

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2023 – 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 April 12, 2023
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Updates
 - 6.1. Executive Committee
 - 6.2. Awards Committee
 - 6.3. Building Committee
 - 6.4. Markers Committee
 - 6.5. Projects Committee
7. New Business
 - 7.1. MCMS Reports
8. Old Business
 - 8.1. Strategic Plan-Vision 2029
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 12, 2023 at 7 pm
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126 South Monroe Street
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2023 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2023 COMMITTEES
Chair Brian Egen, District 6 Vice Chair Jeremy Potter, District 1 Secretary Michael Humphries, District 8 Immediate Past Chair Hobby Nels Trustee Emeritus Richard Micka Trustee Thomas Heywood, District 2 Trustee Mary Strevel, District 3 Trustee L William Conner, District 4 Trustee Michelle LaVoy, District 5 Trustee Tony Trujillo, District 7 Trustee Nick Guthrie, District 9	Executive Committee Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Michael Humphries, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak Awards Committee Chair: Michelle LaVoy Members:, Thomas Heywood, Mary Strevel, Tony Trujillo, 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 MUSEUM SYSTEM
BOARD of TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
April 12th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman Michael Humphries, Secretary
Tom Heywood, Member Michelle LaVoy, Member Richard Micka, Emeritus
Hobby Nels, Past Chairman Mary Strevel, Member Tony Trujillo, Member

Excused: William Conner, Member Nick Guthrie, Member Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman

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

Guests: Jeanne Micka, Sawyer Homestead

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Egen. Roll was called and there was a quorum.

A motion was made by H. Nels to approve the agenda, seconded by T. Heywood; passed.

Approval of Minutes of February 8th, 2023 Meeting: Motion made by M. LaVoy, seconded by M. Humphries and passed.

Public Comment #1: J. Micka noted there was an increase in museum accessions.

Committee Updates: Executive: Chairman Egen said the group has not met.

Spirit of Service Awards Committee: M. Strevel noted some of the committee discussions: a glass award will be presented every two years at an event, but the award program will continue annually. Trustees are greatly encouraged to nominate. New headings would include Lifetime Achievement, Organizational and Scholarship awards. A question was posed if non-Monroe people could be nominated for an award; to be discussed by committee. Chairperson Strevel was transferring the position to Member LaVoy, but staying on the committee.

Building Committee: A bid for a local building was rejected by the seller, and the pursuit continues.

Historical Markers Committee: Director Clark reported that the refurbished historical markers from Milan and Ida will be installed soon; plans to return to Sewah to pick up 2 more refurbished markers (St. Mary's Church and Custer) and bring down 5 more. Other associated projects (apps) were discussed for marker mapping.

Projects Grant Committee: Chairperson Humphries said that the Monroe Co. Historical Society are asking for an extension of their outstanding awards (2). After some discussion motion was made by M. Humphries to approve their request; seconded by T. Heywood and was passed unanimously.

The grant application had only minor changes since the last offering. It was noted that the online app was an improvement. M. Humphries made a motion to approve the application as presented with change of date (90 days, due July 15th) which was seconded by T. Heywood; passed unanimously.

Also, due to the damage to the Dundee bandshell in the downtown triangle, Vice-Chair Potter was going to contact Dundee to encourage them to submit a proposal to help with the repairs.

New Business: Staff Reports: Motion was made to accept the reports by T. Heywood, seconded by M. Humphries, and passed.

Old Business: T. Heywood asked if the search for a new building was staying in the city only. Director Clark answered that the city was a main choice because of proximity to the main museum. T. Heywood suggested a new building could be built by the county.

Public Comment #2: J. Micka announced the return of the Sawyer Homestead Founders Day in May.

Board Comments: R. Micka talked about the Michigan DNR is putting a plan together for the future use of Sterling State Park, with possibly a Visitor Center.

Director Clark announced for the Berlin Charter Township Society was having a living history event at St. Charles Catholic Cemetery May 13th.

With no other business to discuss, motion was made by M. Humphries to adjourn, seconded by T. Heywood and the meeting was concluded at 7:42.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting recording secretary
03 May 2023

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

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.

County Archives: Research is by appointment and via phone, mail, and email.

Territorial Park: Grounds and buildings are now open for the 2023 season. Operating hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum: Grounds and museum are now open for the 2023 season. Operating hours are Saturdays, 12 pm to 4 pm.

St Antoine's Historic Site: Grounds are open year round.

Upcoming Closures

The MCMS will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in accordance with the County of Monroe's holiday closures for Independence Day.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

Basement cleanout continues.

The flag pole was finally repainted while the contractor had a large lift downtown working on several county buildings.

Territorial Park

Papermill School has now reopened. Future projects in the school include an upgrade to the bathroom and a new exhibit (2024). Currently the sturgeon travelling exhibit is also located inside the school.

Several site projects on the horizon include a full replacement of the bridge's decking; extension of the fences around the farm field; and maintenance to the exterior and interior of the Summer Kitchen.

Our new mower has been, at long last, acquired.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

The county resurfaced the parking lot and walking paths at Heck Park in early June which resulted in the closure of the museum on only its second weekend of seasonal operations.

The bathrooms on the site haven't been working correctly and a contractor has been called to bring them to full functionality.

The lack of a properly functioning bathroom has hindered a new operating schedule out at the Veterans Museum. Once everything is working properly, it will be open 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays to match the schedule of Territorial Park. (This is being done to create some uniformity in operating hours across all sites and to provide additional access since the museum is no longer being staffed by the veterans on Wednesdays.)

Upcoming projects include painting the bathrooms (exterior and interior) and a new fence for the memorial. The county is building a berm to cover the dirt path that connected the memorial parking lot the park road.

St Antoine's Historic Site Memorial

There are no maintenance projects to report.

Exhibits

Collections staff have been doing exhibit in-fill.

The exhibits printer was officially declared kaput as it defied all efforts to be cleaned. Currently awaiting a recommendation/approval from IT before purchasing a new one.

Several of the paintings on exhibit were taken to Cleveland where they await a conservation assessment. It is the same firm that performed conservation on the *Romance of Monroe* last year.

Historical Projects Fund

I've received a number of enquiries regarding the HPF and it looks like we'll have an abundance of projects to review when the application closes in July. So far the organizations applying appear to be a good mix of new and repeat applicants.

Spirit of Service Awards

I have nothing to report for the Spirit of Service Awards.

Markers Program

The *Ida Village/Ida Township* marker was reinstalled with a new post. The *Spaulding Cemetery/Plank Road* marker was reinstalled in Milan with a new post.

In May, the following markers were delivered to Sewah Studios:

Edward D. Ellis located at Ellis Library.
Old Michigan Southern located at Gateway Park.
Editor Ellis, 1825 located on West First Street.
Monroe's Soldiers located on West First Street.
Colonel Oliver Johnson's Home located at the Johnson-Phinney House.
Memorial Place located at Memorial Place
Waterloo Dam 1820 from Veterans Park
LaZBoy/Knabusch extracted from LaZBoy HQ.

Expected to bring back two newly refurbished markers but due to a clerical error on Sewah's part, the markers were painted with the State of Michigan marker colors and not the County of Monroe marker colors.

Despite the error, it appears that Sewah is close to being back on schedule with their new marker and marker refurbishments. All of the markers that we dropped off are slated to be back before the end of this year.

Personnel Updates

Our last, year round, part-time presenter, Jess, departed in early June.

The hiring process this year has been full of hiccups and our seasonal hires will only begin reporting this week. Staff and volunteers have been filling programming and operating gaps and we've managed to maintain operations despite the staffing shortage.

Currently, the two year round, part-time presenter positions are open and the two seasonal, part-time presenter positions open. The exhibits specialist position is closed and two seasonal, part-time presenter positions have been filled.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM
Deputy Director's Report for May 2023
Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak
Friday, June 9, 2023

Territorial Park:

RRTP is open for the 2023 season! Work has intensified as we present an accurate depiction of an 1817 working farm to our visitors. In addition to regular odd jobs and sundry tasks around the farm...

- After an exhaustive search, a source for flax seed was found! Thanks to Brother Johannes at the Hermitage Harmonist Community in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania for consultation, 2 lbs of fiber flax seed, and an educational kit that includes samples of multiple stages of linen production.
- I'm excited to present a Three Sisters field in fish camp. A portion of the open area has been tilled 2x (6") and sculpted into mounds, from which the second generation of King Phillip corn (harvested 2021) will sprout, alongside scarlet runner beans, and multiple varieties of curcubits, including *gete okosomin*.
- All garden seeds for the 2023 season were ordered. Thanks to Jess for planting the kitchen garden on Friday, May 19, and for seed saving from last year!
- On the week of May 22, Andy, Mike and I spread about 4 yards of compost/topsoil mix on to the row crops area of the field. That same week, I tilled the field and fish camp a 2nd time (6"). Corn and row crops were all planted by Tuesday, May 30.
- At the time of this writing, we are in the midst of a drought, so watering has occurred almost daily, and will continue into the foreseeable future.

Miscellany:

- Beginning Friday, May 5, consulting, and apple and pear tree pruning has been ongoing @ RRTP. We look forward to a pear tree propagation effort this winter, as we monitor our trees' health.
- On Friday, May 12, Andy and I removed the ash trees near the path to fish camp that had been ravaged by the emerald ash borer. In the coming weeks, the stumps and others in that area will be ground. While we mourn the loss, we celebrate the acquisition of a spare lintel bar for the fire pit, and a little extra firewood.
- Throughout the month, we've been dealing with a recurring problem with the alarm in the Navarre House basement. Wyandotte Alarm has been on site several times, and at this point, I believe they've tried every motion sensor on the market.
- On Tuesday, May 16, Andy and I participated in Lake Erie Water Festival at the IHM Motherhouse, during which the young audiences learned all about the fur trade, and its notable 4-legged participants.
- On Thursday, May 18, I used the County sprayer truck to destroy weeds around the schoolhouse parking lot and adjacent areas, and also in the field in preparation for planting.

- On Friday, May 19, the Papermill Schoolhouse parking lot received its annual filling and grading. Mike striped fresh parking spaces shortly afterward.
- On Saturday, May 20, Cub Scout Troop 561 joined me for a tour of RRTP, and afterward I planted ten new Frontenac grape vines around the park, as well as a few new currant plants. At the time of this writing, they all appear healthy.
- Thanks to volunteer Jeff Mogle for helping mound up the 3 sisters field on that same day.
- On Tuesday, May 23, the buildings at RRTP received their annual stinging insect treatment.
- On Wednesday, May 31, I gave a brief presentation on historic agriculture and landscapes for Kiwanis Club of Monroe at St. Paul's UMC.
- Best wishes to Presenter Jess Dougherty on her departure from the MCMS.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For April, 2023

We were open by appointment with 15 visitors, 6 walk-ins and about 20 GSMC members. Again, why appointments? I had a Thursday that I had scheduled a morning and an afternoon visitor. Suddenly, before the a.m. visit, another researcher dropped in and I could only help him until my scheduled couple (which turned out to be a group of 6 family members) came by. But another researcher came in (also before the group) and I could not help him once the group arrived. Eight people plus staff do not fit in this little Archives room, and it got hot. That's why appointments help focus our time, our attention, and our help. Then the afternoon appointment did not show up, nor call or email; but another visitor came in instead without an appointment. There you go.

Research topics this month included: DuMiller, Santure, Orchard East neighborhood, Muchleisen, Cousino & related families, Fix, etc.

Rachel processed 8 obits from 7 requests. She handled 5 phone call requests and 15 emails. She assisted at the front desk as needed, also working on the weekends.

Robert had 10 outside calls and answered 8 emails. He processed a large photography collection from Marian Place on West Front (2023.21) which included events there from the 1980s thru early 2000s. (In this collection he would process about 1,000 images!)

Robert and Rachel attended the April 22nd G.S.M.C. at the MCCC seminar at a museum information table.

April Accessions:

2023.20	Jane Sommer: additional Woodland Cemetery ledgers
2023.21	Marian Place: photograph albums of past people and events
2023.22	David Doss: misc including a bank deposit bag, business card for the Glanzman Service Station, Ottawa Lake
2023.23	Unknown: misc including a Civil War bounty loan, Navarre family warranty deed
2023.24	Marvin Hicks: Monroe City Fire Department blanket, ca. 1979

There has been no advancement for the Christmas collection of Bill & Winnie Findley. One loan is awaiting disposition via the Director; one person should be contacting us from his March meeting.

We have a project that turns 50 years old this year: the Monroe County Building Survey that was organized by Victor Hogg prior to the development of 'Legacy of the River Raisin' the local architecture interest book. Going through each of the county sections and villages (including the city of Monroe) homes of possible historic interest were photographed and data cards filled out for each, with varying amounts of details. Local senior citizen historians drove around and their comments were noted on most of the cards. Archives & researchers have used these cards over decades, and I thought it was time for whatever update could be done. So that's my big project for the months right now. I am scanning all the cards. And after that, instead of driving all across the county, I have used Google for finding the houses and possible addresses. I continue to learn about Google and the county-roads that weren't filmed, blotches, out of focus images, no mailboxes- Oh my!

County Obituary page: April, 2023: 10,441 page views from 962 viewers; total 'event count' of 19,768.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
4 May 2023

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For May, 2023

We were open by appointment with 11 visitors, 6 walk-ins and about 15 GSMC members. Research topics this month included: Vivian Road house, Catholic churches, Police officers, business research, Memorial Place cemetery, family research, Luna Pier, historical markers.

Rachel processed 85 obits from 7 requests. She handled 6 phone call requests and 12 emails. Surnames included Davidson, Driver, Bruck, Ery, Carter, Eberhart, Cooper, Meinhart, Beck, Noble, Pennock, Maybee, Keller & Pierce. She assisted at the front desk as needed, also working on the weekends.

Robert had 15 outside calls and answered 3 emails. He designed shipping crates which Mike Nelligan made, for the Cleveland art trip. Robert installed a new spring/early summer display at the old gift shop and removed the winter display. He helped with removal of two historical markers (La-Z-Boy & Waterloo dam), and folded boxes for collections.

May Accessions:

2023.25	Mary Vergowven: Monroe Lincoln Jr. High materials and Nortel Lanes bowling towel
2023.26	Greg Wittkop: Spanish-American soldiers in camp; others to be processed.
2023.27	David Doss: business ephemera, Monroe Inn ledger
2023.28	Nancy Wortinger: Leppel family documents and a flag respect booklet
2023.29	George Frisbee: photographs relating to the actual 1971 Huey helicopter in the Vietnam park
2023.30	Wanda Ford: many original items related to the Masonic Order- documents & artifacts such as gloves, medals, coins, hats, swords
2023.31	Philip Wolbert: autographed book "The Pointe Mouillee Shooting Club" by Jim Marsh
2023.32	Terry Lake Estate: panoramic Custer statue dedication image (moved from loan status)
2023.33	Monroe News Publishing via Gannett: MEN newspaper obituaries (complete)

Deaccessions due to condition or lack of story:

3125.3637	Broken, woven fragile basket
75.4.23.1.3	Misc. stained wood box humidior with no provenance

Loan Success!

Loan 2015.04 (now Accession 2023.32) was donated as a gift to the Museum May 16th. This panoramic image of the Custer equestrian statue dedication in June, 1910 has been on display since 1971!

Outgoing Loan #15: On May 23, Professor John Chenoweth of U-M Dearborn picked up the many boxes of our River Raisin Battlefield archaeological artifacts for cleaning, conservation, repackaging, cataloging and analysis.

Outgoing Loan #16: On May 19, Director Clark & Robert Lutey took 18 paintings to Cleveland to the ICA- Art Conservation unit (Project #2023.016) for an art survey project. Results won't be received for several months.

The "Romance of Monroe" (1971.79) artwork still remains in the Smithsonian's court and may take a year or two to approve and finalize! Our loan agreement will run to 2025. I am also awaiting a response from another Loan.

I continued to work on updating the 1973 Monroe County Building survey cards. I have also been moving space for the incoming MEN materials, which has been a challenge, but is worth this amazing collection.

County Obituary page: April, 2023: 6,797 page views. No other info was supplied by the county.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
5 June 2023

June 10, 2023

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ♦ May 2023

The Monroe County Museum hosted 260 visitors in the month of May: 231 adults and 29 youths. The most popular visitation day was Saturday, bringing 106 visitors to the Museum.

Several events captured our time this month: JJ staffed the Lake Erie Water Festival and a conducted a Kiwanis visit, and the May “YesterWays” activity, *Hair Today, Wreath Tomorrow*, attracted 4 visitors who created replica hair wreaths – using not hair but silk from old saris.

Recurring tasks for May included submitting invoices and reimbursements for payment, depositing our monthly donations and archival fees at the County Treasurer’s Office, and ordering office supplies, archival items, and items for *YesterWays*.

Memorial Day Weekend was the first time the Papermill School was open to visitors in several years. Guest Services staff will be in attendance every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the summer season.

Lastly, the end of the month saw the departure of Jessica Dougherty, a presenter in the Programs Department. She regularly helped with guest services, and we are going to miss her!

Respectfully submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator

Monroe County Museum System Engagement Report - May 2023

Monroe County Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	236	372	367	313	260								1548
Visitation Data	In May, we welcomed 260 visitors to the museum - 231 adults and 29 children. 46 people were visiting for the first time! X was the most popular day of the week, bringing in 106 people total. Monthly visitors hailed from Detroit, Monroe, Southgate, Temperance, Colorado, and even Scotland!												
Notes	The Monroe County Museum is operating on a limited public schedule, currently Tuesday-Sunday. The Genealogical Society of Monroe County meets each Wednesday. The Frenchtown Spinners Guild meets on the third Thursday of each month.												

Monroe County Archives

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Obit Requests	33	69	40										142
Visitation	6	12	12										30
Notes	The MCA is available by appointment only.												

Papermill School

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation					0								0
Notes	Visitation numbers are based on visitors entering Papermill School.												

Territorial Park

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	1876	1800	2121	3033	3874								12704
Notes	Visitation numbers are based on the vehicle counter at Papermill School.												

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	2366	2413	2232	3470	4412								14893
Notes	Visitation numbers are based on the vehicle counter at Heck Park.												

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation					0								0
Notes	The VVMM opened on Memorial Day Weekend and will be open to visitors from 10-4 on Saturdays, through the end of September.												

Eby Log House - Monroe County Fair

	July 30	July 31	August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4	August 5						YTD Total
Visitation													0

Notes	The 2023 Monroe County Fair runs from July 30 through August 5.
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St. Antoine's													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation													0
Notes	No data exists as there is no vehicle counter on site.												

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

[illegible]

Monroe County Museum System Special Events Attendance

Participation in the 2023 NPS River Raisin Battles Commemoration (January 21)	685
Duncanson YesterWays evening event with Stacy Hall (February 18)	35
Maple Sugaring at the River Raisin Territorial Park (March 11, 18, 25)	10
Urwin Lecture (March 10)	50
Screening of Glory & Urwin Talk (March 11)	30
Earth Day Event at MCCC (April 22)	225
Downtown Monroe Business Network: Art in April (April 27)	57
Agriculture Day at the Monroe County Fairgrounds (April 28)	450
Lake Erie Water Festival (May 16)	
Special Events total	1542

Totals for all sites (including all in-person and virtual events and programs)

[illegible]

Monroe County Museum System *Social Media* Engagement Report

Facebook													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Post reach	6158	9923	7395	4588	744								28808
Post engagement	1688	1296	3008	811	65								6868
New followers	25	34	59	48	47								213
Total followers	6174	6196	6255	6293	6336								6336

Instagram													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Accounts Reached	13	6	267	13	6								305
Profile visits	19	7	21	18	4								69
Total Followers	838	845	860	862	864								864

YouTube													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Hours Watched	103.4	78.1	110.6	62.6	48.1								402.8
Impressions	7093	2971	10254	11305	3413								35036
Views	374	230	637	331	189								1761
Most popular video	Searching for Le Griffon - with Ric Mixer												