

# THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

JUNE

•

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•

2025

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

*Hackley House, circa 1910*



**LAKESHORE  
MUSEUM CENTER**





# MUSEUMS MAKE YOU REMEMBER.

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At the Lakeshore Museum Center, growth isn't just a goal—it's at the heart of everything we do. As we expand our programs and deepen our impact in the community, we're excited to take another meaningful step forward.

We are proud to introduce Morgan Witmer as our new Development and Office Administrator, a brand-new position for our organization and a significant milestone in our continued evolution.

Morgan will play a key role in supporting our development efforts and day-to-day operations, helping us build stronger connections with our members, donors, and community partners. Please join us in welcoming Morgan to the team as we continue growing together.



**Melissa Horton**  
Executive Director

## WORDS FROM MORGAN WITMER, DEVELOPMENT AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

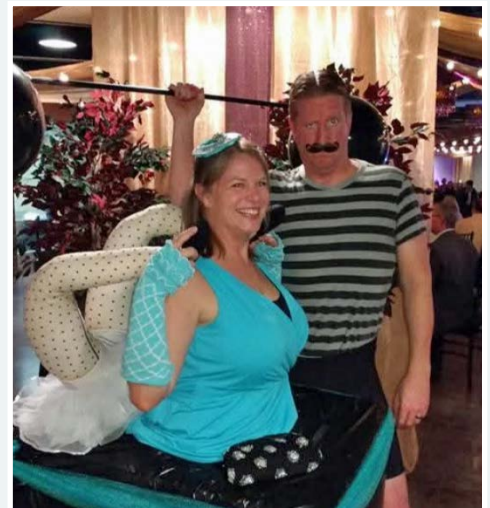
*I am grateful to be included in this new chapter and look forward to growing and strengthening our community connection.*

*I live in a historic home in downtown Muskegon with my husband and our two high-school-aged children, both of whom are history nerds and long-time museum volunteers with the Junior Museum Professionals program.*

*My love for Muskegon began through membership in JCI Greater Muskegon when I was fairly new in town. This organization helped me build a network and introduced me to folks I am still close friends with many years later.*

*Spending most of my professional career working for a food-service distribution company has fostered a love of trying new foods and new restaurants. I am also active in our local running club, Run Muskegon. I especially enjoy running along the beautiful waterfront paths of West Michigan.*

*I am honored to serve on the board of the Michigan Irish Music Festival as Director of Marketing and on the board of Muskegon Public Schools as Vice President. I have been an ardent fan of the Lakeshore Museum Center since my oldest child attended the Big Lesson years ago—experiencing the excitement and passion of the staff for our community's history was contagious, for both my child and for me. I am thrilled for the opportunity to officially be a part of the team.*



Morgan and her husband Jonathan as a contortionist and a strong man at the Victorian Carnivale in 2016



### Recent Acquisitions

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 condition, their relevance to Muskegon County, and the LMC's ability to care for the objects. We are grateful to our donors for their ongoing contributions to the Muskegon County Archive & Collection.

In the first quarter of 2025, the LMC was offered 188 objects. The following objects were accepted into the collection:

#### Photographs:

- Photograph of Hackley Hospital Nursing School graduating students from 1913, 1914, 1915

#### Archives:

- Materials relating to Meier family and Meier Cleaners. Includes original research and oral histories, including image of employee Joseph Bolduc Jr.
- Letterhead, memo, and documents from Cannon-Muskegon
- Brochure, Paris Studios of Photography
- Hackley Hospital Nursing School certificate, March 31, 1914 for A. Caroline Nisle
- Pamphlet, Teledyne Continental Motors Hydropneumatic Suspension System
- Scrapbook detailing origins of the Urban League in Muskegon
- Letters addressed to Horace Holmes from the United States Engineer Office Moffat Block in Detroit
- *Plat Book of Muskegon County, Michigan*; published by W.W. Hixson & Co., Rockford, Illinois
- *Footprints in History* by the Muskegon Genealogical Society
- North Muskegon High School yearbooks 1939, 1941, 1945-1950, 1952, 1954-1955, 1957-1974, 1976-1978, 1981, 1983-1990, 1992-1998, 2001-2017, 2019, 2021-2022
- Scrapbook of North Muskegon School PTSO – newspapers clippings, newsletters, photos, parent letters, handwritten staff lists, PTA newsletters, programs from local events; dated 1957-1975



#### Objects:

- Framed painting of Pigeon Hill in Muskegon by Ethel McEwen
- A tool box used by William Eder. William worked at Sealed Power for over 25 years.
- Thermal imaging camera used by Muskegon Township Fire Department
- Late 1960s Brunswick Snurfer
- Self-contained Breathing Apparatus used for education by Raymond Nicolai, City of Muskegon Fire Department, and his son, Mark Nicolai, Muskegon Township Fire Department



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Factory Photographs

05

I love the photographs that we have of Muskegon's factory and business interiors and people at work. It is rare to have photographs that highlight people's work lives. I am fascinated by the snapshots of women in the Amazon Factory or the factory floor shots of the Morton & Shaw Box Crane.

The images of the factories, especially at the turn of the century, are interesting, but having people in them makes them even more so. Coworkers can become like family, and it is important to preserve memories of time together. I wonder how many of the bountiful digital photos we take today will still be around in 100 years.

*By Wendy VanWoerkom, Program Specialist*



*Amazon Knitting Company, date unknown*



*Morton Manufacturing Company, circa 1910s*



*Employees of the Morton Manufacturing Company, date unknown*



*Employees of the Amazon Knitting Box Department, 1907*



# HISTORIC SITES HIGHLIGHTS

Echoes of the Past

06

On June 14th, 1888, Erie Hackley, adopted daughter of Charles and Julia, married Leigh B. Smith.

Erie's adoptive parents, Charles and Julia, bestowed upon her as a wedding gift their old home at the corner of Eighth Street and Webster Avenue, complete with all its furnishings, and a generous sum of \$1,000 in cash. After Charles and Julia passed away, Erie inherited their home at Sixth and Webster (current Hackley House).

Then, in 1943, Erie Hackley donated the Hackley House to the American Red Cross to serve as its headquarters for West Michigan.

The Red Cross, a beacon of hope during World War II, occupied the Hackley House until 1967. The building served as a vital hub for the Red Cross's operations in Muskegon.

*by Erin Schmitz, Historic Sites Director*



*This photograph of the Hackley House, taken around 1910, is believed to show Erie and Leigh on the front porch.*

## Roofing Project Continued

We are excited to share the progress of the roofing project at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site. The roofs of the City Barn and Hume House have been successfully addressed, marking a significant milestone in our preservation efforts. The project began with the City Barn demo on April 14, a process that spanned two days. By the end of the second day, the installation of new cedar shake shingles, known for their durability and traditional aesthetic, was underway, thanks to the expertise of Sherriff Goslin Roofing.

The Hume House roof demo, which began on April 28, is a crucial part of our ongoing efforts. With a scheduled three-day demo and shingling to be installed once the City Barn roof is complete, this project will mark the completion of the reroofing of all five Historic Sites buildings over the last four years. The roofs, as the first line of defense against weather, play a vital role in preserving our Historic Site, and your support has been instrumental in this endeavor.

The museum extends its heartfelt gratitude to our members, donors, the community, and the state of Michigan. Your generous contributions have been instrumental in funding this \$1.1 million project, spanning several years, to preserve the Hackley and Hume Historic Site for future generations. Your support has not only been crucial but also deeply valued. We couldn't have done it without you. THANK YOU!

Other projects on the docket this summer are the restoration of one of the chimneys on the Hackley House, rebuilding the front porch of the Hackley House, exterior painting, and window preservation. Be sure to visit or even take a drive to see all the projects close up.

*by Erin Schmitz, Historic Sites Director*



*The City Barn roof under construction*

# EXPLORE MUSKEGON DURING WWII

07

On the night of Aug. 12, 1942, at around 9:57 p.m., air raid sirens screeched out across Muskegon County. With all of its industrial power, the county—and in particular the City of Muskegon—were tempting targets for German bombers. Residents, workers, and families scrambled as quickly as possible to turn off all their lights to shroud the area in darkness, making the bombers' job more difficult.

Within three minutes, the majority of the county went dark, including many factories and Western Avenue, the brightest spot in Muskegon. Police and Civilian Defense inspectors quickly toured the city and discovered that Muskegon had pulled off the blackout drill to “nearly flawless” results. As the lights came back on, everyone went back to their normal routine, secure in the belief that if the worst were to happen, Muskegon would be prepared.

This is one example of what life was like here on the home front during World War II. This summer, in conjunction with the *Home Front Heroes* exhibit at the Muskegon Museum of History & Science, we will be offering a walking tour that will examine what Muskegon was like during the war and how life changed for those fighting on the home front. Tours cost \$13 for museum members and \$15 for non-members. Tours will run on June 25, 27, July 9, 11, 15, 18, and Aug. 6, 8, 20, and 22.

*By Pat Horn, Program Manager*

To book a tour,  
scan the QR code.



Unloading of a ship at the Mart Dock, ca. 1933-1950, one of the stops on the World War II Walking Tour.

# MUSKEGON COUNTY IN WWII

08

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. The men and women of the U.S. armed forces were victorious because of a huge advantage in supply and equipment. The sustained effort of countless workers on the home front really won the war.

Muskegon was a vital link in the supply chain. With just 50,000 residents, Muskegon became the leading producer of war materials per capita in the country. There were at least fifty local companies that converted to war production. Approximately 31,000 Muskegon County workers filled war work jobs by 1945. The biggest employers in the area included Continental Motors Corporation; Campbell, Wyant & Cannon; Lakey Foundry; Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company; and the Browne-Morse Company.

Smaller companies stepped up as well. Lyons Construction Company in Whitehall built wooden landing barges. Wiley Equipment Company built a single construction barge and crane to enlarge the Soo Locks and keep Western grain and Northern ore flowing from the upper Great Lakes. Bert Ginman built four 25-foot wooden tenders for the lighthouse service.

The Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry, and all of the sites of the LMC, are commemorating the end of the war with exhibits, programs and activities. In fact, all of the members of the Muskegon's Amazing Museums group have teamed up for joint programming this year. Check out Visit Muskegon's museums page to learn more.

Our Community Day themes this year focus on the impact of the war on the region. Visit our website for full descriptions of each event. We are fortunate to be sponsored by RENK America, with additional support from Eagle Alloy, Inc., Hines Corporation, and Swanson Pickle Co. All Community Days run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offer free admission to the museum.

*By Kirk Bunke, Site Manager*



*An employee of Campbell, Wyant & Cannon pours a crucible, ca. 1942-1945.*



*Bert Ginman stands outside his one-man boat shop, ca. 1931-1938.*



[Our Events](#)

[Visit Muskegon](#)





# VOLUNTEERS & EVENTS

## What's New This Season

09

As the warmer months return to Muskegon, we are thrilled to welcome back our dedicated volunteers at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry and the Muskegon Historic Sites. Many of our volunteers spend the winter enjoying sunshine in other parts of the country, and their return signals the start of another exciting season filled with learning, connection, and community engagement.

We're also happy to welcome back our enthusiastic Junior Museum Professionals, including seven returning JMPs and four new students joining the program. This summer promises to be packed with hands-on fun and educational activities. The JMPs will be rolling up their sleeves to plant and care for our Victory Garden, tying into our current exhibit, *Home Front Heroes*, and helping visitors learn about wartime resourcefulness. They will also be helping us throw a party for a very special guest—Moxie the Mastodon is turning six! Join us for an evening of family fun on Aug. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m., featuring games, activities, and plenty of fun for all ages.

On the events front, we hosted our inaugural gathering of the 1937 Legacy Society. This special event celebrated individuals who have made the meaningful decision to support the Lakeshore Museum Center through planned giving. Their commitment ensures that our mission continues to thrive for generations to come. If you are interested in learning more about how to become part of the 1937 Legacy Society, please contact Melissa Horton at [melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org).

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year, The Lumber Barons Ball: Operation - Victory Bash! This 1940s-themed celebration will take place on Oct. 4 and promises to

be a night to remember. Guests will step back in time with swing dancing, live music, vintage attire, ration recipes, and a nostalgic soda shoppe experience. The evening will capture the spirit of the era while raising vital funds to support the Lakeshore Museum Center's exhibits, programs, and outreach. Stay tuned for ticket details—we'd love to see you there, dressed to the nines and dancing the night away!

If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to Lumber Barons Ball: Operation – Victory Bash, please contact Marci Dalm at [marci@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:marci@lakeshoremuseum.org) or 231-724-5544.

As we head into a season full of activity and community connection, we are incredibly grateful for the volunteers, donors, and supporters who make our work possible. Whether you're giving tours, planting gardens, or helping organize events, your time and passion are what make the Lakeshore Museum Center a truly special place.

*By Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Events Coordinator*



*Legacy Society members join Melissa Horton for the inaugural gathering.*

# MEMBERSHIP & STORES

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Give the Gift of Wonder – A Museum Membership!

Are you looking for a gift that is meaningful, memorable, and lasts all year? A museum membership is more than just a present. It's a passport to inspiration, discovery, and lifelong learning.

## Why it's the perfect gift:

- **Experiences over things:** Unlimited visits mean unforgettable moments all year long.
- **Inspire and educate:** There is always something new to explore from groundbreaking exhibits to hands-on workshops.
- **Exclusive perks:** Free admission, discounts, members-only events, and more.
- **Fits every interest:** Art, science, history, and culture—find the perfect match for anyone on your list.
- **Support what matters:** Your gift helps keep the arts, education, and culture thriving in your community.

Perfect for families, friends, couples, or that hard-to shop-for someone who already has everything.

## Wrap up wonder this year.

Give a museum membership. If you need help making this gift a magical experience, email me at [graciela@laeshoremuseum.org](mailto:graciela@laeshoremuseum.org).

*By Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager*



Don't forget  
our wonderful  
reciprocal  
partners for  
this summer:

June

### Mason County Historical Society

Free Admission to the  
White Pine village, and  
the Port of Ludington  
Maritime Museum  
[masoncountymihistory.org](http://masoncountymihistory.org)

July

### Michigan History Museum

Free Admission to  
the Museum

[michigan.gov/mhc/museums/mhm](http://michigan.gov/mhc/museums/mhm)

July

### Holland Museum

Free Admission to  
the Museum and  
Historic Houses  
[hollandmuseum.org](http://hollandmuseum.org)

August

### Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Free Admission to  
the Museum

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

August

### Grand Rapids Art Museum

Free Admission to  
the Museum

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

Something  
big is  
coming...



Can you guess what this is?  
You can email your guesses at  
[graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org). Stay tuned for the big  
reveal later this summer!

# PLAN YOUR VISIT

## Calendar of Events

11



**MUSKEGON MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY & SCIENCE**  
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

*All Sites Closed July 4 & September 1*

**June 12**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**June 18**

STEM Workshop - Construction  
9:00 a.m.-Noon

**June 25**

STEM Workshop - Tin 9:00-Noon

**June 25**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**June 25**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**June 26**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**June 27**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**June 27**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**July 9**

WWII Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**July 9**

History Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**July 10**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**July 11**

WWII Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**July 11**

History Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**July 15**

WWII Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**July 15**

History Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**July 18**

WWII Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**July 18**

History Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**July 21-25**

Enviroworks Day Camp

**July 24**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**July 31**

Blood Drive 2:00 - 6:30 p.m.

**August 6**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**August 6**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**August 8**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**August 8**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**August 14**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**August 16**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**August 20**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**August 20**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**August 22**

History Walking Tour 10:00 a.m.

**August 22**

WWII Walking Tour 1:00 p.m.

**August 22**

Moxie's Birthday Party  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**August 28**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.

**August 30**

WWII Walking Tour 4:00 p.m.

**September 4**

WWII Walking Tour 6:00 p.m.

**September 11**

Play and Learn 10:00 a.m.



**MUSKEGON HERITAGE MUSEUM  
OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

**June 14**

Knit in Public Day

**July 5**

Community Day: Stamps,  
Sugar, and Sacrifice: Rationing  
During WWII

**August 2**

Community Day: We Can Do It!  
Women in WWII

**September 6**

Community Day: Air Raid  
Wardens & Blackout Drills: Civil  
Defense in WWII



**MUSKEGON  
HISTORIC SITES**  
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

**June 13**

\*All-Access Tour  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**June 15**

Father's Day – Free Tours for  
Dads of Muskegon County  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**June 21**

\*Roaring 20s Tea Event  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**July 11**

\*After Dark Tour  
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**August 1**

\*After Dark Tour  
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**August 16**

Dog Days of Summer: Life in the  
1930s – 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**September 5 & 6**

\*Clue Live! – 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
or 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**September 5**

\*After Dark Tour  
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**September 12**

\*All-Access Tour  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

*\*Ticketed event with limited spots. Book today!*



## 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





**Julia Child**  
A Recipe for Life

JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 1

**MUSKEGON**  
MUSEUM OF ART





SCAN ME

Download the Beanstack app by scanning the QR code!

# WATCH MUSKEGON READ



HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Hackley Library | Summer Reading Program June 2 - August 2

### FREE!

All ages are encouraged to sign up and participate!  
Find more details at [hackleylibrary.org](http://hackleylibrary.org)!



**MUSKEGON CIVIC THEATRE**  
EDUCATION presents

**July 11** 7pm  
**July 12** 3pm & 7pm  
**July 13** 3pm

**Tickets \$10**  
Includes box office fees

**etix**  
Box Office Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm  
231-727-8001  
[www.frauenthal.org](http://www.frauenthal.org)

**FRAUENTHAL CENTER**

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



**PUFFS**  
by Matt Cox  
Teen Summer Intensive is for young performers ages 13-19.  
SEVEN INCREASINGLY EVENTFUL YEARS  
AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MAGIC



**WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY**



**AQUASTAR**  
Sunset Cruise

**June 17, 8-10 pm**

Join WMS musicians and fans to support WMS learning, community and artistic initiatives.

Enjoy a two-hour cruise with music by Legal Rehab, small bites from The Hearthstone Bistro, and a cash bar. **Tickets: \$75**

**WESTMICHIGANSYMPHONY.ORG**