

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



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WHO WE ARE: *preserve, share, celebrate*

Then

The Ada Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 1974 by local women interested in Ada's distinctive history. The Society opened the Averill Historical Museum of Ada in 1999 as a place to share local history exhibits and educational programming. A facility addition was completed in 2018 with room to grow, particularly for collections management, Society offices, and a multi-purpose meeting room.

Now

The Ada Historical Society operates the Ada History Center which includes the Averill Museum, an 1870s barn, archival storage facility, and park-like gardens and grounds. It is the mission of the Ada Historical Society to preserve, share, and celebrate the unique history of the Ada community. Ongoing projects include offering a full programming and events calendar, mounting permanent and temporary local history exhibits, collecting and maintaining artifact and photograph collections, honoring Ada properties 100 years of age and older, and much more.

**The Ada Historical Society
preserves, shares, and celebrates
the unique history of the Ada community**

LEADERSHIP LETTER

To our Ada Historical Society Members,

We are pleased to share highlights of the 2022-2023 fiscal year with AHS Members in our second annual report. As you review the report, all of the planning, programs and accomplishments were achieved with dedicated volunteers and one part-time Museum Manager. We are deeply grateful for the support and hard work of so many to preserve, share, and celebrate Ada's unique history.

Significant contributions were made to maintaining our mission including building and organizing our volunteer core, growing AHS membership, presenting an exhibit honoring Ada Fire Department, hosting lecture presentations and the annual fur-trade encampment, continuing the centennial-properties program, co-hosting Music on the Lawn, and so much more. Without the support of our volunteers and financial support from the membership and donors, the Ada History Center would not be possible. We are deeply grateful.

The year was very special, and there is much more to come. Please continue to support and enjoy our Ada community treasure.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard R. Veldkamp Jr.", written over a white background.

Bernard R. Veldkamp Jr.
Board President
February 2024

Board Members

Bernard Veldkamp – President
 Tom Mulligan - Vice President
 Marilyn Thompson – Secretary
 Art Kroon – Treasurer

Betty Jo Crosby
 Chris Czekai
 Marilyn DeGood
 Margaret Idema

Jeanne Ferro
 Frank Hoover
 Sandra Sefton
 Marie Vierson



Volunteers are – and always have been – our heart and soul. Incredibly, they donated over 2,400 hours in 2022-23!

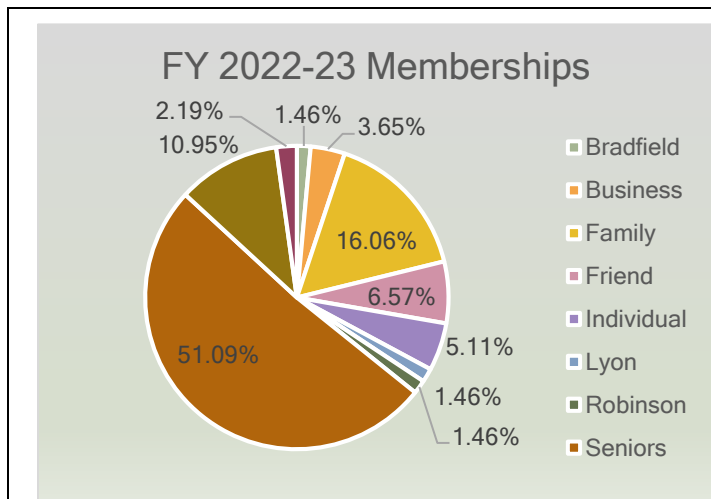
Our volunteer crew care about the Ada community and make a significant impact at the Ada History Center, sharing time, experience, skills, commitment, vision, and enthusiasm. They serve as docents and program hosts and serve on committees including Technology, Collections, Display, Finance, Fundraising, Membership, Publicity, Programs & Events, Gift Shop and Centennial Properties.

PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

We are able to meet our mission and serve the Ada community because of the support, learning, and partnership with these entities.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Since its formation in 1974, the Ada Historical Society has been supported by the dedication of its members. And 2022 was no different. In fact, we experienced a 20% growth in membership over the previous year. Ada Historical Society is deeply grateful to our member businesses, families and individuals, both long-time and new. Membership matters greatly as annual dues fund Society events and programs, history exhibits, community outreach projects, and preservation of the artifact and photograph collections.

MEMBERS – FY 2022-23

AIC Insurance Services	Bill Cramer	Harry & June Kooyman	Sue & Rick Steketee
Allen County Public Library	Joy Crawford	Rhonda Kraai	Maury & Holly Sullivan
Brad & Amanda Anderson	John & Sharon Cromartie	Arthur Kroon	Patric Sullivan
Jon & Betsi Andreasen	Elizabeth J. Crosby*	Geoff & Barbara Laham	Roberta & David Swidersky
LeRoy Averill*	Chris & Jen Czekai	Liz & Mike Margulus	Lance & Cyn Tennant
Cathy Bartlett	Tom & Gale Czerwinski	Barbara Mieras	Marilyn Thompson
Skip & Sharon Baxter	Randy Damstra	Paul & Helena Mitchell	Phil & Carol Todd
Bill Stevenson Bazzle Ridge, LLC	Marilyn DeGood	Bonnie & Curt Monhart	Patricia Tolle
Laurie Beard	Nick & Martha Dewey	Al Mracna	Jo-anne & Gary Tuttle
Jim & Nancy Beaver	Richard & Noelle DiVozzo	Tom Mulligan	Charlene Vader
Marcella M. Beck	Jim & Karen Duthler	Carol O'Rourke	Steve & Amy Van Andel
Gary Beimers	Albert Engel	David & Carol Penninga*	Christine & Eric Vanderveen
Karey & Bob Benedict	Joe & Doreen Engel	Patricia Renucci	Darryl & Jane Varda
John & Susan Bergin	Jeanne & Jim Ferro	Cindy Ritter	Bernard Veldkamp
Neal & Marilyn Bierling	Chris & Mary Gaffield	Bruce & Jane Roark	Marie Vierson
Marian Wride Bolhuis*	Nancy Gaskell	Tom & Elise Roe	James & Marcia Vogt
Judith Brian-Shuler	Dolly Anne Geers	Mary Lou Ross	Mark von Destinon
Jan Brown	Penny Gerdeman	Anita Hahn Roth	Martin & Ellen Waalkes
Susan J. (Averill) Brown*	Tubie & Gene Gilmore	Robert Schermer	Larry & Deb Wagenaar
Campau-Lyon Questers	Grand Rapids Bicycle Company	Rick Schipper	Julie Wallace & Lionel Rouvillois
Jami Calatozzo*	Judy Grischke	Charles Schoenknecht & Ward Paul	Janet Washburn
Dan & Dawn Carter	A. Stephen Haarman*	Sandra Sefton	Sandy Weir
Michele Caudle	George Haga*	Ginny Seyferth	Kristen Wildes
Fred & Sandra Clemens	Jacqueline Haskin*	Gary Sherman	Christopher H. & Cindy Wissman*
Colby Craig Pennell CPA	Jim & Sandy Heemstra*	Brian & Ingrad Smith	Kathy & Keith Wolverton
Cheryl Collins	Frank Hoover	Jacqueline Smith	Michael & Penni Zurgable
Chris & Mary Ann Collins	Margaret Idema	Terri Sobolewski	
Richard C. Cooper	Edward Michael Jackoboice	Deb & Fred Steketee	

*Denotes Life Members



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Music on the Lawn, co-hosted with Ada Parks Dept, welcomed thousands to the summer concert series
- Centennial Properties program honored homes and properties 100 years of age and older
- Fur Trade Encampment explored living history on the History Center grounds
- Family Fun & Fire Safety event offered with the Ada Fire Department
- Spring into the Past tour weekend with other members of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network
- Involved in community events including 4th of July parade, Fall Festival, Leprechaun Hunt, Santa Parade, and Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys holiday open house
- Visitors explored the museum’s local history exhibits during open hours
- Participated in Story StROLL, an accessible children’s art exhibit
- Hosted the BEE Amazing Garden Event
- Presented lecture on Fur Trade in the Grand River Valley



Artifact Spotlight



We have the honor to preserve this badge belonging to Deputy Chief Fire Department Dick DeVries in the museum collections. Dedicated volunteers operated the Ada Fire Department for much of its history. When not fighting fires, Dick DeVries ran a grocery store near the corner of Honey Creek and Pettis Avenues during the 1950s.

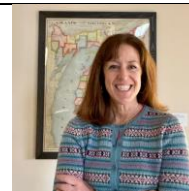
Temporary Exhibit - Hometown Heroes: Ada Fire Department

In 2022, we explored all things Ada Fire for the year’s temporary exhibit. It featured information from oral histories, items from the artifact collections, and temporary loans from Chief Dave Murray and the Ada Fire Department. Social Media posts and other articles highlighted the importance of the department to the Ada community since it began in the 1940s. Programming included a family-friendly event to share fire safety and an evening to thank and honor the current members of Ada Fire & Rescue.

COLLECTIONS MATTERS

Our dedicated volunteers continue to care for Ada’s treasures. The collections crew made great strides this year in cataloguing and preserving thousands of artifacts and images and also finding new ways to share them through temporary exhibits, print materials, and social media posts.

Kristen L. Wildes, Museum Manager



FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities

FY 2022-23 Giving Summary		
Donations	30,990	75.14%
Membership Dues	8,158	19.78%
In-Kind	2,095	5.08%
Total Giving	41,243	

Revenues		<p>Revenues</p> <p>Legend: Ada Twp support (26.27%), Donations etc. (63.83%), Membership Dues (9.90%)</p>
Ada Township support	21,627	
Donations, Fundraisers, Events	52,556	
Membership Dues	8,155	
Total Revenues	82,338	

Expenses		<p>Expenses</p> <p>Legend: Operating (71.75%), Programs & Events (16.71%), Museum Expansion (11.54%)</p>
Operating	39,289	
Programs & Events	9,149	
Museum Expansion	6,322	
Total Expenses	54,760	

CONNECT



- Learn: www.AdaHistoryCenter.org
- Email: AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
- Call: 616.676.9346
- Location: 7144 Headley Street, Ada, 49301
- Mailing Address: PO Box 741, Ada, MI 49301
- Continue the conversation:  [@adahistorycenter](https://www.facebook.com/adahistorycenter)
 [adahistory](https://www.instagram.com/adahistory)

LEGACY PRESERVERS

What will your legacy be?

In 2021, the Ada Historical Society launched its Planned Giving Program, Legacy Preservers. Members of the AHS Fundraising Committee identified a select number of individuals that may have an interest in becoming a Legacy Preserver by considering inclusion of AHS in their will, estate plan, life insurance, or trust beneficiary.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? Call Barbara Mieras at 616.540.7274 or Betty Jo Crosby at 616.949.0417 for a confidential conversation.

