

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 7 pm

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 14, 2021
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
 - 6.1. Executive Committee
 - 6.2. Awards Committee
 - 6.3. Markers Committee
 - 6.4. Projects Committee
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Museum Staff Reports
8. Old Business
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Call of the Chair

2021 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2021 COMMITTEES
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>

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 MUSEUM SYSTEM
BOARD of TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
July 14th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in-person
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman	Tom Heywood, Secretary	William Conner, Member
Nick Guthrie, Member	Michael Humphries, Member	Richard Micka, Member
Hobby Nels, Past Chairman	Richard Sieb, Emeritus	Mary Strevel, Member
Tony Trujillo, Member		

Excused: Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman

Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director

Lynn Reaume, County Historian

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was taken; there was a quorum.

Motion was made by T. Heywood to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by W. Conner; the motion was passed.

Motion was made by T. Heywood to approve the May 12th, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by M. Humphries; the motion was passed.

Public Comment #1: none.

Executive: Chairman Egen said there had been no meeting.

Awards Committee: The new application had been sent to the members; Chairwoman M. Strevel said 'Preservation' was a newly added category for the awards. It would include architectural, cultural and heritage theme. Discussion followed on using National or State guidelines to further define this category. Questions were on the criteria for achievement and what would the Spirit of Service award for this category- physical award or plaques, building plaques, commemorative coin, certificate? It was agreed to wait this year (2021) for this award and to further define it.

Discussion was also about the 2021 fall ceremony honoring both 2020 and 2021 recipients, possibly at the Territorial Park in early October. Nothing was decided.

Markers Committee: The committee had met. Director Clark reported that the refurbished markers had been picked up and the Liberty Corners church has been installed. Three markers go to Dundee (for their post installation) and Potter's Field at Monroe Co. Community College (they will install the post). The 'Custer Farm' marker is not reinstalled and still stored by the property owner. It was noted that Sewah Studios had been running behind in orders and refurbishments are secondary to new orders.

It was agreed that the project has been a success in public attention and will continue as time and Sewah allows.

Projects Committee: Chairman Humphries said the 3 grants are progressing; the City of Monroe failed to reissue their grant in their 30 day extension.

New Business: Museum Report: Motion was made by M. Humphries, seconded by T. Heywood to approve as presented; passed.

Old Business: The Eby cabin 'Memo of Understanding' between the Monroe County Historical Society and Monroe County has been reached and will be presented to the Board of Commissioner on July 20th for their approval, and then signing by both parties. Plans are going on since the Monroe County Fair is coming fast and

hopefully the Society work will be done by them for presenting during the week by the Museum staff. The Museum will not be supplying maintenance. M. Humphries suggested that the Eby cabin be included in the new Museum App.

Public Comment #2: none.

Commissioner comments: H. Nels asked if the Historical Markers will be added to the new App. And that is affirmative. (They do exist on the internet in other databases). The new positionings will be added when finally done or as approved. Director Clark said there have been advertisements purchased to announce the App to the public, though there hasn't been an article in the newspapers. There will continue to be add-ons for the App. Other advertising was suggested.

R. Micka said the Visitor Center for the Fish & Wildlife Center was open. He commented on the City's facilitator approach to the Custer statue controversy and said a meeting will be coming in August.

L. Reaume explained the Deaccession request in her report, which was supported by Chairman Egen and Director Clark. This was brought up to focus any questions about the process. There was no discussion.

Chairman Egen announced the S.O.S. video had won a Platinum Hermes Creative Ward, for which everyone was pleased. Many congratulations were offered to the group and team.

With no other business, motion was made by W. Conner to adjourn, seconded by M. Humphries and the meeting was ended at 8:21 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting recording secretary
26 July 2021

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Organizational Operations

County Museum

Public access to the galleries at the County Museum are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sundays, 12 pm to 5 pm; we are currently only closed on Mondays. We will maintain this schedule for the remainder of 2021.

County Archives

Public access to the County Archives is currently limited though research assistance continues to be conducted by mail, email, and phone. Resumption of in-person, by appointment research will return this fall with enhanced protocols and a research space with additional COVID-19 barriers. Research by-appointment is likely to remain a permanent change to operations.

Territorial Park

Current operating hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm. Programs Division staff are on-site each day the site is open delivering living history programs. Regular staffed hours for the site will close for the 2021 season at the end of September.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Vietnam Veterans Museum is currently only open on Saturdays this season. VVM will close for the 2021 season at the end of September.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

No major maintenance and operations items regarding the county museum and county archives.

Territorial Park

Building Arts and Conservation's restoration project of Papermill School is currently on hold while they work on other projects. Work is to resume in the fall.

Mike is working on new perimeter fencing for the Navarre House; we hope to have it installed before OctoberNight. Additionally, he repaired a section of the bridge that had significant rot. He also added some non-skid tread to the ramp at the back of the Navarre House.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Gerry and Emily continue working on the updates to the perimeter cases.

St Antoine's Historic Site

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant Program

Central Michigan has recently finished converting our editions of the Monroe News that were part of our Michigan Digital Newspaper Grant that we won earlier this year. The papers can be accessed at <https://digmichnews.cmich.edu/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=MonroeMEN&e=-----en-10--1--txt-txIN----->

Historical Projects Fund

Estral Beach is making significant progress on their tank project. Last I heard, plans were in place for a dedication of some sort in late October. Once everything firms up, I'll let you know; I assume we'll all get an invitation to participate.

As part of our millage campaign, one of the pledges we made was to increase the Historical Projects Fund. To fulfill that pledge, I would like to have a second round totaling \$30,000 for Fall 2021. I propose an application timeline of October 1st through November 13th – this would give the committee enough time to review and make recommendations for our December meeting.

Markers Program

Matt Switlik made a copy of the new seal from the St Antoine's marker to see about the feasibility of reproducing the seal and fitting it to markers that have older seals. Since he was completed with that project, we reinstalled the St Antoine's marker.

Mike and I reinstalled the refurbished marker for the Potter's Field at Monroe County Community College. Though the MCCC staff did some of the nicest cement work on a marker base that I've seen to date, they unfortunately set it an angle that would have appeared odd from Raisinville Road. Mike did a test dig and found it was feasible for us to excavate around the marker and twist the post so it would be at the proper angle (this is not something we can normally do when a marker post has been set). After the post was reset, the marker was placed.

I believe Dundee is on the verge of getting the new posts we provided them installed. Once that's done, Mike and I should be able to get the markers reinstalled fairly quickly.

A final batch of markers and posts needs to be retrieved from the studio in Marietta, Ohio. I anticipate another round of reinstallations in November.

Spirit of Service 2021

Update to be given by the Awards Committee.

Personnel Updates

We have welcomed a new intern, Olivia Cotterman. She's a history grad student at Bowling Green and will be with us the remainder of the semester. She'll be working with Exhibits and Programs on a variety of projects.

Recently, I've been in conversation with the county human resources department about converting a few of our part-time positions to full-time. Once the proposal undergoes analysis by both human resources and finance, I'll have a better idea about the plan's feasibility.

Upcoming Closures

Next regularly scheduled holiday for the MCMS is Thursday, November 11th for Veterans Day.

Hodge Podge

I recently received noticed that we were voted the #1 museum in all of Monroe County by the Monroe News.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Deputy Director's Report for July and August 2021

Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Fair Week: I've finally experienced an annual highlight for MCMS. I'm pleased to report an excellent and exhausting week of excellent programming for fair week (August 1-7) 2021. Thanks to the work of the Museum Director, Chairman, and everyone who helped create a detailed plan of cooperation with the Historical Society, the public experienced a concise, dynamic, and interactive historical vignette at the Eby House. I'm thankful for and proud of the work of all MCMS staff leading up to and during fair week, which was extensive and laborious—all staff contributed substantially to the multi-faceted effort to re-create a believable, working 1860 setting. Highlights of the effort included:

- Repair and restoration of the chimney to allow foodways demonstrations;
- Cleaning, preparation and daily maintenance of the site;
- Selection and acquisition of period correct and reproduction objects, artifacts, and props;
- Acquisition of high-quality reproduction period clothing for staff;
- And development and execution of a believable series of process demos and backstory.

Log hewing and shingle making demonstrations were conducted in the front yard, resulting in the production of materials to be used at Territorial Park. Indoors, the foodways demonstration centered on the making of sauerkraut and the creation of a main course taken from *Miss Beecher's Domestic Receipt Book* (1846).

RRTP: The living history program continues! As we enter our final month of regular living history at Territorial Park, I'm pleased to report a very successful 1st run. The overall program continues to be executed with no significant setbacks. Highlights/observations of the last couple months include:

- A new two-post fence was constructed! It's a well-documented unique reproduction that lends a pleasing sense of depth and layers to the visitor sightline. See the Exhibits Division report for more details.
- Regular care of the heirloom cornfield goes on. A smut outbreak was detected earlier this month and promptly dealt with—the affected plants were burnt, and no further damage is present. Hoeing continues. The King Phillip corn is officially ready to harvest, and the Long Island Cheese pumpkins are not far behind.
- Wood service: recent storms signaled fruitful harvest of firewood from the community. We cut wood locally about every couple weeks and bring it to RRTP for splitting.
- Installation of raised garden beds using period correct methods is almost complete—we look forward to advancing substantially toward our goal of being more self-sufficient next year.
- Historic foodways: menus and foodways demonstrations are selected for place-and-period correct interpretive potential, and some represent challenges in preparation and preservation. The Programs Division has done an exemplar job at making and presenting unique and meaningful food practices, which make a powerful impact on visitors.

Octobernight: Planning continues for a signature event in October. Weekly meetings are held, and action items are accomplished regularly pursuant to an unforgettable and quality spooky experience for visitors October 22 and 23.

Miscellany:

- Thanks to Donna Casaceli and John Logan for their expertise and generosity toward helping out the 1860 vignette at the Eby House.
- Thanks to Chairman Egen for his volunteer service demonstrating and presenting alongside staff during fair week.
- Thanks to Geoff Hoerauf for volunteering at RRTP and assistance with the raised beds.
- RRTP remains untreated for Poison Ivy. Remarkably, three attempts have been made since spring, and each of them have been rained out. The next attempt will be in September.
- Presenter resource binders were created earlier this year and continue to be updated.
- Welcome to new Museum Presenters Jess Dougherty and Samantha Bartley.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For July, 2021

The research room was not open to the general public but I had a few appointments by regular visitors.

Rachel processed obituary requests for 13 individuals, with 64 obits. She handled 4 phone calls and 24 emails. Research requests include surnames Chase, Roscoe, Sackett, LeDuc, Dahl, Fuller. Robert handled 19 outside calls and 30 emails, plus contacting & processing potential donors and continues to monitor our storage spaces. Robert inventoried the farm implement shed at the Fair and updated it with PastPerfect and assisted with Fair preparations at the Eby Log Cabin.

July Accessions:

2021.51 (still pending) Spillson's restaurant outside advertising signs.
2021.58 Fred T. Williams: baseball jacket and newspaper clippings
2021.59 Monroe Co. Library: Monroe Co. Fair booklet
2021.60 Lois Vidolich: drawings of St. Joseph Church, Ida
2021.61 Judith Gahl: 1876 Beers Atlas
2021.62 Laurie Schultz: obituary and church program
2021.63 Dave Eby: beam drill, milk can and seed broadcaster from his grandfather Metz's farm

July projects: We had a basement water threat in July and had several shelving units' worth of ledgers moved to air out in the main floor gallery. Luckily we did not lose a book! Though moved back to the basement, they await reshelving after plumbing repair.

We have way too many items not of relevancy to our mission.

We had Adrian College student intern Hunter Nowicki for 2 days a week (6 weeks.) He went through a photographs drawer checking PastPerfect, organized and filed Custer related clippings, and saw museum 'life' up close, warts and all.

One of the projects I gave him revealed that many of our photographs have yet to be identified into Past Perfect. So I have a new project of entering the data from the old index card files into PP to identify the accession to the donor. Unfortunately, the numbering of the accession cards do not always match the numbers from the donor cards, and if I found the item before any of that was entered, if the item wasn't marked I gave it another number.

On July 15th we sent off grouping #2 to the Intellinetics company for digitization of our maps. No estimate of when they will be done.

Deaccession: the following books from the collection are removed for being obsolete and not having Monroe County relevance except by its donor:

3047.3520 Harold Opferman: Two copies of The History of the Johnston Flood, 1889.
3047.3522 Harold Opferman: The Life of William McKinley
A85.8.16.1.2 George Paxson: Lenawee County Standard Atlas, 1916. (GSMC has said they would take this.)

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was back at #1 with 9,839 page views (dropped a lot); the Museum was #32 with 645 page views (about the same); Archives #99 with 126 (same).

July Facebook postings: for Collections 9,875 on 3 postings for Collections.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
August 2021

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For August, 2021

The research room was not open to the general public but I had a few appointments; 12 researchers.

Rachel processed obituary requests from 15 individuals, with 30 obits. She handled 7 phone calls and 24 emails. Research requests include surnames Palmer, Maxwell, Schyllander. Her research included the Boyd Young Ladies' Seminary, St. Mary Academy and the 'Great Blue Northerner' weather disturbance of 1911.

Robert handled 15 outside calls and 26 emails, plus contacting & processing potential donors. We now have a portable air conditioner in the Archives Stacks room which has greatly helped our readings. The dehumidifier was moved to the basement, and we are already seeing like results.

Robert worked at the Eby cabin during the Fair, built the additional racks needed for the Deed books and continue to organize them, though several volumes are missing (from the Deeds end).

August Accessions:

- 2021.51 (still still pending) Spillson's restaurant outside advertising signs.
- 2021.64 St. Mary Catholic Central Alumni Office: 12 Yearbooks for Catholic Central and St. Mary Academy. I had posted this need on Facebook.
- 2021.65 Barbara Centa: Mario Centa's 1961 CC yearbook (from same posting).
- 2021.66 Judy Drumm: Papers of Gray Heating, plus photographs re: heating units!
- 2021.67 Kyna Burkey Kozibal: Elizabeth Eby-Burkey family related reed pump organ
- 2021.68 Benita Bressler: Gulf War Soldier Letters
- 2021.69 Laurie Schultz: Book 'The History of Monroe County' 2021
- 2021.70 Becky Dahms: Burkett Family Reunions, Ladies Soldiers Relief of U.B. Church, LaSalle
- 2021.71 Dave Eby: Metz butchering photograph and Metz sugar beet harvesting knife
- 2021.72 Charles & Emily Kressbach: Ida School Yearbooks, and Band-related medals, Letter
- 2021.73 Lois Dean: Family photographs scanned for digital collection

August projects: Noting the large gap for photographs in PastPerfect, I again started to scan images. I am seeking for more consistent labeling in the Stacks room, and finished labeling the large Schools collection (and expanding).

Research included church records, Charles Noble collection, Laboe/Navarre family, Cantrick yearbooks, Stoner-Maurer Co., the Moore family of Ash Twp.

I have not heard back about the newspapers out for digitization, or the maps at Intellinetics.

Transfer of books to Old Mill Museum, Dundee (no accession numbers):

'Bitler's One-Book Course Geography' by Butler, 1895. Signed by a member of the Dundee Dutton family.
'Grammar of the English Language' by W. H. Wells, 1860. Inside written 'Addie Kent' of Dundee.

Deaccession: the following books from the collection are removed for being obsolete and not having Monroe County relevance except by its donor:

- A83.8.24.1 Dan Muszynski 2 'American Heritage' hardcover books
- 67.12.15.1.10 Harley Stadelman Magazine: "Brown Book of Boston"

County Google Stats (all views down): the Obituary search was at #2 with 8,891 page views; the Museum was #36 with 595 page views; Archives #138 with 92.

August Facebook postings for Collections: 4,646 on 3 postings.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
September 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

July/August 2021 Museum Exhibits Report

If there is a theme to the past two months in terms of exhibit related functions it would be that there was no theme – it was a classic mix of French fences, Germanic heritage, spooky legend & lore, and reflections of real life heroism.

A significant effort began in early July to overhaul of the timeline window exhibit and the external kiosk exhibit at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Museum. Work continues as of this writing and we should be able to announce a completed project next month.

After a year or so of planning, the "Braun" team from the museum erected a 100 foot representation of a French-Canadian Two-posted fence at the Territorial Park. Although some choice French words – as in "pardon our French" words - were required as we chipped, blasted, power-augured, and jack-hammered our way into the green pavement, "C'est bon" and "C'est fini" were finally declared when the deed was finally done. Next comes the picket fence around the Navarre House and we can hardly wait for the opportunity to utter a few more choice French words.

The Monroe County Fair reared its agricultural head and dominated the latter part of July. We were involved in selecting and "repatriating" selected artifacts for the Eby House. Centering on the interpretive wish to present the house in its original 1860's German immigrant setting, all the pieces selected were either directly from that period or represented Germanic items from that period. A small case exhibit was assembled to feature period German language/origin artifacts from our collection – including "ein Paar Stiefel" and a fine looking "Weihwasserfontane."

Finally, major planning and design progressed on our new "Octobernight" autumn offering. Beginning with a logo design featuring a shocked looking shock of corn to start things off, this October should be very special indeed.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald P. Wykes
Exhibits Coordinator

September 10, 2021

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ◇ May-August 2021

After eight months as a Presenter in the Programs Division, I started as the Guest Services Coordinator in mid-May.

After a brief training with Megan – we overlapped in our roles for just one day – I am now acclimated to the procedures of the role. Along with help from the some of the County's Financial Office employees, I've been able to learn policies and procedures quickly.

For May through August, I've completed deposits, requisitions, and claims as well as getting numerous new vendors added to the Monroe County Vendor List.

I've also been compiling the invoices from the cities, townships, and villages effected by the 2021 millage (attached). All requests for reimbursement were due no later than 84 days from the date of the election. There are several municipalities that failed to send any documentation.

In August, I assisted at the Monroe County Fair as a greeter and as a presenter at the Eby House and our exhibit space.

In future reports, I will provide a more robust update on the Division's timeline and goals.

Submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator

Monroe County Museum System *In-Person/Virtual Programs* Engagement Report - June 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Education Kit Usage					0	1	0	0					1
Field Trips					1	2	0	0					3
Notes	June Education Kit usage: 1 teacher, Fur Trade Kit, 25 students; June Field Trips: June 2 - Virtual Field Trip (3 teachers, 90 students); ALCC Day Camp Program - 20 people reached												
Notes	July Education Kit usage: N/A July Field Trips: N/A												
Notes	August Education Kit usage: N/A August Field Trips: N/A												

Monroe County Museum System *In-Person/Virtual Programs* Engagement Report - June 2021

Facebook													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Clicks					3711	1393	2318	1348					8770
New Likes					61	33	31	28					153
Lifetime Likes					5135	5158	5180	5194					5194
Notes	June's most popular post: Baking "good white bread" using a 1799 American recipe.												
Notes	July's most popular post: "I'm hinting at the beautiful and fragrant lotus plant, once dwindling in our local waterways, but coming back with a green persistence."												
Notes	August's most popular post: August 9th Fair Photo Album post												

Instagram													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Accounts Reached					373	366	440	347					1526
Content Interactions					118	148	124	85					475
Total Followers					608	619	631	636					636
Notes	Content engagement increased 22.3% from May.												

Twitter													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Likes					135	25	42	53					255
Monthly Tweets					38	11	13	15					77
Replies					6	3	3	5					17
Retweets					35	0	18	17					70
Notes	June's most popular tweet: "So, this is why we're not on social media as much these days--we're out at our Territorial Park doing living history! We've been cooking and baking and farming, oh my!"												
Notes	July's most popular tweet: OTD in 1835 the only bloodshed of the Toledo War occurred. Ohio supporter Two Stickney, son of Maj Benjamin Franklin Stickney, stabbed Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Joseph Wood as he was trying to arrest Stickney in Toledo, which at the time was located in the Michigan Territory.												
Notes	August's most popular tweet: Is Back to School time synonymous with football in your community? If so, your student might need one of these--a leather football helmet used by John B. Taft, Sr. to play for the Monroe Muskrat team, 1904. His son also wore it to play HS football.												

YouTube													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Hours Watched					124.8	212.8	114.3	192.4					644.3
Impressions					4669	2116	1587	1617					9989
Views					206	258	185	270					919
Notes	June's most popular/viewed video: N/A												
Notes	July's most popular/viewed video: N/A												
Notes	August's most popular/viewed video: N/A												