



RIVER WINDS



SPRING 2023

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL

MUSEUM

EST. 1959

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ERICA LAYTON

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings from the Museum Director! In my first *River Winds* debut, I would like to introduce myself to those community members I have yet to meet and say a warm hello to those I have. Since beginning my tenure as Executive Director in the spring of 2022, I have come to love this Museum, our fantastic team, and the greater Tri-Cities area. As a Michigan native, I have always enjoyed our state's unique and diverse history. Still, it was not until I began working in museums that I truly understood the impact a local history museum could have.

Our Museum is the first and only organization of its kind: with the sole purpose of collecting, interpreting, and sharing the history of Ferrysburg, Spring Lake, Grand Haven, and the surrounding area. The best part about my job is that the work is never done! While that might seem odd, it's encouraging that there will always be local stories to uncover, current events to capture, young students to teach, and visitors to engage.

As I look ahead at our upcoming exhibitions, I see a wide range of topics that will interest visitors and locals alike. I am personally excited to broaden my knowledge of local sports with the debut of *Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities*. Having never played sports in high school (I opted for ten years of ballet instead), I missed the sports craze among my peers but know that the memories and stories from high school sports and local sports clubs are legendary. The Tri-Cities community has a rich sports history, and the Museum team and I are excited to bring some of these stories and artifacts to the public beginning May 20.

No sooner is one special new exhibition up than we start installing our next one. We end the summer season

with a new exhibition in our small gallery, *Ferrysburg: 60 Years a City*, as the community and officials mark the City's 60th anniversary. The Museum is eager to celebrate with Ferrysburg as we exhibit items from the Museum's collection that highlight Ferrysburg's unique history, businesses, and people. *Ferrysburg: 60 Years a City* will be on display at the Museum starting August 26, 2023 until February 11, 2024.

While new exhibitions are always fun and exciting, perhaps our leading project of the year will be the Museum's participation in the *Capacity Building: Michigan Lakeshore* program. The Museum is in the middle of a two-year Capacity Building program offered through the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland. In September 2022, the Museum was selected to be one of 15 nonprofit arts organizations to participate in over 70 hours of professional coaching, consultation, and training to strengthen our programming, marketing, fundraising, and mission to serve the community better. The final product will be a new strategic plan to carry the Museum forward from 2024-2029. With our current strategic plan addressing 2019-2024 and myself joining the team as the new Director, the timing of the program is perfect! I am excited to share more from the program as we continue our participation over the next 18 months.

There is so much on the horizon for the Museum! I am grateful to be part of a community that values its history and fortunate to work with a team of fantastic Museum professionals. My door at the Museum is always open, and I value community feedback. I look forward to guiding the Museum forward in 2023!

BOARD PRESIDENT THOMAS PULEO

Hello, let me introduce myself. I'm Thomas Puleo. This is my third year on the Board and my first as the President. I have taught history at Grand Haven High School for the past 27 years. Over these last three years, I have appreciated the professionalism and skills of our Museum staff and director. They constantly produce exciting experiences for our community. I am especially excited about our upcoming summer blockbuster exhibit, *Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities*. Local sports in this area have been a major part of my life – like it has been for many others – and I can't wait to see what this display will entail. I would like to invite all of you to stop by the historic Akeley Building to see this exhibit starting in May, and see what else is new, too! I also encourage you to visit our Community Archive and Research Center (lovingly called 'CARC'...sounds like kark) facility, if you haven't already. It is the hidden gem of the Museum, and a great place to explore or conduct research relating to our local history.



Statement from the artist: "Picturing History, the painting of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, is an acrylic that was inspired by the 150th anniversary of the museum; how it has helped and continues to, enlighten generations."
– John Gork

EXPLORE OUR MUSEUM STORE

LOCAL ARTIST'S PRINT *PICTURING HISTORY*
HITS CLOSE TO HOME

We are excited to highlight this fantastic print from local artist John Gork. As you may have noticed, this unique painting features our very own Akeley Building. John's work reflects real attention to detail and brings his subject matter to life. Prints of Gork's painting, titled *Picturing History*, are available in the Museum store for \$40. You can also find two other prints of John's original work, *Cool Treat* and *Working Garden*.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DENISE BOERMAN



Denise Boerman carefully handling artifacts at the Community Archive & Research Center

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum relies on our dedicated group of volunteers, who assist with essential parts of the Museum's operation, including school tours, exhibit installation, artifact care, and much more. One of these fantastic people is Denise Boerman, who joined our team in 2021. Denise volunteers with the Museum's Collections Department once a week and helps with a variety of tasks, from administrative work to artifact documentation and processing. We sat down with her to talk about how she became interested in volunteering and what her experience has been like so far.

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MUSEUM?

So, cool story – I work down the road at a company and the owner was the one who donated the recently accessioned jewelry sign. He invited me to visit the Museum and CARC building knowing that I love history. I had no idea this place existed! This is everything that I love. I chatted with Jared and asked if I could hang out at CARC because history is my jam (in front of my boss – whoops). I signed up to be a volunteer and now I am here!

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN A VOLUNTEER?

I started with working through administrative tasks and donation binders. Making sure all the proper documentation was on file and making a list of what was missing/needed. I would then create a document to send out to donors. Cheryl (Curatorial Assistant) has been so amazing in teaching me how to care for textiles – quarantine them, clean, document, and find proper history on them. This has been a great experience.

WHAT MAKES THIS VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE A MEANINGFUL USE OF YOUR TIME?

I have a skill set that I thought was not very helpful in regards to preserving history, but I have found that my administrative skills are very, very helpful. And much needed!

CAN YOU SHARE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD AS A RESULT OF VOLUNTEERING HERE?

There have been so many! The fact that I have made friends with the staff and they share the same passion and interests that I do – that is the best. I have found my people.

WHILE VOLUNTEERING, HAVE YOU COME ACROSS ANY UNUSUAL OR INTERESTING ARTIFACTS?

Oh man, I don't even know where to begin. My first "holy smokes" moment was the Robbins-Savidge wedding cake from 1891. Another one that jumps out would be the Ford Theatre ticket from the night Lincoln was assassinated.

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE SO FAR?

Ha, all of them! My very first – the first experience with textiles. I found it so amazing to open a box with someone's uniform, taking time to give it love and bring it back to life by cleaning and caring for it properly. The previous owners of these items wore them during meaningful times of their lives and they deserve to be properly represented and cared for.

OTHER THAN VOLUNTEERING, WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER HOBBIES?

Researching dead people. I love to thrift, and at thrift stores I find old pictures. If they have names on the photos, I research them – their life stories, and who might their family members be. I then reach out to the family members and reunite them with the photos. I always thought, "How cool would it be to have someone reach out to me and provide me with knowledge and pictures of long lost relatives?"

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THOSE CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO TCHM?

Do it! There is not a skill set that wouldn't benefit this institution. Every skill set can be used! You can volunteer on a flexible schedule – as little or as much as you want.

tri-citiesmuseum.org/volunteer



KATE CROSBY: EXHIBITS

Highland Park Tennis Club postcard

EXHIBITS

OUR SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER: SPORTS HISTORY

Kate Crosby, Curator of Exhibits

When conducting research for upcoming shows, I often stumble across exciting and unexpected trivia. Working on our newest exhibit, *Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities*, gave me a reason to say, “What in the wide, wide world of sports is going on here?” on a number of occasions! I’d like to share with you, in no particular order, some of the fascinating facts I learned about Tri-Cities sport history.

Did you know?

- The first bowling teams at Grand Haven High School were formed as intramural teams in 1941 – and the top ranked girls team beat the top ranked boys team in 1950.
- Local businesses had baseball teams that competed against each other. Some of the businesses with teams included: Challenge Refrigerator Company, Beaudry & Company, Story and Clark, Fant & Stone, J. B. Purham’s Furniture Store, Keller Tool Company, Miller’s Dairy, Eagle Ottawa Leather Company, and Cooper Air Tools, among others.
- The first Spring Lake High School team to win a state championship was the 2001 Girls Cross Country team.
- GHHS girls were first allowed to earn athletic letters in 1931. They had to earn at least 1,000 points by participating in various activities such as Health class, Gymnasium Work, Swimming, Skill in Sports, Athletics, Track, Stunts, Campfire, and Girl Scouts.
- Collections Curator Jared Yax made sure to collect the history of the Starlite Bowling Alley as it was being



Fant and Stone Baseball Team c. 1890



SLHS Girls' Cross Country state champions c. 2001

demolished in 2018...even going so far as to fish a few items out of the dumpster. What a great catch!

- There used to be a Tumbling Team – think men’s gymnastics but with more circus-style stunts – at GHHS. It started in 1938 as a club, organized by one Mr. Ray E. Schaubel. It became an official sport for the school in 1951.
- When Spring Lake High School’s first batch of seniors graduated in 1965, the sports options for students were: football, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, track and field, baseball, tennis, and golf.
- The Highland Park Tennis Club was started in the 1920s and built tennis courts in the neighborhood in 1924. By 1931, the Highland Park Tennis Tournament was one of the top three junior tennis tournaments in the country.
- The Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority (NORA) was originally started in 1998 as the Northwest Ottawa Recreation Program, officially becoming NORA in 2009 after reincorporating. The organization provides sports leagues and programs for adults and children.
- SLHS teacher Aaron Andres was inspired by the 2018 Olympics to create a curling rink in his backyard to practice the sport and also founded an informal group of players, now the Laker Curling Association.



The Grand Haven High School Tumbling team c. 1950

I hope you appreciate the odd history of Tri-Cities sports as much as I do! Be sure to check out the exhibit, *Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities*, opening to the public on Saturday, May 20.

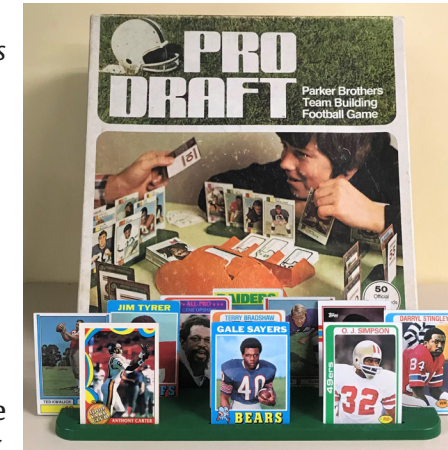
Our summer blockbuster runs through September 24, 2023, in the Museum’s Centennial Hall.

COMMUNITY CURATOR CASE

Josh Simon, Assistant Curator of Exhibits

The Community Curator Case is a space for members of the Tri-Cities Ottawa County community to display their own personal collections. Any sort of collection can be displayed! The collection does not need to be a certain “age,” just representative of you and your interests. So many types of objects can be shown in the case...board games, books, currency, stamps...and more! Past topics have included candlesticks, Beatles memorabilia, childhood toys, typewriters, as well as buttons and baseball gloves.

Speaking of sports collections, an upcoming exhibit in the Case will feature the football card game Pro Draft, and an assortment of player trading cards predominantly from the mid- to late-1970s. The



the summer blockbuster exhibit, *Play Ball! Sports History of the Tri-Cities*. See both beginning May 20 in a sports slam-dunk!

Interested in displaying your own collection? Contact Josh Simon at jsimon@tchmuseum.org

THE LEGACY OF GRAND HAVEN COACH STEVE SLUKA

Marv Bolthouse, Assistant Education Curator

Steve Sluka was born in 1909 and grew up a poor kid on Grand Haven’s east side. As a child, Steve had only one pair of shoes – his prized football cleats. When times were hard, he would remove the spikes and wear them to church and school.

Steve was a leader and major contributor to the 1924 Grand Haven Football State Champions. Steve had the speed, agility and quickness to score every time he touched a football.

Sports writers often marveled at Steve’s prowess on the gridiron. In an October 13, 1924 Tribune article, a sports writer described how he was able to “side-step, dance, back-step and spin his way through tacklers.” Against Grand Rapids South, a reporter noted that when Steve ran for a 70-yard touchdown, he was so fast that he appeared “to flash upon the horizon”.

After serving in combat during World War II, Steve returned home and spent the next twenty-eight years as a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Grand Haven High School. In that time, Steve earned numerous awards including induction into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He served on several boards including the first Grand Haven Chapter of the YMCA.

Steve was also instrumental in the building of the ball field on Beachtree Street. It was Steve’s gift to the children of the Tri-Cities. The ball field was named Sluka Field in his honor and his legacy there casts a long shadow.

Steve retired from Grand Haven Public Schools in 1978 and passed away on May 6, 1995.



Steve Sluka views display cases in the new Grand Haven High School at 900 Cutler St; c. 1954. Accession Number: 2007.58.36



Grand Haven High School Reserve football team of 1923; Steve Sluka is in the back row, far left. Accession Number: 1981.54.64

“Lovely little museum.... thoughtful displays.”

Pat, Oakland, CA

SERVING OUR LIFELONG LEARNERS



Peter Koopman was discussed during the presentation - 'Prohibition, Murder, and the Ghost of Kate Koopman.' Peter is in the front with the pipe. Accession Number: 1997.39.4



Seniors from Village at the Pines taking a look around CARC



Village at the Pines residents discussing the music box from the 1890s



Erin Pilarski presenting for residents at Village at the Pines

School students are not the only students who learn about our local history from Museum staff. Each month, we engage 40 to 100 seniors through various history programs, and we feature both digital presentations and Museum tours.

Digital presentations are created with adults in mind and are taken on the road to Senior Homes, Assisted Living Apartments, Senior Clubs, and Senior Engagement Facilities. They vary in topic but remain relevant to our local history. Among the favorites are crime and mysteries such as 'The Great Bank Robbery of 1933' and 'Prohibition, Murder, and the Ghost of Kate Koopman.'

During our visits, we have open discussions of things they know or recall about the topic. "I remember being a little girl and being told by my mother to cross the street when walking past the Koopman house," a resident of Christian Haven stated. "I was told that I should avoid being close to a house with such negativity tied to it." Another resident of Christian Haven spoke up, "I recall my parents discussing how Mr. Koopman barely served time for Kate's murder...people would talk about him behind closed doors. Thank you for sharing this story with us."

We research these various topics using a number of tools, but our go-to source has been the Museum's digital archive, *Collective Access*. Photographs, documents and images of artifacts in *Collective Access* provide a perfect tie-in to our discussion. Many of these groups are so fascinated with the content that they plan Museum field trips to both the Akeley building and the Community Archive and Research Center (CARC).

With each visit, the audience grows – whether in number of participants, or in the participants' level of curiosity. Our presentations have been increasingly popular; we have added two new senior facility sites in the last year! Positive reviews and passing the word along helps us connect more history explorers to our shared past.

If you are curious about our ever-growing list of featured topics and would like us to present at your organization, please contact Erin Pilarski at epilarski@tchmuseum.org

CURRENT PRESENTATION TOPICS:

- The Great Bank Robbery of 1933
- Lumbering in West Michigan*
- Scandal & Shine – Prohibition in West Michigan*
- Legends on the Great Lakes
- West Michigan Ship Disasters
- Tri-Cities Shipwrecks
- History of Bennett's Hollow
- Finding Hezekiah
- Grand Haven's Musical Fountain
- Weddings in Tri-Cities History
- West Michigan Hauntings & Legends
- Lost Grand Haven
- Spring Lake Resorts
- 150 Years of Akeley
- Holiday Toys from our Past*
- Prohibition, Murder, and the Ghost of Kate Koopman
- The McCluer's; Innovators of Spring Lake
- *Includes hands-on materials

NEWLY ACCESSIONED, ALWAYS REMEMBERED

Recently-acquired artifact 2022.55.1 is a framed watercolor painting created by Dorothy VanKolken in 1955. Dorothy was born Dorothy Van Otterloo on December 23, 1915, in Maurice, Iowa. She married Preston VanKolken, a local physician who graduated from Hope College on December 23, 1937, in Holland, Michigan. Dorothy and Preston had three sons. Preston passed away on April 2, 1971, and after his death Dorothy relocated to Tumacacori, Arizona, until she passed away October 23, 1995, in Grand Haven. This artifact was donated to the Museum in memory of Dorothy VanKolken.



Dorothy was one of eighteen original founding members of Lakeland Painters (now known as Lakeland Artists) in Grand Haven. She painted this piece at 509 Franklin Street in Grand Haven. The view is of the Ottawa County Courthouse from the second floor of the Carriage House where the artist lived.

Lakeland Artists, founded in 1958, features and supports local artists displaying their work in the community, and is housed at Central Park Place (formerly Grand Haven Community Center).

To view this artifact on Collective Access, visit tri-citiesmuseum.org/collections. Click on the 'Search Our Collection' tab and type in the artifact number: 2022.55.1

FUN TRI-CITIES REAL ESTATE HISTORY!

Did you know that in 1872 the building at the corner of Washington & 3rd was the finest hotel in the state? Now it holds the Cutler House Condos (Cutler House was the name of the hotel!) along with business offices.

If you want to know more of the story reachout! We are happy to share!

Looking for an historic property or a brand new one? We have the knowledge to help you! Give us a call!

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TCHM's *River Winds* is an ideal platform for your business or organization, reaching households across the Tri-Cities, plus area businesses. Advertise yours with us, or promote your upcoming class reunion, fundraiser, annual sale, or other special event!

RIVER WINDS Ad Opportunities

bit.ly/river-winds-ads

1/8 page	\$50	(2-1/2" x 1-3/4")
1/4 page	\$75	(3-5/8" x 2-1/4")
1/2 page	\$150	(4-1/2" x 3-3/4")
3/4 page	\$250	(5" x 5-1/2")



Purchase with credit card by scanning the code, or contact Elisa Hopper at (616) 842-0700 x 120



STUDENTS, ADULTS GIVE THEIR TIME TO HELP CATALOG OUR COLLECTION, BRINGING US A STEP CLOSER TO ACCREDITATION

The Community Archive & Research Center (CARC) is moving toward our goal of accreditation. Accreditation is a mark of distinction from the American Alliance of Museums and it demonstrates our commitment to Museum best practices and our stated mission.

One project that helps us achieve our goal is completing an inventory of our collection. Our collection consists of 70,000 objects, so this is no small task. We now have eight consistent volunteers on the project and they are making amazing progress.

We have four volunteers working on inventory of the archives, which includes thousands of photographs. We have two volunteers doing research, one volunteer working on creating padded hangers for our ongoing textile move, and another working on cataloging and moving textiles and housing artifacts. In addition to the weekly volunteers, the Museum participated in the *Day On! Challenge* through Grand Haven Area Public Schools. This challenge allowed us to work with nine student volunteers (grades 5th through 12th) for half a day.

During their time with us, they inventoried hundreds of items in the archives and small artifacts in the warehouse. All of these volunteers help us to move toward our goal of accreditation. In order to tell the stories of the Tri-Cities and protect the history of the area we need to know where artifacts are stored. Each artifact should have its own identification number and storage location. By doing a physical inventory we can rest assured that we know the current, exact location of an artifact.

If you are interested in volunteering at CARC please contact Erin Pilarski at epilarski@tchmuseum.org.

RENT HISTORY!

Host your next event at the Museum...and make it historic! Tri-Cities Historical Museum's Centennial Hall is a light-filled space that boasts a beautiful view of downtown Grand Haven and an atmosphere of elegance. From November through April, let our venue lend itself to your next family, corporate or nonprofit event. We accommodate private events for life celebrations: birthday, anniversary, retirement, wedding, and baby showers; as well as corporate events, including nonprofit fundraisers and employee events, team and board retreats, corporate luncheons, dinners, and trainings. Come envision your event with us! Contact Jayme Wilson at rentals@tchmuseum.org or (616) 842-1700 x133)



Centennial Hall beautifully staged for a private event

DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY OR BUSINESS HISTORY AT CARC

Did you know that CARC (the Community Archive and Research Center) is available for research projects on your family or business history in the Tri-Cities, as well as the history of the wider region? CARC was opened in 2016 to meet the Museum's need for a space to house our growing Collection and for research and archival space. Today, CARC is a research and collections hub, open to our entire community, with Museum professionals, volunteers, and interns working together to manage our Collection and preserve the heritage of the Tri-Cities.

More than 70,000 local artifacts are in our Collection; only about 5% can be displayed at any one time in rotating exhibits at the historic Akeley building in downtown Grand Haven. To make the Collection

more accessible to the community, TCHM launched an online database, *Collective Access*, in early 2022, making it possible for anyone, anywhere to search the Collection and learn about the founding of their family business, the history of our area high schools, or the changing landscape of the Tri-Cities' downtowns...and so much more!

Schedule your personalized facilitated research appointment with Jared Yax at jyax@tchmuseum.org.

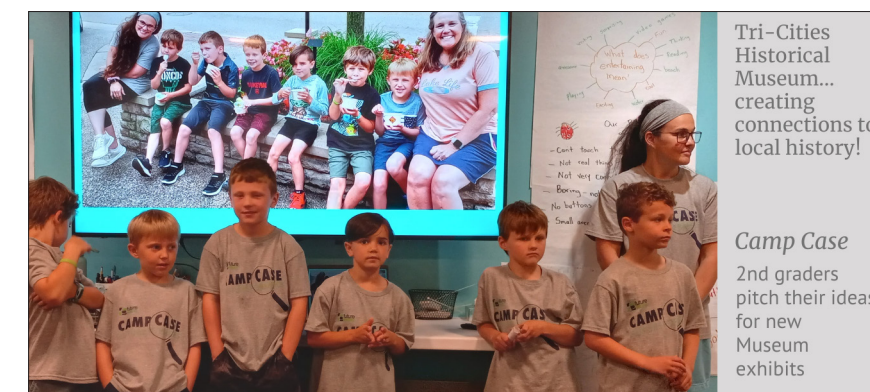
"Excellent collection."

Mary Lou Gies, Allendale, MI



Tri-Cities Historical Museum...
creating connections
to local history!

You're a member!
businesses and residents of the
Tri-Cities are considered members



Tri-Cities
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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PREPARED



Members of the 'Monuments Men' rescuing artwork from a Nazi base of operations. Image courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.



Heritage Emergency and Response Training



Heritage Emergency and Response Training class of 2022 with their instructors. Image courtesy of Graham Haynes (FEMA) and The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative.

Cultural heritage can be a delicate and precious thing. While history is made every day that we are alive, we can never go back and relive that moment or event. Museums use artifacts and written accounts to help people understand what it was like to observe a certain point in history. These objects give us tangible evidence of events that took place, giving us something to experience with our senses. They allow us to experience cultures different than our own through artworks and writing. If these heritage items are destroyed, we may forever lose important memories and cultural representations, as they are irreplaceable.

Man-made disasters can wreak havoc on cultural heritage sites. Saving Europe's cultural heritage during World War II was so important that a special division of the US Army was formed to find and protect these artifacts from theft and destruction. The Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) Section of the Army, otherwise known as the 'Monuments Men', was established in 1943. The Army recruited historians, architects, Museum curators, archaeologists and artists to join the ranks of this force. Fourteen different nations would eventually be represented in the MFAA.

Over the course of the war and its aftermath, approximately three hundred and fifty men and women participated in protecting heritage sites, artwork and artifacts from Nazi and Imperial Japanese damage or theft. The unit was deactivated in 1950; however, in those seven years they were able to locate and return over five million pieces of art and artifacts to their rightful nations along with preserving countless cultural sites.

Natural disasters are always a threat and put many museums and heritage sites in jeopardy. The Smithsonian Institution and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) joined forces to create the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI). The SCRI team has put together a specialized training and certification program called the Heritage Emergency And Response Training (HEART) that brings together emergency planners and museum professionals to teach them how to organize people

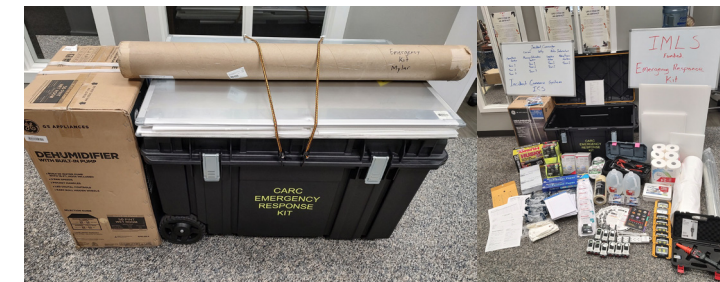


Tri-Cities Historical Museum staff responding to the Midland flooding to rescue artifacts

and resources on an emergency scene and how to rescue artifacts and cultural objects that are affected by the disaster.

The program is relatively new with only approximately one hundred responders across the nation. I am one of two HEART certified emergency responders in Michigan, and since taking the training in 2019, I have become a Smithsonian instructor as well, teaching the 2022 HEART cohort in Washington, DC.

In May of 2020, large storms caused the Tittabawassee River to swell and overwhelm two dams, which caused catastrophic flooding throughout the City of Midland, Michigan. Two museums, the Midland County Historical



The Community Archive and Research Center's Emergency Response Kit. Two of these kits were built through a generous Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Society's Heritage Park and the Sanford Museum, were both under several feet of water, putting their collections at risk of being destroyed. When the Michigan Museums Association put out the call for help, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum led the way, sending its HEART-certified emergency responder along with three other curatorial staff. Over 400 community volunteers and 100 museum professionals from across the state participated in the rescue operation. Despite the damage, water, and mud, the responders were able to rescue a vast majority of the affected collections.

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum understands how important it is to protect our community heritage and keep it safe in the event of an emergency. Our own Museum has had to deal with its own emergency

situations. In 2017, a tree branch fell through the roof of CARC which caused the building to flood from storm water. In 2022, one of the Museum's furnaces caught fire; luckily it was contained to a small area and extinguished quickly.

The Museum staff are working hard to create emergency plans and procedures to ensure that the community's heritage is well taken care of in these types of events. As a result of grant funding awarded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, two new, fully-stocked emergency kits have been prepared and stationed at the ready at each of our sites. This grant also provided funding to train the Museum's staff on emergency procedures

based on my HEART course lessons. There is always the possibility that a disaster may strike. The Museum will be ready if and when it does.



HISTORY KEEPERS

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum accepts and appreciates planned gifts in a variety of forms, including as a beneficiary of a bequest through your will or estate plans, through an IRA or 401(k) retirement account, or through a life insurance policy.

To participate in the museum's legacy giving program and become a 'History Keeper,' first arrange for your planned gift or bequest to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Then complete and submit a 'History Keepers' designation form to let the Museum know of your intentions.

Contact Development Director Elisa Hopper for a designation form or more details at connectingtohistory@tchmuseum.org or (616) 842-0700 x120.



Bruce and Barbara Hinrichs joined the TCHM Heritage Society (now called History Keepers) in 2011. They dedicated many years and much care to the growth and development of the Museum. Their support has set the stage for sharing more of Tri-Cities history with all those who live, work and play here.

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

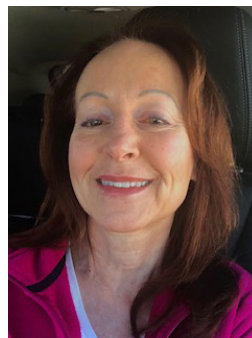


JACKIE THOROUGHMAN

I have been a resident of Grand Haven Township since 2011 when I retired from my position as an academic dean at a college in the Chicago suburbs. My mother grew up in Grand Haven and met my father here when he was stationed on the *Escaaba*. My Dad spent his work life and even some retirement time as part of the Coast Guard. As a result, we moved frequently and never lived in one place for any length of time. Grand Haven was always our vacation spot where there were grandparents, cousins, and a beautiful beach. My parents returned to Grand Haven upon their retirement and my husband and I followed their example upon our retirement.

JOAN MOSER KUIPER

My name is Joan Moser Kuiper. I have been with the Tri-Cities Museum as a Volunteer Docent since 2017 and am now very honored to serve on the Board of Directors. In 1979, I became the first female firefighter for Ottawa County and had a wonderful and long career, from which I am now retired. During my active years of firefighting, my desire to give back to the community was important to me. Witnessing many aspects of devastation, be it fire or natural disasters, it was important to preserve items for the families involved... artifacts which held precious memories. Without preservation, history is forever lost. TCHM has been my perfect fit! I currently reside in Ferrysburg, with my husband John, where I also serve as Co-Chair for the City of Ferrysburg's Beautification Committee.



ROBERT MANN

I am a resident of Grand Haven Township and my wife and I have lived here for 30 years. I am retired after 10 years as an officer in the Royal Navy, and almost 30 years in the automotive supply industry, most recently as Regional Commercial Director. I have 2 adult children, and one grandchild, with another arriving shortly. I enjoy travel, family time, golf, yardwork and most of all being a grandpa. I have been interested in history since I was a young child and would stop into my local museum at every opportunity. I volunteer with TCHM's Collections team and thoroughly enjoy it. I am particularly drawn to our photograph archive, and the story each picture can tell. I look forward to my time serving on the Board of TCHM.



IT'S MORE THAN HISTORY... IT'S HERITAGE

Tri-Cities Historical Museum (TCHM) invites locals and visitors alike to experience Tri-Cities history. Folks from afar may find similarities to the history of their own hometown, and will delight in exploring our unique maritime heritage as Coast Guard City USA. Tri-Cities residents may be surprised by an unexpected story of the place where they live, work and play.

Follow the thread of Tri-Cities history with three temporary exhibits in 2023 that explore a range of eras and themes. Every exhibit features artifacts from our own collection, donated by our local community and representing the specific heritage of the Tri-Cities...to paraphrase a well-known tagline from a Las Vegas marketing campaign, "what you see in the Tri-Cities came from the Tri-Cities!"

PORT TO PAINT (FEBRUARY 25 - AUGUST 13)

Port to Paint: Maritime Art from the Permanent Collection brings together 18 works by a variety of artists including Reynold Weidenaar, Lewis Cross, James G. Campbell, Scott O. Suits, and others. Though they have different styles and subjects, the pieces in this exhibition are tied together by a common maritime theme. Some of the ships in these works served as military vessels and performed heroic feats, while others sailed for decades and worked to deliver goods until their retirement. A few of these ships were lost tragically at sea and mourned by those left on the shore.

PLAY BALL! (MAY 20 - SEPTEMBER 24)

Many of us have childhood sports heroes, or had an athletic coach who helped us improve our skills and fostered teamwork from a disparate group of players, or perhaps have watched a sibling, child, or friend help win a championship, achieve a personal best, or become the first to beat a school record. *Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities* takes us back to some of the earliest sporting clubs, teams and leagues of the Tri-Cities area.

FERRYSBURG: 60 YEARS A CITY (AUGUST 25 - FEBRUARY 2024)

Every location - village, township, or city - has its founding day and its milestones, and in 2023, the City of Ferrysburg celebrates its 60th anniversary. Our *Ferrysburg: 60 Years a City* exhibit takes a walk down memory lane, from the City's founding to a very recent collaboration between the City of Ferrysburg and TCHM to research and place an important historical marker recognizing one of the early Black residents of the Tri-Cities and successful farmer, activist and freeman, Hezekiah Smith.

Connect to Tri-Cities history at tri-citiesmuseum.org/exhibits.

"I enjoyed seeing artifacts from Michigan's history."

Kaija Okkonen,
Kasilof, AK

Tri-Cities Historical Museum

200 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
www.tri-citiesmuseum.org

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ANNUAL PARTNERS, COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS,
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Find us on social media     

CALENDAR



ONGOING

DAILY

May 20 – September 24

Play Ball! Sports History in the Tri-Cities

Exhibit admission is always free!

June 3 – Labor Day Weekend

History Theme Days

August 26 – February 11, 2024

Ferrysburg: 60 Years A City

Exhibit admission is always free!

MONTHLY

Once a Month

Mornings at the Museum

Sensory-Friendly Experiences

9 – 10 am, RSVP required*

JUNE

Tuesday, June 13th

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

Maritime History Along Grand River,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

Thursday, June 15th

Mini Makers: Oil Pastel & Cargo Ships!

9am – Noon, Ages 11-14

Limited to 10 participants,

RSVP required*

Tuesday, June 27th

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

Boardwalk History,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

JULY

Tuesday, July 11th

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

Washington Ave. 101,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

Thursday, July 13th

Ice Cream Social

Tanglefoot Park, 6pm – 8pm

Free to the public!

Tuesday, July 25th

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

Tavern Tour,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 1st

CARC Community Tour:

Maritime Treasures

Limited space, RSVP required at

bit.ly/explore-CARC

Tuesday, August 8th

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

Odds & Ends Stories,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

Friday, August 11th

Mini Makers: Cargo Ship Collage

10am – Noon, Ages 7-10

Limit 10 participants,

RSVP required*

Thursday, August 17th

Ice Cream Social

1223 Train, 6pm – 8pm

Open to the public!

Tuesday, August 22nd

Grand Haven Walking Tour:

GH on the Map,

with Loutit District Library

Limited space, RSVP required*

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, November 14th

Annual Meeting

Centennial Hall

All residents and businesses of the

Tri-Cities welcome as members!

Saturday, November 18th

Event *Murder at the Museum*

* RSVP to epilarski@tchmuseum.org

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

