

Linden Mills Historical Society

201 N. Main St. P. O. Box 823
Linden, Michigan 48451

No. 12

Fall-Winter 2022-23

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are April - November on second Tuesday of the month 7:00 PM. Shiawassee Shores Clubhouse #1.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Peter Maas
Vice President	Cindy Shane
Secretary	Nancy Wallace
Treasurer	Amanda Whitney
Trustee	Aaron Wiles
Trustee	Kathy Button
Trustee	Pat Burgess

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Karen Breasbois
Pat Burgess
Barb Maas
Marguerite Plumb
Cindy Shane (Chair Person)
Nancy Wallace
Aaron Wiles

MUSEUM HOURS

Open: Memorial Day thru October. Saturdays 10-1 pm and Sundays 1-4 pm, private or group tours contact 810 265- 2821

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Newsletter	Peter Maas
Refreshments	Members
Genealogist	Beth Carr
Genealogist	Pete Maas
Genealogist	Jayne Larion

Welcome New Members

Mary Finney
Rose Ann Cowan
Sheliah & Michael Shepard

DUES REMINDER

This is a reminder that as of per our April 2022 meeting, the Board voted to increase our annual dues from \$5 to \$10 per person and from \$10 to \$15 per couple or family (household). Regretfully, unpaid dues or non-attendance for three consecutive years will result in removal from our membership and mailing list. Dues are collected at our April meetings.

2022 — 'T WAS A GOOD YEAR

The year 2022, was our first full year out of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Still a little cautious, we moved forward with our April meeting and elections. We prepared for our Second Graders' visit in May. Students from Hyatt and Linden El. visited the Mill after a two-year absence, and continued a tradition which began over 25 years ago.



Second graders in Museum schoolroom.

The Linden Memories Book, sold out before Christmas 2021, in January, 300 more books were printed which also sold out. In March 100 more were printed of which about 40 are still available.

Members of the museum committee worked on top floor. Transportation and antique tool displays and mill exhibit. The Howd family donated an extensive collection of Michigan license plates as well as about 25 older oil cans.

The Museum Committee decided to have the museum open both Saturdays and Sundays starting with Memorial Day and ending at end of October on a trial basis.

Our museum was open during the following special events: *Memorial Day, Back to the Bricks Kick Off, River fest, River Roast. Holiday Happening, and Visit from Santa.* In addition, the museum opened for several private tours, including 20 members from Cycle-fit of Fenton on September 26

On July 23, LMHS participated in the Tyrone Twp. Pioneer Day *Heidi, and Bronwen McCluskey, Anna Murvich, Adrian Vicenzi and Barb & Pete Maas* braved the heat at the event.

Despite an increase in our dues, our membership increased to 91 members, about 60 being active.

September 24, LMHS members, *Heidi and Bronwen McCluskey and Pete & Barb Maas* visited our State Capitol. *Cambray Sampson* was our tour guide. Senators and House Reps. were not in session during that week, allowing us nearly total access to the building. After the tour, a walk to *Kewpies* for lunch.



Heidi and Bronwen McCluskey in State Capitol Building.

INFORMATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE TO BE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

For years, members of the Linden Mills Historical Society have had the opportunity to observe some excellent speakers and programs. This alone is worth the cost of our annual dues. We have heard from educators, authors, historians, executives, directors, collectors, and experts on everything from weaving to bee keeping. After a wonderful and educational presentation in May on “Ice Harvesting” by our own **Pat Burgess**, the Linden Mills Historical Society kicked off its 2022 parade of programs and speakers. Our best attended meeting was September’s panel discussion entitled *Linden Lore*, where members **Rich Childs**, **Don Neuville** and **Paul Hogan** recalled memories of Linden in the 40’s and 50’s. (see page 3)



May 10 - **Pat Burgess**, LMHS member, showed an informative video and gave a presentation on the disappearing art of ice harvesting.



June 14 - **Valerie Marvin**, curator & Historian of the Michigan State Capitol, gave a great power point on the early days of the Capitol..



July 12 - **Colleen Marquis**, Archivist and librarian of the University of Michigan-Flint. Discussed the many documents available.



August 9 - Show and Tell and Ice Cream Social. A fun night with very interesting stories and items brought in for show & Tell.



October 11 - **Dr. David Hall**, retired physics teacher and radio expert displayed some of his many restored radios.



November 8 - **Valerie Marvin** returned to Linden with a very appropriate Election Day program entitled “Capitol Women”.

Linden Lore

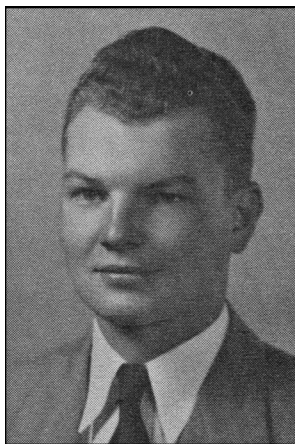


L to R: Richard "Dick" Childs, Rev. Don Neuville, Paul Hogan

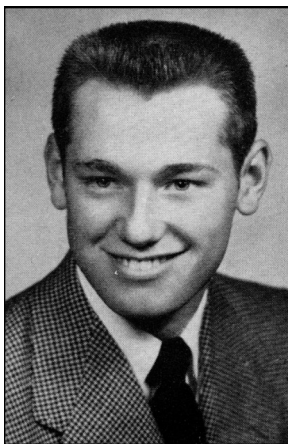
Our September 13 meeting was attended by 42 members and 4 guests. It was the largest attended meeting of the year. The presentation, entitled **LINDEN LORE** did not disappoint as three long-time Linden residents discussed life in Linden during the 1940's and 1950's. *Dick Childs, Rev. Don Neuville and Paul Hogan* were all born in Linden during the 1930's, and all three graduated from Linden High School. (Dick in '51, Don in '54, and Paul in '55). Although their early days were tough at times, as the U.S. was slowly creeping out from the Depression and the onset of World War II, all three presenters agreed that it was a time of learning "to do without" and to make the most with what you had. Most of the war took place in the first half of the

1940's, which had a profound effect on most countries and especially the people in Europe and Asia. The consequences of the war lingered well into the second half of the decade, with a war-weary Europe divided between the influence of the Western World, (including the U. S.) and the Soviet Union, leading to the beginning of the Cold War in the 1950's.

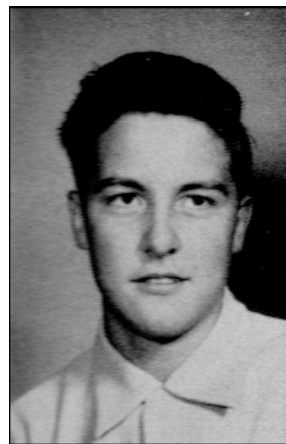
The topics of the presenters' discussions ranged from how they spent Christmas, to playing sports at Linden High. The wonderful stories which were told, rekindled many memories of those in the audience who lived during those years. Laughing and smiling, they nodded in agreement. All three, added humorous recollections. The mill pond, which was the center of activity in those days was discussed in great length. It was a long standing tradition that one had to swim across the pond to be considered a "good" swimmer. Don Neuville mentioned that "someone attempted to swim across through a dangerous current. As he approached the north bank, he realized he could not make it, so he swam back." Paul told of the time he was playing baseball when he thought he heard a gun shot. As it turned out, it was Don's leg breaking. Dick recalled the story of how he and brother Gary were told to be home by 5 P.M. "We were quite late. My dad had a belt, and he wasn't afraid to use it. It was the last time we came home late." After the meeting, members suggested another *Linden Lore Program* for next year.



Richard Childs



Don Neuville



Paul Hogan



For decades word has reached far and wide about our beautiful mill and its nice settings for photographers and artists. *The Linden Mills Historical Society and Museum* has found one more way to utilize our beautiful mill building.

On Saturday, October 15, shortly after opening the museum for its regular tours, museum docents, *Anna Allison, Melanie McCluskey* and *Barb and Pete Maas* were discussing their normal opening procedures, when they were approached by *Reverend Joy Fletcher-Thompson*, who asked if it would be possible to hold a wedding ceremony inside the museum due to the cold temperature and strong winds. The event was originally scheduled to take place at the gazebo. The docents had only 15 minutes to prepare the area by moving furniture and creating a seating space for the wedding party and guests. At approximately 10:45 a.m., *Megan Mayers* of New Boston and *Zach Nelson* of Port Huron became the second couple to be married inside the mill building. Members of the groom's family were very impressed with the museum and plan to visit in the near future to enjoy the exhibits at their leisure.

Some may recall, when on December 29, 2010, *Rachel Tyler* and *Christopher Franklin* tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony to become the first couple to be married in the 150-year-old historic mill building. Over the years, there have been over a dozen marriages performed at the gazebo as well. . It seems our charming mill and Kimble-Sharp Park is slowly becoming the "Las Vegas of the North".



Megan Mayers (New Boston) and Zach Nelson (Port Huron) say their vows in front of Rev. Joy Fletcher-Thompson



Zach and Megan were pronounced "Man and wife" during their October. 15, 2022 marriage ceremony



In 2010, Rachel Tyler & Christopher Franklin. First marriage in museum.

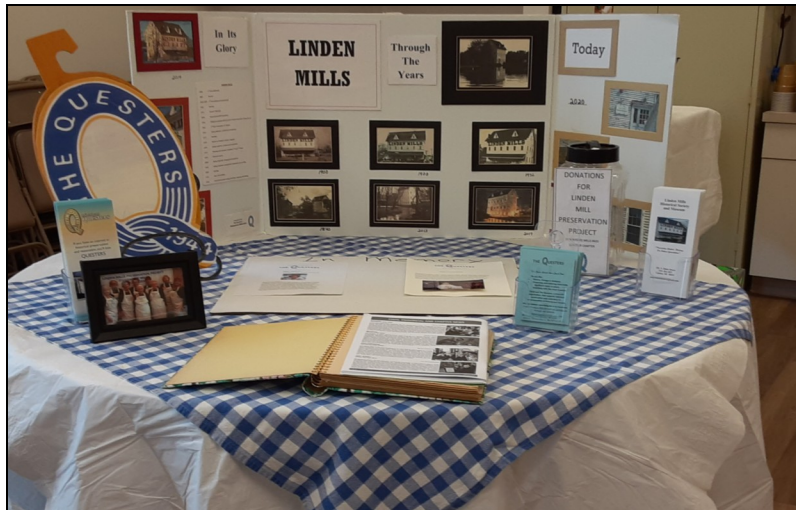
Questers Raise Nearly \$5000 to Benefit Mill Restoration



Members of the Shiawassee Mills #420 Questers Chapter are in the front row. From left to right are: Barb Maas, Marion Seguin, Shelley Alexander, Nancy Wallace, Nancy Dulin, Cindy Shane, and Karen Breasbois. The back two rows consists of volunteers from the Linden High School Boys Soccer team and the National Honor Society.

The Shiawassee Mills #420 Questers chapter had another successful fundraiser (103 tickets sold) for the Linden Mills Restoration/Preservation project. Karen Breasbois, President, stated "We were just shy of raising \$5000. This was after the one outstanding bill was paid. There are still some donations coming in to be added to that number. The community was very good to us with the many donations we received for the event, flowers, food, water, items for the auction etc."

The Loose Center served as the venue for an afternoon of food, fun and bargains. Breasbois added, "A great thank you to the Linden Mills Historical Society's support of this event. A special recognition to *Pete Maas* and *Nancy Wallace* for their great informative presentations "Early Linden Days and Pewabic Pottery" respectively. Participants to the event came from as far away as Traverse City and Detroit. There was a news article regarding the event in the Tri County Times on 11/2/22 and a thank you was posted on 11/9/22. A very special shout out goes to the Linden High School Honor Society and Boys Soccer Team who helped by serving food and drinks, helping people get their treasures to their cars and finally cleaning up after the conclusion of the event. They were there until the very end."



Breasbois concluded "Quester Groups from around the state attending the event, provided very favorable comments, including what a great group we have to pull off such a large event with such a small membership (9 total)"

Karen Breasbois, Chapter President

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR MUSEUM WEBSITE

Thanks to the efforts of Cindy Shane, we now have a web-site again and also a museum e-mail.

Lindenmillshistoricalsociety.com

Museumlinden1@gmail.com

You can also reach our web site by going to "City of Linden MI" then click on "Residents" then Click on "Local Links" then "Linden Museum"



One of the new displays established this year is the music collection. Also conveniently located to display our souvenir items.

New T-Shirts Available



*New Tee-Shirts are available in gray or black and come in sizes small through 2 XL.. **Great Christmas Gifts.***

The Linden Mills Historical Society decided that the time has come to replace the old white and black T-shirts which had been stocked at the museum since 2007. There are just few sizes still available and shirts which depicted the Mill have long been sold out. (only a small number of the "Broad Street Scene" are still available.) The Museum Committee proposed we go with two colors, gray and black with a picture of our mill and script "Linden, Michigan" (see above). The newly designed T-Shirts are now available at the Linden Mills Museum. These uni-sex shirts come in sizes small to 2 XL and will sell for \$15.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE ATTENDS SMALL MUSEUMS MEETINGS



Some of the Museum Committee members attended the April 30 Meeting at Grand Blanc Heritage Museum. Attending were Cindy Shane, Pat Burgess, and Barb & Pete Maas. Many local museums attended and much valuable information was shared.

The second meeting was held on Saturday, November 5 at the Clio Museum located in the old Clio Depot. The museum, although small, housed lots of interesting railroad items and other historic artifacts.

Pictured Top l to r: Grand Blanc Heritage Museum, Clio Country store, Clio Museum, Bottom: Barb & Pete Maas and Pat Burgess



MUSEUM NEWS

LEARNING THE LOOM

On September 24, 2022, LMHS Member, *Susie (Cranston) Garber*, who resides in Angola, Indiana, came up to spend time in the museum and worked with some of our current members instructing them on various weaving techniques and operating the old weaving loom.



Our youngest museum docent, Melanie McCluskey receives some valuable weaving instructions from long-time member, Suzie (Cranston) Garber. Melanie also loves quilting and art.



Some of our wonderful docents on "Opening day". All are fired up and ready to face the second graders for two days. Left to right: Joe Burgess, Cindy Shane, Nancy Wallace, Beth Carr, Barb Maas, Karen Breasbois, Pat Burgess, Marguerite Plumb.

Thank You Docents

A very special thanks to all our wonderful and loyal members who served as docents during 2022.

Our museum could not survive without their effort and dedication.

<i>Anna Allison</i>	<i>Pete Maas</i>
<i>Karen Breasbois</i>	<i>Jill Maxwell</i>
<i>Joe Burgess</i>	<i>Bronwen McCluskey</i>
<i>Pat Burgess</i>	<i>Heidi McCluskey</i>
<i>Kathy Button</i>	<i>Melanie McCluskey</i>
<i>Leatha Cudworth</i>	<i>Denise Shaffer</i>
<i>Nancy Dulin</i>	<i>Cindy Shane</i>
<i>Jon-Claude Howd</i>	<i>Nancy Wallace</i>
<i>Jayne Larion</i>	<i>Aaron Wiles</i>
<i>Barb Maas</i>	<i>Alice Wiles</i>

MUSEUM NUMBERS 2022 (May 31 through December 10)

Visitors

Regular scheduled hours	505
Second Graders (May 25 & 26)	153
Memorial Day (May 30)	100
River Fest (June 25)	165
River Roast (July 23)	86
Back to the Bricks (Aug 10)	58
Cycle-fit (Oct 26)	21
Holiday Happening (Dec 2) *	412
Visit with Santa (Dec10)*	54
Total Visitors:	1554

Donations	\$626.30
Souvenir sales	\$813.00

Visitors came from as close as Tickner Street, (1 block) and as far away as Nepal (7,561 miles) We also had visitors from Canada, Germany, seven different states and the District of Columbia.

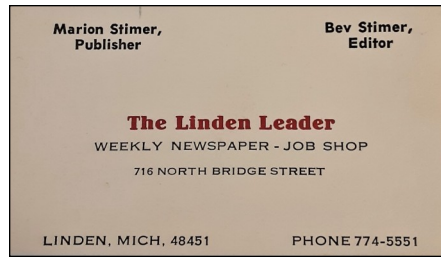
*Of the 412 visitors for Holiday Happening, 79 children received craft kits. Of the 54 visitors to see Santa, 29 were children who received a gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Total Saturday visitors 239, Sunday visitors 266.

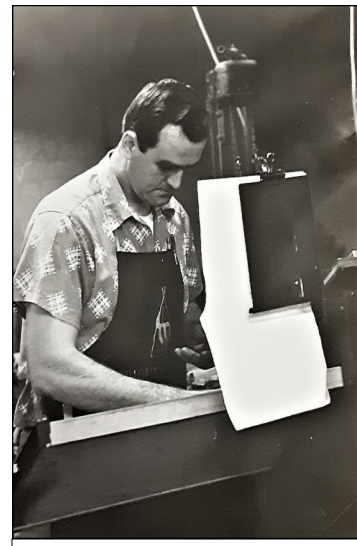
Linden Leader Items Donated by Stimer Family



Bev Stimer demonstrates some of the finer points of the lost art of typesetting



Marion "Stretch" Stimer (1935-96) and wife Beverly purchased the business from his father, *W. Scott Stimer* in 1965 which was located at 716 N. Bridge Street, the building was later occupied by *Blue Chip Painting*. The building was built by the Stimers in the late 1950's. *Larry Maxim* took ownership in the late 1970's. He was the last editor of the paper which had served Linden for nearly a century.



Marion "Stretch" Stimer hard at work in print shop on North Bridge Street.

Bev Stimer visited the museum in November and brought several containers with items once used in the print shop. A *Linden Leader Exhibit* will be located on the top floor of the Mill Building. Plans are already under way for this exhibit which should be complete at our opening next April.

School Book Case



*This beautiful bookcase with glass doors was donated to the Linden museum by **Susie (Cranston) Garber**. This bookcase spent many decades in the brick school on S. Bridge, later it was in the home of Elliott and Wilma Cranston.*

1937 Art Deco Philco Upright Radio

We are currently awaiting the addition of this beautiful upright Philco model which will be on permanent loan to the museum by **Jon-Claude Howd**. Philco radios were notable for their economy of design without sacrificing quality or durability. Like other makers of the era, they offered a wide line of radios beginning with five-tube sets all the way up to high-fidelity consoles with 20 tubes in 1937-38. Philco sold far more of this style than any other maker, a total of over two million (in over twenty models, with from four to eleven tubes) from 1930 to 1938; many of them exist today in collections. By today's standards, most are still excellent performing AM band radios when restored.



Linden VFW Post 4642 Donates Military Memorabilia to Museum



With the recent announcement that the City of Linden will purchase the VFW Building, Post 4642 members *Doug Morgan* and *Craig Newberry* reached out to the Historical Society and wished to donate some of their historic photos and other military items to the museum. The Linden Museum is proud and honored to be able to display and preserve these noteworthy artifacts. An update to our military display cases is planned for the winter months of 2023.

Japanese Rifle and Sword Donated to Linden Military Collection



Raymond (Mike) Kimble
1920-1998

WW II weapons (below) are on permanent loan by *Doug Kimble* in the memory of his father, *Raymond Kimble*, twin brother of *Ralph Kimble*. Ray was born and raised in Linden, graduated from LHS and operated a barber shop on N. Bridge Street. Ray aka Mike, along with his twin brother, *Ralph*, became Linden's youngest businessmen. He married *Ruth Weitz* in 1940 had four children. Later, the family moved north.

During WW II, he was part of the 158th Infantry Bushmasters division and served in Luzon, Philippines. After the Japanese surrender, he served with U.S. occupation forces in Japan and that is where it is believed he came into possession of these weapons.



Doug Kimble - Ray's son



REGISTRATION CARD			
SERIAL NUMBER S-295	1. NAME (Print) RAYMOND GEORGE KIMBLE	ORDER NUMBER S-4081	
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 414 E. BRADSHAW LINDEN GEN. MICHIGAN			
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME			
4. TELEPHONE NONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 21	6. PLACE OF BIRTH LINDEN	7. OCCUPATION LABORER
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS JOHN HOGAN - LINDEN, MICHIGAN			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS PONTIAC MOTOR CO. - PONTIAC, MICH.			
10. SIGNATURE <i>Raymond Kimble</i>			

(above) The rifle is an Arisaka Type 99 sniper rifle with a Type 30 bayonet. The sword is a WW II Samari Officer's sword. Pictured on left is Ray's WW II draft registration. On right is close up of The Anti-Aircraft sight on the Japanese Type 99 rifle, primarily used during Japan's war with China. The fold down sight was lifted then the sight arms were folded down to provide a way to lead the aircraft. The sights were effective on older reconnaissance aircraft, but were not so effective on the more modern fighter aircraft of the Americans. Later in the war, the sight arms were eliminated from production.



2022 CHRISTMAS IN THE MUSEUM

Photos Courtesy of Jayne Larion



2022 - A VISIT FROM SANTA



2022 - OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

