

**MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
*Regular Meeting*  
**Wednesday, December 8, 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 November 10, 2021
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
  - 6.1. Executive Committee
  - 6.2. Awards Committee
  - 6.3. Markers Committee
  - 6.4. Projects Committee
    - 6.4.1. Fall 2021 Disbursement Recommendations
7. New Business
  - 7.1. Museum Staff Reports
8. Old Business
  - 8.1. STEPS priorities revisited
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7 pm  
Monroe County Museum  
126 South Monroe Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

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

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in-person  
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

|                               |                              |                           |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Present: Brian Egen, Chairman | Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman | Tom Heywood, Secretary    |
| William Conner, Member        | Nick Guthrie, Member         | Michael Humphries, Member |
| Hobby Nels, Past Chairman     | Mary Strevel, Member         | Tony Trujillo, Member     |

Excused: Richard Micka, Member

Museum Staff: Andy Clark, Director

J.J. Przewozniak, Deputy Director

Lynn Reaume, County Historian

Guest: Bill Saul, President, Monroe County Historical Society

This meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. and roll was taken; there was a quorum.

Motion was made by J. Potter to accept the meeting agenda, seconded by N. Guthrie; the motion was passed.

A moment of silence and an empty chair was held for deceased Emeritus Richard Sieb. A special interview video of Mr. Sieb from 2018 was shown to the group.

Motion was made by M. Humphries to approve the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by H. Nels; the motion was passed.

Public Comment #1: B. Saul announced the December MCHS & Rotary Club special for the Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Nutcracker' ballet and invited the group to purchase discounted tickets. From 5-6:30 the Society & guests will be in the Museum pre-show. Chestnuts will be roasted outside and 'First Friday' activities in the Museum.

Committee Updates: Executive: Chairman Egen said they had not met. He showed the blown-glass decorative lightbulb Governor's Award (made at the Village) that the 'This Is Where' video won. The Award will be shown to the County Commissioners at their next meeting.

Awards Committee: Chairperson M. Strevel noted that B. Saul was a recipient.

Markers Committee: Chairperson J. Potter said the committee will meet. An updating of the rankings and status of the project will be made, along with more markers chosen to be taken down to Sewah before the end of the year.

Projects Committee: Chairman M. Humphries noted the Estral Beach military tank refurbishing was complete and well received; also, this week is the deadline for Fall grant awards.

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

Old Business: The Museum's Strategic Plan may need to be updated, and when arranged, the Trustees will again rank the priority of project/topics for the future. This will be discussed in December.

Public Comment #2: B. Saul remarked that the Octobernight event was enjoyable and a different approach.

Commissioner comments: H. Nels, J. Potter, M. Strevel and others spoke about Richard Sieb and how his involvement and experience will be missed; and the video was a great memory of him.

T. Heywood mentioned soon the Museum storage crisis will need to be addressed.

T. Trujillo announced there were over 2,000 trick or treaters for the Downtown event.

With no other business, motion was made by M. Humphries to adjourn, seconded by M. Strevel and the meeting was ended at 8:18 p.m.

Lynn W. Reaume  
Acting recording secretary  
15 November 2021

## **MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM**

### **Director's Report**

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, December 8, 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

Research by-appointment and via phone, mail, and email.

Territorial Park

Structures have closed for the season; grounds remain open.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Museum is closed for the season; grounds remain open.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds remain open.

### **Maintenance and Operations**

*Museum and Archives*

Museum staff spent a considerable amount of time decorating the museum for our 2021 Christmas at the Museum. Many thanks to all of them for their work making the space festive during these continuing times of uncertainty.

*Territorial Park*

Papermill School has been winterized for the season; contractor painted interior of the school a few weeks ago. Final restoration work will resume in the Spring.

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum*

Memorial is open; museum is closed for the season.

*St Antoine's Historic Site*

There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

### **Historical Projects Fund**

As discussed in committee reports, we received three requests for the HPF's Fall Disbursement: Dundee – Old Mill Museum, Exeter Historical Society, and Monroe County Historical Society.

### **Markers Program**

The committee has identified a number of markers for refurbishment as well as identified new markers for 2022.

**Spirit of Service 2021**

No new updates at this time.

**Personnel Updates**

Our Fall intern from BGSU, Olivia Cotterman, finishes her time with us this week. Olivia assisted with a variety of programs and exhibits projects, notably the fence around Navarre House, Octobernight, and Chestnut Roast.

No other personnel updates to report.

**Upcoming Closures**

The next regularly scheduled holiday closures for the MCMS are Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> through Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Hodge Podge**

Though this holiday season in some ways seems to be an echo of 2020, signs of our new normal are steadily emerging. We joined with the city for a well-received Christmas tree lighting event in mid-November; hosted Joe Boggs for a book signing on Small Business Saturday; saw the return of First Fridays; hosted two events at once during the opening of Nutcracker at the RRCA and our usual First Fridays. Despite the building being a bit tamer than in previous Christmases, we introduced a new toy exhibit for the season, experimented with some new holiday lighting schemes, and are host site for Toys for Tots. We are making steady progress and moving the ball forward and, I feel, our holiday festivities in 2022 are going to be quite remarkable and have an impact similar to that of Octobernight.

The engine that keeps this place running is our staff. They all bring talents, creativity, and insights to make this institution better and become a greater asset to the community.

## MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Deputy Director's Report for November 2021

Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak

Monday, December 6, 2021

**Christmas at the Monroe County Museum:** There was not much rest in between *Octobernight* and the preparation for *Christmas at the Museum*; the transition from frightful to festive was rapid and exciting! This year's Christmas programming follows the path laid last year, with some key tweaks and additions. Among these is the addition of a Christmas toys exhibit, presented in the form of a traditional advent calendar in the south lobby. Revelations of yesteryear's toys occurs daily at the museum and online. Like last year, the museum staff is diligently forwarding children's letters to Santa—about 70 have been received so far. Civic organizations continue to participate as before, by dropping off wreaths and ornaments to display.

The MCMS was proud to participate in *Hometown Holiday Lights* on Friday, November 19. Staff executed Reindeer Games for the children, and luminaries were placed along 1<sup>st</sup> and S Monroe Streets. Attendance was above expectations (both inside the museum and outside), and all had a merry time. We look forward to participating again next year, and congratulate the City on a successful event.

**Outreach:** interaction with our community through field trips, staff visits, and participation in community programs:

- Friday, November 12: Students from MCES St. John's visited the museum for a program on indigenous lifeways and a scavenger hunt
- Tuesday, November 23: In-person presentation on Native American lifeways for students of Oaks Acorn Children's Village

### **Continuing Education:**

- Sunday, November 7: *Breads of the Fur Trade*, a zoom presentation by Jeff Pavlik. Jeff is a treasury of refined knowledge of historical baking, and served as a consultant to the MCMS.
- Thursday, November 18: *18<sup>th</sup> Century Holiday Traditions* webinar, offered by Colonial Williamsburg.
- Saturday, November 20: *CW Conversation: American Indian Heritage Month*, offered by Colonial Williamsburg.
- Tuesday, November 23: *Women and the Anderdon Wyandot Cemetery, 1790-1914*, offered by Guillaume Teasdale, Assistant Professor at the University of Windsor.

### **RRTP:**

- The field has been cleared for the season. Only smashed pumpkins and cut-up corn stalks remain. Wet weather has soaked plans for fall ploughing, so it will likely occur in spring.
- Water was shut off at Papermill School on November 16.

### **Miscellany:**

- *Octobernight* cleanup: Following the event, the site was rapidly restored to its pre-spooky appearance. Detailed cleanup revealed no material losses. The Conestoga wagon and ox cart remain at the barn for the time being.
- November witnessed the triumphant return of First Fridays. The theme was *Gales of November*. Thanks to Lisa Gessner and the Programs Division for their work in coordinating a fun event for children and families.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report  
For November, 2021

We were open to the general public by appointment; 21 visits + GSMC members. Topics identified include the Navarre, Nadeau, LaPrad, Fix, Leonard, Germani, Williams families; MAECO during WWII, One-room schoolhouses; Greening Nursery & Ohio China; Ottawa Lake; obituaries; property researches & maps.

Rachel processed obituary requests from 9 individuals, with 18 obits. She had 5 phone calls and 23 emails. Research requests included surnames: Istvan, Raymond, Houke.

Robert handled 25 outside calls and 36 emails, plus contacting, processing potential donors and FIC items. He is back moving accessioned items into storage and adding to PP. He retyped the growing 'Small Collections' Finding Guide.

He processed these FIC: 2021.0.290: rubbing from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, name Oscar J. Reinhardt. 2021.0.291: Ditto, of the name Robert A. Hutchinson. 2021.0.292-293: Color photos of the annual Commemoration of the Battle of the River Raisin.

2021.51 (still pending) Spillson's restaurant outside advertising signs.

November Accessions:

|         |                                                                                |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2021.91 | Lynde Woolace: porcelain toy doll of Irene Franke Wurzel                       |
| 2021.92 | Don & Carrol Morgan: Burkett family reunion information and photographs        |
| 2021.93 | Brian Plummer: original 1901 Lang Map                                          |
| 2021.94 | Monroe Co. Library System: advertising magnet for the 'Village Café' in Monroe |
| 2021.95 | Deidre Joannis: milk glass piece, probably Monroe Glass Company                |
| 2021.96 | Alexander Bowns: Ammunition crate from the Vietnam War                         |

November projects: Identify, seek and select small toys for the '24 Days of December' Advent Calendar display. Selections covered the 1800-1900s, with a few on loan. I also put together a Christmas slide show as I have for several years to play downstairs on the tv. Most images are from the Monroe Evening News proof collection.

I found a box filled with misc. photographs and took all month to process those; also looked through seemingly 'tons' of newspaper clippings and hand-written notes of Mrs. Gertrude Gustafson re: museum, society, newspaper, etc. I think there are more in the attic...

I have not heard back from the Deeds on where the missing Indexes/volumes may be. Soon I will probably need to make indexes for the ones that are missing. No one has offered a workable solution.

Deaccessioned: 67.12.29.1.2 George Paxson: Map of Michigan, 1901 (detached, deteriorated & damaged)

Transfer: 3 large pull-down maps not marked (probably A78.9.6 from the Monroe Co. library) that included Dundee Township & Village, to Dundee Old Mill via Barbara Roe. A few others are pending.

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was at #1 with 10,646 page views (up); the Museum was #31 (down) with 708 page views; #38 Christmas at the Museum 452; #142 Archives 66 (down).

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian  
December, 2021

# Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

## November 2021 Museum Exhibits Report

Like an OCD squirrel focused on harvesting the nuts from one single oak tree in a forest full of oak trees, we laser-honed our efforts for November on a little-known holiday season called Christmas. Some of you may have heard of this event, but for those who haven't it involves the birth of Christ and a fat Magi delivering toys to the world via the forced labor of twelve tiny cervids.

The graphics wing of our establishment was busy working with on-line images for various postings – ranging from shipwreck tales and Thanksgiving/Black Friday to “Christmas at the Museum” and “Christmas at the Museum.” Yes, that last repeated phrase was on purpose and I have resisted all self-editing efforts on part of the Word program to eliminate it. Emily put together several fine videos to go along with these postings as well as well - ha, I did it again.

The major focus of the “build it and they will come” wing of our department centered on a Toy Advent calendar for the month of December. This is not literally a toy calendar, as in tiny-sized cervids, but instead is a full-sized double-case sized exhibit displaying actual vintage toys from the last 150 years. One date on the calendar will be removed each day starting Dec. 1 until the Fat Magi comes on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month, to reveal a favored child's play thing from the past. Lynn pulled together the items, Mike and I constructed the boxes, and Emily and I put together the graphics and titles.

The title of the exhibit is “24 Toys to Christmas”- an amazingly clever title I came up with in mere seconds. Alternate titles, quickly eliminated, included “A Calendar showing Toys Each Day until Christmas” and “Let's See What was under the Christmas Tree on Christmas morning before Amazon”. Now, it would be inappropriate for me to reveal the identity of the toys before next month's report, but I will offer a few clues. Three of the items are straight from the Museum Director's childhood and are cryptically labelled with words like “the owner” or “he.” Because some items will have already been revealed by the time this report is read, I can say the diminutive cast iron bank vault from Dec. 1 must have been a great hit with children in the 1890's. Simple children undoubtedly spent hours playing with their vault – giving it a name like “Reynaldo”, dressing it up, and setting it down as a guest at a doll-house tea. The lead soldiers from Dec. 5 prompt us to wonder why more poisonous lead toys aren't on today's market. This would require a Surgeon General's warning on the package, of course.

I suppose this report might also require a Surgeon General warning as well, but I hope it brought at least a little chuckle.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald P. Wykes  
Exhibits Coordinator