

Monroe County History Center

Where the past and present meet.



News from the Library Online Edition

Dear Nicole,

Welcome to the second edition of the Monroe County History Center's online version of News from the Library. We will begin mailing this newsletter every other month.

I hope you enjoy this issue! Comments are welcome and may be emailed to mchclibrary@gmail.com. Thank you all for your support of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Schlemmer
Library Manager
Monroe County History Center



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Coming Events

Bear Naming Ceremony

The ceremony is this Saturday, March 16 at 2pm. Visitors to the History Center have been voting for months to give a name to our famous bear donated by the Schmalz family, and now the winner will be revealed.

Did your choice make the cut? The reception is free and open to the entire community. Drop in for some election day fun!

Indiana Genealogical Society Conference

Saturday, April 27, 2013

The Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference will be

A Few New Resources

* Interviews conducted at the Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at Ivy Tech Bloomington with Bloom Magazine's Malcolm Abrams; John Bender of Bender Lumber; Steve Ferguson of Cook Group; Dan Gluesenkamp of Designscape; Lee Marchant of IIM

held in our own backyard at the Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington, Indiana. D. Joshua Taylor of the genealogy TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?" will be the featured speaker.

A pre-conference seminar will be held on Friday, April 26 at the Lawrence County Museum of History in Bedford, Indiana and sessions will include "Preserving Your Family History: Caring for Documents and Photographs" with Tamara Hemmerlein from the Indiana Historical Society and a first look at "The Monroe County Timeline" with Elizabeth Schlemmer and Christine Eykholt Friesel.

Registration is \$30 for IGS members and \$40 for non-members. For more information, please see: [IGS Annual Conference Announcement](#)

Genealogy Group

On Thursday, May 2, at 7 PM a special program will be held at the Monroe County History Center titled "Celebrating 100 Years of Extension Homemakers in Monroe County." This program will provide a history of the organization at the state and county level and include information about the late Elma Stephenson, the woman at the forefront of the Homemakers in Monroe County.

A special exhibit of artifacts depicting a century of the Homemakers in Monroe County will be on display at the History Center from early April to early July, and those in attendance at the program will have an opportunity to visit the exhibit at the end of the presentation.

The program is free and open to the public.

Enterprises; Bill and Kathleen Oliver of Oliver Winery; John Rose of Textillery Weavers; Jim Silberstein of Tina's Catering and the Encore Cafe; and Jeremiah Young of Nature's Way. DVD set. Gift from Joyce Poling.

* Murphree, David. Allens Creek Cemetery Presentation. 2012. CD. Gift from David Murphree.

* Roster of Ohio Soldiers in the War of 1812. Adjutant General of Ohio, 1968. Gift from Karen Sims Foster.

* Sprague, Stuart Seely. Kentuckians in Ohio and Indiana. 1986. Gift from Karen Sims Foster.

* Uniform Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1861. Smithsonian Institution, 1862, 1961. Gift from Frances McConnell in memory of Lloyd and Wallace McConnell.

You are invited
to an Evening Celebration

in recognition of
Mrs. Lola Burkhart's
estate bequest to our Research Library

Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street, Bloomington

Featured Resource **Monroe County Deed Records**

are a good source for learning more about where your ancestors lived. They can tell you:

- exact location of land parcels bought and sold
- value of land
- first names of women

Thursday, May 9 at 5:45

A reception with wine and dessert will precede a dedication ceremony. Please join us to celebrate our renovations of the library.

who are selling land with their husbands

The deed books also include some:
-records of land sales associated with schools, churches, and cemeteries
-transactions involving the county Overseer of the Poor
-indentures, apprenticeships, and manumission of slaves
-elections of county trustees
-wills
-patents and copyrights

Monroe County Land records books are held in the History Center's Research Library and a PDF of the index can be found here on our website: [Research Library Index Page](#)

**Index to Cases Referred to the Supreme Court
Now Available Online
Submitted by Randi Richardson**

An index to cases sent on appeal from local courts to the Supreme Court is now available online thanks to the Indiana Archives.

The index can be accessed at <http://incite.in.gov/DataEntryApp/Public.aspx> and can be searched by name, county, plaintiff and defendant. As of January 2013, cases from 1817 through 1881 have been indexed and the project is ongoing.

Often counties have little information about cases referred to the Supreme Court and typically those cases that are dismissed are even more obscure because no opinion was issued. However, documents related to every case noted in the index, regardless of whether or not the case was dismissed, have been preserved at the Indiana Archives. Consequently, the index is one of considerable value to genealogists who have reason to believe the subject of their research ever encountered legal difficulties.

To access the documents in a case file, click on the name as it appears in the index to reveal a box and record number. With that information, files can be located at the Indiana Archives in Indianapolis. To review a file, it is recommended that the Archives be given at least 24 hours advance notice.

NOTE: Opinions from those cases heard by the Supreme Court can be found in volumes titled Report of Cases Argued in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of Indiana, and many of the opinions may be

***Our Top Ten Resources
for Researching Your
Monroe County Home
or Property***

10. Talk to former owners and residents

9. Search the address, owner, or business name online at the INMonroe Archive

8. View Monroe County Plat Maps at the History Center

7. Search Bloomington Newspapers on microfilm at the Monroe

found online with a Google search. It is approximated, however, that more than one-third of the cases sent to the Supreme Court are dismissed for one reason or another and, therefore, no opinion was issued.

**Digital Images of Indiana Marriage Records 1811-1959
Available Online
Submitted by Randi Richardson**

For the past few years, volunteers affiliated with FamilySearch in partnership with the Indiana Genealogical Society have indexed and scanned Indiana marriage records from 1811-1959. The work that has been completed to date has been made available online at [Family Search Marriage Records](#).

According to FamilySearch, the collection is about 80% complete. Due to contract issues, some images cannot be viewed online, but have been microfilmed and can be accessed at family history centers. For more information on the local center please see: [Bloomington Family History Center](#).

In the South Central district of Indiana, records for the following counties have been indexed and are readily available: Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence and Orange. Additionally, the records from Crawford, Scott and Washington counties have been microfilmed but have not yet been indexed.

As additional records are indexed, they will be uploaded to the website. If you would like to assist with this indexing project, contact the project coordinator, Shirley Richison Fields, at indexing@indgensoc.org.

**READ ALL ABOUT IT: Many Early Indiana Newspapers
Available Online
Submitted by Randi Richardson**

The Indiana Historical Society (IHS) in Indianapolis, in partnership with NewspaperArchives, has recently made available online 2.5 million digitized pages from Indiana newspapers dated from 1924 and earlier.

Information available at NewspaperArchive indicates that it is the world's largest online newspaper archive with 126,000,000 newspapers dating from 1607 to today from 10 countries and all 50 states within the United States. Each month they reportedly add 2,500,000 newspaper pages. The pages are searchable with a number of powerful search engines.

Although free access is available from some libraries such as the William H. Smith Library at the IHS, individual memberships are also available annually, quarterly or monthly ranging in price from \$5.99 for a month to \$71.88 for a year. What a deal, you might think. But before jumping on the bandwagon, there are a few limitations that historians and genealogists should strongly consider.

County Public Library

6. Browse the Monroe County History Center Photo Collection online or on location

5. Access the Monroe County GIS website for detailed property information

4. Use the unique Loudon Title Books at the History Center to search deed records by township and section location

3. View land records using our research library's indexed deed books

2. View Sanborn Maps (Bloomington & Ellettsville only) at the History Center or the Wells Library

1. Search City Directories (Bloomington only) at the History Center or the Monroe County Public Library

Become a member today!

The Monroe County Historical Society supports itself through members like you!

Some of the benefits of membership include:

-free admission to the museum

First and foremost is the lack of indexing. For example, there are 10 different newspapers from Boone County, Indiana, dating from 1852 to 1923. A search for Smith among Boone County newspaper, returned only 333 hits, many less than expected and from only one newspaper, leading one to believe that the indexing for Boone County newspapers is limited.

With evidence of the indexing limitations in Boone County, there was some question as to the pervasiveness of the problem across all early Indiana newspapers. Therefore, all twelve counties in the south central district of Indiana were evaluated on February 25, 2013. A search was made for the name Smith in newspapers published in the county seat of each county in the district. The results are noted below.

Bartholomew County/Columbus-0 hits in a collection of ten newspapers
Brown County/Nashville-no newspapers
Clark County/Jeffersonville-18,868 hits from 12 newspapers among a collection of 12 newspapers
Crawford County/English-4,916 hits from 2 newspapers among a collection of 2 newspapers
Floyd County/New Albany-6,810 hits from 6 newspapers among a collection of 12 newspapers
Harrison County/Corydon-0 hits among a collection of 3 newspapers
Jackson County/Paoli-0 hits among a collection of 6 newspapers
Lawrence County/Bedford-9,420 hits from 7 newspapers among a collection of 10 newspapers
Monroe County/Bloomington-65 hits from 1 newspaper among a collection of 14 newspapers
Scott County/Scottsburg-no newspapers
Washington County/Salem-227 hits from 6 newspapers in a collection of 11 newspapers

In spite of the apparent pervasiveness of the problem, the availability of the early Indiana newspapers online at NewspaperArchive is a wonderful addition to the genealogist's toolbox. If the date of an event is known, it is possible to access a newspaper within a collection and scan the pages for a report of the event. And there's always the hope that eventually NewspaperArchive will finish the index. Until then, caveat emptor.

Church Records Project

The Church Records Project is building a database of member names from 19th century Monroe County churches. It will be used to research family histories, and will help fill in gaps in other records.

Two examples: 1) prior to 1850 the U.S. Census did not enumerate all members of households, using only the head of household. Our index will name women and children not otherwise available for that time period; 2) because the 1890 census was lost, the church index will serve as a partial substitute for those missing data.

-10% discount in the museum store
-Bimonthly issues of *Monroe County Historian* - Special members-only events

Levels:
Student/Teacher \$20
Basic \$35
Family \$60
Sustaining \$100
Patron \$500

To become a member or receive more information on membership, please email Hillary Detty at admin@monroehistory.org

Do you have yearbooks from local schools?

The Genealogy Library is looking for a number of local yearbooks for the collection. These yearbooks are a useful tool for people researching their past. Below is a listing of some of the yearbooks we are missing. If you have any you can donate please contact Elizabeth Schlemmer at [812-332-2517, ext. 4](tel:812-332-2517) or mchclibrary@gmail.com

BHS Gothic:

1910
1911
1919
1975
1978
1979
1981
1983

We have already entered 20,000 names from church membership registers, histories, and other documents. However, we urgently need records from many churches we have been unable to contact. If you can help us obtain registers or histories from the following, we would greatly appreciate it.

Bethel AME Church in Bloomington
Crossroads Methodist Church in Richland Twp
Fairview Methodist in Bloomington
First Methodist Church in Harrodsburg
Harrodsburg Church of Christ
Hindustan Christian Church in Washington Twp
Maple Grove Church of Christ in Bloomington Twp
Second Baptist Church of Bloomington
Smithville Christian Church
South Union Church of Christ in Van Buren Twp

For others, please open this document:
[Complete List of Church Registers Needed](#)

Contact Elizabeth Schlemmer, the Library Manager, or Lee Ehman, the church project manager, at [812.332.2517 Ext 4](tel:812.332.2517), or genealogy@indiana.edu.

1985

University Jordannus:
1965 through 1968
1970
1971

Stinesville Quarrian:
1930 through 1940
1942 through 1945
1947 through 1958
1960 on

Smithville
Searchlight:
1938
1940 through 1955
1962
1963

To opt out of future newsletters, please email mchclibrary@gmail.com.