



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*

## Whiskey and Politics in the 1880 County Election

By Randi Richardson

*In early elections, party representatives tried to get votes however they could. They made promises they sometimes couldn't keep, liberally dispensed whisky, and occasionally kidnapped voters until they could be voted at the party's discretion. In 1880, the Monroe County local election cost John Hendrix his life. This story of the events leading to his death is based on court records (see box P-70-2 at the Monroe County History Center's Genealogy Library), and newspaper articles in the Bloomington Courier.*

Monday, October 4, the day before the election. The day dawned unseasonably chilly and rainy. In spite of the weather, there was much milling about. Excitement filled the air. The recent parade brought an estimated 8,000 people to Bloomington, not nearly as many as anticipated but still more than half of Monroe County's entire population.

That evening John Hendrix, age 38, sat dozing on the steps of one of the livery stables near the square. Caught up in the excitement, he'd had a bit too much to drink. Tom Burk noticed John, who was rather on the heavy side, about 5'6", usually friendly and likable but also known to hit the bottle too hard and too often. Sometimes John was hired to work in the saloon where Tom was a barkeeper.

Tom, a Republican, decided to take advantage of the situation. If he didn't, the Democrats would. With little effort he persuaded John to accompany him to his room at the Orchard House. He stopped on the way and bought John's dinner—crackers, cheese, and dried beef. Sleepy and full, John didn't argue when he was offered Tom's bed. After John

was asleep, Tom locked the door, then left to pursue his own interests. He believed that he would be able to vote John without difficulty the next day.

John's sister, Maggie Hendrix, washed dishes at the Orchard House. Sam Orchard, the hotel proprietor and a Democrat, told Maggie the Democrats would pay a big price for John's vote. Maggie said her brother should vote as he wanted. About an hour after Tom left, John awoke and was creating quite a ruckus. Maggie investigated by opening the transom and peaking into Tom's room. Afterward she ran home to tell her mother.

Hannah Hendrix was concerned that her son might hurt himself or knock over a lamp and start a fire. Consequently, she asked Sam for help in getting John home, and Sam was happy to comply. His behavior was not, however, altogether altruistic. He saw the opportunity to vote John Democratic if only he could keep him hidden until the next day.

With the help of Bill Berry and John Ward, also Democrats, Sam got Hendrix down the stairs and into Ward's wagon. The decision was made to drive Hendrix to the home of Ward's grandfather. Upon arrival at the Ward home, Hendrix was so noisy that the elder Ward

Continued on page 3



## Exhibits



Stop in soon to enjoy our Two Special Exhibits.

**“Honey, Your Slip Is Showing OR I See London, I See France”**

This great exhibit is open now. It features numerous lovely examples of lingerie from the mid 1800s to the mid 1900s.

### On the Town

There are many hidden treasures in the History Center's collection. This is a rare opportunity to view the collection's beautiful evening and formal dresses. The dresses are highlighted with detailed embroidery and sequins. This exhibit opens October 15, 2004.



## Schedule of Events

All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center and are FREE, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting  
2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm

### Special Members Only Event

**October 22** 6:30-8 pm. Come and preview the exhibits of the *Indiana History Train*. Refreshments will be served. No admission cost. The History Train will be located on the tracks behind Lowe's and Kohl's on the west side of Bloomington. Members are welcome to bring guests. Please RSVP by October 18th.

**November 30** New deadline for Family History submissions.

It is not too early to bring in items for the Annual Fundraising Auction in **February 2005**.

### Monroe County History Center

Kari Price, Executive Director  
202 East Sixth Street  
Bloomington, IN 47408

Office/Museum  
812-332-2517

Genealogy Library  
812-355-5588

E-mail: [mchm@kiva.net](mailto:mchm@kiva.net)

Web Address: [www.kiva.net/~mchm](http://www.kiva.net/~mchm)

#### Museum/Store

Tue– Sat  
10 am –4 pm  
Sunday 1-4 pm

#### Genealogy Library

Tues and Sat  
10 am–4 pm  
Wed-Fri 1-4 pm

### OFFICERS for 2004-2005

Rachel McCarty, President  
Larry Stephens, VP Finance  
Laura Newton, VP Operations  
M. Phil Hathaway, Treasurer  
Wes Marion, Secretary  
Liz Knapp, Library Director

## Calling All Cooks!

As a part of our upcoming 100th anniversary of the Society's founding, a cook book is being compiled.

### Recipes Wanted

The History Center is looking for your favorite recipes. All type of recipes are needed.

- Entrees
- Desserts
- Salads
- Vegetables
- Appetizers
- From Local Restaurants
- Wild and Wacky
- Grandma's Favorite
- Special War Recipes

Submission are to be made on-line at [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com). The Group Login is "mccooks" and the password is "842B2." The next screen has the easy-to-follow instructions. Please limited your submissions to 6 recipes.



## Whiskey and Politics Continued from page 1

would not permit him to stay. Again the men set off in the wagon, this time going to the home of Jack L. Dowden, the county's Democratic candidate for sheriff. Jack said Hendrix could spend the night in his barn.

By this time it was quite late. Whatever fight was in Hendrix earlier had since subsided. He didn't fuss when the men placed him on a bed of hay, covered him with quilts, and left him with a quart of whiskey by his side.

In the meantime, Hannah had become concerned when John did not arrive home. She asked around until Archie McGinnis told her that John would be well treated, and she would be well paid by the Democrats for John's vote. Hannah said she hoped the Democrats would not do as the Republicans did in the last election, when they promised her a new dress and a shawl and failed to keep their promise.

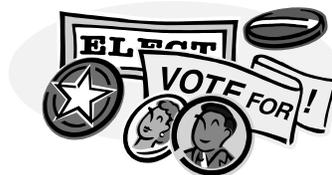
Tuesday, October 5, election day. Early on Tuesday, on his way to the polls, Bill checked on John. Although John wasn't speaking or moving, when Bill asked him if he wanted a drink, John nodded weakly that he did and propped himself up on an elbow. Harvey Roseberry, Jack's hired hand, checked on John about noon when he returned the horses to the barn. It was apparent then that

John was dead.

Rather than calling in the authorities, Harvey headed for the polls. Soon afterward, Wilbur Cron and Jim Kelly called at the Dowden home in search of John. Wilbur had offered a reward for information leading to John's whereabouts, and Maggie told him as much as she knew. Keeping the secret to herself, Mrs. Dowden said she hadn't seen John, but told Wilbur and Jim they were welcome to search the outbuildings. After a brief search, John's now cold body was discovered in the barn.

During the next few days, 24 people gave depositions in the investigation of John's death, leaving more than 100 pages of testimony. The findings were reported in a short newspaper article that appeared in the *Bloomington Courier* on 23 October 1880, where it was noted that John Hendrix "came to his death by exposure to cold in the night." Bill, John Ward, and Sam were arrested.

It should also be noted that Jack Dowden was not elected sheriff, and James A. Garfield, a Republican, was elected president in the November election.



## Election Season, 1886

The following item from the *Semi-Weekly Telephone*, Friday, 11 June 1886 describes election season in Monroe County's Cross Roads community:

☞ The sweet scented clover blossoms and the waving wheat indicates that harvest will soon be here, and those two crops bid fair to be extra good this season.

☞ Early planted corn looks well but that which was planted a little later has been severely injured by cutworms and ants.

☞ The prospect for fruit is more promising than it has been for many years, peaches excepted.

☞ Ruban Word is building a new barn.

☞ Frank Word and wife, of Greene county, were visiting friends in this vicinity a few days ago.

☞ The Republicans are ready for the campaign. That little blast that Jeff blew at Huntsville and Atlanta made the fire burn more vigorously than before.

☞ Many of the good friends from this side attended the Democratic wrangle last Saturday. We give a standing invitation to those Democrats whose rights were abused at the convention to come over and vote with us, so that their sores may be healed and their consciences have rest.

☞ The daughters of John Neeld are in the city attending commencement.

☞ The children are trying to talk up a Sunday school picnic.

☞ The sick and the lame and the halt went to town the 4th to send in their pension papers.

### Why Election Day Is the Day It Is

❖ November was selected because the harvest work was done.

❖ Tuesday was selected because many people had to travel the day before to reach the polling place. Since most people did not travel on Sunday for religious reasons, they did not want it to be on a Monday.

❖ They did not want Election Day to fall on November 1st because it is All Saints Day.

❖ They did not want Election Day to fall on the first of the month because many shop keepers did their books for the preceding month on the first.

Source: [www.familyinternet.about](http://www.familyinternet.about)

**History is what you make of it... your VOTE counts.**



## News from the Library



### Needed Volunteers

to help with  
**Book Cataloging**  
**Map Cataloging**  
**Scanning Articles**

For more information  
 please contact  
 Liz Knapp, Genealogy  
 Library Director  
 355-5588 or  
 332-2517



### New Volunteers

The Genealogy Library welcomes two new volunteers: Dan Olvey and Sarah Wille. Dan has been providing much-needed help in answering research queries, and Sarah is assisting with accessioning. There is always lots to do in the Genealogy Library, and we especially need both morning and afternoon volunteers on the first and fifth Saturdays of the month. If you'd like to help out, please contact Liz Knapp (355-5588, 332-2517, monroehistsoc@hotmail.com).

### Maps and Storage Boxes

The Genealogy Library recently received a donation of aerial maps of Monroe County from the Farm Service Bureau. The aerial surveys were done at three different time periods. Julian Livingston is preparing a finding aid for utilizing the maps, and Liz Knapp is pursuing options for storing the maps so that they will be convenient and accessible for volunteers and visitors to the library.

### Monroe County Schools Calendar

A 2005 calendar featuring historic schools of Monroe County is in preparation. One school building will be highlighted each month, and thumbnail photographs of a dozen others will be included as a bonus feature. The calendar

should be on sale in the Museum Store in time for Christmas gift-giving.

### Yearbooks Now Available

A number of yearbooks from Monroe County schools have been brought down from the document room and housed in the Genealogy Library. Once they are cataloged, they will be available to library visitors.

### Student Life in the 1870s

An attractive brochure co-produced by the Monroe County Historical Society and the Farmer House Museum describes "The High Point of Student Life on North College and North Walnut in the 1870s." Julian Livingston prepared the text, Kari Price provided the map, Janice Parteneimer helped with research, Joel Barker, an Indiana University freshman, arranged the display case in the hallway outside the library. Elizabeth Yoder also assisted with the project. The Farmer, Topoligus, and Woodburn houses are featured in this examination of the history of Bloomington's North College and North Walnut neighborhood.

## Local DAR Celebrate 100th Anniversary

The Bloomington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 17 from 2-4 pm at the Monroe County History Center.

A tea will be followed by a presentation on the Statue of Liberty by Dr. Barbara Truesdell, assistant director of the Center for the Study of History and Memory at Indiana University and a member of the local DAR chapter.

The Bloomington Chapter of the DAR was organized on October 14, 1904.



Photos are from the two current special exhibits

## News from Other Places

### Johnson County Museum to Reopen

The Johnson County Museum of History in downtown Franklin, Indiana, is scheduled to reopen on 2 October 2004, during the Franklin Fall Festival. Both the museum and the associated library were closed after a ceiling collapsed in a storage area in 2001. The Genealogy Library reopened in August 2003. The holdings of the museum and library contain original Johnson County records, including marriage, tax, and court records; family estate papers; family files and histories; obituary, house, and building files; and a large collection of information from other states that focuses on the migration path to Indiana from the east. For current hours and programming information, please call (317) 736-4655. (From the *Indiana Genealogical Society Newsletter*, August 2004.)

### National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

The riverfront in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the site of the new National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which opened in August 2004. Cincinnati was a pivotal location in the Underground Railroad movement, since countless fugitive slaves crossed the Ohio River to the "Promised Land" and followed routes radiating northward to freedom. The Freedom Center, a member of the Smithsonian Affiliates program, uses film, dialogue, artifacts, and computer interactions to educate the public about the historic and ongoing struggle to abolish enslavement. To find out more, call (513) 412-6900 or go the center's web site (<http://www.freedomcenter.org>). (From *Home&Away*, July/August 2004, and the web site.)

### New Civil War Genealogical Publication

*Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois, Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947*, by Dennis Northcott and Thomas Brooks, contains records of more than 32,000 deaths of members of the Grand Army of the Republic's Department of Illinois.

The G.A.R. was founded in 1866 and became the largest association of Civil War Union veterans in the United States. Each record contains the member's name, rank, company, regiment or ship, name and location of local chapter to which he belonged, date of death, and sometimes age and place of burial. The publication, which includes 1,806 veterans of Indiana Civil War units, may be ordered from Dennis Northcott, P.O. Box 410762, St. Louis, MO 63141, for \$29.99 plus \$3 shipping per book.

### Web Sites

\* *Famous Wills*. To see William Shakespeare's last wishes or 101 other famous British wills available (for a fee) from the U.K. National Archives, go to: <http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk/PROB1wills.asp>

\* *Soundexing and Genealogy*. Perplexed by Soundex? Read all about the original and the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex systems at: <http://www.avotaynu.com/soundex.html>

\* *Angel Among Us*. Called the "Ellis Island of the West," Angel Island was the immigration port for many Asians, Australians, South Americans and Eastern Europeans. To find your ancestors' Angel Island records, go to: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/aug04/angel.html>

\* *All About Polish Genealogy*. To get help discovering your Polish roots using this gateway site that links to more than 450 Web sites, research societies and more, go to: <http://polishroots.netfirms.com>

\* *Canada's Golden Door*. If you can't find your immigrant ancestors at a U.S. port, it may be because they arrived in Canada. Start your search with Grosse Ile, Canada's Ellis Island equivalent. See article on this at: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/aug04/grosseile.html>

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### New and Renewed Members

#### Basic

Bill & Susan Andrews  
Wesley L. Bradley  
Sarah Clevenger  
Marjorie Councilman  
Janess Curran  
Mady M. England  
Leo Fay  
William Gosser  
Rob & Michelle Henderson  
Helen Hollingsworth  
Judith Palmer  
Ben Keutzer  
Margaret Klein  
B.A. Kuntz  
Cathie & Bud Lynch  
John and Norma Martin  
Donald L. McMasters  
Dorcas Porter  
Betty J. Robinson  
Virginia & Don Tyte  
Wayne Warden, Jr.  
Gloria D. Westfall  
Anne Wilkerson  
Michael & Sheila Maben  
Mary Jane Blustein  
Theresa Ann King Baxter  
Anne Brown  
Ivan B. Clark  
Diana Helms

#### Friend

William & Emily Hall  
David L. Musgrave  
Julie Farris  
Richard S. Forkner  
Kay Hollingsworth  
Fred & Pegi Risinger  
George M. Smerk  
Jean Martin Warholic

#### Sustaining

Edward & Marcia Parham  
Jeanette Calkins Marchant

#### Contributor

Kem & Mary Hawkins



## Social Life in Early Monroe County Land Records, 1811–1848

By Lee H. Ehman

During the past year, I have worked to update and correct the Genealogy Library's Monroe County land records index (announcement of the first of four revised index books was published in the previous *Monroe County Historian*, August/September 2004). Land records dominate these faded ink entries, but other types of transactions are also documented, revealing interesting aspects of early Monroe County social life.

Manumission [*The act of manumitting, or of liberating a slave from bondage*] of slaves is found in two places. One involved Michael in 1830 in Book C, p. 179 (see the *Monroe County Historian*, February 2004, for a complete account). The other involved the freeing of 11 slaves in 1841, Book H, p. 348. In his will, David A. Crosson left to James Faris the "labor and services [of] persons of color" Simon, Mary, Martin, Franklin, Abner, Henry, Sarah Ann, Spencer, Janett, Hiram, and Francis," to dispose of according to and in such a manner as the dictates of his conscience and the doctrine of the religion which he has so long professed might dictate." Faris freed these 11 individuals, although it is not clear from the record how long he (or David Crosson) held them in bondage, nor do we know of their subsequent lives.

Indentures are recorded as early as 1820 (Book A, p. 41). Typical is that made for the deceased Elisha Sanders's young son, Isaac, in 1845. James Fritz, the boy's guardian, arranged a five-year indenture with John Wharton, a farmer. Terms of the agreement stipulated, among other things, that Wharton feed and clothe Isaac, and teach him "the science of farming so far as he is able," provide medicine and doctoring, and "instruct him to read and write, and in the general rules of Arithmetic, through the double rules of Three...and to send him to school in English grammar." At the end of Isaac's term of service, farmer Wharton was to give him "a good horse, saddle and bridle,

worth in cash \$55...a good suit of clothes and \$25 in money." This example shows that our forebears emphasized education, even for orphans.

Less fortunate children (and adults) were made the responsibility of the county's "Overseers of the Poor," who sometimes provided foster homes for them. In 1838 (Book F, p. 510), "Mary Ann Oakes, a minor [age 12] pauper," was entrusted until age 18 to George W. Hardin, who promised to teach her "the art of performing and doing all common domestic house work such as usually ... taught to girls in ordinary circumstances in life ...[and] to spell and write tolerably well." When she reached age 18, Hardin was to provide her with "two good and fashionable Sunday dresses, a good feather bed and bedding and spinning wheel...."

It is interesting that the boy is to learn the "science" of farming, and the girl the "art" of housework, the language suggesting a status distinction. The expectations for education are considerably higher for Isaac than for Mary Ann. Both are to be minimally outfitted for adult life, with the girl's goods presumably aimed at strengthening her marriage prospects. No cash is provided the young woman as she turns into the world at 18.

Financial provision for an infant girl orphan, Martha Ellen Tilford, was made by her guardian, Jefferson Tilford, by his selling off a parcel of her inherited land for \$55 in 1847 (Book K, p. 427). Presumably Tilford used this money in his household to support Martha Ellen.

Entries involving children can be heartbreaking. In 1841 (Book H, p. 694), Henderson Sassoon gave over to Abraham Young the care of his two daughters, Mary, age four, and Martha, age three. No reason is given in the

*Continued on the next page*

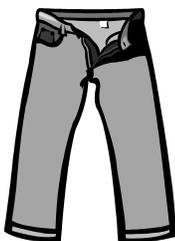
### Museum Store

- Seasonal Items
- Nostalgic children's toys, books & 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
- And a wonderful selection of used books

*100% of the proceeds from the Store goes to the Society to operate the History Center.*

### GOT JEANS?

Beginning this summer, there will be demonstrations on our old wooden loom here at the History Center. BUT we need old jeans to use for weaving rugs. If you have old jeans, please drop them off here at the History Center. THANK YOU!



## Social Life continued

account; we might assume that Sassoon's wife died, and he had no relatives to whom he could entrust them. The promises that Young made for the two young girls' upbringing were much less specific than for Isaac and Mary Ann noted above. No obligations regarding practical or formal education were made. The emphasis was on their faithful service and obedience to Young's lawful commands. He did promise to provide them with a "good bed and bedding" when they reached the age of 18. Sitting here, more than 160 years later, we can only hope that Mary and Martha were treated decently and not consigned to 14 years of harsh servitude without the comfort of a mother or father.

Confiscations of land for debt, non-payment of taxes, and forfeitures in civil lawsuits (Book I, p. 389) and sheriff's sales (Book J, p. 228) are relatively common. One unusual example recorded in 1845 (Book J, pp. 287-290) convicted the defendant, David C. McGee, of unspecified charges made by James and Oscar Wilder, and forced McGee to give his drugstore ("on the opposite side of the street from the Hotel of John & Samuel Orchard") and all its inventory to Paris C. Dunning for sale and subsequent payment of the judgment to the Wilders. There is a three-page listing of the drugstore's inventory, worth \$1,002.18. The specific items open a window on medications used during the period.

A few civil lawsuits suggest a darker side of social life in Monroe County in the early 1800s. In 1845, a record shows that one couple accused a second couple of defaming the first's wife, by alleging she had spoken in such a way as to "imput[e] whoredom or incontinency." The judge settled the suit so as to favor neither side: he ordered each couple to pay half the fee of the plaintiff's attorney (the well-known Paris C. Dunning), and afforded the accused wife the formal opportunity to disavow the verbal accusations.

A more serious 1848 suit involved rape (Book K, p. 647). According to the charge, the

accused man, Leander, took "indecent liberties with [Mary] without previously receiving the slightest encouragement by look or gesture from her." The account concluded that Mary was "virtuous, entirely free from the slightest blemish in her character, and ha[d] ever been virtuous." At the urging of one of the state's attorneys (again, Paris C. Dunning), Leander confessed to the charges. The punishment was not included in the entry.

Currently this sort of detailed information is found only by paging through each book, an enormous task. To make them more accessible for interested local history researchers, a new category field is being added to the land record indexes. This information will be included in the next index revision, planned for print and on-line publication early in 2005.

## The Museum Store Now Carries Used Books

The Museum Store's used book department has been very successful. Because the books are donated, the sales are pure profit. This is an easy way you can help add to the Society's income—bring in your books.

Donations of interesting used books are always welcome; especially desirable are titles related to Indiana authors, Indiana history, and biography, any classics, cooking, travel, photography and art. Books that don't sell in the store will be saved for our annual garage sale.



## History Center Wish List



Laptop Computers  
Digital Camera  
Laminator  
Paper Cutter

*Thank you for the typewriters*

## Corporate Members

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The Bakehouse  
Golden Corral  
Grazie! Italian Eatery  
Café Pizzaria  
All American Title, Inc.

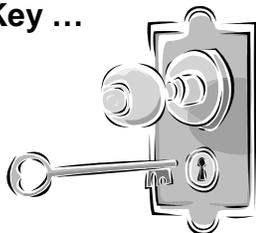
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See Stories... Touch Time... Make Memories...

### 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

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- Level 4 \$1000+

#### Method of Payment

- Check
- MasterCard
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#### 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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