

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 7 pm

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of January 11, 2023
4. Public Comment
5. Committee Updates
 - 5.1. Executive Committee
 - 5.2. Awards Committee
 - 5.3. Building Committee
 - 5.4. Markers Committee
 - 5.5. Projects Committee
6. New Business
 - 6.1. MCMS Reports
7. Old Business
8. Public Comment
9. Board Comments
10. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7 pm
Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

2023 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2023 COMMITTEES
<p>Chair Brian Egen, District 6</p> <p>Vice Chair Jeremy Potter, District 1</p> <p>Secretary Michael Humphries, District 8</p> <p>Immediate Past Chair Hobby Nels</p> <p>Trustee Emeritus Richard Micka</p> <p>Trustee Thomas Heywood, District 2</p> <p>Trustee Mary Strevel, District 3</p> <p>Trustee L William Conner, District 4</p> <p>Trustee Michelle LaVoy, District 5</p> <p>Trustee Tony Trujillo, District 7</p> <p>Trustee Nick Guthrie, District 9</p>	<p>Executive Committee Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Michael Humphries, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak</p> <p>Awards Committee Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark</p> <p>Markers Committee Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark</p> <p>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
January 11th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Monroe County Museum, 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe

Present: Brian Egen, Chairman Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chairman Michael Humphries, Secretary
Tom Heywood, Member Michelle LaVoy, Member
Richard Micka, Emeritus Hobby Nels, Past Chairman Tony Trujillo, Member

Excused: Nick Guthrie, Member William Conner, Member Mary Strevel, Member

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

Guests: Lisa Sanders, Monroe County Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant
David Hoffman, Monroe County Commissioner Elizabeth Rubel Jeanne Micka

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Director Clark. He introduced Lisa Sanders who swore in the attending trustees and provided Oath of Office papers for their signature. This was also done for the Past Chairman Hobby Nels and Commissioner Emeritus Richard Micka.

Roll was called by L. Reaume and there was a quorum.

Elections: Chairperson: B. Egen was nominated by J. Potter. With no other nominations in the call, motion was made to elect B. Egen again for Chairperson, seconded by M. Humphries. The vote was unanimous, with one abstention.

Vice-Chairperson: J. Potter was nominated by T. Heywood. With no other nominations in the call, motion was made by T. Heywood, seconded by M. Humphries and the vote was unanimous, with one abstention.

Secretary: T. Heywood nominated M. Humphries. There were no other nominations in the call, and the motion by T. Heywood was seconded by J. Potter and passed unanimously, with one abstention.

Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2022 Meeting: J. Potter made a motion to add 8A Formation of Committees for 2023 to the agenda; seconded by T. Heywood and accepted.
T. Heywood also offered the friendly amendment 8B for the election of the Emeritus; passed as amended.
Approval of Minutes motion made by T. Heywood, seconded by M. Humphries and approved.

8A Committee Reappointments: The Chairman was not aware of any changes except the adding of M. LaVoy to the Awards Committee, and keep the existing Committees from 2022.

8B Election of Trustee Emeritus: Motion was made by T. Heywood, seconded by M. Humphries to elect R. Micka to this position; passed unanimously.

Public Comment #1: none

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

Spirit of Service Awards Committee: In the absence of Chair M. Strevel, committee member T. Heywood started the discussion on options to make the Awards Event bi-annual, but with the open nominations starting the preceding year. For example, start nominations this year and continue into 2024, with the

Awards Event in the Fall of 2024. The suggestion was made to perhaps adjust the categories for an individual/lifetime, organization, and the third to be more scholarly in focus. The number of awardees would then fit these categories, with the event to honor 2 years recipients. After discussion, it was agreed that these ideas should be furthered reviewed by the committee, and brought back to the board at the next meeting.

Building Committee: No update to report.

Historical Markers Committee: Chairman Potter and Director Clark said that Franklin Bronze Plaques in Franklin, PA can repaint our historical markers, but cannot cast a new aluminum marker our size (though they can in more costly bronze). Director Clark would like to send a test marker for repainting. This is mainly because of the processing slow down at Sewah Casting. Upon contacting Sewah, it was unsure how many of our five markers were finished, but pickup will be soon.

Projects Grant Committee: Chairman Humphries reported that the applications will be open soon.

New Business: Staff Reports: Director Clark reported that the elevator is not in operation, but the Purchase Order has been placed and repairs will start soon.
Motion was made by M. Humphries, seconded by T. Heywood to accept the reports; passed.

Old Business: none.

Public Comment #2: County Commissioner D. Hoffman had more questions concerning the lack of elevator repair since December. Director Clark answered that repair money comes out of the millage monies, not the county general fund even though the building is a county building.

Jeanne Micka, who was recovering from surgery, urged the importance of what the trustees and staff do for Monroe County history.

Board Comments: Included Happy New Year greetings, thanks to Ms. Sanders, and thanks to Commissioner Hoffman who has been a public supporter of the Trustees and Museum for many years.

Chairman Egen announced support for past Museum Director Matt Switlik who was nominated for the State History "MACK" Award.

With no other business to discuss, motion was made by M. Humphries to adjourn, seconded by T. Heywood and the meeting was concluded at 8:06.

Lynn W. Reaume
Acting recording secretary
12 January 2023

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Director's Report

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, February 8, 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 are open. Historic structures closed until Memorial Day weekend 2023.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

Grounds are open. Museum closed until Memorial Day weekend 2023.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Grounds are open year round.

Maintenance and Operations

Museum and Archives

As I write my report on Tuesday morning, workers from the elevator company have finally shown up to repair the elevator. I've been informed that the repair should take about a day but, honestly, I've lost all faith in their capacity to provide an accurate timeline as the last month has been nothing but non-committal statements and repeatedly missed work dates. Getting this repair done easily falls within the top five most miserable experiences working with a contractor since I've been here. If they do get the elevator operating before our meeting on Wednesday night, I invite all of you to take a congratulatory ride before leaving – just maybe not everyone all at once.

We are about two months shy of total elevator shutdown. The impact on organizational operations has had a ripple effect on staff, visitors, and researchers. Short-term projects – like a thorough cleaning of the basement – will have to be scuttled for this year as we have to turn our attention to our seasonal operations. Christmas decorations still clog our offices and secondary storage spaces awaiting storage in the basement.

The only upside of the elevator being out is that we've been able to skip leg day.

We've started to upgrade the tools in our workshop to safer and more compact tools.

Mike has started constructing bespoke covers for the radiators in the front lobby and south lobby.

Territorial Park

No significant or unusual maintenance projects have occurred.

No updates on the trail, road, and bridge work in the area being planned for this year.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

No significant maintenance projects to report.

St Antoine's Historic Site

Memorial is open. There are no significant maintenance projects to report.

Spirit of Service Awards

SoSA will be meeting later this month.

Markers Program

Two markers were retrieved from Sewah Studios and two more should be ready sometime this Spring. Once done, that'll close out our 2020 and 2021 refurbishment projects.

Having been assured that they're back on track with projects, I've assembled and distributed a list of markers to the committee for this year.

Though the other contractor I was looking at to refurb our markers was friendly and helpful, the cost of refurbishment is about two and a half times more expensive than Sewah.

Historical Projects Fund

Aiming for the launch of our 2023 HPF application in early March. No significant changes are expected.

Personnel Updates

Gerry Wykes left his position of Exhibits Coordinator at the end of January. Due to his departure, the position will be eliminated during a staffing

reorganization occurring later this year. Gerry will continue on as a contractor for some miscellaneous projects here at the county museum and Territorial Park.

Present staffing levels are four full-time, four regular part-time, and one seasonal. This time last year we were at thirteen employees distributed among three full-time and ten regular part-time.

County Website

Work continues with the vendor on updating our portion of the county website.

DDA Parking Lot Project

Because of DDA funding and project priorities, primarily due to the purchase of the former Monroe Optical Building, all other larger projects with no committed funds are on pause.

Gregory Urwin Visit

Professor Gregory Urwin of Temple University will be here Friday, March 10th at 7 pm to present his lecture, "The Rise of George Armstrong Custer, 1861-1865." On Saturday, March 11th, he will present a program on his experiences working on *Glory!* followed by a showing of the film. Time and location to be announced.

Professor Urwin's visit will be the first of several leading scholars over the next few years related to the refresh of the Custer exhibit.

Upcoming Closures

The MCMS will be closed on Monday, February 20th in accordance with the County of Monroe's holiday closures. The MCMS is already closed to the public on Mondays.

MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Deputy Director's Report for January 2023

Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak

Friday, February 3, 2023

Christmas at the Monroe County Museum:

Due to a surprised leave of absence taken by our trusty and hand-working elevator, dismantling of *Christmas at the Monroe County Museum* was more gradual than intended. Regardless, the holiday décor was rapidly taken down during the early part of the month with the help of many staff. Thanks again to all staff who participated in deploying, executing, and striking a meaningful and memorable holiday run of programming.

YesterWays:

Following the success of the pomander workshop in December, we have committed to offer YesterWays year round. YesterWays is a free hands-on learning activity that focuses on a skill or craft from times past, inspired by our county history. It's held every Saturday (excluding any closures) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Each month, a different project is offered, and participants receive one-on-one instruction from MCMS staff in a make-and-take activity geared toward sparking a long-lasting interest in history through creativity.

The items our ancestors left behind reveal to us what life was like in their time. All of the approximately 30,000 three-dimensional objects in our collection tell a unique story, and YesterWays gives visitors the opportunity to experience one of those stories in a very special way. The workshops are generally suitable for all ages and focus on teaching a simple skill that can develop with more practice at home.

In January we "knit our bit" for the war effort! The January YesterWays program is inspired by a navy blue wool sweater in our collection (Accession # 72.1.31.1) that was hand knit in about 1918, worn by Erwin Wagner (b.1894 - d.1971) and donated to the County Museum in 1972. Visitors learned how to knit wristlets, per Red Cross instructions distributed in 1917.

Miscellany:

- Thanks to Jerry Fogle for the donation of his collection of reproduction items and living history kit on Thursday, January 12.
- On Friday, January 13, Robert, Mike and I went to a donor's home to pick up a very special grandfather clock. It was a day like any other day, but fate had a special surprise planned for our party that caused us to be stranded (safely) at the donors' home due to a bad fuel pump on our U-Haul truck. All was well after an adventurous day involving mechanics, tow trucks, and some careful lifting. Thanks to Robert Lutey for coordination of the move.
- On Saturday, January 21, Brian, Andy, and I attended the Commemoration of the Battles of the River Raisin event at the battlefield. The MCMS was a sponsor of the event for which we were recognized, and a good time was had by all. Congratulations to the RRNBP, auxiliary groups, and the reenactors & volunteers for their contributions toward preserving the memory and raising awareness of the events of 210 years ago.
- On Wednesday, January 25, Robert and I accepted an invitation from WTOL11 to appear in a morning show segment entitled *Amanda and Diane's Knit-a-long*. Braving the weather, we took the aforementioned sweater for its first road trip in approximately 51 years. Mr. Wagner's sweater stole the spotlight while Robert and I encouraged Toledo's masses to visit the MCM.
- Special recognition to Gerry Wykes for his tremendous services to the MCMS. With his retirement, he will be greatly missed by all.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report
For December, 2022

We were open by appointment with 6 visitors, 5 walk-ins and about 18 GSMC members. The elevator remains closed.

I spend my hours between walk-ins (not so many with the elevator down), scheduled visitors, phone and email research questions, processing FIC, digital scanning and backlog finding and processing.

Research topics this month included: Steffes family obituaries, County Deeds, Deloche and Daly families, Fermi I event, historic houses and properties in Frenchtown for their Building Department; the Macon Reserve and Dundee, Dr. Ames, Pettee and Knapp.

Rachel processed 33 obits from 6 requests. She handled 6 phone call requests and 15 emails. Top surnames requested included Finzel, Drinkhahn, Huebner, Kressbach, Shotwell. She assisted at the front desk as needed, also working on the weekends.

Robert had 24 outside calls and answered 13 emails. He continued to contact, answer questions and arrange new donations. He was with JJ promoting *YesterWays* on WTOL Channel 11. He and several other staff received and moved the new Grandfather clock to the Victorian room.

January Accessions:

- 2023.1 Pam Arnold: 1988 aerial photograph of Monroe and items for topical files
- 2023.2 Museum: glass light globes, and business ruler
- 2023.3 Christo Navarre: Navarre family deeds, military discharge, and other documents
- 2023.4 Robert Douglas: Sawyer owned Grandfather Clock from early 1800s
- 2023.5 Emily Phillips: 4-H Monroe County Fair patch
- 2023.6 Michael VanWasshnova: Fix family items and photographs
- 2023.7 Judy Swinkey: images taken of the Medard Labadie house in Monroe Township not previously entered
- 2023.8 Eva Coch: Ceramic dinner plates pattern 'Linda' labeled from Ohio China Company

We received a free copy from former Director Ralph Naveaux's updated book 'Invaded On All Sides' and added it to our library in Archives.

I still have not received the Historical Society's Custer appraisal from this year for updating the 2023 annual Loan Agreement. Neither has anything been accomplished for the Christmas collection of Bill & Winnie Findley. Most annual signed loan agreements have come back, with paperwork due by January 31st.

I found in the collection an 1832 partial listing for county tax assessments (some townships not included; beautifully written) so I transcribed and indexed it and placed it out on the research shelves.

PastPerfect:

I've scanned several boxes of images into PastPerfect: Dundee, Historical Museum, Wagner family, Veterans, Schools 2; Military 3, 4 and 7 collections. There are still hundreds if not thousands, of images left to scan.

I am also checking the old system photograph index cards in PastPerfect so we can stop using them. The old cards were made for each image in the collection under the limited topics such as church, school,

business, government, people, etc. when there was not a central database like we have now with PP. The card system is outdated and taking up space. By going through the cards, it also allows any additional data to be added to the PP entries, but it is slow going since there are thousands of cards in that filing cabinet!

Transfers or Deaccessions: none

County Obituary page use:

December 2022: 8,186 views by 793 users for 17,965 total

January 2023: 9,964 views by 1,076 users for 22,126 total

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian
February, 2023

February 3, 2023

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

Guest Services Division Report ◇ January 2023

The Monroe County Museum hosted 236 visitors in the month of January, and the most popular visitation day was Saturday.

Several events captured our time this month: participation in the 2023 commemoration of the Battles of the River Raisin at the National Battlefield Park and, of course, the January *YesterWays* activity held each Saturday – learning to knit!

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

Oliver continues to be a valuable member of the Guest Services Division – he is wonderful with guests and is dependable and helpful.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator

Monroe County Museum System Engagement Report - January 2023

Monroe County Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	236												236
Visitation Data	In January, we welcomed 236 visitors to the museum - 193 adults and 43 children. 50 people were visiting for the first time! Saturday was the most popular day of the week, bringing in 64 people total. Monthly visitors hailed from Monroe and Woodhaven, as well as others from Southeastern Michigan.												
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													0
Visitation													0
Notes	The MCA is available by appointment only.												

Territorial Park

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	1876												1876
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												2366
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
Notes	The VVMM will open 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.												

St. Antoine's

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation													0

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Education Kit Usage	0												0
Field Trips	0												0
MCMS2UVisits	0												0
YesterWays	8												8
Notes	January YesterWays theme: Our Boys Need Sox - Knit Your Bit (Learn to Knit)												

Monroe County Museum System Special Events Attendance

Participation in the 2023 NPS River Raisin Battles Commemoration	685
Special Events total	685

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											
Post engagement	1688												1688
New followers	25												25
Total followers	6174												6174

Instagram	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
	Accounts Reached	13											
Profile visits	19												19
Total Followers	838												838



YouTube	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Hours Watched	103.4												103.4
Impressions	7093												7093
Views	374												374
Most popular video	Searching for Le Griffon - with Ric Mixer												



Monroe County Museum System County Statistics (Google)													
Monroe County Archives													
IEWS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Archives & Collections Search													0
Page Views													0
Obituary Search	9964												9964
Notes													