Curious about Spiritualism in the Hoosier state during the Victorian Era? Karen Shank-Chapman, curator of the Rotary Jail Museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana, will offer a free lecture that addresses the religious movement's efforts to communicate with the spirits of the departed through mediums and séances, the popularity of hair art as a way to remember the deceased, and other aspects of this religion that flourished between the 1840s and 1920s. Hope you can attend!

October 27th  5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Monroe County History Center Education Room

Canopy of Lights Open House, November 27

While you are downtown watching Courthouse Square light up for the holiday season, don’t forget to stroll over to the History Center for our traditional Canopy of Lights Open House. There will be hot cider, pastries, holiday music, and our ever-popular holiday sale where you are sure to find that perfect gift for all of your favorite people! Doors will open Friday the 27th of November at 5 pm and will stay open until 9 pm. Drop by, bring the whole family, meet friends, and enjoy our charming museum and gift shop.
Current Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Community Voices Gallery:
The Monroe County History Center’s Community Voices Gallery welcomes PALS, People & Animal Learning Services, Inc. PALS provides comprehensive individualized therapeutic equine programs designed by professionals to intentionally develop and restore functional skills, enhance well-being and improve quality of life.

Closes: November 27

Hill Gallery:
Fill’er Up Petrol: A Retrospect of Graham Motor Sales
The building on the southwest corner of 3rd and South Walnut in Bloomington was originally built in 1923 as Graham Motor Sales. Later, it became the Henry Ford Model T assembly plant and showroom. People gathered regularly on “the Ford Corner” to see the latest automobiles as they rolled off the assembly line.

Closes: November 1

Brown Gallery:
Water Woes: Monroe County’s Issues with H₂O
Lake Monroe has been our source of water and recreation for the past several decades. But, before the lake, what did residents use as their source of water? This exhibit examines the trials and tribulations, including droughts and sanitation issues, that the county and the city of Bloomington experienced before obtaining a reliable source of fresh water.

It also explores the issue of water conservation—a topic of great importance in today’s world.

Closes: January 16, 2016

Rechter Gallery:
Monroe County @ Work
All types of work have contributed to the growth and economic development of Monroe County and its communities over the decades. Farming, flatboating, limestone and furniture industries, railroads, electronics and appliances, medical instruments, education, and an emerging high technology sector all have employed local residents and shaped the nature of work in the county. These places of work also have had significant impacts nationally and globally. This exhibit is offered in conjunction with Indiana University’s Fall Themester program.

Closes: May 2016

Education Room Exhibits
Love Entwined: Hair Art of the Victorian Era
Hair art went out of fashion around 1925, but it was popular for hundreds of years before that. People made wreaths, rings, necklaces, and all sorts of items out of human hair. Some pieces were made to memorialize someone who had passed away; others were created for fun! Come see examples of this intricate art. Several pieces are on loan from “Tony’s Wild Hair Museum: Collection of Over 100 Antique Hair Items,” located in French Lick, Indiana.

Closes: November 15

Friends of the Library
Celebrate 50 years of the Friends of the Library, the volunteer organization that provides support for our Monroe County Public Library! Photographs and assorted documents tell the story of how this group has supported the collection and other needs of this important public resource since 1965.
Dear friends of the History Center,

I hope that all of you had a good summer. The months flew by quickly here at the History Center. We held our annual Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program, which attracted several dozen youth for some exciting history learning experiences. We welcomed visitors from around the world who toured the building to learn more about Monroe County. We held our 2nd annual Hot Rod & Classic Car Show, which drew over 30 vehicles and several hundred car enthusiasts on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. And we continue our planning for the state’s bicentennial in 2016 and the county and city bicentennials in 2018. But, with the arrival of fall, that means the holidays are only months away. Look elsewhere in this issue to learn more about our Holiday Sale and our traditional Canopy of Lights Open House. Make sure to mark your calendar for those special events and visit our website — www.monroehistory.org — to keep informed about upcoming programs and events.

We have some interesting programs planned in the coming months that we hope you will attend. But, we really would like to hear from you. Are there particular subjects of interest that you would like to learn more about? Any special speakers? Feel free to drop us a line if you have ideas for our program schedule.

I hope that you will keep us in mind as we enter the last quarter of 2015. As you begin planning your holiday gift list, consider giving a History Center membership as a gift for students, family members, and friends. You also might consider a gift to the History Center’s year-end appeal in order to support our ongoing local history and education initiatives. Lastly, in the new year, we will begin a more targeted effort to collect objects that fulfill our mission of interpreting our local history and culture. So, in the meantime, think about what photographs, letters and documents, and objects that might be in your possession that would help us tell the story about Monroe County and its people. Contact the staff if you have any questions. We would be happy to help. Have a great fall and stop by and see us some time!

David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director

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Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st, 4 pm, Cemetery Committee</td>
<td>3rd, Holiday Shop opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th, 11 am, Saturday’s Child, free and open to all</td>
<td>7th, 10 am Genealogy Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th, 7 pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>14th, 11 am, Saturday’s Child, free and open to all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th, 4:30 pm, Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
<td>19th, 4:30 pm, Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th, 5:30 pm, “When Spirits Call” Lecture</td>
<td>27th, 5:00 pm, Canopy of Lights Open House, free and open to all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA, Rose Hill Cemetery Hauntings Tour</td>
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</tbody>
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The Cemetery Committee has designed a new t-shirt!

T-shirts may be purchased at the Monroe County History Center for $15.00.
A superintendent's diary dating between 1912 and 1913 was generously donated to the History Center by Helen T. Freeman. The diary records the day-to-day work progress and weather conditions during the construction of Bloomington's Post Office, located on the corner of 7th Street and College Avenue downtown. While the building is currently used as the Monroe County Health Services building, it was designed to combine local limestone with the formal geometry and grandeur of the Beaux Arts style and become the first dedicated structure for the post office in Bloomington. The style became popular in America after the 1893 World's Exposition in Chicago and many of the civic buildings around the Square in Bloomington, including the Courthouse and Old City Hall, utilized this classical style originally from Paris. The superintendent's diary, along with four photographs of the construction progress also donated by Ms. Freeman, offer a glimpse into a rapidly growing time in Bloomington. Look for more information regarding the old Bloomington Post Office in a future issue of this newsletter. The History Center is grateful for this generous donation and asks that if you have any materials relating to the old Bloomington Post Office on 7th and College and would like to donate them to the Monroe County History Center, please contact Hilary Fleck, Collection Manager at mchccollection@gmail.com or 812-332-2517 ex. 6.

Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

Featured Artifact: Superintendent's Diary [2015.026.0001]
WHERE TO START & WHAT NOW?
GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Saturday November 7th 10:00 am—3:00 pm
Monroe County History Center  Education Room

Allison DePrey Singleton from the Indiana Historical Society will be leading this genealogy seminar that has something for everyone, from the beginner to the veteran family historian. Attend all or any parts of the seminar.

10 am –11 am: Start with what you know: Beginning Genealogy
11 am– 12 noon: Facebooking your past: Genealogy & Facebook
12 noon-1 pm: Lunch (provided for pre-registered guests)
1 pm-2 pm: The Federal Census: 1790-1930
2 pm-3 pm: 1940 Census: What you need to know

To register, call 812.332.2517 ex. 3 today!!

Volunteer Spotlight
Caitlin Lamb

Caitlin Lamb began her volunteer position with the Monroe County History Center in June of 2014 and has been very helpful in organizing records for our Collections Department. Caitlin also does double duty in our Research Library on Saturdays, assisting patrons with their research and other questions they may have. Caitlin’s current project is creating an inventory of our extensive button collection.

After completing a B.A. in Fine Arts at Earlham College and an M.A. in Library Science and Art History at IU, Caitlin took a position with the Indiana University Library’s Interlibrary Loan Department, where she is currently employed.

Before coming to Bloomington, Caitlin lived in Portland, Oregon, for a time and was employed in the Stacks Services Department of the Central Library, a division of the Multnomah County Library System.

Caitlin is a wonderful addition to our History Center volunteer community!

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the History Center — greeters, researchers, cemetery restoration work, assistants with programs and exhibits, and more. If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Martha Waiscott at mchcvolunteers@gmail.com for details.
~CONTRIBUTORS~

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize all who have provided financial gifts to support our operations from May 1 through September 30 2015.

Altrusa International Bloomington
Thomas and Penny Mathiesen—in support of the Library
Lou Malcomb — in support of the Cemetery Committee
Kyle and Beth Mundy
The AME Group — in sponsorship of the “Monroe County @ Work” exhibit
IU Credit Union — in sponsorship of the Hot Rod & Classic Car Show
Kroger — in support of the Hot Rod & Classic Car Show
Matt Doering/Edward Jones — in support of the Hot Rod & Classic Car Show

Gifts in Honor or Memory
LaDonna & Deborah Lemon in honor of David Lemon’s birthday
Dan Spore in honor of Dot & Jerry Spore
Glenda and Patrick Murray in memory of Dot Spore

Bequests
Estate of Jean M. Warholic

Welcome to Our New Members
Clay W. Stuckey
The AME Group - Gallery Benefactor for the “Monroe County @ Work” exhibit
IU Credit Union—as sponsor of the 2nd Annual Hot Rod & Classic Car Show
Matt Doering/Edward Jones—in support of the 2nd Annual Hot Rod & Classic Car Show
Kroger — in support of the 2nd Annual Hot Rod & Classic Car Show
Bethany Lee won a complimentary membership at our booth at the Monroe County Fair
Yvonne Reiner received a complimentary membership for playing piano at our Canopy of Lights Open House
Annual Holiday Sale

We are now accepting donated items for the annual Holiday Shop at the History Center. Please bring good quality holiday decorations and like-new gift items to the History Center any time during our open hours. Gift-type donations could include jewelry, small antiques, decorative items, and such new and unused items as gloves, scarves, games and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 3, so we need your donations before then if possible.

Not only will we have special donated items in the holiday shop, but the Museum Store has new and unusual books, cards and gifts for you to see too. We have popular children’s books such as H is for Hoosier by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds. For adults we have Tomilea Allison’s The Accidental Mayor, a narrative as the former mayor of Bloomington, Indiana, and a reprint of A Guide to Southern Indiana by William and Gayle Cook, which describes traditional Southern Indiana attractions and lesser known points.

Both stores are open during all normal History Center hours, Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

Thank you to our Car Show Sponsors!

Thank you to everyone who showed their car or volunteered!
Water, Water Everywhere and All It Does Is Sink

By Bob Dodd

You turn on the faucet and water comes out. Leave it on as long as you want; it only costs a pittance. That is the way people in California used to think and perhaps we still think in Monroe County. But it is not that way any more in California and it used to be not in Bloomington. The history of Bloomington’s water supply reveals many bumps along the way, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But even in the early 21st century there have been problems.²

The original source of water for residents of Bloomington was springs, wells, and cisterns. The city was not in the water supply business. Everyone was on his or her own. However, in 1885, the city drilled a well, 2,670 feet deep, on the courthouse square but found no usable water. Another well was drilled in 1908, this one only 130 feet deep. It found only polluted water. Toward the end of the 19th century the public and especially businesses in town began calling for a reliable public water supply. The first effort by the city to establish a water system consisted of construction of a small lake in 1894 southwest of town “on the Stanford Road.” It was located at the present site of the city baseball and softball fields on West Second Street east of SR 37 (soon to be I-69). That supply soon proved to be inadequate. A second small lake was built in 1905 on the south side of the road, the two lakes being known as the Twin Lakes. The south lake still exists. In the summers of 1901, 1908, and 1913, especially serious shortages occurred resulting in efforts to ration the limited water supply. The city’s answer to the shortages was to build more lakes southwest of town. Weimer Lake was built in 1909 and Leonard Springs Lake in 1915. Beginning in 1904 a serious movement was underway to move the water system from those locations to Griffy Creek Valley north of town. Geology Professor E. R. Cumings explained that the reservoirs southwest of town were built on limestone that contained caves and solution-widened fractures that allowed the water in the reservoirs to escape. On the other hand, the rock underlying the Griffy Valley was fine-grained and not porous and would prevent leakage of the impounded water. Despite this scientific explanation, many people in political power insisted that the present system southwest of town could be enlarged to meet the city’s needs.

In 1911 Indiana University was so concerned about the water supply that it developed a supplementary small reservoir of its own on a tributary of Griffy Creek. That reservoir, University Lake, still exists north of the IU Golf Course. Although reliable, that source was too small to help much with the shortage. The university even shipped in water via railroad tanker car. The question of the water system eventually became a major political issue. Mayor John G. Harris was elected in 1921 partly on the basis of his stand against spending a large amount of money for a new reservoir in Griffy Creek Valley. Both Indiana University and Showers Furniture Company were considering moving to other locations if the water shortage could not be ended. Heated discussions occurred in 1922 in City Council meetings. The mayor and his supporters proposed expanding the size of Leonard Springs Lake. A 1999 article in the Bloomington Herald-Times describing the history of this controversy contains this quote from a Leonard Springs supporter during a summer meeting after a long drought: “They say the lake out there leaks. I was out there a few days ago and walked across the lake bed from side to side and you couldn’t see any sign of a leak!”³ Eventually the obvious need for a new reservoir resulted in construction of Griffy Lake in 1924. Water from Griffy was delivered to the city in early 1925. A sizable portion of the city’s water continued to come from Leonard Springs until 1943.

As the city grew, even Griffy Lake proved to be inadequate. The height of the dam was raised slightly in the 1940s. After a drought period in 1948 the situation was becoming critical. The city laid a pipeline from Bean Blossom Creek to Griffy Lake to supplement the natural drainage into the lake. But ultimately a new reservoir was needed. To meet this need the city constructed Lake Lemon, which was completed in 1953. Rather than build a pipeline from Lake Lemon to Bloomington, the stored water in the new lake was allowed to flow down Bean Blossom Creek to the pumping station not far from Griffy Lake. The water was then pumped into Griffy where it was treated and pumped into the existing distribution system.

Lake Lemon was named after Thomas Lemon, who was the Democratic mayor of Bloomington when the lake was built. When the Republicans later took over the mayor’s office they briefly changed the name of the lake to Bean Blossom Reservoir. There already was a Bean Blossom Lake in Morgan Monroe State Forest, so this resulted in some confusion. Ultimately, the name was changed back to Lake Lemon.
The Army Corps of Engineers completed Monroe Lake in 1962 as a flood control project. Secondary uses were recreation and a water supply for Bloomington. Monroe Lake was large enough that it was predicted to contain enough water to last the city and county for decades if not centuries. After its completion Lake Lemon and Griffy were no longer needed, but they remained functional for some years as an emergency supply.

The most recent chapter in the saga of Bloomington’s water supply occurred in 2006 when Beurt SerVaas, former president of the Indianapolis City-County Council, proposed building a pipeline from Monroe Lake to Indianapolis to supplement its water supply. That threat to the Bloomington water supply was short lived when Governor Daniels decreed that Monroe Lake water could not be used for Indianapolis.

Although Monroe Lake contains an adequate supply of water for the city’s needs, by 2005 the original treatment plant and pumping station were becoming inadequate. In 2007 the city announced a plan to enlarge the treatment capacity and install a second line for pumping water to Bloomington. That project has since been completed.

Water Supply Timeline

1860 – Request for cisterns on courthouse square
1885 – 2,670' well drilled on courthouse square—no usable water found
1891 – Ordinance established franchise to provide water service
1894 – Plant not running—placed in receivership (Upper Twin Lake built)
1898 – Plant sold to city
1905 – Lower Twin Lake built to catch leakage from upper lake
1908 – 130' well drilled on courthouse square
1909 – Weimer Lake built
1911 – University Lake built
1915 – Leonard Springs Lake built
1924 – Griffy Lake built (after much controversy) (Leonard Springs continues to supply 1/3 of water until 1943)
1953 – Lake Lemon built
1962 – Monroe Lake built
2006 – Threat to take water from Monroe to Indianapolis
2007 – Expansion of treatment and pumping stations

Notes
1 A related museum exhibition, “Water Woes: Monroe County’s Issues with H2O,” can be seen in the Monroe County History Center’s Brown Gallery until 16 January 2016.
2 Useful summaries of portions of Bloomington’s water supply history are included in Forest M. Hall, Historic Treasures (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1922), 142; Carrol Krause, Showers Brothers Furniture Company (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012), 226–29; “Your Reform Govt. Story of Bloomington’s Water” (pamphlet in the Research Library’s Vertical Files); and numerous articles from the Bloomington Daily Telephone, Bloomington Herald-Times, Indiana Daily Student, and Indianapolis News found in the Vertical Files.
3 David Horn, “Utilities Worker Digs into History,” Bloomington Herald-Times, 12 October 1999.
4 Sources include these items from the Vertical Files: Horn, “Utilities Worker”; and “Bloomington Water History,” [March 1998].
During the summer of 1908, many of Bloomington High School’s male students chose working over loafing. According to a local newspaper: “That the boys of the local high school are industrious is easily proved by a partial list of the prominent boys and what they are doing this summer. It is a fact that most of the boys of the high school are hard at work this vacation, all doing most anything they can find to do.”

Here is the published list:

Most of the boys worked locally. Some were employed in family businesses: Bert Beldon (Beldon & Baker grocery), Chas. Coyle (Coyle’s bakery), Carl Martin (Martin’s creamery), Hullie Tapp (Tapp & Bridwell mill), and Morton Walker (Walker & Mefford grocery).

- Walter Woodburn, trap drummer at Wonderland
- Stanley Ikerd, quarry
- Ralph Woodward, quarry
- Allen Rogers, basket factory
- George Henley, Maple drug store
- Melvin Rhorer, Bowles soda fountain
- Tom Stineburg, Showers factory
- Harold Van Valzah, Kahn’s Annex
- Hugh Brown, Summer school
- Presley Wylie, Summer school
- Hamilton Keck, time keeper railroad construction in Kansas
- Harold Kemp, Culver naval academy
- Harry McCartney, Summer school
- Morton Walker, clerking in Walker & Mefford grocery
- Fred Dodds, night freight agent at Monon station
- Roy Carnshan [Carnahan], carpentering
- Luther Gaither, farming
- Harry Alexander, Showers factory
- Glen McDaniels, City band
- Ronald Scott, farming
- Hassal Sullivan [Sullivan], City band
- Fred Turner, quarry
- Ralph Woolery[,] quarry
- Bernard Beneckart, Howe’s candy kitchen
- William Cree, farming
- Fred Eaton, Iowa wheat fields
- Charles Woolery, tending boats at Lake Wawasee
- Leon Rogers[,] working in Lake [sic] Wawasee hotel
- George Johnson, Showers factory
- Dick Simmons, quarry
- Hullie Tapp, Tapp & Bridwell mill
- Bert Beldon, Beldon & Baker grocery
- Gilbert Clampit, City Book & News Co.
- Chas. Coyle, Coyle’s bakery
- Frank Faris, Airdome theatre
- James Faris, Airdome theatre
- Ross Fowler, cabman
- Virgil Franklin, grocery clerk
- Phillip Hooper, farming
- John Heitger, basket factory
- Carl Martin, Martin’s creamery
- Robert Reed, farming
- Kahn Thrasher, Telephone office
- Tracy Ross, Iowa wheat fields
- Harry Rotts, Iowa wheat fields

Some of the boys used the summer months to further their education. “Summer school” was the occupation listed for Hugh Brown, Harry McCartney, and Presley Wylie. All three were identified as members of the senior class in the Bloomington High School Annual, 1908, so “summer school” may have meant getting a head start on attending college in the fall.

Other boys found occupations elsewhere in Indiana. Harold Kemp attended Culver naval academy. Lake Wawasee attracted two boys: Leon Rogers, who worked in a hotel; and Charles Woolery, who tended boats at the lake.

A few boys found jobs out of state. Harry Botts, Fred Eaton, and Tracy Ross labored in the Iowa wheat fields. Hamilton Keck was employed as a time keeper for a railroad construction project in Kansas. The criteria for choosing who would make the list of “prominent boys” is unknown, but the variety of occupations and the level of responsibility some of them represent is striking.

Notes

1 “Hard at Work Are BHS Boys: Students Find Employment Instead of Loafing During Vacation,” Bloomington Herald Telephone, 4 August 1908.
2 Ibid.; the Bloomington, Ind. Directory and Monroe County Gazetteer, 1907–8 was also consulted to check spellings of names.
3 This may refer to either The Telephone (newspaper office) or the Bloomington Home Telephone Co.
4 The name “Gothic” was first used for the BHS annual in 1909.
Compiled by Emily Borchardt and Penelope Mathiesen

Genealogy Seminar on November 7th

The Monroe County History Center will be hosting a genealogy seminar on Saturday, November 7th, from 10 am to 3 pm. Allison DePrey Singleton from the Indiana Historical Society will present four sessions on genealogy topics including “Facebooking Your Past: Genealogy and Facebook” and “The Federal Census: 1790–1930.” There is something for genealogists of all skill levels. Register today for this free seminar by calling (812) 332-2517, ext. 3, or by emailing mcheducation@gmail.com. Lunch will be provided for those who pre-register.

New Intern

Dorothy Berry started as the Research Library intern on August 24th. Dorothy is a graduate student at Indiana University pursuing a dual degree in library science and ethnomusicology with a focus in archives. She will be working on accessioning library items, processing archival collections, and other library tasks throughout the fall semester.

Bicentennial Oral History Project

The Research Library is currently conducting a Bicentennial Oral History Project. If you are interested in getting involved with this project or know of anyone who might like to be interviewed, please contact us at mchlibrary@gmail.com.

New in the Library

Alice Reed Morrison has donated a collection of materials related to her research on the displacement of communities in the Salt Creek Valley due to the development of Monroe Reservoir, which affected many residents of southeastern Monroe County. The collection contains newspaper articles, audiocassettes of oral interviews, interview transcripts, field notes, topographic maps, brochures, and photographs (including aerial views). Her dissertation, “Portrait of a Lost Community,” was published in 1986 under the name of Alice Morrison Mordoh, and correspondence and additional collection materials refer to her under this name.
Mt. Tabor (Switzer-Hite) Cemetery

Mt. Tabor is one of those truly historic places, yet no historical marker marks its location. Between 1820 and 1850 it was a prosperous village located in Bean Blossom Township with a population estimated at 350 persons, and a major marketing site within the county. To quote from the History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties (Bowen: http://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89072944762), “As early as 1820, John Burton erected his mill…He ground corn and cut lumber from the native forest trees. A blacksmith shop was set in operation in 1825 by James Turner and Jefferson Wampler. William Ellett sold the first merchandise there in 1829, from what would now be styled a “saloon”…

Do you want to help preserve history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 7 to find out more about volunteering in one of the many departments at the History Center.

Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels
- Student/Teacher $20
- Basic $35
- Family $60
- Sustaining $100
- Patron $500

Corporate - Service Organizations
- Exhibit Supporter $100
- Gallery Benefactor $250
- History Patron $500
- Monroe County History Circle $1000

Check if you are interested in:
- Volunteering
- Genealogy
- Civil War History
- Planned Giving

Send to:
Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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