



Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

Monroe County Historian

See Stories... Touch Time... Make Memories...



- Museum**
- Museum Store**
- Genealogy Library**

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Monroe County Historical Society's Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret and display materials and artifacts which reflect the cultural and natural history of Monroe County and Indiana."

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

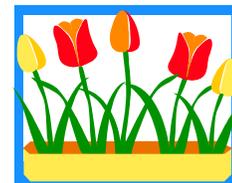
April Fool's Day By Penelope Mathiesen

The celebration of April Fool's Day may date from the 1500s, in France, when the calendar was changed so that the new year began on January 1. Before that, New Year's celebrations started on March 25 and concluded on April 1 with the exchange of gifts. In modern times, such "gifts" have often taken bizarre turns, duly reported in Bloomington's newspapers.

Some April Fool's gags reported in recent years by the *Bloomington Herald Times* were benign or merely silly, such as removing the furniture from a room unbeknownst to its owner, lacing a batch of brownies with dill pickles, or altering a computer so the startup screen reads "April Fool!" For other hoaxes, the humor backfired, such as a local radio announcement at 7:30 a.m. on 1 April 1992 "that there would be a massive interruption of electricity, telephone and water service in Bloomington between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., due to construction on South Walnut Street." Many citizens did not realize it was a joke, "setting off a wave of fear throughout Bloomington." Utilities managers were inundated with calls about the alleged shutoffs, and the hoax "caused a great deal of consternation on the part of those responsible for providing emergency services." Part of the joke was on the *Herald Times*, since the announcer gave the paper's telephone number as the place to call for information; the phones rang constantly for 30 minutes.

In 1908, the *Bloomington Evening World* went beyond mere reportage and took the initiative with an April Fool's hoax that is described in *Relive It with C. Carl East: Stirring Stories which Really Happened* (n.p.: 1963; available in the Genealogy Library). East recounts the 1908 incident, perpetrated by the paper's publisher, Oscar Cravens:

"That year's March 31 issue of his Evening World carried a front page news warning about a barrel of formaldehyde to be poured in water mains that night to clear out lime deposits! Save enough for three days, fill every container, readers were advised. Never before had there been such a strain on the city's water system as developed after the Cravens paper hit porches that Tuesday. It was said almost everything from teacup to bathtub was filled in Bloomington homes. Next morning O. H. asked me to answer the phone for him. It seemed a dozen angry housewives were wanting to talk to him at once. Each had already called the water office, having noticed no odor. To one and all, Dave Helfrich, the water superintendent had been answering, 'Ask Oscar Cravens, he seems to think he knows more about running a water plant than I do.' Naturally the hoax cost the Evening World lots of subscribers and ended all April Foolery in that paper."



Indiana State Museum Trip, May 5th, including Lunch at the

*L. S. Ayres
Tea Room*

Please contact the Museum for information and itinerary at 332-2517.
Reservations due by April 16.



Schedule of Events

Regularly scheduled MCHS Museum meetings. All meetings and programs will be held at the Museum, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting—2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm
Executive Board Meeting— 4th Wednesday of the month, 4 pm

April Programs



- April 9 **Annual Membership Meeting** 7:00 pm
Annual elections of board trustees, light refreshments will be served.

May Programs

- May 5 **On the Road Again**
We have planned a trip to the *new* Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Includes transportation, admission, and lunch at the LS Ayres Tea Room.



June Programs

July Programs



- July 4 **Annual Monroe County Birthday Celebration**
Come join us for 2nd Annual Monroe County Birthday celebration. Food, entertainment, games, and an arts and craft sale. It's sure to be an exciting event.

MONROE COUNTY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR 2003

Needed Local Craftspeople, Artists, Performers & Musicians

The Monroe County Historical Society is proud to host the 185th birthday celebration of Monroe County. The celebration, in conjunction with the Bloomington's downtown parade and festivities, will be held on **July 4, 2003** from **10 am to 6 pm** at the MCHS Museum. The celebration will consist of an arts and crafts fair, music, food and fun. This year, the outside arts and crafts fair will include 50 booths. Local artists and craftspeople are encouraged to apply to this **juried** show. Booths will feature only products that are hand-made. One of the goals of this event is to heighten awareness of the various crafts and forms of creative expression. Demonstrations of crafts and/or skills are encouraged.

Performers and musicians are also being sought to entertain throughout the day. Most performances will be outside, but there is a small stage and auditorium in the Museum. No specific types of musical stylings or performances are being excluded.

Deadlines and Fees: Fees and application for craft booths are \$30 per booth and they are due by **April 1, 2003**. Applications for performance or musical groups are also due by April 1, 2003.

For an application or for more information please contact:
Christy Deykes or Kari Price at the Museum at (812) 332-2517.

Exhibits

Oh! Dr. Kinsey!
February 1-April 30
This exhibition documents the media and public reaction to the 1953 release of *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*

Red, White & Blue Quilts and Cloth Dolls
March 1-April 30
Local quilters will be exhibiting their quilts that feature the colors of red, white and/or blue.

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
Kari Price, Executive Director
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Museum 812-332-2517
Genealogy Library 812-355-5588
Fax 812-355-5593

E-mail: mchm@kiva.net
Web Address: kiva.net/~mchm

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Jim Kryway, Vice Pres. Finance
Glenda Murray, Vice Pres. Operations
M. Phil Hathaway, Treasurer
Holly Joy, Secretary
Jeana Kapczynski, Assoc. Secretary
Liz Knapp, Library Director

New Volunteers

By Kitty Burkhart, Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome!
Wel-

It is a pleasure to welcome Anne Benckart and Elizabeth (Liz) Latimer as new Museum docents. Anne will be a greeter at the front desk every Friday morning. Liz finds the first Sunday of each month to be her choice. Both of these ladies will be a delightful addition to our dedicated group of docents.

Anne, whose husband, Robert G. Benckart, now deceased, retired from the Army in 1972, joined him on many of his tours of duty abroad: Trieste, Italy, Alaska, India and Germany. While he was Commandant of the Army base at Oberammergau, Germany, Anne taught grades 1-12 at the Army base school. During the years the Passion Play was performed, she served as a Red Cross volunteer for soldiers attending the play.

Her educational background includes study at Stephens College, a BS degree in Education from Ball State University, and an MS degree in Guidance Counseling from Indiana University. Her current activities range from these organizations: Daughters of the American Revolution, Wednesday Club, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, the Opportunity House and the St. Charles Borromeo Church. She enjoys IU athletic events, reading and sharing time with her three daughters; Lt. Col Robin, an Army nurse, stationed at Stuttgart, Germany, Suzie, a medical technician, of Bloomington, and Karyn, also a nurse, of Danville, Illinois and her seven grandchildren.

Elizabeth, known to her friends as Liz, grew up in Davis County but has called Bloomington her home since 1953. She and her husband, Maurice (Red) Latimer, were regular Museum volunteers prior to his death a few years ago. Fans of local high school athletic events in the early '50s will remember Red as the colorful play-by-play announcer on our first radio station, WTTS, now WGCL.

For over 20 years, Liz was associated with the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design at Indiana University. She also taught at Bloomington High School from 1957 to 1961.

Liz is proud of her three sons and her three grandchildren. Her interests include volunteer work at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, attending musical attractions, traveling, reading and knitting. She is always friendly and eager to share many interesting life experiences with Museum visitors.

Corporate Members

- Central Lions Club
- Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- ONB Bloomington
- Smithville Telephone
- Mapleton Memorial First Baptist
- Cook Inc.
- Cook Group
- CFC, Inc.
- Union Planters
- All American Title, Inc.
- Bank One Corp.
- Monroe Bank

New or Renewed Members

Basic

John & Lynn Bower
 Allen Co. Public Lib.-
 Genealogy
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ellis
 Ira Zinman
 David & Marilyn Mundy
 Bill & Susan Andrews
 Marion Armstrong
 Ron and Mary Baldwin
 Susan Bartlett
 John & Mary Bohenkamp
 John and Susan Cronkhite
 Jim & Bobbi Diehl
 Eva K. Doty
 Sue and Jerry Ellenwood
 Leo Fay
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 Helen Hollingsworth
 Elizabeth Latimer
 Marilyn McCoy
 Marion and Keith Michael
 Ben and Christine Mitchell
 Lee Ridge
 Mark Sipes
 Freeda Smith
 Angel Gebhart
 Benton Stidd
 Michael & Danielle Bell
 B.J.K. Irvine
 Kathleen Wissing
 David M. Skirvin

Friend

Dave & Darby Cook
 Bill & Helen Axsom
 Judge John G. Baker
 Judith Palmer
 Dolores Stevens
 Julia Yonkers
 Peter Jacobi

Sustaining

William and Patricia Cron
 Kem & Mary Hawkins
 Larry & Ellie Rink
 Murray & Sue Robinson

News from the Genealogy Library



City Directories Needed

The Genealogy Library would love to receive volumes of the Bloomington city directories for the years in which its collection is incomplete. We are missing the volumes from 1909 through 1919; also 1933, 1941–1944, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1961, 1980, 1988, and 1991. If you have volumes to donate, please contact us!

Kudos to MCHS

The December 2002 issue of the Indiana Genealogical Society Newsletter reported on the Monroe County Historical Society's achievement of IGS chapter status. The announcement included a glowing review of our web site:

"If you want to see what a county genealogy website should be, check out the MCHS site at <http://www.kiva.net/~mchm/monroe.html>. This site raises the bar for other societies, with lots of fully-searchable databases, including military lists, old settlers, censuses, cemeteries, biographies, land and deed records. Their webmaster, Julian Livingston, has done a great job."

Thanks, Julian—the IGS's praise highlights a valuable MCHS resource!

Genealogy Workshop and Roots Road Trips

On February 27, library volunteers Liz Knapp, George McKee, and Penny Mathiesen offered a free Genealogy Mini-Workshop in the basics of genealogical library research. The workshop was designed to help prepare for the upcoming Roots Road Trips, co-sponsored by Monroe County Parks and Recreation and the Monroe County Historical Society. Dates and times for the trips:

Monday, April 28 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Indiana State Library, Indianapolis \$15; register by April 21
Monday, May 12 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne (genealogy collection in temporary quarters at the Lincoln Museum) \$30; register by May 5

Transportation will be via Rural Transit bus. Space is limited and trips may be canceled if there are not enough participants to cover expenses, so advance registration is required. For more information, please call (812) 349-2800.

Library Publication Featured on Web Site

Jared Bond has created a web site on the history and lives of the 15th Indiana Volunteer Regiment from the Civil War (specifically, Company F). The only publication he could find on the regiment was "The Life and Letters of Private Samuel T. Smith," published by the Monroe County Historical Society, which he ordered. He later wrote for permission to include some quotes from the publication where it is chronologically appropriate on his site, and has put up a link to ordering the MCHS publication! The web-site-in-progress, "The 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Co. F," can be viewed at: <http://www.geocities.com/binarysunrise>.

Ask Genie

Dear Genie:

How can I prove, as I believe, that Elizabeth, the wife of Peter Whisenand, is Elizabeth Myers, the daughter of Margaret (Chism) Myers and the sister of Jacob B., Henderson Allen, and Minerva Myers, and NOT Elizabeth McGuire as noted by some researchers? (NOTE: Margaret [Chism] Myers married William Colder in Monroe County on 3 March 1831.)



Help Needed in the Genealogy Library!

- Data Entry
- Research
- Special Projects

Please contact Liz at monroehistsoc@hotmail.com or call the Museum at 332-2517.

Answer:

It seems likely that Elizabeth, wife of Peter Whisenand, was born in Kentucky about 1811 or 1812 based upon her ages as noted in the 1850 and 1860 Monroe County census: 38 and 49, respectively (see 1850 Monroe County census, Salt Creek Twp., p. 359A, household 864, in the household of Peter Whisenand; and 1860 Monroe County census, Salt Creek Twp., p. 777, household 18, head of household).

In 1850, seven children were enumerated in the household of Peter and Elizabeth Whisenand: Granville, 20; Minerva, 18; John, 16; Margaret, 14; Henderson, 12; Mary E., 6; and Sarah, 2. All the children were born in Indiana. In 1860, Elizabeth is enumerated head of household, which suggests that her husband has died or she has divorced from him. Four children are noted in the household: Henderson, 21; Mary E., 15; Sarah, 13; and William, 9.

The first matter of business should be to find a marriage record for Elizabeth and Peter. Assuming that Granville is Elizabeth's oldest child, it seems likely that Elizabeth married between 1826 and 1830 when she was between the ages of 15 and 19. There is no marriage record for her in Monroe County.

Next, you might try to locate the obituaries of Elizabeth's supposed siblings, Jacob and Henderson, in an effort to find one that mentions a surviving sister, Elizabeth Whisenand. Other obituaries that might reveal Elizabeth's maiden name would be the obituaries of her children. To do that, you will need to know death dates and the married names of her female children.

Death records and/or funeral records are other possible sources of information. You might find Elizabeth's maiden name on her death record or on the death record of her children.

If any of the children married after 1882, there is a possibility that they identified their mother's maiden name on a supplemental marriage record. (There were no supplemental marriage records for a male Whisenand, the son of Peter Whisenand, in Monroe County from 1882 to 1920.)

When all else fails, try land records. Did Margaret (Chism) Myers Colder buy any land in Monroe County either prior to or after her marriage to Colder? This can be searched on-line through the early 1860s from the Monroe County Historical Society home page at:

<http://www.kiva.net/~mchm/monroe.html>. Identify all purchases, including those by her husband, William Colder, and then follow the records until the land is sold. If she died possessed of any land, it would go to her surviving spouse, if any, and to any surviving children, or their heirs, who would have to be named on a quitclaim deed to dispose of the land.

Elizabeth's supposed mother, Margaret (Chism) Myers Colder, died in 1852; her husband, William Colder, in 1854. Both are buried in the Richardson (aka Dickerson) Cemetery in Benton Township, Monroe County, near the Brown County line. Check for will or probate records in Monroe or Brown counties that might identify heirs to the Colder estate.

In the absence of a definitive record that shows Elizabeth Myers was married to Peter Whisenand, or given conflicting information, you may have to rely on a standard of proof, which is perfectly acceptable. (For more information about the standard of proof, see *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case*, by Christine Rose (n.p.: 2001; available from the National Genealogical Society at \$5.75 for nonmembers.)

If you have a question for ASK GENIE, you may send it to: Ask Genie, Attention: MCHS Genealogy Library, 202 E. Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408, or monroehistsoc@hotmail.com. Please keep in mind that space does not permit a response to every question or lengthy research.

Andrew Ferguson Follow-up

By Penelope Mathiesen

The February newsletter reported on a document by Oscar F. Curtis (Genealogy Library, vertical files), which describes the life of black revolutionary war veteran Andrew Ferguson and his 1855 burial in an unmarked grave in Bloomington's Rose Hill Cemetery. But the story doesn't end there.

Curtis's document quotes an item from the *Bloomington Courier* (14 February 1876): "Mrs. Laura Worley, apparently connected with the DAR, and who lived one-half mile west of Ellettsville on a farm, wrote the editor and asked for information on any revolutionary war veterans buried in Monroe County." One reply stated: "Andrew Ferguson, a negro, served in that war, and received a pension for many years, while residing in Bloomington." On 21 February 1876, Mrs. Worley again wrote to the editor of the *Bloomington Courier*: "If the Monroe County branch of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution does no more than to rescue from oblivion the memory of the occupant of that neglected grave in the Bloomington Cemetery, it has at least accomplished something, I think, now that their attention has been called to it."

The results of Mrs. Worley's efforts are unknown, but in May of 1984, the grave was finally marked by the Bloomington chapter of the DAR. According to the *Bloomington Herald-Telephone* (29 May 1984): "Oscar F. Curtis, Bloomington historian,

collected information about Ferguson while tracing genealogies and other historical information. Through the efforts of Mrs. Ray Borland and Mrs. Morris Barker, DAR members, and building on [Curtis's] information, a stone was acquired from the Veteran's Administration in Washington, D.C. to place on the previously unmarked grave." Those present at the dedication of the marker included Mary Jo Barker and Dorothy Taylor of the Bloomington DAR chapter and Mayor Tomi Allison.

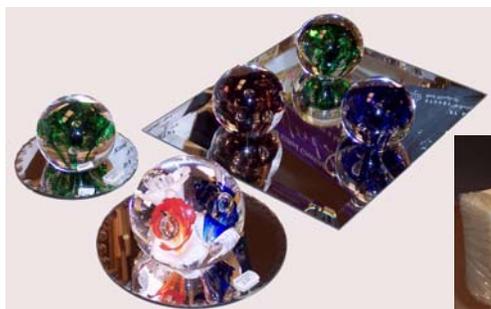
The grave is located in the old part on the east end of Rose Hill Cemetery. The inscription reads:

ANDREW FERGUSON
CAPT HARRIS' VA MILITIA
REVOLUTIONARY WAR
1765 1855

A photograph of the marker and information on Ferguson's career can be viewed at the Indiana SAR web site (go to <http://www.inssar.org/index.asp>, then click on Indiana War Graves Project). Ferguson is also honored on a plaque listing the names of thirty revolutionary war veterans, which the Bloomington chapter of the DAR placed in the Monroe County Court House on Veteran's Day, 11 November 1986.

Many thanks to Ed Hitchcock and Betty Yoder for the information they provided.

Museum Store... What's New



Zimmerman Art Glass from Corydon



Hand-made soap by Earth Drops and glass jewelry by Terry Taylor. Both are Bloomington craftspeople.



- Nostalgic children's toys, books and crafts
- Note Cards
- Monroe County Coverlet
- Clay City Pottery
- Local History and General Interest Books
- Genealogy Items
- Unique Gift Wrap
- Calendar Towels
- Armatale Metal Plate depicting Courthouse

REMEMBER all Society members receive a 10% discount

Not Sure What To Get?
Gift Certificates from the Museum Store make great and thoughtful gifts!

"Genie" News from Other Places

State Library Hours Curtailed

Due to the impact of staffing restrictions and reductions, the Indiana State Library will curtail evening and Saturday hours until staffing is restored to an appropriate level. Effective 1 March 2003, our hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Martha Roblee, Associate Director, Library Development, Indiana State Library, (800) 451-6028 or (317) 232-3697; fax (317) 232-0002.

AncestryPlus Available at Monroe County Public Library

The MCPL Indiana Room is now providing access to Ancestry.com's on-line resource collection encompassing records from across the United States and around the world. Also available is access to Ancestry.com's wider network of genealogists and researchers. To access AncestryPlus, go to any Research Workstation in the library and select AncestryPlus from the list of General Reference Sources.

Web Sites

Some worthwhile web sites mentioned in

recent issues of Family Tree News Service (familytreeneews@fwpubs.com):

Missouri's Union Provost Marshal Papers: 1861–1866. From the collection at the Missouri Archives. [Http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/provost](http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/provost)

Michigan Cemetery Sources. Access published cemetery transcriptions and find the locations of 3,700 cemeteries. [Http://michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org/default.aspx](http://michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org/default.aspx)

USA and Canada Naturalization and Citizenship Records. Access dates of immigration, ship's passenger lists, ports of arrival and even the birthplaces of your ancestors. [Http://naturalizationrecords.com](http://naturalizationrecords.com)

U.S. Ports of Arrival and Their Available Immigration Records. Find immigration records for a wealth of US ports. [Http://www.genesearch.com/ports.html](http://www.genesearch.com/ports.html)

Mentioned on INMONROE-L@rootsweb.com: A revolutionary war web site that is still under construction, according to the web master, but "has

1921–1940 Monroe County Death Index Available On-line

By Randi Richardson

Thanks to the time and effort of Lana Taylor of Corpus Christi, Texas, the *1921–1940 Monroe County, Indiana, Death Record Index*, consisting of more than 6,000 names, is now available on-line at <http://userdb.rootsweb.com/deaths/>. It is part of a much larger, user-contributed database consisting of more than three million death records that also includes the *1882–1920 Monroe County, Indiana, Death Record Index*. Taylor is a member of the INMONROE Rootsweb list and has shared the index with fellow subscribers. The INMONROE Rootsweb list has been in existence for four years as of January, 2003, and has about 200 members. During that time more than 17,000 e-mails have been sent to the list and archived.

To search the INMONROE archives go to: <http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/usa/IN> and click on Monroe as a link in the box labeled "Counties, Boroughs and Districts." Another screen will open. From that screen select "Search the INMONROE Archives." Subscription to the INMONROE list may be achieved at the same URL. There are no fees involved.

Another on-line site that may be of great interest to Monroe County genealogists provides the actual images of all 1930 Monroe County census records. It was made available through the generous support of INMONROE subscribers. The URL for that site is: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/monroe/census/1930/>.



Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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See Stories... Touch Time... Make Memories...

Your
Membership is
Key ...

Memberships
Make Great
Gifts, Too



As most of you know, your membership expiration date appears on this newsletter's label.

Please check it now.....

Your membership dues are the keys to the Society's success. All membership income goes toward operating expenses and is a **vital** part of our budgeted income.

Individual – Family

- Basic \$25
- Friend \$50
- Sustaining \$100-249
- Contributor \$250-499
- Patron \$500+

Corporate - Service Organizations

- Level 1 \$100-249
- Level 2 \$250-499
- Level 3 \$500-999
- Level 4 \$1000+

Method of Payment

- Check
- MasterCard
- Visa

Please Send to:

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Or Fax to 812-355-5593

Check if you are interested in volunteering.

Check if you have a special interest in genealogy.

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