

**MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
*Regular Meeting*  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2022 – 7 pm**

Monroe County Museum  
126 South Monroe Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

**AGENDA**

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting of July 13, 2022
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. Museum Staff Reports
8. Old Business
9. Public Comment
10. Board Comments
11. Adjournment

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7 pm  
Monroe County Museum  
126 South Monroe Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161

2022 MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2022 COMMITTEES
<p><b>Chair</b> Brian Egen, District 6</p> <p><b>Vice Chair</b> Jeremy Potter, District 1</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Michael Humphries, District 8</p> <p><b>Immediate Past Chair</b> Hobby Nels</p> <p><b>Trustee Emeritus</b> Richard Micka</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> Thomas Heywood, District 2</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> Mary Strevel, District 3</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> L William Conner, District 4</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> Michelle LaVoy, District 5</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> Tony Trujillo, District 7</p> <p><b>Trustee</b> Nick Guthrie, District 9</p>	<p><b>Executive Committee</b> Chair: Brian Egen Members: Jeremy Potter, Michael Humphries, Hobby Nels, Andrew Clark, and JJ Przewozniak</p> <p><b>Awards Committee</b> Chair: Mary Strevel Members: Tony Trujillo, Thomas Heywood, and Andrew Clark</p> <p><b>Markers Committee</b> Chair: Jeremy Potter Members: Brian Egen, Nicholas Guthrie, Michael Humphries, Lynn Reaume, and Andrew Clark</p> <p><b>Projects Committee</b> 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 13, 2022 // 7:00 PM  
Held at the Monroe County Museum  
126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, MI 48161

Attendance:

Brian Egen, Chairman	District 6	
Jeremy Potter, Vice-Chair	District 1	(excused)
Mike Humphries, Secretary	District 8	
L. William Connor	District 4	
Nicholas Guthrie	District 9	(excused)
Thomas Heywood	District 2	
Michelle LaVoy	District 5	
Mary Strevel	District 3	(excused)
Tony Trujillo	District 7	
Hobby Nels, Past Chair	---	(excused)
Richard Micka, Trustee Emeritus	---	
Andy Clark, Director		
JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director		

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, and roll call was taken by Mike Humphries.

Dick Micka made a motion to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Tom Heywood, and the motion was carried unanimously. A motion to approve the May 11, 2022 meeting minutes was also made and carried unanimously.

1<sup>st</sup> public comment: One comment complimented the work being done by MCMS staff at the Eby Cabin. Another comment suggested that the MCMS place the original wooden Sawyer House WPA marker at the Sawyer House site.

Updates from the Executive Committee: No updates at this time.

Updates from the Awards Committee: L. William Conner made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations for the 2022 *Spirit of Service* awards, which was seconded by Dick Micka, and carried unanimously. It was announced that Sue Donovan is the 2022 recipient of the Illumination Award, and the Berlin Charter Township Historical Society is the 2022 recipient of the Connection Award. Andy Clark welcomed everyone to attend the ceremony on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, during which the awards for 2020, 2021, and 2022 will be presented to the recipients.

A member of the public suggested that the Sawyer House volunteer group should be considered for an award, to which several trustees responded by sharing information about the nomination process.

Updates from the Building Committee: No updates at this time.

Updates from the Markers Committee: No updates at this time.

Updates from the Projects Committee: Mike Humphries made a recommendation that the 2022 disbursement from the Historical Projects Fund be awarded to the following 5 applicants:

- 1) The Berlin Charter Township Historical Society requested \$935.00 for archival supplies. Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the request, Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Dick Micka abstained from voting due to membership.
- 2) The Dundee Old Mill requested \$9,224.00 for technology upgrades. Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the request, Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 3) The Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield requested \$20,000.00 for archival improvements. Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the request, Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. Dick Micka abstained from voting due to membership.
- 4) The Milan Area Historical Society requested \$5,323.50 for a chair lift at the fire barn. Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the request, Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 5) The Monroe County Historical Society requested \$20,000.00 for improvements to the Johnson-Phinney house. Mike Humphries made a motion to approve the request, Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mike Humphries commended Andy Clark for improvements made to the application process.

Reauthorization of the fall 2021 disbursement to the Dundee Old Mill: The award given to the Dundee Old Mill in 2021 appeared incorrectly in the minutes from that meeting. Mike Humphries made a motion to affirm that the fall 2021 award to Dundee old mill was \$2,587.50. Michelle LaVoy seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Museum Staff Reports: Brian Egen expressed thanks to the museum staff for assembling the reports. Tom Heywood made a motion to approve them, it was seconded by Michelle LaVoy, and the motion carried unanimously.

Tony Trujillo asked if museum attendance has improved. Andy Clark offered insight and cited several factors that influence attendance, such as electronic vehicle counters, varied event environments, and ongoing public health concerns. Mike Humphries asked about county website updates, and Andy Clark verified that the update was in progress.

NPS request: Brian Egen asked Andy Clark for an overview of the status of the request. Andy responded by providing a brief summary of the NPS request and background. He continued that, in addition to conducting research, Lynn Reaume had made improvements to the original report, such as the addition of photos of the items in question, and further documentation, in cooperation with NPS representatives. He announced that the MCMS has identified several items in the baseline inventory that are irreplaceable, and of outstanding cultural and community significance. These items are of primary importance to the history of the County of Monroe, and deserving of perpetual distinctive protections and stewardship by the MCMS. They are:

- Item #6: [1] Pipe tomahawk donated to the MCMS by the J.B. Nadeau family. Museum accession #967.2840.

- Item #10: [10] “Items found on Col. Well’s [sic] Campsite.”
- Item #11: [10] “Artifacts found in the cellar of George McDougal house.”
- Item #12: [11] “Artifacts found on the site of the Battle and Massacre.”
- Item #21: [1] Original wood carving from the WPA, depicting the death of Captain Hart.

He further explained that the MCMS has identified several additional items that also irreplaceable and of great community significance, that are ranked on a lesser tier than the previous items. These items are of importance to the history of the County of Monroe, and deserving of protections by the MCMS should they be deemed unsuitable for the needs of the NPS. They are:

- Item #1: [1] Model 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle with bayonet donated to the museum by Mike Yeck. Museum accession #82.12.15.1.1.
- Item #2: [1] Model 1808 Cartridge, state contract variant donated to the museum by Mike Yeck. Museum accession #82.12.15.1.2.
- Item #3: [1] Model 1812 US Bayonet donated by William Vecchioni. Museum accession #94.2.15.1.
- Item #4: [1] Officer’s saber with leather scabbard, ca. 1810 donated by Mike Yeck. Museum accession #99.12.20.1.
- Item #33: Native American mannequin and display.

Some discussion ensued regarding details of the items, the language of a proposed loan agreement, aspects of museum industry standards, institutional courtesy, and other details, to which Andy responded with explanation and clarification. Mike Humphries stated that the MCMS has a dual obligation to be excellent stewards of Monroe county history, and to maintain an amiable and cooperative relationship with the NPS. Andy Clark directed Trustees with any lingering questions to contact Lynn Reaume for more information on the items.

Brian Egen offered a summary and asked for comments from the trustees. Further discussion ensued regarding the ongoing improvement of the relationship between MCMS and the NPS (Andy Clark), the intended use of the items in question (L. William Conner), the value of reproduction items (Tom Heywood and Brian Egen), the potential for alteration of loan agreements, and the role of the Board of Commissioners (Dick Micka). Tony Trujillo expressed a desire that the items in question should be actively on display at the visitors center, and Dick Micka and Brian Egen verified that some of the items in question are on display currently.

Mike Humphries made a motion for the Board of Trustees to recommend that all items in the baseline inventory be transferred fully with no restrictions to the NPS, with the exception of all the above listed items (#1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 21, and 33) which must be placed on a recurring loan consistent with common museum industry practices. Tom Heywood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Brian Egen expressed thanks for the engaging discussion, and the work invested by MCMS staff. Andy Clark echoed the thanks to the trustees, and Mike Humphries expressed hope that this decision be handled in as positive a manner as possible. Brian Egen concluded the discussion by requesting that a document be created that reflects the Board of Trustees’ decision, to be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

2<sup>nd</sup> public comment: An update was given on the activities of the Friends of Potter Cemetery.

Board comments: Trustees expressed good wishes to all, eager anticipation for fair week, relief and fulfillment following judicious review of the NPS request, and excitement for the September 7<sup>th</sup> awards ceremony. Andy Clark and JJ Przewozniak welcomed volunteer commitments for fair week. Finally, Brian Egen expressed condolences to Mike Humphries on the passing of his mother.

Mike Humphries made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Michelle LaVoy, and it was carried unanimously. The meeting ended at approximately 8:10 PM.

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Minutes prepared by JJ Przewozniak on July 14, 2022.

## **MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM**

### **Director's Report**

Submitted by Andrew Clark, Director

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

### **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 by-appointment and via phone, mail, and email.

#### *Territorial Park*

Grounds are open year round; with the exception of Octobernight on October 14th and 15th, regular operations for the site ended Labor Day weekend.

#### *Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum*

Grounds are open year round; regular operations for the VVM ended Labor Day weekend.

#### *St Antoine's Historic Site*

Grounds are open year round.

### **Maintenance and Operations**

#### *Museum and Archives*

No significant or unusual maintenance projects have occurred.

The flagpole was supposed to be painted in September but the lift the contractor planned to use wasn't of suitable size. Repainting of the pole is now slated to occur sometime later in October. (I believe this will be the second painting of the flagpole during my nearly ten year tenure.)

#### *Territorial Park*

The odds and ends of restoration work on Papermill School should finally be wrapped up. All storm windows have been installed and Mike and Gerry made improvements on the interior entryway. Aside from the welcome center side of things, the bathroom is the last remaining element to get an upgrade. If you're ever interested in an amusing story about address numbers on the building, please ask.

We placed two new picnic tables with umbrellas out at the park in August. They have been well received by members of the public and had near instant

use. Both tables have ADA accessibility. One is positioned on the circle where the two benches used to be located and the other is located under the trees, close to the river.

JJ's report also covers some of the various other improvements made at the site over the last few months.

Personally, I think the site has made great strides and is getting closer to the vision first made over forty years ago. We will spend time this winter getting Papermill School readied for reopening.

#### *Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum*

No significant maintenance projects to report.

We had a lingering homeless issue behind the VVM this summer (he had pushed a picnic table up to one of the exterior exhibit cases and taken up residence) and despite many gentle efforts to encourage him to leave, he stayed on. He used the site as a home base for panhandling operations in town. We assumed that once it got colder at night he would move on. He didn't. It appears the main reason he had camped there was to use the exterior power outlets to charge his phone. After we flipped the breaker, he finally departed – and left behind a rather foul mess that County Parks and Rec staff cleaned up. He has now relocated to Telegraph Road and has established a camp near the U-Haul.

The situation is unfortunate and unfortunately not unusual. Though we have had homeless folks around the VVM, they have never lingered as long as our most recent resident nor blocked one of our exhibit cases for such a prolonged period. Current operating policy is that two staffers be on-site whenever one of our buildings/sites are open to the public – except for the VVM because it's such a small space, open one day a week, and has such a small amount of visitation. It is a remote and somewhat exposed site due to its proximity to the expressway and truck stops. JJ and I have already started some preliminary brainstorming for the 2023 operating season to see if we can remedy the situation.

#### *St Antoine's Historic Site*

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

#### **Spirit of Service Awards**

Thanks to everyone that showed up to the 2020-2022 Spirit of Service Awards held at Territorial Park on Wednesday, September 7th. I believe it was probably one of our best award ceremonies to date. Thankfully the weather worked in our favor to provide us with such a great evening. I've received a



number of positive comments about the event and the site. All awards are now in the possession of the recipients.

### **Markers Program**

I checked in with our marker maker and was informed the refurbishment program is on hold but they hope to have everything back on track starting in November. Due to a post-COVID flood of new work, 75% turnover in the span of six months earlier this year, and general disarray of records, it sounds like it'll be a bit before everything is back to normal. We currently have four markers down there awaiting refurbishment. I have no intention of taking anymore down until things are caught up.

### **Historical Projects Fund**

All recipients of the 2022 disbursements have been notified.

### **Personnel Updates**

There have been several departures of part-time staff over the Summer and early Fall. Emily Phillips, Exhibits Specialist; Samantha Bartley, Presenter; and Lisa Gessner, Presenter. Positions and job descriptions are being rewritten and any replacements will not be made until after the beginning of 2023.

In partial fulfillment of our 2021 millage campaign, the County Board of Commissioners approved making our part-time Registrar position full-time last month. The transition from part-time to full-time has been rather seamless as Robert Lutey accepted the job.

### **Upcoming Closures**

There are no planned closures or county holidays before our November meeting.

### **County Website**

The county website has been redone. Our portion still needs a bit of work. As our section will be getting some changes of its own in the very near future, I haven't yet put in any extra work besides basic maintenance at this point.

### **DDA Project**

The DDA is currently focusing on place-making and visual improvements to downtown Monroe. One of their initiatives is to explore the implementation of the Heart of Monroe plan that was created a few years ago. At last month's meeting they contracted with an architect to look into potentially developing the space between the County Museum and the RRCA as a pocket park.

Though it would mean the loss of our parking area, it would mean the gain of a multi-use, outdoor programming space we currently lack at the County Museum. As the parking situation around the County Museum has improved over the last couple years, we can safely relinquish those spaces and be minimally impacted. A preliminary plan is supposed to be completed sometime early next year.

## MONROE COUNTY MUSEUM SYSTEM

Deputy Director's Report for July, August, and September 2022

### ***Commemorative Triple Issue!***

Submitted by Jeffrey J. (JJ) Przewozniak

Saturday, October 8, 2022

#### **Programming:**

- The July *First Friday* event, *Star-Spangled Scoops*, was held Friday, July 1. Ye Olde park was decked in Red, white, and blue, and a good time was had by all. Complimentary ice cream was received happily by visitors, and many olde-tyme games were played, including freshly-built favorites, such as battledore & shuttlecock, and graces.
- Fair week was a great success! The living history model established last year was utilized to good effect, as was the overall program of education. Domestic activities were broadened from last year to include the preparation of a complete period-correct dinner meal, while the outdoor activities centered on seasonally-appropriate wheat processing, using our recently restored fanning mill. The decision made previously to settle permanently on an interpretive year (1860), will continue to allow us to offer increasingly rich history experiences to our visitors. This has already proven very successful, as we've made investments in 1860 period clothing, kitchenware, assorted reproduction items, and interpretive themes that will continue to be explored over the years. Thanks to the Monroe County Historical Society for their continued support, the many local history organizations who responded to our request for volunteer service, and for all MCMS staff for their assistance with this tremendous effort.
- Preparation for Octobernight is currently in full swing. This year will be a doozy, with several exciting enhancements. Come join us on October 14 or 15! Visit [octobernight.org](http://octobernight.org) for more information. Thanks in advance to all volunteers and MCMS staff for the tremendous service.

#### **Territorial Park:**

- Beginning July 11, substantial landscaping projects were launched. These included creation of multiple gravel walkways throughout the site, maintenance of others, expansion of the access road and staff parking areas, and grading/filling of the schoolhouse parking lot. Work was completed in short order. As an added bonus, an area we affectionately call "the swamp" was nicely filled in, and that particular area has been level and dry ever since.
- Territorial Park buildings were closed for the season on Labor Day weekend, but maintenance of the grounds and farm chores continued throughout the warm weather.
- The park busted with activity on September 16 and 17, as scenes were filmed for the River Raisin Legacy Project, as well as *Octobernight* commercials. Various staff played important support roles prior to and during the shoots, involving period clothing, grounds work, props, and general assistance.
- In late August, essential repairs were performed by Mike, Andy, and I on the RRTP bridge.
- The Papermill schoolhouse fence was painted in early August.
- On Friday, August 2, all building of RRTP received stinging insect treatment in preparation for the Spirit of Service Awards ceremony, which was held Wednesday, September 7.
- The landscaping crew installed a new walking path near the Papermill school and established a lovely fine-gravel yard around the concrete slabs around mid-September.

#### **Outreach:**

- Tuesday, July 5: Fur Trade Kit/Program presentation at [Monroe County Youth Center](#).
- Monday, July 11: Early Kitchen Program presentation at [Wellspring Lutheran Services](#).

- Wednesday, August 17: Reading and writing camp field trip at MCM with Waterloo Elementary K-4<sup>th</sup> graders. 15 students.
- Friday, August 19: Field Trip Friday Homeschool Group tour at RRTP. About 15 students.
- Tuesday, August 23: Early French Settlers Kit/Program presentation at Monroe County Youth Center.
- Thursday, September 6: the Early Kitchen teacher kit was lent to Milan Schools.
- Friday, September 16: Guided tour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor military exhibit with Meadow Montessori 9-12 graders. 13 students.
- Wednesday, September 28: Native American Lifeways program offsite at Triumph Academy to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

**Miscellany:**

- On Monday, July 11, Andy and I represented MCMS at the Navy Day event at the battlefield.
- Thanks to Chairman Brian Egen for volunteering during fair week, and for coordinating a loan of heirloom winter wheat.
- RRTP was treated for poison ivy on Thursday, August 11.
- The Robert Seldon Duncanson Society held an event at the museum on Friday, August 19.
- It's *One Book One Community* season again! Various staff members participate in scheduled meetings.
- On Wednesday, September 14, I retrieved artifacts previously on loan to the NPS.
- On Wednesday, September 28, we hosted the Top Hat Table Readers at the Papermill School.

LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report  
For August, 2022

We were open by appointment with 10 visitors + many GSMC members. Research topics included the Society on the Johnson-Phinney building, Loeffler family, obituaries, Chenevarre, Soudriette/Sordillet Sterling State Park, Gerdau Steel Company, Snodgrass, 110 East Lorain, Hinkleman.

Rachel processed 35 obituary requests from 10 individuals; 16 emails and 13 phone requests. Surnames included Oley, Bennett, Jewell, Lajiness, Galloway and Labeau. She continues to add death notices as found by GSMC members working on newspapers.

Robert had 17 outside calls and answered 38 emails.

August Accessions:

2022.47 Dave Eby: Two Monroe 4-H Fair Centennial ribbons  
2022.48 Calvin Stump: Paper items relating to Rodger Schoch  
2022.49 Museum : used Sharp brand cassette tape recorder and blank tapes and two sympathy letters for Florence Ambrose  
2022.50 Helen Hudson & Henry Hudson: Two pairs of wooden skis and 1 set of ski poles  
2022.51 Frank Sikula : North Star Steel retirement helmet  
2022.52 Emily Phillips: Placard for 4-H trophy at the Monroe County Fair  
2022.53 Judy Ferry: Photographs of the Raisinville Grange and G.A. Custer headstone  
2022.54 Tom & Mary Bruck: Joyce Poupard Bruck's wedding dress with photograph  
2022.55 Maxine Kull: Slide viewer, razor strop, coin sorter, 'Ad-Venture' newspaper, family images, doll chair

We have not yet received the updated Monroe County Historical Society Custer collection appraisal.

August projects: Dundee Old Mill shared a scrapbook donation of Mrs. L. E. Saxton that was filled with clippings from the Dundee-Milan-London Township area. I scanned the book for both of us, and Barbara Roe and I split the subsequent work of identifying the persons and adding them to both our files. It took weeks.

I worked on the Capaul Collection, trying to label the boxes, consolidate, organize, etc. I have incorporated some of the boxes into our upstairs collections, well-marked as to being part of Capaul.

GSMC is still actively seeking out obituaries that have been missed in our files. They are relentless!

We are continuing to remove non-Monroe items from our collection, and has Robert contacted:

- Detroit Historical Museum for 2 metal 'Menzie's Shoe Company' signs, Detroit Yacht Club rule book, Mohawk glass bottle and Bumpus-Hull Company archival materials.
- Chicago Public Library: Four National Assn. of Real Estate Boards books
- Museum of the Gulf Coast: One Port Arthur investor's informational document.

We received acknowledgment from the Battlefield of 194 reproduction clothing that had been donated to them via J.J. in January of 2022.

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was at #1 with 10,663 page views; the Museum was #30 with 390 page views ; Territorial Park was #124 (down) with 59 page views and Heck Park #136 with 51 page views, followed by Vietnam Veterans Museum with 61.

Facebook: 3 posts, Lotus #1 1,704; Lotus #2, 1,956; Adam Sakel 1,056. Reposting of wooden historical markers for fair, 1,897. Total 6,613.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian  
September, 2022

**LOCAL HISTORY DIVISION Report**  
For September, 2022

We were open by appointment with 10 visitors + many GSMC members. We have found that appointment scheduling has helped both cooperating visitors and staff.

Research topics this month included the Calder files, residences in the county, the Bacon family bible, Spicer family of Carleton, Weber, the interurban, Menard family, Ida, Lanman, Pearl Street, obits.

Rachel processed 26 obits from 6 requests, including Bondy and Dauler. She handled 5 phone call requests and 10 emails. She continues to add death notices and corrections as found by GSMC members working on the newspapers.

Robert had 19 outside calls and answered 37 emails. This month he assisted at the Spirit of service awards program, dropped off transferred items to the Detroit Historical museum, processed the retrieved loan items J.J. picked up from NPS (I was on vacation) on the 14<sup>th</sup>, which included weapons and archaeological artifacts, as previously described.

September Accessions:

2022.56 Wendy Kennedy: booklet on St. Joseph, Maybee church stained glass windows  
2022.57 Monroe Co. Planning Dept: hundreds of county photographs, the majority on county floodings  
2022.58 Dean Cousino: Monroe Historical Society old promotional VHS  
2022.59 Edward Fox: Photographs, newsletters & documents re North Star Steel Co.  
2022.60 Ronald Meyer: Korean War U.S. naval uniform  
2022.61 Frank Sikula: magazine and paper re the steel manufacturing industry  
2022.62 Lynn Reaume: documents of sale of John Hoffman's Bolles Harbor property; plus My Little Pony toys & misc.

I am in correspondence with the Smithsonian regarding the possible transfer of ownership of the recently conserved WPA painting 'Romance of Monroe' to our collection. So far this is looking favorable.

We have not yet received the updated Monroe County Historical Society Custer collection appraisal.

The big project for the last weeks have been processing the box of photographs I picked up from the county office (see above). They consisted of mostly flooding, the lake shore, dikes, Luna Pier, a Fermi II ca. 1986 tour, businesses, the old and new jail construction, Lantern Tours (for some reason) and lots of county misc.

I gave a program on the 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's church on their stained glass windows.

We continue to have two GSMC members who are currently helping Rachel & I process obituaries that were missed in the 1960s- we don't know how many and how far we'll have to go (back and forward) so it's going to be lengthy project.

We have a new archives volunteer- Jennifer Neikirk of Monroe- who is weekly filing obits and topical files. We also have the temporary additional help of staffer Oliver Brown.

County Google Stats: the Obituary search was at #1 with 10,493 page views; Octovernight was #30 with 354 page views; Museum #31 with 352 views; Archives #93 with 89 views.

Lynn W. Reaume, County Historian  
October, 2022

# Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

## September 2022 Museum Exhibits Report

Given the fact that we have several months of catch-up to do on monthly reporting, I will not attempt to cover everything that transpired over that period. Instead, I will be generic and cherry-pick the highlights – something I do anyway.

First of all, let me note that Exhibits Specialist Emily Phillips left to take on a full-time job last month. Apart from the fact that her new position is in her field, pays well, and has benefits, I found little excuse for her abandoning us just because she wanted to eat (wink!). I will miss her graphics expertise but wish her well in her first full-time career position. Mike Nelligan, whose multi-labelled name tag includes the title of “Exhibits Specialist” has been busy with a plethora of Exhibit Dept. projects ranging from construction of the wooden “tree skirts” to protect our heritage fruit trees at the Territorial Park and fencing needs at the Eby House for fair week to floor repair at the Papermill School and preparatory Octobersnight needs. After extensive graphics training he should be good to go by next week on those duties (another wink!).

One of the primary exhibits completed over this period was a permanent case display focusing on the artist Robert S. Duncanson. Duncanson, the son of former slaves, moved with his parents and 5 siblings to Monroe in the late 1820’s and worked in the family business as a house painter and decorator. By the time he was 18 he saw the need to develop his fine art skills and left town to pursue his talents in Cincinnati, Ohio. He attained national and some international notoriety as one of the top American landscape artists of his day before his story ended abruptly with his un-timely death at the age of 52.

The Duncanson family remained in Monroe and Robert often returned and exhibited artwork when working in Detroit. His remains are buried here in the family plot. So, unlike others that started in Monroe and attained fame elsewhere, it is safe to say he was genuinely “one of ours” and worthy of our attention. The only problem, exhibit-wise, was that there are no Robert Duncanson artifacts in the museum collection – the only primary items being from his artist brother Simeon and nephew. His paintings now demand top dollar and are unlikely to come into the collection anytime soon (although we are looking at a few unattributed paintings to see if they might be Duncansons). The exhibit, therefore follows the “expanded panel” design in which flat-work images are used to convey the story.

Fortunately, Duncanson sat for quite a few photo portraits. An enlarged image of him is the center of the exhibit. The clarity of the shot allows us to approach him as he is seated at a willow twig table, cane in hand, and imagine that we are saying “hello” to a fellow townsman.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald P. Wykes  
Exhibits Coordinator



October 12, 2022

**Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees**  
Guest Services Division Report ♦ July, August, and September 2022

Oliver Brown has been an amazing addition to the Guest Services Division. He acclimated quickly, is great with visitors, and his archival experience is helpful for our Archives Department.

*First Fridays* continued with *Star-Spangled Scoops*, a program that brought 63 people to the River Raisin Territorial Park on July 1. Visitors were served ice cream. There was no *First Friday* in August due to its overlap with the Monroe County Fair. September's was cancelled.

Recurring tasks for the past three months included submitting invoices for payment, depositing our monthly donations and archival fees at the County Treasurer's Office, and ordering office supplies, program materials, and items for Octobernight.

We decided to use BrownPaperTickets for our Octobernight ticket sales again. The simplicity of the backend programming, the relative ease of setting up our event, the payment options for guests, and the daily reporting made it a no-brainer recommendation for 2022. Tickets went on sale at noon on September 15, and sales at September's end were higher than the same time period in 2021. After our experiment last year, people have adapted to online ticket sales and have embraced the idea – I'm hoping that going forward, it will become the norm for all Museum events.

Lastly, I have implemented several safety-related procedures, including a check of the museum ten minutes before closing as well as a two-person check of the entrance and exit doors at departure.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Piegza, Guest Services Coordinator



## Monroe County Museum System Engagement Report - 2022

### Monroe County Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	163	210	262	454	218	374	430	326	237				2674
Visitation Data - July	In July, we welcomed <b>430</b> visitors to the museum. They ranged in age from infant to 70+, with male visitors in the majority. <b>206</b> people were visiting for the first time! <b>Saturday</b> was the most popular day of the week, bringing in <b>103</b> people total. Monthly visitors hailed from <b>Dundee, Kalamazoo, Monroe, Wayne, Ypsilanti, Ohio, and Pennsylvania</b> .												
Visitation Data - August	In August, we welcomed <b>326</b> visitors to the museum. They ranged in age from infant to 70+, with male visitors in the majority. <b>71</b> people were visiting for the first time! With the exception of the Duncanson Society event, <b>Saturday</b> was the most popular day of the week, bringing in <b>66</b> people total. Monthly visitors hailed from <b>Adrian, Monroe, Trenton, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, and Australia</b> .												
Visitation Data - September	In September, we welcomed <b>237</b> visitors to the museum. They ranged in age from infant to 70+, with male visitors in the majority. <b>54</b> people were visiting for the first time! <b>Friday</b> was the most popular day of the week, bringing in <b>49</b> people total. Monthly visitors hailed from <b>Lincoln Park, Monroe, and Toledo</b> .												
Notes	The MCM continues to operate 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	N/A	N/A	13	13	12	10							48
Visitation	N/A	N/A	14	12	11	29							66
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	1293	1732	2121	2214	4138	4893	4080	3532	3806				27809
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	1904	1574	4129	4546	4939	4824	5283	3926	3678				34803
Notes	<i>**Due to malfunctioning vehicle counter, January-July numbers based on 2021 reports.**</i>												

### Vietnam Veterans Museum

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation					7	19	39	20	1				86
Notes	The VV Museum opened on Memorial Day Weekend and will be open on Saturdays, 10-4, through Labor Day Weekend.												

### Eby Log House - Monroe County Fair

	July 31	August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4	August 5	August 6						YTD Total
Visitation	552	838	818	1067	972	646	704						5597
Notes													

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.												

Totals for all sites													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Visitation	3360	3516	6526	7226	9313	10139	9832	7804	7722	0	0	0	65438

Monroe County Museum System In-Person/Virtual Programs Engagement Report													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Curiosity Cart	36	57	33										126
Education Kit Usage	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	2				7
Field Trips	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	1				10
First Friday	15	50	39	180	55	70	63						472
MCMS2U Visits	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1				8
YesterWays	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	4	3					7
Notes	<p><b>July First Friday Participants: 63</b> - <u>July 1</u> - Star-Spangled Scoops at the RRTP  <b>July MCMS2U Visits: 2</b> - <u>July 11</u> - Lisa presented the Early Kitchen program at Wellspring, reaching 28 people; <u>July 14</u> - Lisa presented the <i>Fur Trade</i> program at the Monroe County Youth Center, reaching 15 people.</p>												
Notes	<p><b>August Field Trips: 2:</b> On <u>August 17</u>, 6 students, teachers, and chaperones visited the Museum (M. Wilhelm, Monroe, K-4); On <u>August 23</u>, 21 students, teachers, and chaperones visited the RRTP (K. Trapp, homeschool, K-10).  <b>August MCMS2U Visits: 1</b> - <u>August 14</u> - Lisa presented the <i>Fur Trade</i> program at the Monroe County Youth Center, reaching 15 people.</p>												
Notes	<p><b>September Field Trips: 1:</b> On <u>September 16</u>, 12 students, teachers, and chaperones visited the Museum (TEACHER, Meadow Montessori, 9-12)  <b>September MCMS2U Visits: 1</b> - <u>September 28</u> - Lisa and Jess presented the <i>Early Kitchen</i> program at Triumph Academy, reaching 90 students.  <b>September Education Kit Usage: 2</b> - <u>September 6</u> - Early Kitchen (K-5 STEM teacher); <u>September 28</u> - Primary Indian (5th grade, Triumph Academy)</p>												

Monroe County Museum System Social Media Engagement Report													
Facebook	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Clicks	1530	1058	2139	5054	4017	1462	1315	1477	1035				19087
New Likes	31	14	45	53	50	39	59	53	51				395
Lifetime Likes	5329	5340	5364	5413	5447	5491	5554	5602					5491
Notes	July's most popular post: July 27 (Wooden Historical Markers at the Fairground)												
Notes	August's most popular post: August 10 (Rick Grassley and the GSMC's Little Free Library)												
Notes	September's most popular post: September 8 (we shared MCE's post about receiving an SOS award)												

Instagram	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Accounts Reached	460	344	381	389	362	238	206	373	433				3186
Content Interactions	67	52	50	64	50	33	17	74	35				442
Total Followers	686	692	701	719	734	754	759	769	790				790
Notes	July's most popular post: TIE (Fедerman RR Station) and (Independence Day vintage photo)												

<b>Notes</b>	<b>August's most popular post:</b> August 10 (Rick Grassley and the GSMC's Little Free Library)
<b>Notes</b>	<b>September's most popular post:</b> September 2 (Archives Hashtag Party post about sports)

Twitter	Monroe County Museum System County Statistics (Google)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Likes	27	30	41	19	22	2	29	37	41				248
Monthly Tweets	16	15	20	22	16	3	7	13	15				127
Replies	2	2	7	4	1	0	1	3	2				22
Retweets	7	8	13	3	7	2	4	8	13				65
Notes	July's most popular post: July 1 (#Archives Amusement Park picture)												
Notes	August's most popular post: August 5 (postcard image; part of the Archive Hashtag Party we participate in monthly)												
Notes	September's most popular post: September 2 (Archives Hashtag Party vintage football photo)												

YouTube	Monroe County Museum System County Statistics (Google)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Hours Watched	20.9	32	66.2	34.7	46.5	31.3	35.9	37	39.3				343.8
Impressions	1888	2086	1040	7251	5291	3281	4049	5925	4826				35637
Views	200	472	325	214	228	174	170	192	246				2221
Notes	July's most popular video: Searching for Le Griffon - with Ric Mixter												
Notes	August's most popular video: Searching for Le Griffon - with Ric Mixter												
Notes	September's most popular video: Searching for Le Griffon - with Ric Mixter												

Monroe County Archives													
Monroe County Archives	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Archives & Collections Search	N/A	N/A	101										101
Page Views	N/A	N/A	788										788
Obituary Search	N/A	N/A	12236										12236
Notes													