London After Dark Gala

The February 22 Gala sold out early this year with nearly 300 people in attendance. Guests enjoyed a welcome from Downtown Abbey residents, a wine bar, reception, dinner, and silent auction. The highlight of the evening was an enjoyable visit with a youthful Winston Churchill through the words of Michael Shelden, author of “The Young Titan.” Guests were able to purchase a signed copy of the book before its public release date.

The event was held at COOK International Headquarters. We are indebted to Carl Cook and COOK staff members for all their support, and for putting the finishing touches on an evening that was as enjoyable as it was informative.

In addition to COOK personnel, we owe thanks to a very generous group of supporters, including individual and silent auction donors. We have done our best to acknowledge each sponsor and patron on Page 7. Photos of the event are included on Page 13.

Funds raised exceeded previous Galas and will be used for Phase II of the Build History Campaign to install interactive exhibits in the permanent gallery of the History Center.

Jr. Historian Camp Registration Opens March 18

This year marks the third annual Gayle Cook Jr. Historian Camp. The three exciting weeks will mix fun activities with sharing of knowledge about “The Place we Call Home” … Monroe County, Indiana.

June 24-28: Painting our Past. Explore Indiana artists and their art.

July 8-12: Painting our Past. Explore Indiana artists and their art.

July 22-26: Museum Mania. Learn what goes on behind closed doors at the History Center.

The camps are open to children 6 to 12 years of age. Every day will include interactive lessons, crafts, games, activities, journaling, and a field trip to a place that expands upon the week’s topic. Call 812.332.2517, ext. 3 and talk with Angi St. Clair, Education Manager. Please register soon as space is limited.

The Jr. Historian Camp was founded in 2010 in honor of Gayle Cook and the thirty years of dedication and support she has given the Monroe County History Center. Since then nearly 100 kids have participated in the program.
March

- 7 - Thursday, 7pm: Genealogy Group
- 9 - Saturday, 11am: WPHB presents Saturday’s Child
- 12 - Tuesday, 7pm: Civil War Roundtable
- 14 - Thursday, 4:30pm: Monthly Board Meeting
- 16 - Saturday, 2pm: Bear Naming Ceremony

April

- 5 - Friday, 5:30pm: Community Voices Gallery Exhibit opening and reception
- 9 - Tuesday, 7pm: Civil War Roundtable
- 11 - Thursday, 4pm: Board Meeting with Annual Meeting to immediately follow
- 13 - Saturday, 11am: Saturday’s Child
- 27 - Saturday, 2pm: Dr. Monroe Medicine Show

May

- 9 - Thursday, 4:30pm: Board Meeting
- 11 - Saturday, 11am: Saturday’s Child
- 14 - Tuesday, 7pm: Civil War Roundtable

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

“Civil Rights in Monroe County”
November 23, 2012 to April 27, 2013

The Civil Rights movements from the early 1900s to the late 1960s are an important part of Monroe County history. Indiana University served as a stage for students to actively change their society and voice their rights as African Americans, women, and young adults making sense of the world around them. The exhibit follows individuals who had a direct impact on the community and on campus, and highlights the major demonstrations happening at the time.

“Monroe County Rocks the Historical Vote”
October 1, 2012 to March 23, 2013

With 2012 being a presidential election year, stop by the History Center to see different voting booths and they ways Monroe County used to capture the vote.

“20th Century Colonial Revival Quilts”
March 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013

This interesting journey through the study of quilts displays contemporary quilters’ recreations of historic designs and offers visitors an opportunity to explore the quilt-making industry.

Community Voices Gallery: “Indiana Extension Homemakers Association”
April 5, 2013 to July 31, 2013

Indian Extension Homemakers Association, founded in 1913, continues to build on its rich heritage by working to strengthen Indiana homes and families. It is the mission of the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association to strengthen families through continuing education, leadership development, and volunteer community support.

Opening Reception on Friday, April 5 at 5:30pm

Friends, belief in abolition or preservation of the union, or desire to gain financially, might have been mixed together in different combinations. Two of the five, Buskirk and Young, paid the highest price. Skirvin was wounded but returned and made a life for himself and his family, although his orphaned children were a sad result of the tragedy of his and Elizabeth’s early deaths. Worley apparently escaped injury or serious disease, while nothing is known of Turner’s fate.

The five men documented here represent a small fraction of the bounties paid in Monroe County. Before the spring of 1864, there was little need for them. However, in 1864, there were four calls for more troops, and the county’s quotas led to higher bounties. The county authorized a $500 bounty in order to raise its quota of men. From among the 2,528 Monroe County men who served, County Commissioners’ records show a total of 172 who earned a bonus. We don’t know how many paid the commutation fee, purchased a substitute, or were drafted themselves. But we do know that of Indiana’s total of 208,348 soldiers and sailors, only 5.2% were drafted, 0.25% hired substitutes, and 0.05% paid the commutation fee. The remaining 94.5% were volunteers, many from before the advent of bonuses. Throughout the war, Indiana supplied a high percentage of its eligible men to the armed forces, nearly all volunteers. Because of the high number of volunteers, none had to be drafted until July 1864.

Notes
1. There was a previous draft, but it was administered individually by the different states.
2. President Lincoln paid this fee, even though he was not subject to the draft, presumably to set a good example.
5. Monroe County Deed Book U, p. 589; Book V, p. 20. I can find no listing of other volunteers in this period, although it has to be assumed that many others volunteered to make up the county’s quota.
7. There is no other Monroe County record of him with the middle initial of “L.” The 1860 and 1880 censuses both have James C. Worley, as do the 1886 and 1894 Veteran Records Enrollments.
10. Bloomington Republican Progress, 12 January 1897.
11. Bloomington Republican Progress, 26 January 1897.
13. This is based on the Monroe County Commissioners Record Book I, 1859–65, p. 23, which reports that $81,000 had been expended for the year that ended on 21 May 1865, meaning 162 $500 bonuses. I added the five from the previous year documented above, plus five others who petitioned the commissioners for bounty payments after the war in 1866 and 1867 (James P. Fleener, Jacob R. Swisher, Henry Clay, John Hensley, and Henry Davis.)
14. Blanchard doesn’t tally exact draft numbers, but a rough estimate from his account is 78 drafted, which is 3.1%. The 2,528 total reported by Blanchard includes reenlistments of volunteers, and therefore is not the total number of men.
During the first two years of the Civil War, there were more volunteers from Indiana and other states than could be accepted. But during 1863, after more than two years of heavy casualties, there was a smaller pool of volunteers and men were increasingly reluctant to come forward to fight. In March 1863, Congress passed the first national draft law.1 Each state had a quota, based on the total number of men eligible for the draft. Indiana apportioned its quota for each county, which in turn set a quota by township. In order to attract more volunteers, the federal government paid a $300 bonus, or “bounty,” as an enticement. Some local governments also offered bounties, sometimes as much as $500, to avoid having to draft their citizens. Men with enough money could pay a $300 “commutation fee” to avoid being drafted.2 Also, a draftee could hire a substitute. The 1863 Conscription Act was widely unpopular and triggered riots in New York City that were put down by the army. There was active resistance in many places, including Monroe County.3

President Lincoln, urgently needing to fill the ranks, called for another 300,000 men in October 1863 and increased the call to 700,000 in February 1864. In response to the quota of 143 Monroe County citizens, the Monroe County Commissioners agreed to give each volunteer a $100 bounty.4 We have the names of only five who came forward in early 1864. In addition to earning the $300 federal bonus, they were paid Monroe County bounties of $100.5 The $400 total would have been near the average yearly wage in those times.6 It would amount to $5,500 in today’s currency. The five Monroe County volunteers receiving the first bounties were Isaac S. Buskirk, James M. Skirvin, Alonzo Turner, James M. [C.] Worley, and Ira Young. All served in Company I, Tenth Cavalry (125th) Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. The Tenth Cavalry, organized in the winter of 1863–64, moved to Alabama and then Mississippi, seeing action at Murfreesboro, Nashville, Pursuit of Hood, and Mobile. The men served provost duty in Mississippi until they mustered out in August 1865 at Vicksburg. Overall, twenty-one men were killed in battle, 161 died by disease, 88 deserted, and 47 were “unaccounted for.”

Isaac S. Buskirk, of Benton Township, served as a captain and died of disease on 11 July 1864, age 45. He is buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery. Earlier, Isaac was an officer in the Monroe County militia and was major in the 112th Minuteman Regiment when it helped block Morgan’s Raid near New Vernon. He is not to be confused with Isaac Shelby Van Buskirk (“Blue Ike”), who also served in the Mexican War, and who died of wounds suffered in the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863.7

James M. Skirvin, a private from Benton Twp., enlisted at age 17 and was discharged on 13 May 1864, of wounds. His father, James Skirvin, had also volunteered in 1861. He died that August and is buried in Mt. Gilead Cemetery. James M. returned to Monroe County and started farming. He married Elizabeth Alexander in December 1873; they had eight children. He died of Bright’s (kidney) disease on 20 January 1897, age 51. Twelve days before, Elizabeth had died.8 There is no record of their burial, presumably in a family plot no longer known. Six of their children, under age 16, were placed in an orphan’s home.9

Alonzo Turner is a bit of a mystery. He might have resided elsewhere, but enlisted in Monroe County. The regimental listing marks him as “unaccounted for,” rather than having mustered out, died, or deserted. James Worley, a private from Bloomington Twp., enlisted at age 25 and mustered out in August 1865. The 1880 census lists James C. Worley, age 41, with his wife, Sarah, and two-year-old girl. The 1894 Bloomington Cemetery Records: Enumerators notes that he was living in Perry Twp. and suffering from rheumatism. There is no note of a cemetery listing for him. Finally, Ira Young, a private, was working as a carpenter, unmarried, and living in Bloomington Twp. when he volunteered at age 29. He died, presumably of sickness, at Nashville on 6 November 1864. There is no record of his burial.

It is impossible to know the motivations that propelled these five men to volunteer and claim their bonuses. Patriotism, real or perceived pressure from families or

Message from the Director

I hope these words capture something we can all relate to. Perhaps they brought a smile to your face? At the History Center, they have become a rallying point expressing our pride in what we do.

Celebrating the place you call home is what the Board, volunteers, and staff of the History Center do continually. We celebrate the past, live in and witness the present, and plan for the future. The corner of East Sixth and Washington is active with educational programs, events, and new exhibits.

We want to be the best museum of our size that can be found. Our benchmarks show that we are well on our way, with increased numbers and heightened preservation standards. However, our work greatly benefits from others’ suggestions and comments. So please don’t hesitate to let us know your thoughts.

It is a pleasure for me to be associated with the History Center and the many people who continuously give their time, talent, and treasure. If you haven’t joined as a member, please consider becoming a part of this community asset.

No matter what, we invite you to come celebrate the place you call home. Thank you.

Managing Director

New Items in the Library
genealogy@monroehistory.org
Penelope Mathiesen and Elizabeth Schlemmer
Recent Donations
Joyce Poling donated a set of DVDs of interviews conducted in 2012 with local entrepreneurs in the Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington. Karen Foster donated books and other genealogy materials from the collection of her late husband, David Foster, a longtime Monroe County Historical Society member and library volunteer who was particularly active on behalf of the Cemetery Committee.

New Items on the Shelves

* Higgs, Steven. Oral history interview from 2 July 2012, captured in an audio file and electronic transcript. (Covers his career as a local journalist and founder of the Bloomington Alternative) CD.

For More Genealogy News . . .

The History Center’s Research Library recently launched its “News from the Library Online Edition.” If you would like to receive future issues of this online newsletter, which provides more content that is specific to genealogy and local history research, please send an email with your name and email address to genealogy@monroehistory.org.
American Girl Doll Raffle Winner

Seven-year-old Isobel was the lucky winner of the American Girl Doll, Rebecca. She won just in time to take her new friend home for the holidays. Thanks go out to the American Girl Doll Company, Jeanne Speakman for sewing and knitting outfits and donating new items for Rebecca, Joan Cautlon for knitting outfits, and Janice Partenheimer for donating a handmade quilt for Rebecca. The funds raised through this raffle will be used to provide scholarships for the Jr. Historian Summer Camp program. For more information about the 2013 camp please contact Angi St. Clair at 812-332-2517, ext. 3, or by email at education@monroehistory.org.

Join us the last Thursday of every month at 10:00 am for hiStory Time. hiStory Time is a history-themed story time for children ages 3-6. hiStory Time includes stories, music, crafts, and occasional artifact encounters. Free with entry to museum.

Museum Admission
Children under 6: Free
Children, 6-17: $1.00
Adults: $2.00

Call 332-2517, ext. 3, or email education@monroehistory.org to register.

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, or genealogy@monroehistory.org

University Jordinus— 1965-68, 1970-71
Smithville Searchlight— 1938, 1940-1955, 1962-63
Allens Creek: A Tale of Three Cemeteries
By Bob Dodd

If you search for Allens Creek Cemetery, you may become confused because three cemeteries near this small Polk Township community of Allens Creek go by that name. There is the Old Allens Creek Cemetery, the New Allens Creek Cemetery, and the Allens Creek Cemetery (neither old or new but actually the newest of the three).

Allens Creek Old Cemetery is now almost completely overgrown by trees and other vegetation on the south side of Allens Creek Road about 50 yards west of the intersection of Allens Creek and Roberts roads. Only one stone, which is separately fenced, is clearly visible from the road. But a number of mostly toppled or leaning stones become visible upon entering the woods. County Cemeteries of Monroe lists 27 burials in the cemetery. The oldest death date is 1843 and the newest is 1920. Most of the death dates are from the latter half of the 1800s. Two of the burials are veterans: King A. Deckard from the Civil War and Stephen Deckard from either the Mexican War or the Civil War.

Allens Creek New Cemetery is on the west side of Roberts Road about 100 yards south of its intersection with Allens Creek Road. It is well maintained, although some of the older stones are difficult to read due to lichens on the surface. County Cemeteries of Monroe lists 80 burials, but this does not include several more recent graves. The oldest death date is 1874. The cemetery is still active, with death dates as recent as 2011. At least six of the burials are indicated as veterans.

The most recent and largest (over 250 burials) of the three, Allens Creek Cemetery is more properly called the Polk Township Cemetery, although the sign at the entrance proclaims it as Allens Creek Cemetery. It was established at the time of the construction of Lake Monroe to contain burials from cemeteries covered by the lake. (See the article by Lee Ehman in the August 2010 issue of the Monroe County Historian for details about this project.) Remains were removed from eight cemeteries (Blackwell, Curtright, Fox, Goodman, Hughes, Mitchell, Shields, and Walcott) and reinterred here. Many of the burials are unidentified and marked by simple ground level stones with only a number. But many have the original stones, including an elaborately carved tree stump. Thirteen of the burials are veterans. In addition to the old burials, the cemetery contains recent burials and is still active. The cemetery is on the north side of Allens Creek Road about a mile east of the other Allens Creek cemeteries.

Collections’ Corner
By Rebecca Vaughn

One of the new items in our collection is a Civil War reproduction uniform (Union) donated by Mrs. Frances McConnell’s husband and father-in-law, Wallace and Lloyd McConnell, were instrumental in founding Company “I” 10th cavalry, 125th Regiment Monroe County volunteer reenactment society established in 1967.

Mrs. McConnell was also kind enough to donate the organizational records associated with Company “I,” which provide a great deal of information on the inner workings of the local chapter as well as the research that the members conducted.
Remembering Rosemary Miller

Rosemary Miller, age 94, passed away on January 12, 2013. Rosemary, a longtime community member, was a major influence on the arts and historic preservation in Monroe County.

* Following Bloomington Restoration's efforts to save the courthouse, in 1980, Rosemary Miller, Candace Bonus, and I climbed up to the courthouse roof so that I could take photos during the dome repairs. Roofing workers were on a scaffold that reached to the top of the dome (from the flat roof). Rosemary and Candy immediately climbed the scaffold right up to the fish—to the roofers' surprise—and I snapped a picture of Rosemary waving. I've always regretted that I didn't switch places then so that they could take my picture with the fish too. That day we three also climbed up into the interior of the dome to see and photograph the huge clock bell, which is in the space between the inner stained-glass dome and the outer copper dome.

New Items in the Research Library, continued

  * Interviews conducted at the Gayle and Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at Ivy Tech Bloomington with Malcolm Abrams, John Bender, Steve Ferguson, Dan Gluesenkamp, Lee Marchant, Bill and Kathleen Oliver, John Rose, Jim Silberstein, and Jeremiah Young. DVD set. Gift from Joyce Poling.

Cemeteries

An unusual part of the history of Allens Creek is its three cemeteries: Old Allens Creek Cemetery, New Allens Creek Cemetery, and the Allens Creek Cemetery. For more information, see my article, "Allens Creek: A Tale of Three Cemeteries," on page 11 of this issue.

Selected Names of Allens Creek Residents*

Blackwell, William T. – 1886
Cazee, John W. (Rev.) – 1886 (store owner)
Conner, Lewis – 1920
Conner, Lewis – 1920
Eads, Elmer – 1920
Eads, Oscar – 1932
Frey, Marshall – 1932
Grubb, John – 1932
Hamilton, E. S. – 1920
Miller, William D. – 1932
Patton, Jim – 1932
Patton, Laura – 1932
Pope, Simon – 1920
Reed, J. G. – 1920
Reed, James – 1858
Sciscoe, John P. – 1920
Stepp, Joshua – 1858
Stewart, David – 1920

* These are names frequently or prominently mentioned in newspaper clippings and other sources (dates refer to the sources). Several members of some families appear frequently.

** Property owners include names from the 1856, 1920, and 1932 plat maps of the area. All owned many acres of property. The earliest property owners' names in part came from deed records. The earliest records of property transfers in the area are about 1853. Dates of original purchase of the land from the government are not shown.

Note: A longer version of this article and future articles purchase of the land from the government are not

Selected Property Owners in Allens Creek area**

Allen, John R. – 1856
Allen, Joseph – 1856
Allen, Thomas – 1856
Barton, Joseph – 1856
Boston, Asa – 1856
Boston, Joe – 1856
Boston, Robert – 1856
Boston, Martha – 1856
Boston, Mary – 1856
Boston, Sarah – 1856
Boston, Susan – 1856
Boston, William – 1856
Brown, John – 1856
Brown, Mary – 1856
Brown, Sarah – 1856
Brown, Thomas – 1856
Brown, William – 1856
Cazee, John W. (Rev.) – 1886 (store owner)
Cazee, John W. (Rev.) – 1886 (store owner)
Conner, Lewis – 1920
Conner, Lewis – 1920
Eads, Elmer – 1920
Eads, Oscar – 1932
Frey, Marshall – 1932
Grubb, John – 1932
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History of the Town of Allens Creek
By Bob Dodd

Allens Creek is one of the “larger” communities in Polk Township. The town is shown on maps from 1878 to 1957. Part of the community was inundated when Lake Monroe was formed in 1960, leading to its final demise. A portion of what must have been the community still exists in the form of two cemeteries and nearby pre-1960 houses.

The earliest clippings are among the oldest in our files. The community had a post office from 1874 until 1921. The clippings file indicates that in 1886 there was an Allens Creek Church. There is also mention of the Christian Union Church. There was a spoke factory in the area “taking what few scattering white oak trees that are in the country.” Farming was probably the main source of income for community inhabitants. Clippings mention wheat and corn as crops as well as pigs. 1886 clippings mention a store in the town. An 1887 clipping indicates that there was a sawmill in the community. 1914 clippings also mention a store and a barber-shop. Clippings from 1930 refer to Allens Creek Church. Later clippings are not very informative about community history, usually only mentioning social activities of the inhabitants.

Goodspeed’s “History of Monroe County” (in Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, ed. Blanchard) lists Joseph Stipp, Joshua Stepp, and John Sipes as early settlers in the area. Goodspeed writes that John Allen and Thomas Allen were members of the Pleasant Valley Church (Methodist). The location of this church is not clear, but the names suggest that it may have been at or near the community. Property records show that John R. Allen, Thomas Allen, and Joseph Allen all owned property in the area in 1856. The name of the creek that flows through the area and the name of the town may have come from one or more of these Allens.

School
Allens Creek School is included in the book Echoes from One-Room Schools. The book includes detailed and informative recollections from Agnes Blackwell about her time in the school. The school was established in 1875 with land donated by Robert Cazee. The book includes a photograph of the school taken in 1900. The school, which served all elementary grades, was used for other purposes as well. Church and Sunday school classes were held there, and it was used as a meeting place for political speeches. There was no high school within easy traveling distance, so children who wanted to go beyond the eighth grade had to board or live with relatives near a school. The date of closure of Allens Creek School is not indicated in the book.

Fred Sciscoe’s Recollections (from Family Heritage 1987)

The book Family Heritage 1987 includes an interview with Fred Sciscoe, who lived in the community in the mid 1800s and early 1900s. Unfortunately exact dates are not shown. Fred was the son of John Perry Sciscoe, who owned much of the property in the Allens Creek area. In addition to being a farmer, John was a teacher and held an unspecified political office in Polk Township.

Both Fred and his brother Ora were barbers who operated the barber shop in Allens Creek. An earlier barber was Dave Eads. The barber business came to an end with the outbreak of WW I when Fred joined the military. Fred mentions that his brother rode his horse to Smithville to get the mail for the Allens Creek post office. The post office was in a general store owned by Lewis Conner. A blacksmith shop was run by Lewis Eads. There were other blacksmiths in the area as well (Walter Eads and Joe Palmer). There was also a gristmill and sawmill on land owned by John Perry Sciscoe. Farm products in the area included wheat and hay as well as pigs.

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- Buskirk-Chumley Theater
- Exotic Feline Rescue Center
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- Mia & Maxx
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- IU Auditorium
- The Family of Rosemary Miller
- Joie De Vivre Medical
- Indiana Historical Society
- Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
- Jennifer Muzejnovic

A special thank you to all of the Wall of Wine donors!
The Legacy of Joseph E. Crouch, a Bloomington Entrepreneur

By Randi Richardson

Joseph “Joe” E. Crouch was born to Lloyd and Mayme Alice (Belcher) Crouch in Indianapolis on 14 May 1914. Soon after his birth, his parents went their separate ways.

Mayme, with her young son in tow, returned to Bloomington, the place of her birth, and moved in with her parents, Joseph and Minnie (Alexander) Belcher at 1001 E. Eleventh Street. It was there that the census enumerator found her in 1920. She was working as a milliner, a trade she learned from Mrs. Bill Cody, the wife of Buffalo Bill, and her husband was reportedly dead.1

Joe was enrolled in school and ultimately graduated from Bloomington High School in 1933. One of his classmates was Thelma G. Vonderschmitt, the only child of Harry P. and Nova Vonderschmitt who owned the Indiana Theatre, now the Buskirk-Chumley. Joe and Thelma were within days of the same age and shared many of the same classes. They also spent time together at the theatre, because Joe worked there as an usher until he left home in search of employment.

At the time of his graduation, the country was still in the throes of a depression. Jobs were hard to come by. Joe struggled to support himself by working in various cities selling various products door to door. During the course of his travels, he wrote home frequently to his mother. It was clear from his letters that he was dissatisfied with the work and disappointed with its lack of financial reward. This prompted his return to Bloomington and enrollment at Indiana University.

By then Thelma had married Robert C. Smith, the son of a prominent Bloomington physician, given birth to a daughter, Barbara Lee, divorced, dropped out of the ranks. She was working as a nurse. In 1942. Unbeknown to him, that same year, his father registered for the draft as he was legally required to do, but did not serve.3

In 1939, Joe graduated from IU with a degree in business administration. Parts of the world were already at war, and it seemed likely that the United States would soon be involved. As the rumblings of war became louder, Joe enlisted as a private in the Army Air Corps on 2 January 1942. Unbeknown to him, that same year, his father registered for the draft as he was legally required to do, but did not serve.3

Thelma’s father died in 1955. For a long time afterward, her mother continued to own the Indiana and Von Lee theatres.4 However, by the time of Nova’s death in 1974 at the age of 80, Joe owned both theatres, and he eventually sold them to the Kerasotes chain.

On 7 December 1993, while living at 1220 E. Hunter Street where she had resided with Joe for nearly 40 years, Thelma died. She was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery. Afterward Joe moved to Florida. It was there that he died on 25 June 2002, at the age of 88. At the time of his death, he was identified as a pioneer and developer in the evolution of Bloomington’s coin-operated laundries. His remains were returned to Bloomington for burial, and he was laid to rest beside Thelma.

Although he is gone, Joe will never be entirely forgotten. He is survived by an oral history recorded in 1998 by the Vonderschmitts using the first syllable of their own name and the middle name of their granddaughter, Barbara Lee.5

Notes

1. Records indicate that Joe maintained little or no contact with his father or the paternal side of his family. Crouch researchers speculate that Lloyd Crouch died in 1920, but his 1942 WWII draft registration indicates that he could not have died before that time.

2. Barbara married Bill Franzmann in Monroe County on 20 November 1955. She was granted a divorce from him in January 1959 and married her second husband, Bill Van Hoy, the following month. She died in Canada in 1973.

3. According to a digital image of the draft registration available online, in 1942 Lloyd Crouch, age 60, lived with his brother, Webster, in Indianapolis at 448 S. Meridian Street. He reportedly was born in Brown County, Indiana, on 5 August 1881.

4. The Von Lee opened in 1949. The name of the theatre was created by the Vonderschmitts using the first syllable of their own name and the middle name of their granddaughter, Barbara Lee.

5. Much of the material used to compile the above article has been fully transcribed and is available online at the INMONROE Rootsweb archive. Search for the keywords “Joseph E. Crouch.” Some hard copies are available in the Crouch family file at the Monroe County History Center.