

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Monroe County Museum – 126 South Monroe Street – Monroe, Michigan 48161

ELECTRONIC VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

This meeting will be held using remote participation via Zoom.

Public Comments may be submitted to the Monroe County Museum System Director Andrew Clark at andy_clark@monroemi.org until 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14th to be included as part of the public record for this meeting. Click [here](#) for the required format.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A ZOOM WEBINAR.

When: Apr 14, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: MCMS April 2021 Board Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86507771314?pwd=ZUdySXVnL04xQzg2VGZ4YWQ2ZVY4dz09>

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Dial: +1 312 626 6799

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Passcode: 811097

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of March 24, 2021
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
 - 6.1. Executive Committee
 - 6.1.1. Eby Update
 - 6.2. Awards Committee
 - 6.3. Markers Committee
 - 6.4. Projects Committee
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Museum Staff Reports
8. Old Business
 - 8.1. Millage Update
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 12th – Format and Time TBA

2021 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2021 COMMITTEES
Chair: Brian Egen, District 6 Vice Chair: Jeremy Potter, District 1 Secretary: Thomas Heywood, District 2 Trustee: Mary Strevel, District 3 Trustee: L William Conner, District 4 Trustee: Richard Micka, District 5 Trustee: Tony Trujillo, District 7 Trustee: Michael Humphries, District 8 Trustee: Nick Guthrie, District 9 Immediate Past Chair: Hobby Nels Trustee Emeritus: Richard Sieb	Executive Committee Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Thomas Heywood, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak Awards Committee Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark Markers Committee Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark Projects Committee Chair: Michael Humphries Members: Bill Conner, Brian Egen, Tony Trujillo, and Andrew Clark

Mission Statement of the Monroe County Museum System

At the Monroe County Museum, we fuel and cultivate our visitors' curiosity through the exploration of Monroe County's rich and varied stories, joining together to unearth meaning and illuminate relevant connections between the past, present, and future.

MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL BOARD of TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman (at Monroe) Tom Heywood, Secretary (Dundee)
William Conner, Member (Monroe) Michael Humphries, Member (LaSalle)
Richard Micka, Member (Monroe) Hobby Nels, Past Chairman (Monroe)
Richard Sieb, Emeritus (Monroe) Mary Strevel, Member (Florida)

Excused: Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman Nick Guthrie, Member
Tony Trujillo, Member

Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director J.J. Przewozniak, Deputy Director
Lynn Reaume, County Historian

This meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. and audible roll was taken. There was a quorum.

Motion was made by W. Conner to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by H. Nels. Audible roll vote was called and the measure passed.

Motion was made by R. Micka to approve the February, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by M. Strevel. Audible roll vote was called and passed.

Public Comment #1: none via internet nor phone.

Executive: Chairman Egen gave the millage update- yard signs, fliers, and mailers. S.O.S. Chairman Humphries is pursuing sponsorships and donations.

He also spoke on the forging of a memo of understanding and operational agreement concerning the Eby Log House with the Monroe County Historical Society, and the hopes for their support for the millage.

Deputy Director Przewozniak presented the new War of 1812 ‘War on the River Raisin’ and the ‘Vision for a New Decade’ videos produced for the museum to help outline the past, present and future of the museum system. They will be used on social media and the S.O.S. page (Save Monroe Stories) and other outlets were suggested, such as MPACT.

PR Opportunities: There will be an effort to collect video oral histories as ‘Your Stories.’ The museum will be involved in one on boxer ‘Bronco’ McKart’s 25th championship anniversary.

Awards Committee: Chairwoman M. Strevel said there is no update at this time.

Markers Committee: Affixing the new county logo to the refurbished historical markers is still being explored. Director Clark took old markers to Sewah earlier in the month for refurbishing.

Projects Committee: Chairman Humphries said there are no applications yet; April is the deadline.

New Business: Museum Report: Motion was made by W. Conner, seconded by M. Humphries to approve as presented; passed by audible roll.

By-Laws Updated: Trustees received both the old version and new version, with the main changes being the exchange of ‘Historical Commission’ with ‘Board of Trustees’ and associated names. Motion was made by R.

Micka to accept the changed By-Laws, seconded by R. Sieb; audible roll was called with one nay vote by W. Conner and the motion passed.

Old Business: none

Public Comment #2: none via the internet nor phone.

Commissioner comments: M. Strevel encouraged the group to check the link mentioned in M. Mullins' report.

R. Micka announced that the Chamber of Commerce moved to be with the River Raisin Battlefield Education building.

The April Board meeting could be at the Territorial Park, or on Zoom. The county does not have a hybrid meeting of in-person and internet.

With no other business, motion was made by R. Sieb to adjourn, seconded by M. Strevel and with unanimous voice roll the meeting was ended at 7:35 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting recording secretary
25 March 2021

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

COVID-19 Organizational Operations

Public access to the galleries at the County Museum are restricted to Thursdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays, 12 pm to 5 pm. Public access to the County Archives is currently prohibited though research assistance is still being conducted by mail, email, and phone. The grounds of Territorial Park and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum are open but the buildings remain closed. St Antoine's is not impacted by any COVID-19 restrictions.

Presently, we are targeting Tuesday, June 1st as an expansion of County Museum hours – moving to Tuesday through Sunday, closed Mondays – and the opening of Territorial Park for the 2021 season. County Archives will continue to remain closed to in-person research. Reopening target, is, of course, contingent on a decrease in COVID-19 cases.

Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant Program

If you hadn't heard, the MCMS was one of the co-winners of this year's Digital Michigan Newspaper program through the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University. Though we are happy to have won, splitting the prize with Beaver Island also means that the number of newspaper pages we can have scanned are reduced from 10,000 to 5,000. At present, the plan is to ship the papers to Mt Pleasant sometime later this month.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

Boiler pipe insulation was installed by an outside contractor.

Mike Nelligan patched a large section of concrete on the exterior ramp to help stabilize it for another year.

Territorial Park

Been in discussions with a local contractor about having water added to the east side of the site to support operations. Water will come from Frenchtown Township.

Received an estimate on converting the restroom in Papermill Schoolhouse into a four seasons bathroom. Estimate prevents it from being a viable project.

Please reference Deputy Director Przewozniak's report for additional projects.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

St Antoine's Historic Site

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

Historical Projects Fund

To date, one application has been received. Two other organizations have expressed an interest in applying. Deadline remains April 17th.

Markers Program

Still awaiting word to pick up this year's batch of refurbished markers from Sewah Studios; will likely be towards the end of May.

New posts for the current batch of markers being refurbished have been delivered to the Village of Dundee and Monroe County Community College for installation.

Personnel Updates

There are no personnel updates at this time.

Upcoming Closures

There are no upcoming closures at this time.

Hodge Podge

JJ and I had an opportunity to address the Exchange Club, in person, to show our PSAs, discuss Vision for a New Decade, and upcoming plans at Territorial Park. Many thanks to Mr Micka for the invitation and making the arrangements.

The MCMS is now a member of MPACT. All of our recently produced PSAs should begin airing on the station. Additionally, all of our 2020-2021 Speaker Series will be posted for additional content.

Worked with a Toledo based film company that is producing a history of Monroe. I was interviewed at the County Museum and Territorial Park. They also had the opportunity to film JJ as he installed the new ramps on the barn and entertained them with classic bits from the Red Green Show. (Alas, they were too young to get the reference.)

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
Deputy Director's Report for March 2021
Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak
Friday, April 9, 2021

RRTP: Maple Sugaring was a success! For three Saturdays in March, a public living history program was held in the mid-day. The sweet month saw excellent weather and increased visitation with each passing weekend. Programs were not heavily advertised as a precaution against potential large groups of visitors, and the possibility of a flooded park. The park did not flood, COVID-19 guidelines were followed, and much sugar and syrup was made!

Work continues on overall site improvement and enhancement. A major task this month was turning all the un-split firewood into split firewood. Thanks to Heather, Mike, and Andy for their hard work while I took pictures for posterity and gave words of encouragement.

Continuing Education: The Programs Division and other MCMS staff attended the following three virtual continuing education opportunities: 1) National Museum of the American Indian's (NMAI) *Living Earth Teach-In: Traditional Foods Sustain Our Bodies and Spirits* (3-20); 2) The Historical Society of Michigan's annual Local History Conference (3-19/20); and 3) Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC) annual conference (3-18/19). That was the weekend for these things, apparently.

Gearing up: Much time has been (and will continue to be) invested in developing a living history experience at Territorial Park for this summer. As such, behind-the-scenes work continues! Areas of focus are: establishing rules and standards for period clothing; creating an overall plan of interpretation; establishing a dynamic schedule of demonstrations; preparing for daily historic foodways presentations; and the general improvement of the site aimed at making an accurate depiction of the year 1817.

Miscellany:

- The MCMS now has a YouTube Channel! Editing and rendering videos from our Speaker Series, the recent PSAs, and other content, is a time- (and hard drive-) consuming endeavor, so content will continue to appear as time and technology allows. Visit today and please share!
- The muskets in the MCMS armory currently undergoes a detailed and thorough cleaning and de-farbing. This is a lengthy and meticulous project aimed at removing modern features and finishes, removing underlying rust, wood reviving & repair, and mechanical restoration of all arms to peak functioning condition.
- A video presentation was created, filmed, and submitted to the Lake Erie Water Festival. The feature film (an approximate 15-minute segment) was directed by Emily Phillips, and starred Heather Piegza and special guest Gerry Wykes.
- Development continues on Stqry (OnCell), with an aim to release very soon. The core content is complete, and attention continues to be paid to smooth functionality and uniform aesthetics.
- Stan Materna and his agent Geoff Hoerauf are to be recognized for the donation of an excellent reproduction period-correct wheelbarrow and hay rake for Territorial Park.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For March, 2021

The research room was not open to the public in March.

Rachel processed obituary requests for 22 individuals, with 192 (!) obits. She handled 3 phone calls and 27 emails. She has been doing research requests concerning Schultz, Deinzer, Francisco, Alcock, Fishburn, DeLand, Olrich & Scofield. For One Book, One Community she researched a multi-cultural scavenger hunt.

Robert handled 15 outside calls and 45 emails. He continues to add location information for storage items in Past Perfect. He is currently renewing the Monroe Clubs Finding Aid, handling donations and Found in Collections (FIC) items.

March Accessions:

2021.19 Mary-Eileen McClear: St. Mary Academy personalized spoon
2021.20 Dorsch Library: items that Tony Ziegler "The Kite Man" gave them in 1974
2021.21 Jeremy Potter: East Raisinville Church offering envelope
2021.22 Nancy Whitaker: framed image of Monroe County Teachers Institute
2021.23 Charles Verhoeven: War of 1812 artifacts (calumet, small kettle, ladle)
2021.24 Livia Engel: framed engraving of St. Michael church from 1876 map
2021.25 Lynn Reaume: toys, games and some clothing from the 1980s-1990s
2021.26 Anon. someone in Boyd, Toll & Sawyer families: images and papers
2021.27 Karen Meyer: Edward Steiner family items
2021.28 Found in Collection: Military items of Master Sgt. David Bogle
2021.29 City of Monroe: almost 60 volumes of city Assessment records

Some processed Found in Collection items include: 2021.0.40 More Payette images of Toledo Beach; 42 images of Sisters' Island; .49 Photographers & images; .51 "Col. Custer" sign; .55-86 Military items FIC including helmets; .115-118 Photographer business cards; .132 Greeting cards from 1940-1950; .133 sketches from 1836; and several ring binders from the American Bicentennial events in 1975-76; .136 a 1901 spun glass tie bought by Charles Toll from the Buffalo, NY Exposition.

My March projects: I continue to process boxes and boxes left in the attic. I finished the Monroe Council of Garden Clubs, Ash Township records, and more Payette (there is always more Payette!) I continue to investigate the Verhoeven boxes so I can get an idea of what we have. I found 2 out of the 3 Boyd boxes which turned out to be very little Boyd, and mostly Toll and Sawyer. No matter what I do in consolidation, the space for Archival and Collections storage is *full*. We greatly need a suitable storage facility.

I continued to scan old Photo Albums into Past Perfect. I updated the following Finding Guides on the La-Z-Boy Chair Co., MCCC; Monroe County Industries; Political Activity; River Raisin Chapter, Mich. Archaeology Society; John G. 'Jack' Navarre; Nancy DeGraff Toll Family; Sawyer and Toll Families; Tony 'the Kite Man' Ziegler Collections.

Update: additional deaccessioned, obsolete D.A.R. magazines were transferred to the local D.A.R. chapter via Regent Barbara Roe on March 15, 2021.

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was #4 (after COVID and health) with 13,367 page views; the Museum was #35 with 779 page views.

Facebook postings: For Collections 3,134.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
31 March 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

March 2021 Museum Exhibits Report

The merry month of March proved to be a mixed bag when it came to the exhibits department – a bit of Hollywood, birchwood and blending into the woodwork. Working closely with J.J., Heather and the Programs department, Emily and I devoted ourselves to producing a video presentation for the annual River Raisin Water Festival. This event was forced into a second year of remote access due to “that which shall not be mentioned” and requested a 20-30 min. video contribution. All jumped on the idea of making a better-than-average presentation with Emily Spielberg behind the cameras and wielding the editing knife. Heather wrote the script and became the on-screen presenter while J.J. and I did a lot of pointing. The Sieb Gallery, Navarre House, and River Raisin shoreline served as backdrops. The end result is a polished 25 min. piece called “Mammals of the Fur Trade” focusing on the natural and cultural history of the Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, and Otter. The hope is to do many more educational videos in the future and we await our nominations from the Oscar committee, although Sundance would do as well.

Mike and I planned, fabricated, and installed a set of three huge bookshelves (out of birch plywood) to house excess archival books and clear much-needed storage space for the County deed books that will arrive later in the year.

I certainly was satisfied with the above results but was happy to move on to other long-term concerns such as Territorial Park planning and the everlasting Post Office exhibit. On that last note I find it my responsibility to report on a rather creepy factoid regarding the original 1913 Post Office that now houses the museum. The small observation slits preserved in the cat walk over the main museum gallery are well-known, but the earlier rendition of inspector observation locations is not. It appears that there were many dark, cramped little rooms “barely large enough to accommodate one big fat man” (quote from 1913 Monroe Democrat article) which were only accessible via an iron ladder from the attic. From within the dark interior an inspector could spy upon employees via small 14 in. by 18 in. portals concealed to look like oak-slatted ventilation ducts. There were 11 such “look-outs” at the time and the newspaper account goes on to state that “there is not a nook or corner in the entire structure which cannot be seen by these government sleuths from their stuffy, little rooms.” There is no mention of any viewing portal concealed as a set of huge bookshelves, by the way.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald P. Wykes
Exhibits Coordinator

April 5th, 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ◇ March 2021

With the last of the month/first of the month duties wrapped up for February/March, I was able to focus on putting the finishing touches on a Christmas 2021 powerpoint I had compiled for a meeting that was held during the second week of the month. Not only do I appreciate anything that entertains the possibility of a PowerPoint, I hoped the visuals would jog everyone's memories as to some of the content that was discussed at our gathering prior and inspire creativity with regard to the upcoming season. With it already being April, we are halfway to Halloween & Christmas to follow!

March also gave me the privilege of helping with the DigMichNews Grant Program that the Museum System participated in (and won! 😊). Along with Lisa in the Programs Division, I gathered postcards, stamps, and created stacks of 25 cards each for guests who were interested in sending some off on our behalf. I myself fielded multiple phone calls on the matter which was very encouraging. We had multiple classrooms offer their assistance, as well as the Genealogical Society of Monroe County and the River Raisin Center of the Arts. Once the voting moved to Twitter, I was also able to use my personal account to Tweet, and with the help of some of my 'Followers' the word got out as well! I am excited to see the published editions once they become available, and I hope we have the opportunity to participate in similar programs in the future.

The rest of the month was populated with a menagerie of tasks, like setting up for GSMC (they've been meeting socially distanced and sporadically in Sieb Hall on Wednesdays), my weekly disinfection on Sundays and the monthly deposit for March. This was significant as we were fortunate enough to receive several donations in memory of Laurel Heyman, a former volunteer who clearly made quite an impression on whom she met and had a great fondness for the work we do here. We also received a generous, unrelated donation from a citizen who stated she was looking to 'spread the wealth' amongst us and her local fire department. I look forward to April with this gratitude in mind.

Submitted by Megan Mullins, Guest Services Coordinator