

Hamilton County Historical Society
January 2023 Board Meeting
Tuesday January 3rd, 2023, 7:00PM
Hamilton County Museum and Sheriffs Residence
810 Conner Street
Noblesville, IN 46060

Members:

Diane Nevitt Museum Director *
David Heighway Hamilton County Historian*

Jessica Layman	President	Vernon Young	Treasurer
Katherine Murray	Vice President *	Sandra Lynch	Secretary
Dan Dunham	Member	Janet Phillips	Member
Brian Glover	Member	Stan Renner	Member*
Nancy Massey	Member*	Dale Unger	Member
Sharon McMahan	Member	Dottie Young	Member

*Indicates member was absent

Quorum is present

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by President Jessica Layman

Jessica began by sharing information from the 2023 Hamilton County Bicentennial committee.

Much work has gone into this yearlong celebration. More details can be viewed at:

<https://www.hamcoturns200.com/> Check this site often for updates.

Sharon McMahan updated us on a DAR [Daughters of the American Revolution] project for the bicentennial. There are 12 to 14 revolutionary war soldiers buried here in Hamilton County. The DAR has been working with the Hamilton County Commissioners on adding a plaque in their honor on the courthouse square.

Jessica Layman welcomed new board members: Bryan Glover, Sharon McMahan and Sandra Lynch. The new members were all given copies of the Hamilton County Historical Society bylaws.

Minutes from the November meeting were not read for approval at this time. Those will be tabled for the February meeting.

Museum Director's Report – The Museum will be closed in January for cleaning and minor repairs. **Visitation** for the Month of December was very high with people coming to see Santa and pick up bicentennial books.

Historian Report – David Heighway has been busy doing research on people, events and buildings for bicentennial projects.

Treasurers Report – Vernon Young

Key Bank Checking Account Balance	\$12,722.20
Key Bank Savings Account	\$ 18,867.00
Monies received in December	
Annual Fund Drive	\$6,020.00
Santa House	\$ 987.00 * Closed early this year due to freezing temperatures
UnSeen Press	\$ 525.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 233.00
Bicentennial Book Sales	\$ 722.50
America Online Giving	\$1,797.80
Expenses	
Cake for annual meeting	\$ 65.00
Donation for meeting space	\$ 75.00
Chase Card [printing, postage]	\$ 563.09
Stifel Investments balance	\$158,896.98*
Of this balance	\$ 10,499.34 is in money market checking

Presidents Report – Jessica Layman

Such a busy and exciting year for 2023 is ahead of us. There is so much focus on our past during this yearlong celebration and looking ahead to our future.

Hamilton County Historical Society Projects for the Bicentennial are:

Outside Exhibit

We are working with Abigail Currier on getting an outside history exhibit. This will be a permanent display behind the Sheriff's residence and museum building on the Courthouse Square. This display will show both famous and infamous people from Hamilton County over the last 200 years. Members were asked to send suggestions to Jessica Layman with possible people for this display. There will be short information about the people, with a QR code that will link them to more detailed information on the people and places in the exhibit.

Live Event

July 22nd, 2023 the Hamilton County Historical Society [HCHS] will host an ice cream social on the square with the following historical reenactors by:

Frederick Douglas	Harry Truman
Susan B Anthony	Teddy Roosevelt

We will have a large tent set up with assistance from the Noblesville Lions Club for the event. The event will be held in the afternoon. Possible timeframe is from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The bicentennial committee is having all major events videotaped and photographed.

Software – The Museum has all our artifacts documented. Our current software is in much need of being updated. Many museums and historic groups in our area use the software ‘Catalog It’. Information about this software can be found at: <https://www.catalogit.app/> There are many uses and options with this company. There is an annual cost of around \$500.00. Sharon McMahon suggested that we may be able to get a sponsor for that annual cost.

Hamilton County Historical Society received a \$2,000.00 grant from Hamilton County Turns 200. This will help fund the three projects that we are doing for the Bicentennial.

Old Business:

Logo – we are getting a new logo for our use in printed materials. It will continue to be the tower from atop the Sheriff’s residence and jail. This version will be available to us digitally and will be a more ‘printer friendly’ version of the tower.

Bicentennial Books

We have sold out of the first set of books that we had available for sale. Members present agreed that we should purchase at least one more case for sale, if not two cases. The cost of a case is \$525.00. Motion was made by Dottie Young and seconded by Bryan Glover to purchase more books to have available for sale.

Heating update

This has now been given top priority. The jail area of the museum has no heat. This is very hard on the walls and fixtures in that area of our museum. We have had many discussions with the Hamilton County Maintenance staff. They suggest the in-wall heaters that are placed near the ceilings. Both the DNR and Landmarks recommend baseboard heating to maintain the historic integrity of our building. We will be updating a quote from local companies for the baseboard heating and presenting that to the Hamilton County Commissioners and maintenance staff for their consideration and approval.

Added note - On our January workday, there was a significant water leak on the women’s side of the jail on the third floor. Jessica worked to move items to safety, so they could dry. Jessica will be in discussions with the Hamilton County Maintenance crews about the roof and repairs needed.

New Business:

Vernon Young suggested that we explore having **t shirts** available for purchase in the Museum Store. Local company TNT was suggested for this.

Sandra Lynch asked if the HCHS has ever looked into identifying and **preservation of historic buildings** throughout the county. Recently an old brick schoolhouse in Noblesville sold and was torn down within a week. This is something that the HCHS may investigate in the future. Most preservation guidelines are

done through Preservation Commissions and Preservation Alliances. At this time, only the City of Carmel has a preservation commission.

Sandra Lynch asked about other Historical Societies in Hamilton County. There are currently historic societies in: Sheridan, Fishers, Carmel, Westfield, and Arcadia. It was asked if these groups have ever met to share ideas. Sandy suggested we try to meet with the other groups at least once a year. Jessica Petty stated that we should include Hamilton County Parks and Recreation staff as they are always supportive of historic projects. Jessica Layman currently has 'History Summits' that she presents throughout the year. The next one is scheduled for Wednesday January 11th at 3:00 PM at Coxhill Gardens in Carmel. This is off 116th street. Many of the historic society members in the county come to these summits.

Dan Dunham asked if the libraries in Hamilton County all purchased one of the Bicentennial books for their locations. We will check into this and make sure they are all aware of the book.

Sharon McMahon shared a story from her youth about a sleepover at the Sheriff's residence. When she was young, she was a close friend with the daughter of Sheriff Roland Guilkey. Sharon and her friend Diane Guilkey heard a commotion going on in the jail. They quietly snuck down the big wooden stairs in their long flannel nightgowns to hear what the shouting was all about. They tried to make it out to the jail but were met halfway there by Sheriff Guilkey. He picked both girls up, had one under each of his arms and took them back upstairs where they remained after a good scolding.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Lynch

Hamilton County Historical Society – Secretary

Links and resources mentioned this month:

Hamilton County Bicentennial Official site

<https://www.hamcoturns200.com/>

Donations were received from this corporate giving site

<https://www.onlinegivingfoundation.org/>

Museum software being considered

<https://www.catalogit.app/>

Next Meeting will be :

Tuesday February 7th at 7:00 PM

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