

Hamilton County Historical Society
February 2023 Board Meeting
Tuesday February 7th, 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 McMahon	Member	Dottie Young	Member

*Indicates member was absent
Quorum is present.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by President Jessica Layman

January minutes were handed out to all members for review. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Katie Murray and seconded by Bryan Glover

Members were all asked to introduce themselves along with their townships.

Presidents Report – Jessica Layman

Jessica started off by letting us know that the Hamilton East Public Library will soon be available for the public to use for meetings. This should happen within six to eight weeks if all stays on schedule. If the Board wants to meet there, that will be an option in the near future.

Jessica had Hamilton County Turns 200 gift bags for all members.

Hamilton County Bicentennial Calendar booklet will be distributed throughout the county during the next week.

Museum Director’s Report – Diane Nevitt

Diane has been doing an inventory of items that are for sale in the Gift Shop. She gave all members a list of books and items that were currently available for sale in our gift shop. [attached]

Diane found a book at a local store and purchased it to add to our library. ‘Hamilton County Food: From Casual Grub to Gastropubs’ Early Review - restaurateurs made modest livings at mom-and-pop joints like

Aunt Bea's Chicken in Noblesville and Brown's Drugstore in Carmel. Teen romances bloomed at the Blue Ribbon Dairy Drive-In and Burger Chef. Then Chef Dieter Puska's elegant eatery the Glass Chimney took dining to a whole new level. Local chefs carry on his legacy with new farm-to-table restaurants featuring ingredients from a multitude of growers and farmers' markets. The craft beer scene is booming, too, with exceptional breweries like Four Day Ray, Mashcraft, Books and Brews and Barley Island. Take a trip down memory lane.

Hamilton County Bicentennial books have arrived and we have more available for sale.

Vernon Young mentioned that he is looking into t shirts to have for sale in the gift shop.

Board members David Heighway and Nancy Massey have books that are available for sale in our gift shop.

Historian Report – David Heighway

He has been working on Hamilton County Bicentennial projects and City of Noblesville Bicentennial works. The opening of the Hamilton County Bicentennial started off the year with an exciting kick-off at the Hamilton County Bicentennial Opening Ceremony

Sunday, January 22

03:00 pm - 04:30 pm

The Palladium at the Center for Performing Arts

Hamilton County Historian David Heighway was the primary speaker for the evening, and he had a wonderful presentation. [we will have the written script that David read for you at the retreat]

The Bicentennial Commission and special guests celebrated the beginning of the Bicentennial year. Our event was hosted by Season 6 winner of The Voice, Josh Kaufman, included special performances by local area talent such as the Mudsock Jazz Combo, Freetown Village Singers, and Moontown Picklestompers. Attendees will also receive a goodie bag while supplies last and potentially a limited quantity commemorative item! Seating for the event begins at 2:30p.

Treasurers Report – Vernon Young

Vernon presented his fiscal yearend report to all Board members. This included a very detailed list of income and expenses for the year.

Presidents Report – Jessica Layman

Jessica asked for a board member to be the Chair of our July Bicentennial Celebration Event. Vice President Katie Murray will be taking charge of this event.

The Hamilton County Historical Society is presenting:

Past Politics on the Square and Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 22

01:00 pm - 04:00 pm

810 Conner Street, Noblesville, IN, USA

Noblesville has always been a popular place for political candidates and other historic celebrities to come and give speeches. The Hamilton County Historical Society has gathered some famous folks to re-enact their speeches on the square! Come see President Truman (from a train car at 8th and Logan), Frederick Douglass (at 9th and Logan), Susan B Anthony (at the Judicial Center steps), and Teddy Roosevelt (at the Historic Courthouse's West entrance). Each presenter will talk to groups, then allow participants time to

get to the next station. Additionally, ice cream will be available off the side porch of the historical society for participants when you check in. Finally, after you hear from our historic celebrities, come inside the museum for a look at the Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit “Faces in the Crowd,” which talks about voters over time in Indiana.

Outside Exhibit – In January we had a Zoom meeting with Abigail Currier. Abby will be the researcher and designer of our outside exhibit. It will have famous and infamous residents of Hamilton County. We hope to have this completed when it is still warm outside, late this summer. We will be placing it behind the Sheriff’s residence and jail, along the walk to the Historic Courthouse in the center of the square. Inquiries have been made with Noblesville Main Street and Nickel Plate Arts to get more information for Abigail.

Hamilton County Business Magazine – The December/January edition features both David Heighway and Jessica Layman for their work on the Hamilton County Bicentennial Programs.

https://issuu.com/mcorbett/docs/hcbm_dec_jan_2022_23_final

Jessica asked Vernon and Sandra to share what they took away from the recent **Docent Symposium** in January sponsored by Indiana Landmarks and Conner Prairie.

Jessica let the board know that Sandra had asked Jessica and Katie about producing a **docent manual** for the museum. Jessica gave her full support for this and felt it was much needed. Sandra added that it will take all of us to come up with the final version of this manual. Vernon Young added that it should include more than just the board members, locals such as Joe Roberts and others could have significant input. Sandra added that she will be adding QR codes to the manual so that information would be available to museum visitors as well.

Old Business:

Software –

Sharon McMahon noticed that the yearend budget showed that there is money available to purchase this software. Link is at <https://www.catalogit.app/> Tabled, there was no other discussion this meeting.

Logo – Jessica Layman and Katie Murray said that the logo is still in the works. The artist had given us a very detailed version of the logo and it would need to be simplified with less lines for us to use in on tshirts, stationary and printed material at the Museum.

Heating update

Jessica Layman asked if anyone could help her with the heating project. At the present time we have no heat at all in the jail area of the museum. Katie Murray will contact Beaver Heating and Air to see if they can locate a quote they did for us. Vernon Young offered to contact Indiana Landmarks to get their input and support in asking for baseboard heating rather than the units that would be placed up near the ceilings in several locations of the jail portion of the Museum.

New Business:

Bryan Glover asked if we had an actual lease with Hamilton County and how long it was for.

David Heighway mentioned that we were going to update the displays that the Hamilton County Historical Society has at the Historic Courthouse on the Square. Katie Murray will be working on those as well.

Sandra Lynch asked that we take a moment and plan out the dates for the meetings for the rest of 2023. Dates were all addressed for the rest of the calendar year, and this will be given to everyone at the March retreat.

Jessica Layman states that the March Board Meeting will be a retreat that will be held at the Museum on Sunday March 5th at 1:00PM. We have asked Diane to come up with a list of things that she would like done at the Museum for this date. Sharon McMahon offered to find a facilitator if we needed one.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM. Motion was made by David Heighway and seconded by Sharon McMahon.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sandra Lynch
Hamilton County Historical Society – Secretary

Next Meeting will be a Board Retreat

Sunday March 5th at 1:00PM
Hamilton County Historical Society Museum
810 Conner Street
Noblesville, IN 46060

Hamilton County History

Hamilton County's 200th Birthday

Starting in January and continuing throughout 2023, the people of Hamilton County will have a once in a lifetime opportunity. They will be part of the activities to recognize the two hundred years since the county was founded. This will be an opportunity to examine and celebrate all of the county's history.

The county was originally established by state legislature on January 8, 1823 which said:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Indiana, that from and after the first Monday in April next (1823) all that part of the county of Marion, and north of Marion, contained in the following bounds, shall form and constitute a separate county, viz: Beginning on the range line dividing ranges 2 and 3, east of the second principal meridian, at the southwest corner of section seven, in township 17, and range 3, thence running north on the said range line, to the township line dividing townships 20 and 21, thence east on the said township line to the northwest corner of section 5, in township 20, range 6, thence south on the section line to the southeast corner of section 8, township 17, and range 6, and thence west on the section line to the place of beginning.

Section 2. The said new county shall be known and designated by the name of Hamilton, and shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and jurisdiction, which to separate and independent counties do or may properly appertain or belong.



The first Board of Commissioners convened on May 12. At that time, the county was divided into two townships, White River and Delaware, which eventually became the nine that we have today.

Development of the area had a slow start. Calvin Fletcher, an important central Indiana settler, rode through here in May of 1824 and wrote in his diary, "We went by the way of Noblesville which is laid off on the N[orth] side of W[hite] River in a very thickly timbered country—not a stick missing." The county started growing



in the 1830s when towns like Westfield, Cicero, Germantown, and Bethlehem (Carmel) were established. By the time the first railroad came through in 1851, much had changed.

The county grew even more during natural gas boom which started in 1887, but failed within twenty years. The 1923 centennial of the county happened at a problematic time with a loss of population and the growth of the Ku Klux Klan. We have a lot of information about the centennial events, many of which would be inappropriate today. Among other things, the centennial pageant staged an "Indian attack" which never actually happened.

The county really didn't start to recover until the 1950s with the start of suburban growth. At that time,



David Heighway and Jessica Layman

many of the local communities were segregated so much of the growth came from "white flight" from Indianapolis. 1968 was indicative of a turning point which saw the last KKK rallies at the same time that Murphy White was elected to be the first African American member of Noblesville City Council. That year also saw the establishment of the Noblesville Human Relations Commission, which was created to confront racial issues.

By the 1980s, demographics and attitudes began to change. The county saw more diversity in its population as cities like Carmel and Fishers boomed. There was also growth in the arts and humanities as theater groups and museums were established.

Hamilton County's Bicentennial will look at all of this history through our five themes—arts, diversity, education, historic preservation, and parks/environment. Programs funded through our grant program will take place every month of 2023, with a full calendar of events located at www.hamcoturns200.com/events. Additionally, our opening ceremony will be an opportunity to learn about all five of our themes alongside entertainment



from the Creative Director for the Center for Performing Arts, Michael Feinstein! Join us on January 22nd, 2023 at 3pm at the Palladium in Carmel. Tickets can be reserved for the free event at <https://thecenterpresents.org/tickets-events>. HCBM

David Heighway is the Hamilton County Historian. Jessica Layman is the Hamilton County Bicentennial Coordinator