



# ANNUAL REPORT

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PO BOX 1856 JACKSON, MI 49204

**2021-2022**

**EDITION - A YEAR OF PROGRESS**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

First, I would like to thank you for your continued support and engagement that has helped us continue to thrive into our second year! Over the past year, our society has evolved, reaching new members of our community, hosting new events, building new partnerships, and brining on new board members. and expanding our capabilities through new partnerships.

Here in Jackson County, we are continuing to teach and discover new aspects our of history. Earlier this year, our society partnered with Northwest Community Schools to teach over 300 students about Jackson history. We strongly believe by teaching our history to the next generation, it will long be preserved for generations to come. Next year, we will be launching a new program to reach students in schools across Jackson County.

Thanks to our generous donors, our County Historical Marker Program has flourished. Just this year, we installed eight new markers. These educational markers have focused on the "hidden" history of Jackson County. From the former Hague amusement park at Vandercook Lake, a training ground for union soldiers in the Civil War, to the Jackson County Poor Farm where nearly one hundred graves have been left unmarked. Our historical markers not only have text, but images as well to reach people of all ages.

This year our society helped to return the county's largest educational history event, the Jackson Civil War Muster. Our goal this year was to make this one of best musters yet, as we brought bring history to life right before your eyes. We encouraged visitors to interact with living historians by stepping back in time into the village of Jacksonburg, listening to historical music from the 1860's by Camp Chase & Drum Core, tasting coffee from a Civil War coffee wagon and to experiencing the extravagant military ball, as well as witnessing the excitement of two battles.

It takes an enormous amount of expertise, dedication, and passion to keep the JCMHS running, let alone achieve so much growth during a global pandemic. Every function we perform and every project we produce has had to change in ways that demand more of each of us. The JCMHS Board of Trustees continues to adapt and to do more to share history with everyone, everywhere.

As we reflect on how much the JCMHS has accomplished in the past year, we want to thank you for your support and friendship. The Society's ability to grow and expand is a direct result of the passion, dedication, and generosity of friends like you.

With thanks,



**Maurice Imhoff**  
**President**



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Maurice Imhoff  
**President**



Linda Hass  
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Janette Weimer  
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Lloyd Ganton  
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David Elwell  
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Jerry Glaser  
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# OUR MISSION

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The Jackson County Michigan Historical Society was founded in 2020 as a not-for-profit, private educational organization dedicated to perpetuating Jackson County's history. The Society's mission:

- To foster deeper understanding and appreciation for Jackson County's history;
- To stimulate and encourage the collection, preservation, and interpretation of Jackson County history through conferences, publications, awards, educational programs, consulting services, and related historical activities;
- To coordinate and further the programs with the county's other local historical societies, museums and local historians by functioning as a service organization, collaboration and communication network;
- To cooperate with appropriate individuals, organizations, and institutions on the local, state, or national levels in projects and activities that will promote and sustain a general interest in history

# INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS



## Major Initiatives

-Hosted "Hidden History Brought to Light" at Spring Arbor University's Ganton Art Gallery. This event, in the lobby of the Ganton Art Gallery, attracted 60 people for power point presentations by Hass and Imhoff, with guests visiting the gallery afterward.

-Hosted "Jackson's African American Historical Figures Brought to Life" at Second Missionary Baptist Church, attracted a large crowd and included presentations by Imhoff on the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, and Hass on church founder George Green. It also included musical presentations and more coordinated by Diane Washington.

-Created several local history showcase videos that highlight various historic landmarks and objects of interest, such as Mount Evergreen Cemetery, the Village of Stony Point, and the Jackson Police Department. Our local history showcase videos have over 100,000 viewers on Facebook.

-Spearheaded the return of the Jackson Civil War Muster. The event drew over 13,000 attendees from south-central Michigan, and involved 400+ re-enactors from various states—including Arkansas.

-Held an educational event titled "Leaving Your Photo Legacy" which explained how to preserve, protect, store and share photos and family stories for future generations.

-Installed several historical markers that recognize significant sites in Jackson County that are at least 50 years old. Notably, our marker dedication events for Camp Jackson, Camp Blair & the Jackson County Poor Farm were well attended and featured special guest speakers. Received new funding from Meijer & Walmart for markers

## Major Partnerships

-Collaborated with the Jackson County Republican Committee to restore the 112-year-old "Under the Oaks" historic plaque.

-Collaborated with Walton Insurance Agency to create a "Good Things Going" video on the work of JCMHS.

-Partnering with Northwest Community Schools, Hass & Imhoff were able to give an educational presentation to over 300 eighth grade students.

-Received \$5,000 grant from the L.H. Field Foundation for educational plaques at the Jackson Train Station illustrating and displaying various milestones that occurred at this historic landmark. Funding will also be used for other future projects.

-Received \$2,000 grant from the Jackson Community Foundation to create professional local history showcase videos and support educational events.

-Partnered with community members to support saving a grove of 200-year-old oaks that were slated for demolition by the Intermediate School District.

-Partnered with the Ella Sharp Museum and other Jackson County museums/historical societies to host our annual Christmas party on Dec. 8 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ella Sharp Museum with noted historian Dr. Ann-Lisa Cox as the featured speaker.



# JACKSON

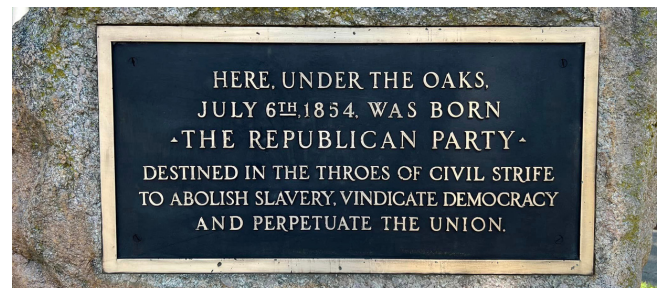
## CIVIL WAR MUSTER

This year, our society partnered to help return the Jackson Civil War Muster. This event the **largest, longest running Civil War event** in the Midwest, welcome people of all ages. Each year, this free event thrills thousands of history fans from throughout Michigan, Canada, and destinations as far as Hawaii and Sweden!

At the muster, visitors have the opportunity to interact with living historians by stepping back in time into the village of Jacksonburg, and to experiencing the extravagant military ball, as well as witnessing the excitement of two battles with raging cannons and marching infantry. Thanks to our incredible sponsors, the event continued to stay free to the public.

In a partnership by the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society and the Jackson County Republican Committee, the 112-year-old **"Under the Oaks"** historic plaque was restored to its original beauty.

The historic plaque was restored by Giorgio Gikas and his assistant Clifton English of Venus Bronze works, which is one of the top sculptural restoration firms in the country.



# ANNUAL MEETING DEC. 2021

*& Holiday Party*



## ★ COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD ★

Congratulations to Nancy Seydell for being our first ever Community Impact Award winner! Nancy is the past curator, president, and founding member of the Tompkins Historically Society. Nancy was a key player in Tompkins Historical Society obtaining its 501c3 status in 1985. When Tompkins Township received the Stewart Farm in 2003, she helped turn the Stewart Farm into a museum showcasing the history of Tompkins and surrounding Jackson County townships. She has also written several mini histories on Tompkins History. She has also maintained the historic Minard Mills Park in Tompkins.

Nancy's work to preserve the small farming community's history began when she arrived in Tompkins in 1977, when she bought the local gas station/convenience store. The store was built in 1895 and Nancy worked to preserve the store's history and many antique fixtures. Nancy's work continues with her writing various mini histories of Tompkins for the historical society. Thank you Nancy for your efforts to preserve Jackson County's rich history!



# COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

Throughout the year, our society was to produce several durable, metal historical markers in publicly accessible places that give the backstory on significant landmarks within Jackson County.

Subjects ranged from the wealthy white business leaders who founded the Commercial Exchange Building to the former enslaved American who founded Second Missionary Baptist Church— one of Jackson’s earliest African American congregations.

Our unveiling ceremonies attracted large crowds--the Jackson County Poor Farm marker unveiling ceremony drew 85 people, including Boy Scouts, minorities and various media outlets. The ceremony for the Camp Jackson marker brought Civil War re-enactors who represented “living history,” and a color guard. Based on positive feedback, our markers and ceremonies were well-received and helped to instill a sense of pride throughout the community.

Why are we invested in the program? Historical markers are one of the most iconic parts of an educational family road trip. You can see them placed throughout major highways and at popular tourist spots. Some families even take road trips for the sole purpose of finding these jewels of information. Even when a vacation does not focus on history, many people still use them as stops between Point A and Point B. Needless to say, historical markers act as a crucial element of American travel.

County historical marker programs work a lot like state programs except on a smaller scale. In addition to honoring our past, we get many material and immaterial perks from having historical plaques. When we commemorate where history happened, the entire community grows stronger.



# POOR FARM CEMETERY



## COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM (PG 2)

### Installed Markers

- **DeLand Point**, 107 W. Franklin St., unveiled Oct. 11, 2021; commemorates Underground Railroad transportation corridor at this intersection
- **Camp Jackson**, 110 Clinton Rd., unveiled April 23, 2022; commemorates the property that served as a Civil War regimental camp for Union troops
- **Camp Blair**, 311 N Wisner St., unveiled April 20, 2022; commemorates the property that served as a Civil War federal camp for Union troops moving in and out of Michigan.
- **Jackson County Poor Farm**, 3690 County Farm Rd., unveiled May 14, 2022; commemorates the property used for the county's poor farm, poor house and cemetery
- **Commercial Exchange Building**, 2301 E. Mich. Ave., installed May 2022; commemorates Jackson's earliest vehicle manufacturer
- **Hague Park**, 1000 Parkway, Vandercook Lake, installed June 2022; commemorates a historic and expansive amusement park at this spot
- **Old Irish Mill, 221 Mill St.**, Brooklyn Township, installed July 2022; commemorates the historic "village plant" built by Henry Ford in Brooklyn
- **Second Missionary Baptist Church**, 304 E. Prospect St., installed August 2022; commemorates one of Jackson's earliest African American churches
- **Eldred Flour Mill**, 124 W. Louis Glick Highway, 124 W. Louis Glick Highway; to be installed this fall; commemorates a historic flour mill that was essential to Jackson in the 19th century

Historical markers boost the surrounding area by enhancing the following parts of a town:

- **Education:** Placing a historical marker brings attention to places and events that Jackson County residents might not know about otherwise. Creating an official historic location can even give local schools an opportunity for a field trip that enhances student learning. Visitors can learn more about the area when we can show them what parts of our community history we value. History gives us context for current events and even guides us in the future. By establishing a new source of knowledge in our area, students of all ages can develop an important connection to the monument.
- **Tourism.** Cultural and heritage tourism has a global value of over one billion dollars. Tourists who visit areas for historical or cultural reasons tend to not only stay longer, but they also spend more money at restaurants and hotels, helping small businesses in Jackson County. As a bonus, the engagement associated with cultural attractions makes it easier for tourists to enjoy and remember their trips. And if they have fun and unforgettable experiences, they'll be more likely to visit Jackson County again.
- **Jobs.** With increased tourism comes a higher number of jobs. Tourism leads to job openings created when tourists flock to historic monuments. Examples include the increased need for advertising, promotions and step-on tour guides and hospitality industry staff. Sometimes, a historical site becomes so popular that it is a crucial element of the local economy. As a case in point, demand for charter bus tours to local Underground Railroad sites recently prompted the Jackson Chamber of Commerce to publish more brochures highlighting this offering. Even businesses not geared towards visitors can benefit due to more exposure and activity.
- **Property Values:** Thanks to the previously listed benefits, revitalization can occur and property values in a designated historical area can increase compared to regions without heritage sites. For example, the historic district in Savannah, Ga., has property values much higher than the city average. This trend became important when real estate across the nation became unstable. Thanks to its inherent perks, the historic district faced lower rates of foreclosure. In turn, the higher property values led to more public-school funding, enhancing the education of local children. Historic preservation also increased the quality of life in the historic district, making the area more walkable and bikeable.

When community heritage thrives, so does the community itself. Not only will Jackson County residents better appreciate their home, but we can show visitors why our area matters. Our society hopes to bring these and other benefits to Jackson through our Historical Marker Program.





# FINANCIALS



## HOPE Grant

Beginning Balance:	10,000.00		Itemized Expenses	
Accumulated Interest	2.55		Markers	8250.00
Total	10,002.55		Office Expenses	840.00
Expenses	10,002.55		Advertising/Website	910.00
Ending Balance	0.00			
			Total Expenses	10,002.55

## Jackson Community Foundation Grant

Beginning Balance	2,000.00		Itemized Expenses	
Total Expenses	2,000.00		Office Expenses	300.00
Ending Balance	0.00		Video Showcases	1000.00
			Website	100.00
			Events	600.00
			Total Expenses	2,000.00

## Balances as of September 26, 2022

Neighborhood Checking	8,630.53
Business Regular Shares	55.03
True Money Tree	.10

Fund Composition			Expenses	
Beginning Balance	3311.04		Operating	850.26
-Membership	1560.00		Under the Oaks	500.00
-Donations	990.00		Camp Blair	450.00
-Grants	1,500.00	True CCU	JC Foundation	2000.00
	1,250.00	Walmart	Fields Found	2295.25
	900.00	Meijer	Trans to Share	50.00
	5,000.00	Fields Foundation		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14511.04</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>6145.51</b>





# *DONATE*

Help us preserve Jackson County's history.

As a non-profit organization, we depend upon financial support from the community in order to achieve our mission of perpetuating Jackson County's history.

Checks can be mailed to  
**POBOX 1856**  
**Jackson, MI 49204**

Your support is greatly appreciated. And remember – your donation is tax deductible!

