedy Anne dolls, how and why they were first made, and how they helped change the course of marketing.

Without our volunteers, the stories behind these objects in our collection would remain untold. They are here each day helping us tell the story of Muskegon County, using the collection to preserve and interpret our history.

Just like our collection, our volunteer group is always growing. If you would like to be a part of telling the story of Muskegon County, preserving our collection, or working with us in other ways, please visit our website or email [marci@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:marci@lakeshoremuseum.org) for more information!

Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Event Coordinator



# EXHIBITS

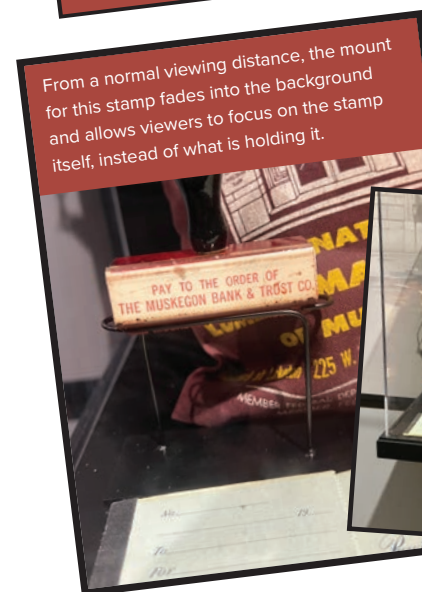
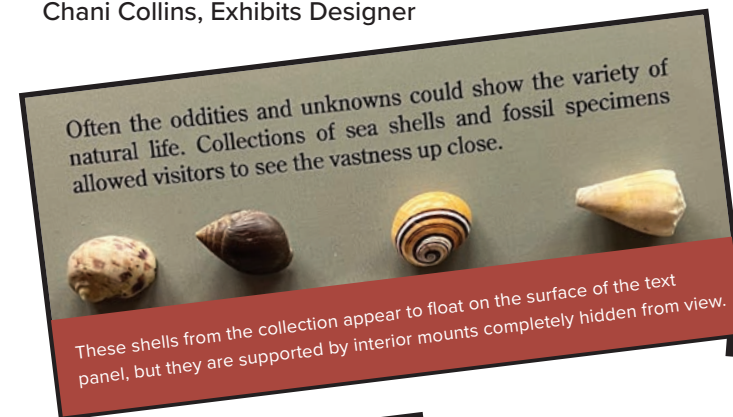
The Art of Displays

09

In the Exhibits Department, we work with the collection daily. Often, we use scans of photographs and documents from the Archives to produce text and graphic panels for exhibits. By displaying reproductions of two-dimensional works, we can share the information they contain while protecting more delicate materials from the stresses of display.

We strive to find engaging and informative ways to present three-dimensional objects from the collection and tell their stories to our visitors. Part of this process involves creating mounts that will support the objects and keep them secure without distracting from the object itself. The objects we work with range from small to large; some are displayed as a focal point, and some serve as a detail to enhance the overall experience.

Chani Collins, Exhibits Designer





# MEMBERSHIP & GIFT STORES

Celebrating 28 years of ornaments!

This year, the Lakeshore Museum Center Ornament features Hackley Hospital. Inspired by a historic photo from our Archives, this ornament is a rendition of a building that Charles Hackley dreamed of in 1902 and that is loved and fondly remembered by our community to this day.

The Lakeshore Museum Center has celebrated the holidays with a different ornament since 1995. This winter, you can visit the Muskegon Museum

of History & Science to see them all in an exhibit. This tradition has also become a collectible for many Muskegon County residents.

The 2023 limited edition Hackley Hospital ornament is available for sale at the City Barn during the Holiday Tour dates and at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science during regular open hours, while supplies last.



## A Year of Roaming!

As our regular touring season ends, I can't help but feel thankful for all the partnerships and opportunities we've been able to enjoy this year through our museum membership. I hope you were able to make the most of it.

I am diligently working on the 2024 reciprocal membership lineup; stay tuned for the reveal in our next newsletter. In the meantime, if you still have the roaming bug, don't forget that we participate year-round in ROAM, a reciprocal membership program made up of a network of museums in North America and beyond who extend the benefit of free admission to one another's members (as determined by each museum individually). Point the camera on your cellphone at the QR code below to see a list of participating organizations.

Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager



**Remember: all Lakeshore Museum Center members receive a 10% discount in all of our Gift Stores.**



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Programs

11

## Muskegon Museum of History and Science Events

December - March

**Dec 7**  
Museum Mall Madness  
6:00

**Dec 8**  
Museum Closed for Staff Training

**Dec. 14**  
Play & Learn  
10:00

**Dec 25-27**  
Museum Closed

**Dec 28**  
Blood Drive

**Dec 29**  
Winter Open House  
11:00-2:00

**Jan 1-2**  
Museum Closed

**Jan 9**  
Homeschool Day-Fish of the Great Lakes  
10:00-11:30

**Jan 11**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

**Jan 13**  
ASD Sensory Saturday  
10:00-12:00

**Jan 15**  
Museum Closed

**Jan 20**  
Saturday Play and Learn: Space

**Jan 25**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

**February 6**  
Homeschool Day Geology  
10:00-11:30

**February 8**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

**February 10**  
Sign-up Saturdays: Newton's Cradle  
1:00-3:00

**February 17**  
Saturday Play and Learn: Space

**February 19**  
Museum Closed

**February 22**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

**March 2**  
ASD Sensory Saturday  
10:00-12:00

**March 12**  
Homeschool Day-Astronomy  
10:00-11:30

**March 12**  
Muskegon's Future Roundtable  
5:30

**March 14**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

**March 16**  
Sign-up Saturdays: Food Bridges  
1:00-3:00

**March 22**  
FFN - Shipwrecks  
5:30-7:30

**March 23**  
Saturday Play and Learn: Migrations

**March 28**  
Play and Learn  
10:00

## Muskegon Historic Sites Events

December - March

**Dec 2**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm

**Dec 9**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm

**Dec 16**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm

**Dec 23**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm

**Dec 27**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm

**Dec 28**  
Holiday Tours  
3-7 pm





## Muskegon Museum of History & Science

430 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon

231.722.0278

## Hackley & Hume Historic Site

484 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon

231.722.7578

## Fire Barn Museum

484 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon

231.722.7578

## Scolnik House of the Depression Era

484 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon

231.722.7578

## Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

561 W. Western Ave., Muskegon

231.722.1363

[www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org)



## LAKE SHORE MUSEUM CENTER



# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Timeless Movie Memories

**Dec 15**

- *White Christmas*
- *Miracle on 34th Street*
- *Polar Express*
- *It's a Wonderful Life*

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WEST  
MICHIGAN  
SYMPHONY

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Directed by Mark Haddon

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PARTners: PRO AUDIO, PNC, thrivePOP

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muskegoncivictheatre.org

GLORIOUS WORLD OF CROWNS, KINKS & CURLS

by Keli Goff

Feb. 9-24, 2024  
Beardsley Theater

PARTners: PRO AUDIO, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, thrivePOP

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# TIFFANY LAMPS


The Richard H. Driehaus Collection

September 7 – January 14

MUSKEGON  
MUSEUM OF ART



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[hackleylibrary.org](http://hackleylibrary.org)