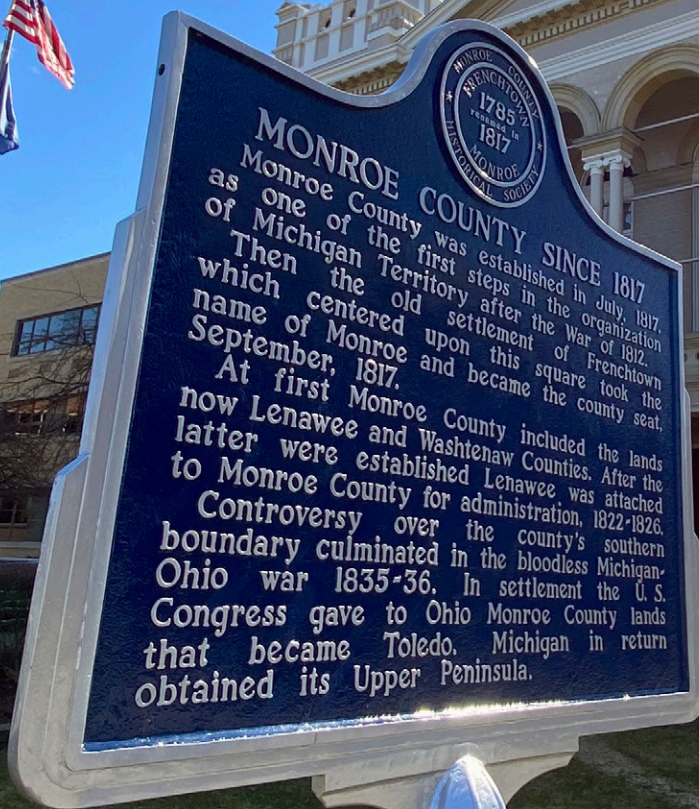


MONROE
★COUNTY★
MUSEUM
SYSTEM

Vision for a New Decade



January 2021

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

| Name | Title | District |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| Mark Brant | Chairman | 2 |
| Randy Richardville | Vice-Chairman | 5 |
| David C. Hoffman | Commissioner | 1 |
| Dawn Asper | Commissioner | 3 |
| George L. Jondro | Commissioner | 4 |
| Sharon D. Lemasters | Commissioner | 6 |
| David Swartout | Commissioner | 7 |
| Greg Moore, Jr. | Commissioner | 8 |
| J. Henry Lievens | Commissioner | 9 |

Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees

| Name | Title | District |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| Brian James Egen | Chairman | 6 |
| Jeremy Potter | Vice-Chairman | 1 |
| Thomas Heywood | Secretary | 2 |
| Mary Strevel | Trustee | 3 |
| L William Conner | Trustee | 4 |
| Richard Micka | Trustee | 5 |
| Tony Trujillo | Trustee | 7 |
| Michael Humphries | Trustee | 8 |
| Nicholas Guthrie | Trustee | 9 |
| Hobby Nels | Past Chair | --- |
| Richard Sieb | Trustee Emeritus | --- |

Monroe County Museum System Staff

Operations Division

Andrew Clark, Director
JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director
Mike Nelligan, Operations Attendant

Local History Division

Lynn Reaume, County Historian
Robert Lutey, Registrar
Rachel Reaume, Local History Specialist

Exhibits Division

Gerald Wykes, Exhibits Coordinator
Emily Phillips, Exhibits Specialist

Programs Division

JJ Przewozniak, Deputy Director
Lisa Gessner, Lead Presenter
Heather Piegza, Presenter
Robin Laurinec, Presenter

Guest Services Division

Megan Mullins, Guest Services Coordinator
Ann Morris, Guest Services

Chairman's Letter

History matters. History is relevant. When the Pew Research Center conducts a study on trusted institutions, museums always rank a close number two behind libraries. This is a tremendous amount of power and responsibility that museums possess. Though history is about the past, it was never intended for those who have passed. It is about our lived experience, it is about our connections, it is about our story to inspire a better future.

Large and small, in cities and rural locations, Museums are helping to strengthen communities and contribute to not only quality of life enhancements and placemaking, but as an economic driver in heritage tourism. Additionally, cultural institutions are working to foster thoughtful discussions and dialogue about what's important in their communities and the nation. Museums have the great capacity to help people make sense of the past to navigate the future.

By using a variety of learning techniques, museums are dynamic learning hubs, using the power of stories and artifacts to cultivate engagement, teach and inspire. Museums touch lives and transform the way people see the world and each other. Whether it's through power of the collection seeing the real thing, through a hands-on experience, or learning a story from the past, museums can touch that secret place of awe in everyone. Museums can ignite that spark.

Working with solid base that has been created over the past several decades, the Monroe County Museum System has been thinking and planning how to leverage our great potential for the next ten years and beyond. Over the past two years, we have been working closely with nationally renowned and respected museum professional Donna Braden toward that goal. Ms. Braden has led us through the American Association for State and Local History's Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs).

Completing the StEPS self-study assessment program in the spring of 2019 has enabled us to create a solid and robust roadmap for the future. The Monroe County Museum System's Vision for a New Decade is a strategic plan and long-range vision that outlines the key strategic initiatives that will provide a 10-year trajectory of relevance, sustainability, community impact, educational engagement, and cultural intensification that will continue to enhance the quality of life for residents and guests.

Our strategic plan will enable us to serve as active participants in the economic development and growth of Monroe County. Educational outreach and impact extending to the four corners of the County will ensure a vibrant and thriving community. With collaborations and partnerships with key stake holders, the Monroe County Museum System will deliver on the full potential of what a museum can be for not only the region but anyone who visits Monroe. Through our collections, programs, and stories, we will make the past relevant and inspire a better tomorrow.



Brian James Egen,
Chair, Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees



A Note from the Director

Nearly ten years ago, the Monroe County Historical Museum was on the eve of being shuttered in the wake of the Great Recession of 2008.

In 2012, unable to contemplate seeing one of the county's core cultural institutions closed, a group of concerned citizens rallied together under the banner of Save Our Stories to keep our doors open. They were successful. In August of that year, the citizens of Monroe County generously approved our first millage, guaranteeing our ability to operate through 2022.

Over the last decade, we have fortunately recovered and transformed. Reorganized and rejuvenated as the Monroe County Museum System, we have become a seven day a week operation across multiple historic sites, offering engaging programs to an array of age groups, and preserving and telling the stories that make Monroe County one of the most unique and historic communities in Michigan.

The work of history is never completed. We are only the temporary stewards until we can pass it on to the next generation. In our Vision for a New Decade, we will go beyond just saving our stories – because there are always more stories to tell.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clark". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "C" and a trailing "k".

Andrew Clark
Director, Monroe County Museum System

Executive Summary

Over the past two years, the Monroe County Museum System has been working with Donna Braden, Chief Curator at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Ms. Braden, a nationally respected museum professional, has led the Monroe County Museum System through the American Association for State and Local History's Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs).

StEPs is AASLH's self-study, self-paced assessment program designed specifically for small to mid-sized history organizations. Through a workbook, online resources, and an online community, the 1,000+ organizations enrolled in StEPs review their policies and practices and benchmark themselves against national museum standards.

Completing the StEPs program in the spring of 2019 has enabled us to create a solid and robust roadmap to the future. The Monroe County Museum System's Vision for a New Decade is a strategic plan and long-range vision that outlines the key strategic initiatives that will provide a 10-year trajectory of relevance, sustainability, community impact, educational engagement, and cultural intensification that will continue to enhance the quality of life for residents and guests.

Our Foundations

Mission

At the Monroe County Museum System, 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 connections between the past, present, and future.

Vision

The Monroe County Museum System is to be an essential part of Monroe County's present and future through audience awareness and responsiveness, increased community focus, responsible public history practice, and good stewardship of our assets.

Values

We strive to increase the quality of life of Monroe County residents and guests to our region through sharing stories of the past making relevant impacts today and for future generations.

We are committed to the educational value of our stories, programs, collections and sites to inspire awareness, appreciation and proud ownership with sense of place.

We appreciate and hold our public responsibility in high regard. As a county millage funded organization, we are dedicated to demonstrating the value added to our community and region for today, and for future generations.

Strategic Priorities

Our vision is to be an essential part of Monroe County's present and future through:

Audience Awareness, Responsiveness, and Collaboration

Create wider public awareness that the Monroe County Museum is not just one building but a system of sites. Through collaboration, partnership and alliance building with key stakeholders, we will instrumentally contribute to Monroe County's successful growth.

Expanded Educational Initiatives

Enhance, expand, and be more responsive to the educational needs of all of Monroe County's students (public, private, parochial, and homeschooled). Diversify offerings through field trips, in-classroom programs, electronic platforms, educator support materials, curriculum development and bussing assistance.

Increased Community Focus

Build upon existing—and cultivate new—partnerships, collaborations, and audiences.

Heritage Tourism and Economic Development

With a variety of offerings across all MCMS sites, we will enhance countywide heritage tourism efforts to fuel economic growth and development. Using increased resources, create broader awareness through a variety of marketing platforms to promote all of Monroe County and its various heritage assets.

Responsible Public History Practice

Identify, take advantage of new research about, and celebrate both the well-known and more obscure stories related to city, township, and county-wide human and natural history.

Enhanced Guest Experience

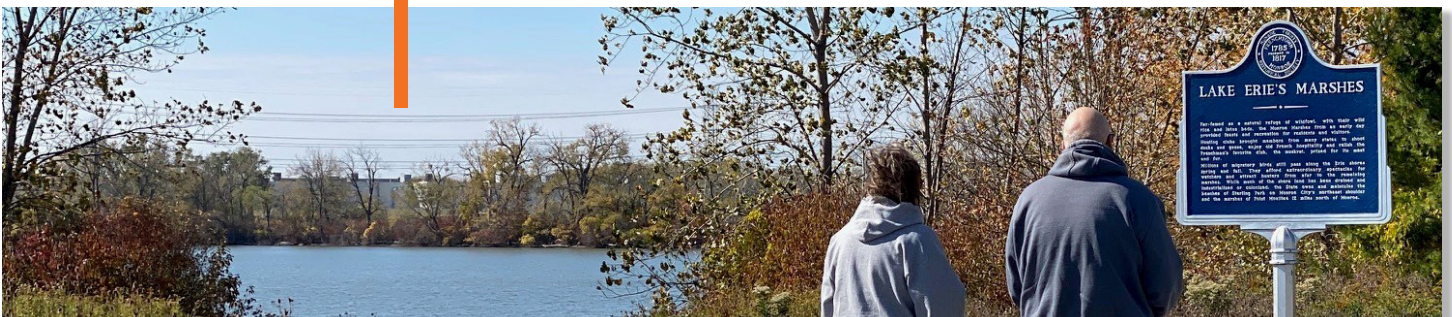
Welcome guests of all abilities and enhance the guest experience in both the museum building and within the county-wide system of sites.

Good Stewardship of Our Assets

Provide greater access to the Museum's collections, improve collections storage facilities, and implement physical upgrades within the county-wide system of sites.

Diversify Offerings Through Re-Invention of Our Operating Model

Explore potential new business model opportunities with out-of-the-box strategy to re-package our stories, spaces and sites such as hosting conferences, themed catered events as a venue, and more. This could provide new revenue to support the capacity to create a more robust presence and enhanced quality of life.





Goals

- Strengthen our Community Relevance
- Grow County and Regional Impact
- Enhance Guest on-site Experiences
- Improve Accessibility and Inclusion
- Sustain and Contribute to Regional Heritage Tourism Initiatives
- Increase National Awareness (through our national stories)
- Improve Service through Staff Enrichment
- Build core competencies, skills and expectations
- Service and hospitality training

Actionable Objectives to Support Our Goals

- Stewardship of historic structures
- Develop an interpretive plan for Monroe County Museum building, including exhibits (with accessibility plan and Universal Design guidelines)
- Develop a community engagement strategy for talking to members of the community
- Create a marketing plan
- Network with other community entities to identify potential new museum audiences
- Develop and implement a collections storage plan
- Create a disaster response and recovery plan for museum, collections and historic structures
- Establish a housekeeping and maintenance plan for museum, collections and historic structures
- Create a community profile, using already existing sources for demographics, trends, etc.
- Develop and implement a visitor evaluation plan
- Develop a written policy to systematically collect, organize and transfer documents of the institution's history and development
- Develop a code of ethics based on national museum standards and practices
- Document decisions and procedures related to acquiring, loaning, locating, using, deaccessioning and disposing of collections
- Develop policy of guidelines on customer service expectations for paid and unpaid staff
- Review directional signage along roadways

Governance

The Monroe County Museum System (MCMS) is a department of the County of Monroe, Michigan with ultimate operating and budgetary governance resting with the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, a nine-member elected body. Oversight of the MCMS is by the Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees, an eleven-member appointed body. Nine of the members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by their member of the Board of Commissioners to represent one of the county's nine districts. The immediate past chair and trustee emeritus comprise the remainder of the Board of Trustees.

The MCMS is comprised of five divisions. The Operations Division which encompasses all functions of the MCMS is the responsibility of the Museum Director and Deputy Director, who report to the County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer. The Programs Division is headed by the Deputy Director and is responsible for programming across all sites and outreach to non-MCMS sites. The Local History Division, headed by the County Historian, is responsible for the Monroe County Archives and stewardship of all archival and three-dimensional collections owned by the county. The Exhibits Division is headed by the Exhibits Coordinator and produces all exhibit content across all MCMS sites. The Guest Services Division is headed by the Guest Services Coordinator and has the responsibility of ensuring frontline operations across all staffed MCMS sites.

Funding

From 1966 to 2010, funding for the museum was from the County of Monroe's General Fund. As a result of the Great Recession, the museum was required to find a new, stable source of revenue outside of the county's general fund.

Though the idea of a museum millage had been floated years previously, it was not until the potential closure that a concerted effort was made to seek approval for a dedicated millage. In 2012, the Save Our Stories Committee spearheaded a campaign to win the museum's first operating millage. Through their hard work and – of course – the approval of the citizens of Monroe County, the museum received its first millage in August of that year. Presently, the Monroe County Museum System operates on a .1 operating millage. During the 2020 fiscal year, the County of Monroe forecasts that the millage will generate \$621,634 in operating revenue. The current millage expires in 2022.

Working with the County of Monroe Finance Department, the Museum Director creates a two-year operating budget which is submitted the Board of Commissioners for approval.



A Brief History:
*From Historical
 Society, to Historical
 Commission, to Board
 of Trustees*



Opened in 1939, the Monroe County Historical Museum was originally a project of the Monroe County Historical Society which was organized only the year prior. For its first thirty-four years, the museum was located in the Sawyer House, 320 East Front Street, which it shared with other civic organizations. Through the generosity of the founders of La-Z-Boy, the historical museum moved to its own facility and

present home, the former United States Post Office, located at 126 South Monroe Street, in 1973.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Historical Commission acquired the Papermill School, and the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post. In the 1980s, the Navarre-Morris Kitchen and Third Street Storage Facility were secured, and the French-Canadian Barn was built. In the early 2000s, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum opened to the public at Heck Park.

Following the request of the historical society, operations and collections of the Monroe County Historical Museum were transferred over to the County of Monroe in 1966. At this time, the Monroe County Historical Commission was formed by the county to oversee museum operations. As part of an institutional reorganization, the Monroe County Historical Commission became the Monroe County Museum System Board of Trustees in 2020.



Our Facilities



Monroe County Museum

126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161
Year-Round; Open Daily. (Closed most major holidays.)

The Monroe County Museum (MCM) is the center of operations for the MCMS. The MCM is the MCMS's main exhibit and programs space. Originally built as a United States Post Office in 1911, it has been added on to in 1933, 1936, and 2000. It was purchased in 1972 by the founders of La-Z-Boy to serve as the county's new local history museum.

At 19,740 square feet it is the largest building the MCMS's inventory. About half of the building is dedicated to exhibits, about one quarter dedicated to collections access and storage, with the remainder dedicated to programming areas, offices, workshop space, and restrooms. Though home to all of Monroe County's history since 1939, the MCM has been mostly known for its Custer Exhibit which has led it to be erroneously dubbed the Custer Museum. The Monroe County Archives and Genealogical Society of Monroe County Archives are both located in the MCM.



Monroe County Archives

126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161
Year-Round; Open Tuesdays through Saturdays and by appointment. (Closed most major holidays.)

Though archival collections are stored throughout the Monroe County Museum, the public access area to the archives is located on the second floor of the museum. Day to day operations of the Monroe County Archives (MCA) is under the oversight of the MCMS's Local History Division. Presently, archival collections totaling approximately 2,500 linear feet are stored in the reading room, second floor archival storage, attic, and basement archival storage. The MCA is known for its extensive collection of obituaries.



Territorial Park

3815 North Custer Road, Monroe, Michigan 48162
Grounds open Year-Round. Structures open seasonally from May to October.

Territorial Park (formerly the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post Complex) is located in both Frenchtown and Raisinville Townships. Territorial Park is home to a significant collection of historic buildings such as the 1864 Papermill School, 1789 Navarre House (one of the oldest wooden structures in Michigan) and 1810 Summer Kitchen. These buildings are

joined by a reproduction bread oven and French-Canadian Barn. Only the Papermill School, bread oven, and barn are original to the site.

Territorial Park hosts several school tours and programs throughout the year. Lantern Tours, entering its forty-third season in 2021, is one of our most well-known and popular events.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum

1095 North Dixie Highway, Monroe, Michigan 48161

Memorial: Open Year-Round. Museum: Open seasonally between May and September on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Located at Heck Park, named in honor of Captain Norman W. Heck, Jr. who died in service to his country during the Vietnam War in 1964. The site features a memorial that recognizes the service of all local veterans of the Vietnam War, a walking path, one AH-1 Huey Cobra helicopter, and the iconic Huey UH-1M. It is Jointly operated with Monroe County Parks and Recreation and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 142.

The site also features the Vietnam Veterans Museum which includes items from the collection of the MCMS and items acquired by VVA 142. It also offers traditional recreational opportunities to the public. A county historical marker recognizes the site as the site where the British and their Native allies started their assault on the River Raisin in January 1813.

Third Street Storage Facility

229 Third Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161

Storage facility. Not open to the public.

The Third Street Storage Facility is 3,687 square feet and was acquired by the Monroe County Historical Society and donated to the County of Monroe in 1991 to replace another storage facility. Third Street houses a variety of oversized artifacts that are unable to fit in storage at the main museum. It is also home to surplus building materials and retired exhibits. Over the last few years, a bulging wall has been stabilized, a new roof has been added, and the facility has been painted. Several attempts have also been made to discard surplus items and trash from the building.

As it lacks any climate control, the facility is less than ideal for the long-term storage of artifacts entrusted to the care of the MCMS.



By the Numbers

Visitation

Based on visual counts, self-registration, and vehicle counters, during 2020, the Monroe County Museum System recorded over 46,000 direct engagements across all sites. Through our online presence across various social media platforms, we had over 308,000 indirect engagements. We anticipate increased direct engagements across all sites over the next decade.

Guests to the Monroe County Museum System are generally county and Michigan residents. We receive a variety of out-of-state visitors with high representation from Ohio and Canada.



Local History Division

For over eighty years, the museum has been collecting artifacts and archival collections to preserve and present the story of Monroe County Michigan. Presently we have over 30,000 three-dimensional items in our collection. We house approximately 2,034 linear feet of general archival materials, nearly 400 linear feet of obituaries, and around 1,440 cubic feet devoted to bound and unbound newspapers. (In total we have a little under one half mile of archival collections or roughly equal to 14,604 reams of printer paper or 7,302,000 sheets.)

OFFICIAL BALLOT.

INSTRUCTIONS—In all cases stamp a cross (x) in the circle under the name of your party at the head of the ballot. If you desire to vote a straight ticket nothing further need be done.
Where only one candidate is to be elected to any office, and you desire to vote for a candidate not on your party ticket, make a cross in the square before the name of the candidate for whom you desire to vote on the other ticket.
Where two or more candidates are to be elected to the same office, and you desire to vote for candidates on different tickets for such office, make a cross in the square before the names of the candidates for whom you desire to vote on the other ticket; also erase an equal number of names of candidates on your party ticket for the same office for whom you do not desire to vote.
If you wish to vote for a candidate not on any ticket, write or place the name of such candidate on your ticket opposite the name of the office. Before leaving the booth, fold the ballot so that the initials may be seen on the outside.

| NAME OF OFFICER VOTED FOR. | REPUBLICAN. 1896. | DEMOCRATIC. 1896. | PEOPLES'. 1896. |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Supervisor..... | <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN W. FILLMORE. | <input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT DUVAL. | <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN SHALER. |
| Clerk..... | <input type="checkbox"/> JEROME TROMBLEY. | <input type="checkbox"/> JERRY STRABLE. | <input type="checkbox"/> LORING R. DAVIS. |
| Treasurer..... | <input type="checkbox"/> ALBERT S. BAKER. | <input type="checkbox"/> EMANUEL S. SMITH. | <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN C. CAIN. |
| Highway Commissioner..... | <input type="checkbox"/> EDWARD STALL. | <input type="checkbox"/> BENJAMIN F. HILTON. | <input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM G. THOMPSON. |
| Justice of the Peace—full term..... | <input type="checkbox"/> THOMAS R. CLARK. | <input type="checkbox"/> BENJAMIN F. HILTON. | <input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM J. HEATH. |
| Member Board of Review..... | <input type="checkbox"/> CHARLES CHITTENDEN. | <input type="checkbox"/> FRED GAERTNER, Sr. | <input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM P. GRIFFIN. |
| School Inspector..... | <input type="checkbox"/> JAMES S. HOUSMAN. | <input type="checkbox"/> TIMOTHY KIRWIN. | <input type="checkbox"/> DANIEL FISHER. |
| Constable..... | <input type="checkbox"/> EDGAR BRENNINGSTALL. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOAH PERRY. | <input type="checkbox"/> FRANK PLUMADORE. |
| Constable..... | <input type="checkbox"/> LOUIS TROMBLEY. | <input type="checkbox"/> ERNEST R. WELLS. | <input type="checkbox"/> HENRY SULIKER. |
| Constable..... | <input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM LOCKWOOD. | <input type="checkbox"/> GEORGE ROHN. | <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN FRIEDT. |
| Constable..... | <input type="checkbox"/> FRANK GREENFIELD. | | |

Printed by Authority.

The MCMS's obituary files remain one of the most popular resources for researchers in the Monroe County Archives. The online obituary search maintained by museum staff and volunteers remains one of the most visited components to the county's website.

Museum Operations

Free Admission: As a publicly funded museum system, we make a point to ensure that visiting the museum or attending our special events is zero to little cost to in-county guests. For out-of-county guests, we only request a suggested donation. However, no visitor is ever turned away due to an inability to pay admission or give a donation.

Historical Projects Fund: From 2015 through 2021, we will have provided or committed over \$175,000 in support of local historical organization and local units of government through our Historical Projects Fund. (Please see Appendix A for further detail.)

Spirit of Service Awards: One of our most important programs is the Spirit of Service Awards. We recognized that many of those who give generously of their time to the service of local history were not being properly thanked for their contributions to the field - it is our goal to ensure that they are.

Territorial Park: Perhaps the largest undertaking for the 2020s is the fulfillment of a vision to create a living history site representative of the early French-Canadian ribbon farms that once populated the region. At Territorial Park, we will be providing a series of upgrades and improvements over the next few years that we anticipate will total around \$500,000.





Core Educational Programs:

Among the core educational offerings for area students, the Monroe County Museum System programs focus on Woodland Natives, Early French-Canadian Settlement, and George and Libbie Custer. A trip to Territorial Park is also a traditional stop for area educators. All core programs are free to Monroe County students.

Sponsored Outreach Program:

One of our more recent educational opportunities has been the sponsorship of regional educator Genot Picor. During in classroom visits, Mr. Picor works with student audiences of various grade levels through storytelling, song, dance, and hands on activities to educate them about French-Canadian, Metis, and Native cultures.

Museum App: Launching in Spring 2021, the Monroe County Museum System will be taking another step forward in delivering digital content. The app, which will be available on Android and Apple platforms, will provide residents and tourists with new opportunities to engage with the MCMS and discover our county's unique stories.

Bussing Program: Between 2015 and 2020, we will have provided nearly \$17,000 to local schools with bussing sponsorships to visit MCMS sites. And, unlike many museums, we do not charge a fee to attend our educational programs.

Senior Outreach: Among our more recent endeavors are taking programs to senior centers and assisted living facilities. These programs are well received, and our programs staff have been invited back multiple time across the county. Like our youth educational programs, they are offered at no cost.

First Fridays: Occurring the First Friday of every month, the Programs Division staff offers a variety of games and activities related to different pop culture or historical themes. Due to the family friendly nature of First Fridays, it has become one of our more popular programs.

Tales By Twilight: At Territorial Park and Sterling State Park audiences of all ages join us for a night of storytelling and s'mores.

Lantern Tours: One of the MCMS's signature events, Lantern Tours is one of the longest running activities





of the Monroe County Museum System. Held in October, participants are guided through a series of vignettes that explore exciting aspects of regional history.

Camps: Over the last few years, the Monroe County Museum System has hosted Civil War and Archaeology Day Camps for middle school aged children. Civil War day camp was held in conjunction with the Ellis Library of the Monroe County Library System.

Speaker Series: Every year the Monroe County Museum System hosts lectures at the Monroe County Museum.

Topics range widely from the War of 1812, George Armstrong Custer, Prohibition, the Monroe Monster, and Great Lakes Shipwrecks. In conjunction with the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Department museum staff have presented lectures on various topics such as private and public buildings in Monroe and the development of

Sterling State Park. In response to COVID-19, during 2020 and 2021, our Speaker Series went on-line and attracted attendees not just from Monroe County but from across the state, across the country, and across the world.

Christmas at the Museum: Every December, the Monroe County Museum is populated with dozens of trees and wreaths throughout the museum. For the duration of the holiday season, the south lobby becomes home to extensive Santa Claus and holiday village collections. Christmas Tree Festival is the oldest running special event of the Monroe County Museum System and has become an annual holiday tradition for many residents.

The Grapevine: The MCMS's monthly electronic newsletter.

Museum Exhibits and Marker Program

Signature Exhibits: We have made a number of significant upgrades in our public spaces and exhibit areas. One of our most visible changes is our signature exhibit *200 Years and Counting: A Monroe County History* that is located in Sieb Hall, our primary exhibit gallery. Of course, we are well known for our Custer Exhibit that continues to attract visitors from across the country.

Temporary Exhibits: Every year we produce in house exhibits focusing on various aspects of the county. In recent



years we have featured exhibits about pets and Lake Erie.

Bicentennial Panel Exhibit: As part of the county's bicentennial, we produced panel exhibits exploring the history of the various communities that comprise Monroe County. The exhibits were distributed to several branches of the Monroe County Library System.



Travelling Exhibits: As part of continuing outreach efforts, we now offer small travelling exhibits that are hosted at the Monroe County Museum but also across the county. Recent exhibits have covered the local history of prohibition, and the sturgeon, and womens' suffrage.



Marker Program: Some of our more recent initiatives has been to revive the dormant county historical marker program. Starting in the 1950s, local historical agencies began installing cast aluminum markers throughout Monroe County to recognize individuals and sites of significance. Unfortunately, nearly two decades ago, the program and maintenance of the markers ceased. In 2018, the MCMS started a system of refurbishing the old markers and beginning the installation of new ones. The first round of new markers with newly designed marker seals were installed in the summer and fall of 2020.



“Museums can’t be community centers,
but they can be the center of the Community.”

-Lonnie Bunch, Director of the Smithsonian Institution



Cultivate Your Curiosity!

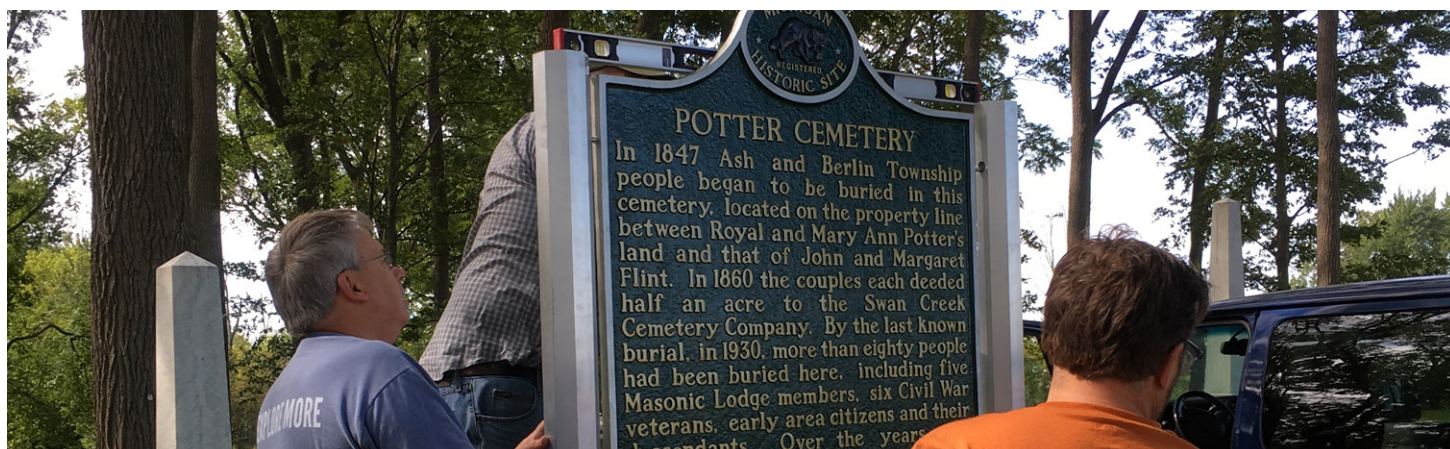


www.monroecountymuseum.com



Appendix A: Historical Projects Fund Awards

| Date | Organization | Project | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| April 2015 | • Airport School/ Niedermeier Center | Monroe at Normandy Exhibit | \$3,650 |
| | • Dundee Old Mill | Preservation | \$9,318 |
| | • Friends of Potter Cemetery | Fencing Project | \$5,000 |
| | • Sawyer Homestead | Equipment Refit | \$2,390 |
| | | Total: | \$20,358.00 |
| April 2016 | • Dundee Old Mill | Archival Project | \$9,090 |
| | • Friends of Potter Cemetery | Maintenance and Marker | \$9,500 |
| | • Milan Area Historical Society | Public Programming | \$1,000 |
| | • Sawyer Homestead | Founder's Day | \$2,914.90 |
| | | Total: | \$22,504.90 |



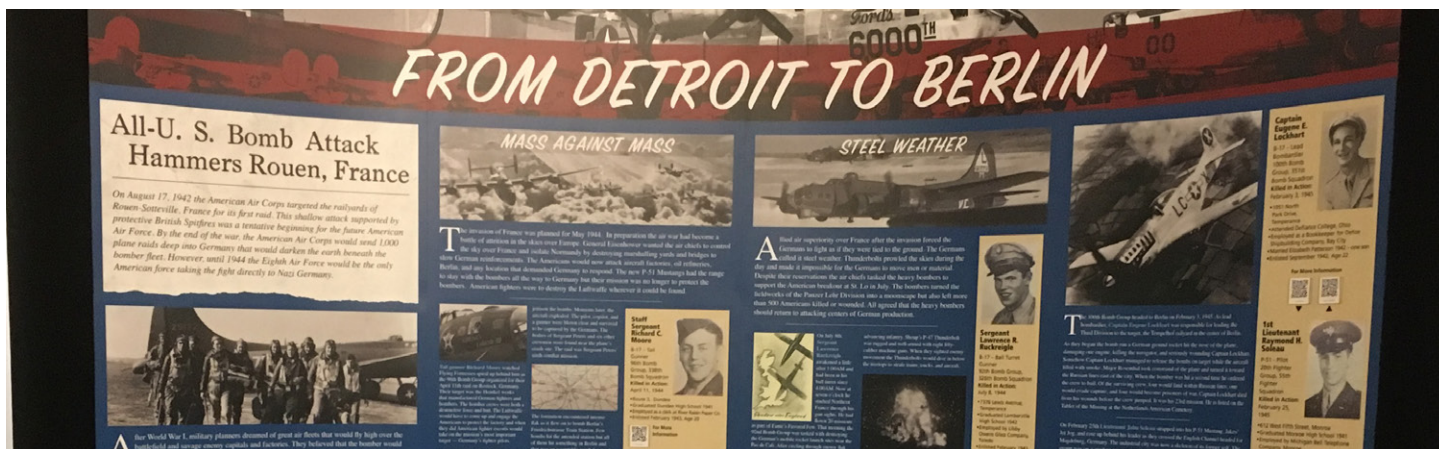
| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| December 2016 | Airport School/ Niedermeier Center | European Air Campaign Exhibit | \$4,300 |
| | Dundee Old Mill | Sound Post | \$5,000 |
| | Sawyer Homestead | Founder's Day | \$2,327 |
| | | Total: | \$11,627.00 |
| June 2017 | Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield | Archival Materials | \$3,602.00 |
| | Dundee Old Mill | Exterior Painting | \$15,000 |
| | Ida Backyard History | Various | \$1,474.91 |
| | Sawyer Homestead | Lighting – Cleaning and Restoration | \$3,500 (Tabled; never dispersed.) |
| | | Total: | \$20,076.91 |

May
2018

- Dundee Old Mill
- Potter Cemetery
- Sawyer Homestead

HVAC Upgrades
Maintenance
Founder's Day

\$10,000
\$5,035
\$2,215
Total: \$17,250



May
2019

- Berlin Township
- Old Mill Museum
- City of Monroe
- Exeter Historical Society

Historical Marker
Climate Control
Memorial Place
Barn Relocation

\$2,540
\$7,595
\$10,000
\$8,106.40
Total: \$28,241.40



May
2020

- Milan Area Historical Society
- Old Mill Museum

Preservation
Preservation

\$6,000
\$10,000
Total: \$16,000

November
2020

- Bedford Township
- Old Mill Museum

Banner Oak School
Preservation

\$6,000
\$3,465
Total: \$9,465.00

May
2021

\$30,000 (Committed)

Total Historical Project Fund Awards to Date: \$175,523.21



Monroe County Museum System
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48161

www.monroecountymuseum.com
734.240.7780

