



**2011**  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**HERITAGE REPORT**

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
AND  
MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER

JANUARY 2012

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## PREFACE

The Michigan Historical Commission has been the public arm of state history programs since 1913. Composed of volunteer appointments made by the Governor and legislative leadership, it receives no appropriation. (MCL 399.1)

The Michigan Historical Center is the principal state agency that builds programs and alliances that preserve and interpret Michigan's past and help people discover, enjoy, and find inspiration in their heritage. Its current (FY2012) fiscal year general fund appropriation is \$3,519,700 (2011 PA 63). In the current fiscal year, it is authorized 44.0 FTE classified positions, a reduction of 9.0 FTE positions from fiscal year 2011.

The Commission "shall make annual reports on the first day of January of each year to the governor of the state, setting forth the character and extent of the work done under its supervision during the preceding year, and the amounts of money expended by it for the various purposes authorized by this act." (MCL 399.9)

At its April 23, 2008 meeting, acting in concert with the Center, the Commission adopted a strategic work plan that includes issuance of a "State of Michigan Heritage" report, seeking both to fulfill its statutory responsibility and to advance the cause of Michigan history.

## I. THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*"I have traveled in a State where good things happened, where people seemed able to love their places, where the sadness that feels inevitable is held in abeyance by stories and listening, by reading and being read to, in all its guises."*

– Ann-Marie Oomen, author

Our past year reflected stabilization and adjustment to a 25% reduction in the staffing of the museum program.

In 2009, the Department of History, Arts & Libraries was abolished; its flagship, the Michigan Historical Center, was reduced in scope and transferred to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In 2010, DNR was combined with the Department of Environmental Quality to become DNRE; Michigan history was reduced to a program within the DNRE Marketing, Education & Technology Division. Governor Snyder's first executive order, 2011-1, reversed E.O. 2009-45 and restored separate Departments of Natural Resources and of Environmental Quality. The Center became an office within a reorganized and focused DNR.

The 2009 changes created long-term threats to, among other things, the viability of the Michigan Historical Marker program. The Commission and Center and Eastern Michigan University worked in 2011 to preserve the program as a public, professional, and official function of the State.<sup>1</sup> But only six markers were approved during the year.

The Center increased collaboration between archives and museum staff and developed expertise in high quality reproduction services. It opened "Plowshares Into Swords," an exhibition commemorating Michigan and the coming of the Civil War, in April with a public event that drew more than 800 visitors. It completed trails at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum with support from the Natural Resources Trust Fund, and

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<sup>1</sup>For example, the Commission disapproved a request to use the Michigan Historical Marker image in an advertising campaign since it did not include authentic

reconfigured the education space in its Lansing facility with support from the Michigan History Foundation. It worked with the deaf community to preserve the collections of the Michigan School for the Deaf and acquired the records of the Wayne County Road Commission. On October 1, it began charging admission to the Lansing museum.

The Commission continued to lead the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration. It planned and coordinated events, raised private funds, and worked with the Civil War Partners and other public and private organizations. As a result, a significant amount of public awareness attended the beginning months of the sesquicentennial.

The Commission continued to press for greater awareness and support of Michigan's history. With its centennial approaching in 2013, it began discussions on how to capitalize on that anniversary to achieve a more positive reality for Michigan's heritage.

Working with the Detroit Recreation Department, the Commission sponsored a ceremony in Capitol Park marking the 200th birthday of our first Governor, Stevens T. Mason, on October 27. The event included unveiling a Michigan Historical Marker about the state's first Capitol.

The Commission also drew attention to the bicentennials of the War of 1812 and of the Meridian-Baseline State Historic Park.

Notwithstanding difficulties and uncertainties, both the Center and the Commission continued to work to build a public history environment that is commensurate with our state's rich, unrivalled heritage.

## II. THE COMMISSION'S ACTION PLAN

*"It is time for us to stand up as Michiganders and say here is a vision for the future, here is a plan, here is an attitude of action in a positive, forward-looking, inclusive fashion."*

– Governor Rick Snyder

Since 2008 the Commission has been implementing a five-fold strategic plan. In the coming year it will modify that plan to use its 2013 centennial as a way to focus on and increase public awareness of Michigan's history.

### HERITAGE POLICY ADVOCACY

The Commission acts as the advocate for our heritage within and to state government. It also acts as the voice for the general importance of history and for making that history a valued contributor to building the 21<sup>st</sup> century Michigan.

Before 1963, the Commission acted as the fulcrum for Michigan history. From 1963 to 2001, the Secretary of State was spokesperson; from 2001-2009, the Director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries had that leadership responsibility. Government reorganization again has placed the Commission in the role of chief Michigan history advocate.

The Commission participated in discussions within the administration on ways to advance the cause of Michigan heritage. It advocated for increased attention to state-owned historical assets, secured legislative and local government resolutions regarding heritage matters, and partnered with private organizations. Early in the year, it was pleased to see the Michigan Historical Center host the Secretary of State's inaugural reception and the reception organized by Speaker Bolger for both houses and both parties of the legislature.

Given the magnitude of issues confronting new executive and legislative members, the Commission took a measured approach to its advocacy. It looks forward to greater attention and activity on behalf of this vital aspect of

Michigan cultural life by Michigan's political leadership in 2012.

The Commission supported legislative authority to raise admission revenue for the Michigan Historical Museum in the 2011-12 fiscal year in order to enhance the museum's sustainability. This authority needs to be contained in an update to the Commission's authorizing statute.

### SPEAKING FOR HISTORY

The Commission works to increase awareness by Michigan's citizens and communities of their heritage, increasing the likelihood of public support on behalf of preservation. This "speaking" takes the form of public remarks and concrete actions. These actions include securing resolutions of support, drawing people together, and promoting collaborative work among heritage organizations. Commissioners also seek opportunities, such as Michigan Historical Marker dedications, to speak on the importance of Michigan history and related programs.

Commissioners collaborated with statewide and local organizations, including the Historical Society of Michigan and the Detroit Historical Society in public programs ranging from the War of 1812 Bicentennial to Detroit's Capitol Park. They authored articles in *Michigan History* magazine and Commissioner Dempsey wrote *Michigan and the Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice* a book about Michigan's contributions on behalf of Union and liberty.

Each year the Commission presents the Governor John B. Swainson Award to state and local government employees who do not work in the field of history but make exceptional contributions to preserving and interpreting stories of Michigan's past. Three individuals

received the award in 2011: Thomas Russow of Temperance for his work on the River Raisin Battlefield, Erik Wilson of Plainwell for the redevelopment of the Plainwell Paper Mill, and George Lasater of Charlevoix County for his work with county veterans of World War II.

During 2011, commissioners continued to dedicate new Michigan Historic Markers at locations across the State. They gave media interviews resulting in major news stories on Michigan history projects and issues. The Governor recognized their leadership in an October statement and press release.

### **CAPITOL PARK**

A key initiative since 2008 involves partnering with the City of Detroit on the renewal of Capitol Park. The site of our only territorial capitol and first State Capitol, the park had suffered major deterioration. On October 27, the Commission held a bicentennial birthday celebration for Michigan's first Governor, Stevens T. Mason. A Michigan Historical Marker commemorating the structure was unveiled. Governor Snyder issued a statement hailing the milestone.

The Commission continues to seek private donations in support of the park project for further signage and an endowment for the long-term maintenance of the park's historic features. The funds support a dedicated website, <http://www.boygouv.com/>. In that vein, the Commission sought to strike up a dialogue with downtown Detroit partners like Invest Detroit. The Commission plans to issue a commemorative publication to memorialize the 2010 and 2011 ceremonies, which will aid fundraising.

The Commission sought to foster a summer/fall "Art in Capitol Park" initiative envisioned by local artists to draw significant public visitation to the park. The project did not go forward<sup>2</sup> but is on the agenda for 2012.

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<sup>2</sup>By request of the sponsors (the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority) of a request for proposals on

### **PLANNING**

The Commission's counsel helps shape and add value to Center programs and operations. It continued to encourage the Center to develop a long-term vision for success and viability. Through membership by two commissioners on the Michigan History Foundation, it continued to help development of short- and long-term fundraising strategies on behalf of the Center and Michigan history in general.

The Commission is developing a plan for better heritage tourism promotion of Michigan Historical Markers. The plan will include seeking out and securing strategic marker placements. Partnering with the Foundation, the Commission has begun raising funds for markers and educational materials for Michigan Conservation History and Michigan Civil Rights History trails.

The coming year will also see the Commission develop a plan to capitalize on using its 2013 centennial for greater support of Michigan history.

### **HISTORY COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

The Michigan history community can gain strength by speaking with one voice and collaborating to strengthen statewide history organizations.

The Commission has, over the past several years, reached out and worked with the Michigan History Foundation, the Friends of Michigan History, the Michigan Historical Museum Docents, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and the Michigan Historical Preservation Network (MHPN). These efforts were designed to discuss future promotion and sustainability of the history of the Michigan through cooperative efforts and arrangements.

During 2011, the Commission and Center continued to provide liaison with such

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redevelopment of publicly owned structures bordering the park.

organizations, including the Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Commissioners serve on the Foundation and Friends boards, in the Docent Guild, and on the boards of the Historical Society of Michigan, the Black Historic Sites Committee of the Detroit Historical Society, and the Detroit River Project.

### CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Executive Order 2007-52, issued December 27, 2007, directed the Commission to help Michigan commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Acting with the aid of its Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, it continues to implement and refine a workplan that includes grassroots involvement, education, events, heritage tourism, and marketing.<sup>3</sup> Supported by Archives of Michigan staff, its dedicated website continues to provide a comprehensive list of events: <http://micivilwar.org/>.

In 2011 the Michigan Council of History Educators, Edward Surovell Realtors, and the Commission sponsored an essay competition with financial awards for students around the state in grades 3-12. In November, the Commission and Center again helped facilitate a conference of the "Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Partners" for 2012 event planning. Throughout the past year, such cooperative arrangements helped ensure a robust and vigorous level of activity by public and private organizations.

The Commission was represented in a summer speaker series on the Civil War at The Henry Ford. The Henry Ford's "Discovering the Civil War Exhibition," in partnership with the National Archives, ran from May through September. On June 20-22, more than 21,000 visitors viewed the Emancipation Proclamation at The Henry Ford, breaking all attendance expectations. Oakland County published an "Oakland County in the

Civil War" map for use in libraries, museums, and classrooms.

The Committee helped secure passage of a resolution by the Legislature hailing the Sesquicentennial (S.R. 36). It also supported similar resolutions adopted by local governments, such as the Wayne County Commission.

The committee worked with authors of a soon-to-be-published guidebook on Michigan Civil War sites, providing guidance on potential locations and penning the foreword.

Because the Ulysses S. Grant House at the State Fairgrounds remains threatened and inaccessible, the committee continued to engage with state government to support its preservation. It also opened dialogue with the Hauenstein Center, the premier Michigan presidential history organization, on advancing the cause of this unique asset.

The committee volunteered assistance to the new owners of the Grand Army of the Republic building on Grand River Avenue in Detroit, who plan to open a Civil War exhibit. It consulted with the MHPN and its affiliate, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, on ways to advance Michigan Civil War historic resources, including the GAR Building, the Grant House and Historic Fort Wayne. It continued dialogue with Canadian historians on the Civil War thanks to its relationship with the Consulate General.

In all, the Commission and Center continued to build the foundation for an authentic, grassroots Michigan commemoration and demonstrate the community, educational, and Heritage Tourism benefits of the Civil War Sesquicentennial effort. As but one measure, the Sesquicentennial Partners recorded 169 events in Michigan during this first year.

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<sup>3</sup>The plan is available at: [http://michigan.gov/documents/dnr/mhc\\_cws-workplan201209\\_402397\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/dnr/mhc_cws-workplan201209_402397_7.pdf)

### III. THE CENTER AND THE FUTURE

#### *Quality of Life*

- *Population change (Ages 25-34)*
- *State park popularity - annual visits per citizen*

– Michigan Dashboard, Governor Rick Snyder

#### **MICHIGAN NEEDS ITS HISTORY**

History is the foundation upon which Michigan can create and maintain a quality of life that attracts business, tourists and young people to our state. It is fundamental to the common vision of a place that individuals, communities, states and nations need to thrive.

People who have a sense of their place within the continuum of humankind understand their own potential for shaping the future. Communities use a shared understanding of their history as the starting point for conversations that matter. Without this understanding, there is no reason to negotiate, compromise and do the hard work needed to meld diverse interests into a common purpose.

The desire for authentic places and authentic experiences draws young adults to urban centers, historic neighborhoods, and behind-the-scenes tours of the Michigan Historical Center.

Travel guru Arthur Frommer told us decades ago that a sense of place is the ingredient that draws tourists who stay longer, spend more and return. Museums and outdoor history interpretation let visitors get to know us well and feel at home – making Michigan one of their special places to visit and explore often.

History also helps Michigan achieve its educational goals. Before learning happens, there must be inspiration, a desire to find out new things. The educational programs of the Michigan Historical Center provide that inspiration by helping children explore the places and things that are part of their everyday lives.

#### **THE CENTER’S HISTORY**

In 1873, the legislature directed the state librarian to begin collecting Michigan’s history. The next year, Quartermaster General of Michigan William Thorp asked Civil War “officers and soldiers possessed of any trophy, relic, curiosity, or memento, or any article which is connected in any manner with the history of the war, or of his personal military history to contribute the same to the State Military Museum.” In 1874, the legislature made its first appropriation for state history (\$1,000), and in 1913 it created the Michigan Historical Commission to oversee the state’s historical efforts. Over time more and more people entrusted the objects, letters, photographs and documents of their lives to the stewardship of the state. In 1989 all the collections, the stories and the work came together as the state proudly opened the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

The state’s collections include 130,000 artifacts, 50,000 maps, 4,000 manuscripts, 550,000 photographs, 11 historic sites and museums, and the archival records that document state and local government. However, it is not enough to simply care for these treasures; they must be shared to help Michigan and its people discover their sense of place.

#### **TODAY**

The Michigan Historical Center preserves and shares the stories that feed the souls and shelter the hearts of the people of Michigan by helping them find their sense of place. Such work cannot be left to the chance of the marketplace – benefiting those with the resources to preserve and celebrate their past and leaving out those who may most need to connect to history.

The Center's 2002 strategic plan emphasized:

- Implementing a new management structure to ensure efficient and effective operations in the face of limited resources.
- Expanding philanthropic financial resources through collaborative efforts with the Michigan History Foundation, the Friends of Michigan History and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum Advisory Board.
- Becoming a market-driven entrepreneurial organization that is self-sufficient, risk-taking and opportunistic.
- Aggressive marketing and communications that establish the Center as one of the nation's premier state history organizations.
- Strengthening existing services to Michigan communities and creating new ones.

Continuing to follow the plan, in 2011, the Center adapted to the loss of a quarter of its museum staff, including half of its managerial staff. Changes included the addition of a reference archivist under an agreement with the Secretary of State to provide access to Office of the Great Seal records through the archives reading room. The Center used one-time savings from the loss of staff to improve security for special exhibits and for archival and museum collections. It repaired facilities in Lansing and at Walker Tavern near Brooklyn.

## COLLECTIONS

A major addition to the museum collections came when the state decided to sell the property that housed the Michigan School for the Deaf. Out of respect for the school alumni who had cared for the collections associated with the school for many years, the museum catalogued the artifacts on-site and then formally loaned them back to the non-profit alumni organization for exhibit. Only archival materials with personal information, which require secure storage under state law, were removed. Work with the deaf community was very rewarding. The work with the skunk in the basement was not.

The toys Joe Sutton played with in the Upper Peninsula around the time of World War II make up another donation that has greatly enhanced the state's history collections.

With the help of the Motor Cities National Heritage Area, the archives took in the records of the Wayne County Road Commission, including an extraordinary photographic record of road building. Another new collection, the work of Olaf Jensen who designed Grand Trunk Western Railroad formal flower beds, provides an equally revealing look into the history of Michigan communities.

## SHARING THE REAL STORIES OF MICHIGAN

The major special exhibit at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, from Plowshares Into Swords, opened in April 2011. It begins with the stories of Michigan in the days before the war, of enslaved people who found freedom in Michigan, of abolitionists who fought to end slavery and of those who opposed abolition. Using letters and diaries from the archives, it continues with the experiences of Michiganders who served in the war and ends with the flags they fought under. It marked the Center's first use of the archives' new ability to produce large format high-quality images in house.

In the Upper Peninsula, with funds raised by the Michigan History Foundation and the Michigan Iron Industry Advisory Board and a matching grant from the Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Iron Industry Museum completed two trails that tell the stories of people and nature at the Iron Industry Museum. The trails link to the segment of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail east of Negaunee.

The archives expanded its partnership with the Michigan Genealogical Council, hosting two workshops during the year.

Continuing focus on the training of our volunteer docents, who help visitors enjoy the museum, plus regular Saturday public programs, enhanced our story-telling effectiveness.

## EDUCATION

With private funds raised by the Michigan History Foundation, this summer the Center created the Learning Commons on its first floor. The commons more than doubles the space available for education programs. It includes:

- Two Exploration Centers that can serve up to three classes,
- The Time Lab that will soon house creative play activities and pre-school reading circles, and
- The David and Betty Morris Leaning Center that will house the Governor's Decision Room, a program in which high school students use authentic materials that reveal how government considers options, balances competing interests and makes decisions.

The Center continued its work with Lansing Public Schools and the Smithsonian Institution, offering a summer workshop for teachers on Michigan and the Civil War.

Elementary students continued to participate in the week-long BIG History Lesson, with a record 38 classes signed up for the 2011-12 school year. Education programs brought students to Lansing as well as to the museum field sites, including Hartwick Pines, Fayette, Fort Wilkins, Walker Tavern and the Iron Industry Museum.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### QUALITY OF LIFE

Through its support of the Commission's Capitol Park effort, work with the Beachtowns Convention and Visitor's Bureaus on the West Michigan Pike, and heritage trail efforts in the Upper Peninsula, the Center has gained experience in making history part of active outdoor experiences. In 2012, it will begin applying this experience to more of Michigan's State Parks, starting with the Highland Recreation Area. Working with the parks, it will develop interpretive plans that give park staff and interpreters more knowledge about their

place, and propose ways to use signage and small exhibits to enhance the park experience.

The Center will also continue to work with the informal Lansing technology group to provide space for the Lansing DemoCamp and learn more about how museums and archives can be community assets for 25-38 year olds.

### ON-LINE EXPERIENCES

The [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org) website gives researchers and the curious a way to explore our most frequently used collections on line. In 2012 the Center will focus on expanding the materials that help teachers use state and local history, from gravestones to photographs and documents, to inspire their students to learn about Michigan and the world.

### ON-SITE EXPERIENCES

As 2012 begins the Center is testing programs presented using the portable Civil War cart built in 2011 with support from the Michigan History Foundation. The first program has participants unpack and pack a knapsack using the clock of the Civil War – music. It will add a second cart featuring the role immigrants have played in building our state by year's end.

At Fort Wilkins, on the Keweenaw Peninsula, a new grant-funded exhibit will create a married enlisted man's home where children can set the table, put ingredients in the stew, play with period toys and learn about life without washing machines. In 2012 we will also complete stabilization of the Hewitt House at Walker Tavern so that it can better serve as a visitor center not only for the site, but also for the US-12 heritage route. The project is funded in part by a Michigan Department of Transportation Grant.

Two special exhibits will open at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in 2012. The first, opening in March, will celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouting in Michigan. The second, opening in September, will look at how "Putting It on

Paper” reflects and facilitates the creative process.

## **EDUCATION**

As the Center develops education programs for students of all ages, it uses three touchstones:

- Using authentic artifacts and documents;
- Reinforcing the State Board of Education’s content expectations;
- Creating opportunities to practice the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills identified by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including information, communications and technology literacy; critical thinking; problem solving; creativity; civic literacy; and global awareness.

The coming year will see the completion of the Learning Commons with furnishings, interactive whiteboards and new programs. The full implementation of the Governor’s Decision Room will expand offerings to older students, while the Reading Circle program will add pre-school opportunities.

Reading Circle programs begin with a book read as it is projected onto a wall or whiteboard. Images from the museum will be added between some of the pages. Then the children and their adult partners will take an iPad from the mobile digital cart and explore a part of the museum that relates to the book. The iPad will have directions, questions to ask and ways to record what they see and do. As they leave after a final activity in the Time Lab, they will be able to print out their iPad recorded experience and/or e-mail it to their home computer.

## **EARNED INCOME**

In October 2011 adults began to pay admission fees to the Michigan Historical Center. With the youth fee of \$2 optional, the museum collected about half of what it might have earned.

The Michigan Historical Museum stores in Lansing, Fayette, Tawas Point and the Iron Industry museum continue to produce revenue, and the Seeking Michigan On-line Store operated with the Michigan History Foundation, is beginning to grow. Both will be a focus of 2012 efforts to expand the fiscal base of the Michigan Historical Center.

## IV. THE COMMISSION

The Michigan Historical Commission came into existence in 1913 as the State agency responsible for preservation and protection of Michigan's historical resources and storied heritage. For a half-century, it acted autonomously to fulfill this mandate. Appointed to six-year terms, the Commissioners employed a small professional staff, issued reports and publications, and conducted conferences on various aspects of Michigan history. The membership of the Commission included the Governor *ex officio*, who frequently participated in meetings.

In 1963, approval of a new constitution changed the landscape of State government and altered the Commission's operations. One main purpose of the Constitution of 1963 was to make State government more efficient and rationalize the bureaucracy by eliminating the plethora of independent boards, agencies, and commissions created over the years. All such entities were to be located within a principal department and the number of departments limited to 20.

In the post-constitutional reorganization, the Commission was housed under the Department of State. Its staff became employees of that department, while its members continued to be appointed by the Governor. For nearly four decades, this reorganization prevailed. The Commission gave up its autonomy and staff, and the Secretary of State's role in Michigan history matters became ascendant.

In 2000, Governor John Engler issued an executive order reorganizing Michigan's cultural programs. He transferred the Michigan Historical Commission from the Department of State into a new department. The Legislature responded with legislation supported by the Governor that created the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. The package of bills, passed with bipartisan support, provided two additional Commission seats to be appointed by the leader of each legislative house. It also added a seventh

gubernatorial appointment based on nomination by the Historical Society of Michigan.

In the few years since, the Michigan Historical Commission has faced some uncertainty while the new department came together, including the length of service for gubernatorial appointments. This question was answered by Attorney General Mike Cox in a 2005 opinion. Because of the confluence of the 2001 legislation and the 1963 Constitution, all gubernatorial appointees now serve four-year terms; those appointed by the legislature serve two-year terms. The director of the Department in which the Commission is housed serves as an *ex officio* member.

By law, the Commission advises the Michigan Historical Center on its programs, approves Michigan Historical Markers, reviews Local Historic District Study Committee reports, and is responsible for the State's commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The Commission receives no legislative appropriations.

The Commission's greatest potential lies in its ability to inspire a greater awareness of Michigan's heritage. Such awareness can help build a sense of community, educate and elevate Michigan's citizenry, increase economic development, and properly commemorate and preserve the past.

As this report was completed, the Commission was saddened by the loss of a valued colleague and member, Sam Logan, publisher of the *Michigan Chronicle*. He will be missed.

Members, and the year their terms expire, are:

Joseph S. Calvaruso, Galesburg	2012
L. William Conner, Jr., Monroe	2012
John M. Dempsey, Plymouth	2014
Brian James Egen, Monroe	2015
Michael Ranville, Charlotte	2013
Edward D. Surovell, Ann Arbor	2012
Thomas Truscott, Lansing	2012

## POSTSCRIPT

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Michigan Historical Commission and be involved in promoting Michigan history and telling Michigan's unique stories. We expect the Governor and Michigan's other leaders to call on us and rely on the Michigan Historical Center to find creative ways to support quality of life, sense of place, tourism, and education initiatives.

The Commission believes that with concerted collaboration and action, we can create a future Michigan that finds in its past the inspiration that allows it to build the as-yet-unimagined place where people from around the world come to work, live, and play. We continue to be inspired by the words of Michigan author and artist Gwen Frostic:

*One could live a lifetime in Michigan  
and still have wonder to explore.*

## FINANCIAL APPENDIX

With the assistance of the Michigan History Foundation, which acts as custodian and trustee, the Commission has raised funds to support the Capitol Park and Civil War Sesquicentennial initiatives. Shown below is the year-end 2011 status of these funds.

### Capitol Park

\$55,792

### Civil War Sesquicentennial

\$8,202