

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

**MUSEUM BOARD**

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING**

**NOTICE DATE:** May 19, 2021  
**MEETING DATE/TIME:** June 3, 2021, 5:00 p.m.  
**MEETING PLACE:** Virtual Meeting

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the regularly scheduled Museum Board meeting for the City of Birmingham will be conducted online using a virtual meeting format. Meetings will be conducted virtually in light of health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services orders and related legislation that emphasize safety and limiting large gatherings.

**Museum Board Zoom Meeting Invitation**

Topic: Regular Museum Board Meeting  
Time: 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Potential Future Virtual Meetings:**

July 1, 2021, 05:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/99524391376>

**Meeting ID: 995 2439 1376**

**One tap mobile**

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**Dial by your location**

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
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**Meeting ID: 995 2439 1376**

The agenda, agenda packet, and detailed instructions for viewing and participating in the meeting will be posted on the City of Birmingham's website as follows:

[www.bhamgov.org/government/boards/mb\\_agendas.php](http://www.bhamgov.org/government/boards/mb_agendas.php)

Public comment will be handled by the virtual "raise hand" method as controlled by the participant. See instructions as posted on the City of Birmingham website: [www.bhamgov.org/participate](http://www.bhamgov.org/participate).

The meeting will be captioned; if participating in the meeting through the Zoom platform the user must select "view subtitles" in order to see the captions.

NOTICE: Individuals requiring accommodations, such as mobility, visual, hearing, interpreter or other assistance, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

*Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al [\(248\) 530-1880](tel:2485301880) por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).*



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, June 3, 2021  
5:00 PM**

***Mission Statement:** The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of May 6, 2021
- 4. New Business**
  - A. Pandemic Documentation Project
  - B. Recruitment of Museum Board members
- 5. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Director Report
  - B. Member comments
  - C. Public comments
- 6. Next Meeting: July 1, 2021 (Currently planned as a virtual meeting)**
- 7. Adjournment**

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org).* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. *Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
May 6, 2021  
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Pat Hughes, Tina Krizanic, Marty Logue, Jacquie Patt, Caitlin Rosso

Members Absent: Judith Keefer

Student Members: None

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack

Guests: None

Ms. Krizanic called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of April 1, 2021**

**MOTION:** by Dixon, seconded by Hughes:

To approve the minutes of April 1, 2021.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

Members discussed the possibility of reviving the time capsule idea as a Museum Board project, with the focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affected the people of Birmingham. Ideas were discussed that included using the physical 'time capsule,' which could be buried in the traditional sense, and could include electronic contributions in the form of digitized audio or scanned images. Members were enthused with the idea of requesting public contributions of 'what the pandemic means to me' for the museum's collection (as opposed to a time capsule), emphasizing the preservation of the thoughts, reflections, statements, creative productions, and other representative items. The contributions would be preserved, but brought forth at some future time as an exhibit that looks back on this period. This possible project will be included on the June agenda to attempt to finalize a plan and a timeframe to do the project.

Director Pielack clarified that, in regards to the upcoming Heritage Zone Phase I landscape improvements, the planned pea gravel excavation under the Hunter House fence will create significant maintenance problems. The Department of Public Services staff have recommended to leave the area below the fence as turf, which is easier to maintain. It also would reduce costs of the project installation. All members agreed by consensus that this was a positive change. Director Pielack will follow up with the landscape architect, Brian Devlin, to discuss the change.

Director Pielack then discussed the need to consider installing Mr. Devlin's design for the trash receptacle barrier earlier than planned. The existing wood pickets blew down in a recent windstorm, as they were more deteriorated than we realized due to their proximity next to the irrigation line for the hydrangea shrubs. Mr. Devlin's design consists of posts with cable to support growing vines, but he did not specify a plant list. Two options for consideration, based on location, conditions, growth characteristics, and historical appropriateness are *clematis viticella* and climbing hydrangea. These two plants also do not have invasive tendencies, which is a concern due to our proximity to the Rouge River trail corridor. Evergreen vines that are available are either invasive or can be destructive, such as ivy. Both *clematis viticella* and climbing hydrangea's twig and twining structure would be present throughout the winter, and would provide some visual barrier even without leaves. Members agreed by consensus that either plant would be acceptable, and further, that the choice of using either white support posts (to repeat the white vertical trim of the Allen House) or darker posts (Birmingham green or black) to recede and be less obvious, should be deferred to the landscape architect with follow up.

### **Communication and Reports**

Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report and highlighted the fact that the museum is nearing 1000 Twitter followers, which is a substantial level for a small local museum. In addition, some new permanent collection items include the offer of materials from Chad Smith's (Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer) early years in Birmingham—his talent development, early performances, school days, personal items, photos, etc. The museum would be interested in his personal story and would also make a virtual exhibit available online. Other new collection acquisitions include the rights to a digital professional photo of the post office mural by Carlos Lopez, which was controversial in its time and is a special example of Birmingham's different approaches to cultural diversity over the years. She also highlighted the conclusive findings on the location of Greenwood Cemetery's former 'potter's field' area, which was a study and report Director Pielack prepared for the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board.

Mr. Dixon announced to the board that he will not be seeking re-appointment to the Museum Board when his term expires at the end of June. Mr. Dixon has served the City

in various capacities for 44 years, and feels it is time to step away and pursue other interests. The board thanked Mr. Dixon for his many contributions and his long experience with the museum. Ms. Krizanic also announced that she will not seek re-appointment after her term expires in June, as she will be relocating and can no longer serve on the board. She commented about the many things that the board has been able to achieve by working together, including the strategic plan, the landscape master plan, pop up exhibits, and the community engagement accomplishments, including our community engagement award. Board members also thanked Ms. Krizanic for her leadership and contributions to the museum.

There were no public comments.

**The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3 at 5:00 PM, currently planned as a virtual meeting.**

Ms. Krizanic adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM.



## Director Report

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**DATE:** June 3, 2021  
**TO:** Museum Board  
**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director  
**SUBJECT:** Director Report

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Preservation and Repair Projects; Heritage Zone Landscape Improvements—update. Work will be starting soon on the Heritage Zone enhancement. Three elm trees will be planted in the front, the permanent sign will be installed, and the fencing and gates will be modified.

Paint Study of Hunter House Interior—Anthony Kartsonas of Historic Surfaces, LLC will be conducting a paint analysis of the Hunter House interior after July to provide guidance on needed plaster repairs and interior painting of the building.

Pond geotechnical findings—update.

Porch Pop-Up Exhibits-May: 'The Museum's Changing Landscape'—We have held two pop-ups thus far. We have had a few visitors, but primarily have attracted the attention of passers-by. We note that pedestrian patterns have changed markedly since the pandemic pressure has eased. We will continue to hold our Friday pop-ups as planned and make the most out of our outdoor presence.

Digitized Creem Magazine Online Subscription—In 2017, we loaned a number of our *Creem* issues to a digitization service that scanned them for an online subscription service, which was free to us because of our participation in the loan. There has been a technical glitch at the website and we are looking into correcting the problem. In the meantime, we are planning to acquire issues we lack.

The Virtual Birmingham Museum—Like many similar organizations, our Facebook activity has flattened out as the pandemic eases. It is still a great way to announce events, point out history anniversaries and share video content for our stable audience. Twitter, however, is busier than ever, and Instagram continues to be very popular. We are investigating whether TikTok would be a useful addition to our social media platform in the coming months. Our goal, as always, is to follow some of the more promising trends to keep our virtual audiences engaged while we remain closed.

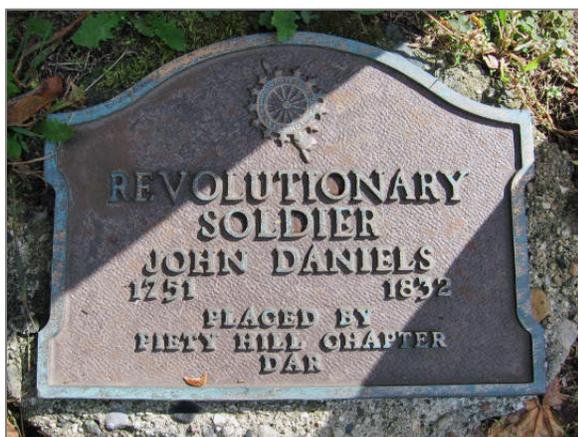
New Research: In light of a planned 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War in 2026, the Oakland History Center (formerly the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society) is compiling a list of RW veterans buried in Oakland County. In order to update them about our one and only veteran in Greenwood, John Daniels (Sr.), we found that there was very little available in our existing files on him. Even the DAR, who had marked his grave as a Revolutionary War veteran, was skeptical that he was the right one, since there were several John Daniels who served in that war. We therefore turned over many digital stones to track down documents to determine if our John Daniels is the right one. See attached for our article about the process and our findings, which will be published on our website, in the next issue of the Friends' *Heritage* newsletter, and also in the Oakland History Center's June newsletter.

Collection/Recent Donations—speaking of the Daniels family, we received a donation of historic photo portraits of people we believe are descendants of both John Daniels (third generation, through his son) and John West Hunter (third generation, through his daughter). More to come RE this interesting family!

## Searching for John Daniels: Birmingham's Revolutionary War Veteran

By Donna Casaceli & Leslie Pielack  
Birmingham Museum

In preparing for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, the Oakland History Center (formerly Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society) has started the "Patriot Project," a list of all the Revolutionary War veterans buried here in Oakland County. Birmingham has claim to one such veteran, **John Daniels (1751-1832)**, who is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Museum staff were excited at the prospect of participation in this endeavor, and we dug into our files to write up a biography for John Daniels. To our dismay, there wasn't very much there. Unfortunately, before the internet, researching the Revolutionary War was long, painstaking work, which included traveling to libraries all over the east coast, so we had very little on file from early research done years ago. Thankfully, many records are now online, and we've made some new discoveries to fill in some blanks about Mr. Daniel's life and service.



*The DAR installed a plaque recognizing Daniels, but questioned whether he was the right person.*

We knew from past recognition by the Daughters of the American Revolution-Piety Hill Chapter that he served in the

Revolutionary War, but little else was clear. When contacted, Piety Hill said they were not sure he was the right John Daniels and did not have any record to help sort that out. So, we began at the beginning. Daniels had descendants who lived here, and we had good information about his family line. He was born in Pomfret, Windham County, CT to **Anne Grosvenor Daniels** and **Nathaniel Daniels (Sr.)**. Records indicate that his mother died when he was 10 and his father remarried and later moved to Worthington, MA. Nathaniel and sons (including John) were recorded by a local record as serving in the war. This was conclusive and reliable, but not very detailed. Where did they serve? When? Under whom?

Nathaniel and his sons **Samuel, Nathaniel Jr., and Daniel** all signed up in Worthington, but John is not found in those records. Yet, a

*A Patriot's Legacy*  
*As proven in DAR records*

Patriot Name: Nathaniel Daniels Sr Patriot # 029675

Service: Massachusetts - Civil & Patriotic Service

Residence: Worthington, Hampshire Co, MA

Born: 8-23-1719 / Milton, Suffolk Co, MA

Died: c 1799 / Rutland, Rutland Co, VT

Service Source:  
MADAR, TOWN OFFICIALS 1775-1783, GRC S1, VOL 35, PP 394, 395, 397, 399

Spouse #1: Ann Grosvenor  
Spouse #2: Sybil Leavens  
Spouse #3: Sarah Leonard Herrick

Proven Children: John, Nathaniel Jr, Samuel, Gad

*The DAR certificate for Daniels' father, Nathaniel.*

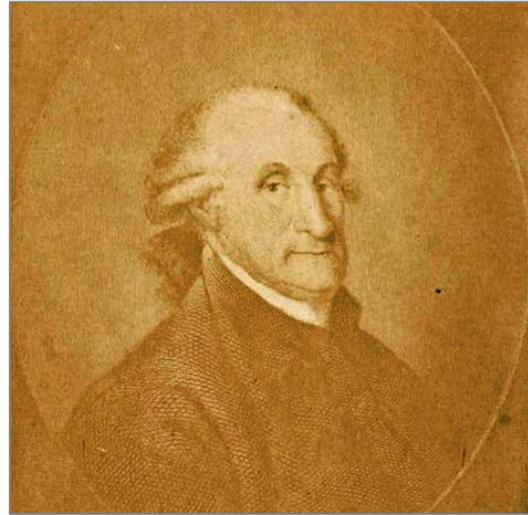
well-documented history of Worthington written in 1874 notes John among the Daniels brothers who served with their father.<sup>1</sup> So why isn't he listed with them in the Massachusetts

military rolls, we wondered? A broader search began. Several men named John Daniels show up in the Massachusetts rolls for the Revolutionary War, but they all lived a considerable distance from Worthington, making it less likely they were our John Daniels, whose entire family was in Worthington at the time. The only answer was to widen the search online and try to cross-reference any hits. After plugging in many different search terms, a solid lead came in an *Ancestry.com* search that led to a Sons of the American Revolution registry number and the location of Windham County, CT. Could this be a record of our John Daniels, who was born there and lived there during his childhood?

By centering the search on Wyndham County, we could try to learn about him by starting with his mother, who was born, raised, and died in Pomfret (Wyndham County). By looking at her family, we found some very interesting information. John's mother Anne was born into the prominent Grosvenor family.

Like many other American colonials, the Grosvenors had a long history of service in the military throughout the 1700s. Anne's father—John Daniel's grandfather—was **Ebenezer Grosvenor**, son of a well-to-do landowner in Pomfret who had several children, most of whom, like Anne, stayed in the area all their lives.<sup>2</sup> Anne's brother **Ebenezer Grosvenor II**, in fact, opened a tavern in Pomfret in 1771 (known at the time as the Ben Grosvenor Inn) that became a meeting place for officers and patriots during the Revolutionary War. For his part, Ebenezer II and several of his sons also served with American forces, including his son Thomas, who ultimately became a colonel. **Thomas Grosvenor** (e.g., Anne's nephew and John Daniels' first cousin) served under General **Israel Putnam** at the Battle of Bunker Hill, where he was injured. Thomas

was also a friend to **George Washington**, who (along with his horse) was hosted by



*In 1789, Washington stayed at the Grosvenor family inn, hosted by Thomas Grosvenor, John Daniels's cousin.*

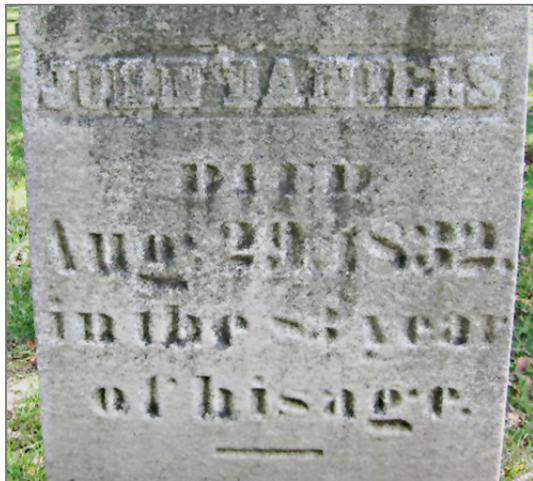
Thomas at his father's inn in Pomfret in 1789, as recorded by Washington in his diary.<sup>3</sup>

These details are important, because we found records that a John Daniels served as a private under Colonel Thomas Grosvenor in Connecticut's 4th Regiment in Lieutenant **(Abner) Bacon's** Company. This John Daniels was a resident in the Canterbury area of Windham County, just a few miles south of Pomfret. Could this be the same John Daniels who was the child of Nathaniel and Anne Grosvenor Daniels, who was documented as serving in the Revolution with his father and brothers, but who didn't enlist with them in Massachusetts?

What makes this finding even more promising is that no other man named John Daniels shows up in census or birth records in Windham County between 1730 and 1780 other than our John Daniels (born in Pomfret in 1751). In addition, extensive family research by a Daniels descendant confirms that John Daniels, son of Nathaniel who served in the Revolutionary War is the same John

Daniels buried in Greenwood. These various records, when cross-referenced, essentially rule out any other possibility.<sup>4</sup>

Where John Daniels went and what he did after the war isn't completely clear, but around 1779 or 1780 he married **Betsey Horton** (said to be from the Boston area). Around 1790 they settled in Rutland, VT, joining many of the other Daniels side of the family. The couple apparently moved around a bit; their son **John Daniels Jr.** (1793-1855) was born in New York, unlike his siblings who were all born in Rutland. Many years later, John and Betsey moved again, relocating to the Birmingham area in 1831. They died a year later, however, and were buried together at Greenwood Cemetery.



*John Daniels (Sr.) is the only known Revolutionary War veteran buried at Greenwood.*

So how and why did John and Betsey Daniels end up in Birmingham? John Daniels Jr.

seems to have been the motivating force that brought several siblings and his parents to the wilderness of Oakland County. The younger John bought property in 1823 and built a small cabin at what is now the northeast corner of Bingham and 13 Mile Road, making him a founding pioneer of Southfield Township. In 1824, John Jr. traveled back east to marry **Julia Clark**, returning to Michigan to settle. John Jr. was soon followed by his brother, **Hiram Daniels** (1801-1889) in 1830/31, who bought property in what became Birmingham (the Hiram and Rhoda Daniels house still stands near Pierce and Lincoln Streets).

Although John had been in poor health since about 1828, he and Betsey came here with Hiram to relocate near John Jr., possibly to be cared for as they aged. Sadly, both parents died in August of 1832, just three days apart, possibly due to a cholera outbreak in southern Michigan at the time. Although they were buried in Greenwood, their son John Daniels Jr. was buried in the Franklin Cemetery in 1855, near where he made his home.

But that wasn't the end of the Daniels family in Birmingham: Hiram, his wife **Rhoda Bingham Daniels (1816-1862)**, and their descendants are also buried in Greenwood. What's more, the long Daniels/Bingham line continues even today to serve Birmingham through our very own City Clerk, **Alexandria Bingham**, who is the 6<sup>th</sup> great granddaughter of John Daniels Sr.!

<sup>1</sup>*History of the town of Worthington, from its first settlement to 1874.* Springfield, MA: Clark W. Bryan & Co., 1874.

<https://worthingtonhistoricalsociety.org/omeka-2.6.1/files/original/a204f644c39cdaf41cfe043218a01efc.pdf>. Accessed 5/7/2021.

<sup>2</sup><https://connecticutgenealogy.com/windham/pomfret-connecticut-biographies.htm>. Accessed 5/7/2021.

<sup>3</sup><https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/01-05-02-0005-0003-0007>. Accessed 5/11/2021.

<sup>4</sup>Daniels, James Harrison. *The Daniels family, a genealogical history of the descendants of William Daniels of Dorchester and Milton, Massachusetts, 1630-1951.* Baltimore, MD: Nicholas A. Gossman Publishing Co., 1959.

<https://archive.org/details/danielsfamilygen00dan>. Accessed 5/12/2021.



Portraits of members of the Daniels family, believed to be Samuel (left), grandson of John Daniels, Sr., Revolutionary War veteran buried in Greenwood Cemetery; and Mary Ann Drake Daniels (right), granddaughter of **John West Hunter**. Samuel and Stella were longtime residents of the Birmingham area and related to the Bingham of Birmingham and Bingham Farms.