

## **Timekeepers**

dedicated to Elgin History Museum's volunteers  
by Aron Ryan

Old Main,  
designed in Greek Revival style,  
revives our history  
thanks to volunteers in our community.  
Once a place of learning  
for our youngest historians, now learners of all ages  
are warmly welcomed by volunteers.  
Watch how each room keeps history alive as time moves  
with each new *tick, tock, tick, tock.*

Watches  
are not assembled all at once;  
they are a congregation  
of many parts designed in many rooms,  
each room serving its own purpose  
in the process of making something beautiful,  
something shimmering gold,  
so someone can hold time in their beautifully  
wrinkled hands.

Volunteers  
are timekeepers, sculpting past into present,  
so we can shape our city  
into a future we're proud to hold  
in our open hands. We open  
our hearts, giving time to keep  
time ticking, a congregation  
as intricate and momentous as the momentum  
guiding the pendulum of a clock.

Volunteers

are weavers, stitching this quilt  
of places making Elgin  
a place to call home. Not woven by one  
but by many artisans,  
it took time (1,500 hours, to be precise)  
to weave these memories into  
a sanctuary; we cannot, will not forget  
our story.

Volunteers

are lightkeepers, illuminating forgotten histories,  
the books some wish to shut,  
lest we reckon with our intersections  
of privilege and oppression.  
Let's open these books for all to read,  
so we can write our next chapter  
into a story we're proud to tell each other  
and ourselves.

Volunteers

are storytellers, weaving our stories  
into our community  
with every exhibit displayed,  
every piece cataloged,  
every visitor greeted walking through the door.

Walking through the door,  
a bell rings, as sweetly and surely  
as the ticking of a clock.