Dear Friends and Members of the Historical Society,

I would like to update you on a number of topics that have occurred over the past year. First, let me express our appreciation for your patience as we struggled to replace our newsletter editor Mark Foster. Mark did a great job with our quarterly editions of the **HISTORIAN** but he was able to return to full time journalism and we wish him well. So it is with great pleasure that we announce that George Scheetz who is the retiring Library Director will take on the dual role of Historian and Editor. George has always contributed articles and we look forward to his knowledge and expertise.

Our director Kate Garrett presented some wonderful exhibits at the museum with the help of our Curator Heather Bigcek. They also did a fabulous job with the preservation of our artifacts. This was not an easy task but we now have a better accounting of what is in our possession. And unfortunately Heather has informed us that she will be leaving. Kate and Heather made a great team and we are sorry to see her go. At our June 25th meeting we will introduce the new Curator for the museum.

The museum has also undergone some renovations especially with the new entrance to the research center. The Depot is in constant need of care and Kate and the Park District are keeping a good handle on buildings and grounds.

We have had some turnover also on the board with James Nellis, Greg Domel, Teri Dykhius and Margie Logman leaving. Each of them made significant contributions during their time on the board. New to the Board are Brian Lawyer as Treasurer and John Hanson as a Director.

Another change in the board will be with President. It has been my honor to serve in that capacity but I need to step down. I have asked the directors to stay on the board in order to ensure a successful transition. If you have an interest in becoming President please contact me at [dhoefler1408@comcast.net](mailto:dhoefler1408@comcast.net).

While I am on the subject of the Board let me express my appreciation and gratitude for our past and current board members. They have been loyal and dedicated to the task of preserving and promoting Batavia’s History. In addition, our volunteers have also been there when we needed help. But we can also use more and I encourage you to reach out to Director Garrett at the museum.

The one issue during and coming out of the pandemic was with expansion planning and fundraising. It was apparent to the board that it was becoming difficult to raise the funds to support our proposed plan along with the Park District. So when the Park Board approached us to participate in their purchase of the Professional building across from the Depot we decided after many months of discussion to enter into an agreement. By doing so we gain much needed storage, office and curatorial spaces which was an integral part of the expansion plan. The agreement also calls for our funds to be used for renovation of the Depot, which is needed. By 2024, we will be using the our newly renovated space across the street and at that time renovations will begin to take place in the museum. Our total contribution will come to $830,000.

I also want to acknowledge that the progress we made was due to the efforts of so many members and friends of the society that provided countless hours of service. Our appreciation and thanks.

Please continue to check our website for upcoming news and programs and in the near future check your emails for the newsletter and other information regarding the Historical Society and the Depot Museum.  **IF you have not done so please notify us of your email address. We have several but hope to get everyone’s account. Please send to:** [**educator@gmail.com**](mailto:educator@gmail.com)**. And a gentle nudge to bring your membership up to date.**

**Our next quarterly meeting will be Sunday June 25 2pm at Shannon Hall Eastside Community Center; the program will be about Elizabeth Friedman The story of the Fabyan Codebreakers.**

So we move forward to the future as we continue to protect, preserve and promote Batavia and its history.

It has been and honor to follow in the footsteps of so many Batavians who have been your President and we look forward to working with our next leader of the Society.

With warm Regards,

Dan Hoefler

President