Do you want to make history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 3 to find out more about volunteering in one of the many departments at the History Center.

**Membership Form**

- **Method of Payment**
  - Visa  
  - MasterCard  
  - Check

- **Annual Membership Levels**
  - Student/Teacher $20
  - Basic $35
  - Family $60
  - Sustaining $100
  - Patron $250

- **Corporate - Service Organizations**
  - Exhibit Sponsor $100
  - Gallery Benefactor $250
  - History Patron $500
  - Monroe County History Maker $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

- **Credit Card #**

- **Expiration Date**

- **CVV Number**

- **Signature**

- **Print Name**

- **Address**

- **Phone**

- **E-mail**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

Thursday, April 10 - 4:30PM

Please mark your calendar to attend the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting. Your interest, support and participation provides the excellence needed for our continued success.

- **Year in Review**
- **Election of Board Members and Officers**
- **Annual Budget Review**
- **To see the listing of proposed officers and board members please visit:**
  - www.monroehistory.org

**Session Details**

- **Session 1, June 9-13, Indiana Sings: Indiana’s Music History**
  - Session 2, June 23-June 27, Gross History: The Yuck Factor
  - Session 3, July 7-July 11, Who Are We? Searching for Our Roots

All sessions run from 9am-3pm daily, but campers also may sign up for extended day until 4pm. Each session features a field trip related to the week’s topic (cost included in registration fee). Discounts are given to families with more than one child attending, families that sign up for more than one session, and for History Center members. Call today or visit our website for more information. Space is limited each week.

**Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony**

Please join us as we celebrate and honor our “FAN-tastic” volunteers who give their time so generously to the History Center. To make the annual awards ceremony more convenient for our volunteers, this year’s celebration will be a springtime lunch, rather than a December dinner. The event is scheduled for Monday, April 7th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the History Center.

A buffet lunch will begin at noon and will be followed by the presentation of a Special Recognition Award, the Research Library Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Gayle Cook Volunteer of the Year award (two recipients).

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Martha Wainscott at 812-332-2517, ext. 3 or education@monroehistory.org by April 2nd.
Ross Lockridge, Jr. was born in Bloomington in 1914. A University, he aspired to write the next Great American Novel- turned giant. The Loudon Title Company tract books constitute another source for researching early Monroe County land purchases. In these volumes, I found listings for Francis Burgoon’s purchases of land in Sections 9 and 10 of Polk Township in 1856. The listings were cross-referenced to Monroe County deed book entries, which state that for each purchase, “Francis Burgoon of Hamilton County Ohio has deposited a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Jeffersonville, whereby it appears that full payment has been made...” The land was in a district “formerly for sale at Jeffersonville now Indianapolis.”

The land office at Jeffersonville, Indiana, closed in 1856. Its land was in a district “formerly for sale at Jeffersonville now Indianapolis.”

The land office at Jeffersonville, Indiana, closed in 1856. Its land was in a district “formerly for sale at Jeffersonville now Indianapolis.”

The deed books and land patents confirmed when Francis Burgoon bought land in Monroe County. They helped fill a gap in his whereabouts between the 1850 and 1870 censuses by placing him in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1856. The deed books, however, contained a surprise. Although the land in Polk Township was “given and granted” to Francis Burgoon on 1 September 1856, the sale wasn’t recorded in Monroe County until 18 March 1887! Why did Francis Burgoon wait so long to record his purchase? There was no question of his ownership, but it was necessary to record it in Monroe County before he could sell the land. In 1887, he was 60 years of age and may have thought it was time to get his affairs in order. Less than two years later, he sold part of Section 10 in Polk Township to the church trustees.

Notes
3. 1850 U.S. Census, Hancock County, Ohio, accessed at ancestry.com on 1 May 2010.
4. “Death of Francis Burgoon” (“Bloomington Telegraph,” 29 June 1887), and “Burgoon Family in America” (“Bloomington Count”, 23 June 1887).
5. 1856 Atlas of Monroe County (Indiana) Tax Duplicates, reel 8, 1856–1856, Polk Township; p. 313.
6. Monroe County (Indiana) Tax Duplicates, reel 8, 1855–1856, Polk Township; p. 313.
7. Loudon’s Abstract Title, p. 234, line 63.
10. To access the General Land Office Records, go to: glorecords.lib.gov and select “Search Documents.”
11. Deed Book 18, pp. 246–47.
When Did Francis Burgoon Buy Land in Monroe County?

By Penelope Mathiesen

A few years ago, while doing research on Burgoon Church, I learned that Francis and Anna Burgoon had sold land in Polk Township, Section 10 (the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter) to church trustees on 8 January 1889. I became curious to know when Francis Burgoon bought the land. The Research Library’s land records—and the indexes created by dedicated volunteers—proved invaluable in my search.

Francis Burgoon was born in Perry County, Ohio, in 1827. The 1850 census places him in Hancock County, Ohio (age 23), but he doesn’t appear in the 1860 census. Francis is said to have settled in either Tennessee or Mississippi; he married Anna Keene in 1862, and they moved to a farm in Polk Township, Monroe County, Indiana, in 1865.

Francis Burgoon first appears in the Monroe County census in 1870, but land records indicate that he acquired property here much earlier. The map of Polk Township in the 1856 Atlas of Monroe County shows “Francis Buergeon” on portions of Sections 9 and 10. This is confirmed by the 1855 Monroe County Tax Duplicates, which list him as the owner of 320 acres in Polk Township, Sections 9 and 10. In both sources, Francis’s property includes the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 10, where the land he later sold to the church was located. Based on this information, I expected to find a record of his purchase in the Monroe County deed books, but to my surprise, no such property transfer was recorded for him during the 1850s.

Welcome David

The Monroe County History Center is pleased to welcome David G. Vanderstel as its new Executive Director. David has over twenty-five years of leadership experience in not-for-profits and higher education. He is the owner of David G. Vanderstel & Associates (a historical research consulting group) and is an adjunct Assistant Professor of History in the Department of History at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis where he has taught for over twenty-five years.

David’s previous experience includes work with Martin University, Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, the National Council on Public History (where he served as Executive Director), The Polis Center, and Conner Prairie Interactive History Park.

David is active in community service and is currently serving on the Meridian Street Preservation Commission and as Marion County Historian. He received his Master’s Degree and Ph.D. in 19th-century United States History from Kent State University. He has a Bachelor’s Degree from Calvin College.

David began work at the History Center on March 24, 2014. Contact him by email, director@monroehistory.org, or by phone: 812-332-2517, ext. 1.
Join us at the Monroe County History Center for an afternoon recognizing “Preservation Week” on Saturday, May 3 from 2-4:30 p.m. in the Monroe County History Center’s Education Room.

*Please RSVP as noted below.*

Conservators and curators from Indiana University libraries and museums will be on hand to share their knowledge and guidance about best practices in preserving personal and family collections. The program will consist of an opening talk covering basic concepts of preservation, followed by free one-on-one consultations with professionals. Members of the public are invited to bring in their family treasures, including documents, photographs, books, textiles, and objects for a free consultation on how best to preserve them. Information on how to locate a conservator and where to purchase storage supplies also will be available.

Pass It On - Caring for Your Family Treasures

### About Preservation Week

The American Library Association created Preservation Week in 2010 to raise awareness about the importance of taking positive steps to ensure that cultural materials—both in institutions and in personal and family collections—are preserved for the future. Preservation Week also highlights the role that libraries and other cultural institutions play in preserving our collective heritage.

*Limited space is available for this event. Please RSVP, noting your name and the number of people in your party, to Operations Manager, Hillary Detty, admin@monroehistory.org.*

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The furnace products included pig iron for shipment to New Albany and Louisville, where it fetched about $20/ton. However, because there were few roads and neither railroad nor waterways, the cost of hauling the pig iron by wagon was also nearly $20/ton, so little profit could have been realized.

In April 1840, Ross advertised for casting orders:

“…Hollow Wares, Grist and Saw Mill Machinery, Cooking and Fire Stoves, [k]ow Mould Boards, including any other article in the casting line; having pattern [sic] makers and moulders of the first order. Price four cents per lb. on all pieces over twenty pounds, that and under will be added ten cents on each piece for mouldage.”

Other products mentioned were kettles, spiders, and hoes. Some accounts mention that Austin Seward used their iron in his foundry, particularly for the newly demanded plough mold-boards, but this was when the furnace’s production was nearing an end.

Ross fell into financial troubles soon after beginning operations. Even though he was Monroe County’s highest taxpayer in 1841–42, he defaulted on a loan from the state’s funds, and declared bankruptcy in 1841, deeding his land and business to his son. The company ceased operations in 1844. Reasons for its closure, aside from the financial difficulties, included the poor but expensive transportation of its products, and the possible damage to the furnace by unsupervised workers who allowed it to cool down while Ross was away on a business trip. Randolph Ross is listed (with a mark in the age bracket “50–60”), together with another male (“40–50”), presumably his son, in the 1840 Monroe County census, but not in 1850. No further census record exists of either man’s whereabouts. The ruins of the furnace, the only trace of Randolph Ross’s early industry, are still visible.

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1. For Cunnington et al., Letter of intent, submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, to apply for cultural landscape and rural historic district status for the community of Maryland Ridge, 31 October 2002.
6. Bloomington Post, 6 March 1840, p. 3.
7. Bloomington Post, 11 September 1840, p. 3.
The Virginia Furnace in Indian Creek Township, 1839-1844

By Lee Ehman

Early in Monroe County’s history a short-lived manufacturing enterprise sprung up in Indian Creek Township. Iron ore deposits were found and a Virginia man, Randolph Ross, with his son Randolph Jr., bought the ore site and other land in Section 7. There they erected a smelting furnace, often referred to as the “Virginia Furnace,” probably because of its similarity to others the Rosses had worked on in their native state. The two were likely descendants of David Ross, a Declaration of Independence signer and Virginia iron producer during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Ross came to the county in 1839, together with 20 or so Virginia men experienced in iron smelting. They settled in the new Maryland Ridge community, which consisted of abolitionists and free blacks who resettled from Maryland after a Methodist church schism over slavery. The anti-slavery Calvert Society and the Methodist church were prominent institutions in Maryland Ridge, although it is unknown whether the Rosses participated. We do know that David Ross in Virginia employed hundreds of slaves in his iron manufacturing.

Detail showing the location of the Virginia Furnace in Indian Creek Township, Section 7. From O.E. Siebenhal, Map of Monroe County Indiana (1895).

(continued on page 9)
Lincoln Funeral Train Locomotive Coming to Indianapolis

An Elgin, IL man is recreating the historic Lincoln funeral train and its route from D.C. to Springfield, IL—an undertaking of historic proportions. The historical research, intricate details of building the train, planning and execution for transporting the train across the country, and coordination with cities along the route will involve a cast of hundreds. The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Train will follow the same dates as the original train, starting in Washington, D.C. on April 21 and ending in Springfield, IL on May 2.

A Bloomington resident, Shannon Brown, is the local coordinator and fundraiser for this event. Below are links to WGN-TV (Chicago) coverage of the project, as well as the project’s official website and Facebook links. The locomotive will operate in Indianapolis this April 26 and 27 as part of a fundraiser for completing the presidential/funeral car. Schedules will be announced when available. If you have questions, or would like to donate, feel free to contact Shannon at sawhite@indiana.edu.

Anyone interested in joining a “road trip” in April to visit the locomotive in Indianapolis should contact Steve Rolfe at srolfe@indiana.edu.


http://www.the2015lincolnfuneraltrain.com

Volunteer Spotlight

This month’s spotlight is on Janet Rowland. Janet welcomes museum visitors at our greeter’s desk on the first, third, and fifth Fridays of the month from 10 to 1:00. Janet’s friendly manner and natural curiosity help visitors feel welcome.

Janet’s hobbies include quilting and playing the piano and organ. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Sigma philanthropic sorority. Janet’s love of learning is evidenced by the fact that she is always reading a book—many times on world history. Janet has a passion for England that came from her mother who was interested in all things British.

After Janet retired from teaching at Childs Elementary, she volunteered in Childs’ reading program and tutored in the Vital Program. She and her late husband, Dave, were active in an IU foreign exchange program, and she is still in touch with many of the students they befriended. Janet also has been a docent at the IU Art Museum and answered phones for many years at the WTIU fund drives.

Janet has two children and four grandchildren. For many years she and Dave had the grandchildren to themselves for a week of “summer camp.” Dave was President of the Monroe County Historical Society Board of Directors when the Carnegie Library building was handed over to the Society. Janet and Dave also toured Indiana and took photographs of all Indiana’s county courthouses.

Janet’s energy and good cheer make her a “super” volunteer.

Collections’ Corner

Featured Intern:

The History Center has been very fortunate to host volunteer Rachel Tavaras. In addition to volunteering her time for museum programming at the Center, Rachel also has assisted in inventorying the textiles collection. She has researched and cataloged historic costumes including dresses, capes, and military uniforms as well as accessories, quilts, and much more.

Rachel is a senior at Indiana University majoring in History with minors in French and Anthropology. In addition to her internship at the History Center, she is a practicum student at Mathers Museum of World Cultures. Rachel also interned at the Indiana State Senate this spring. After graduating, Rachel hopes to attend the master’s program in Museum Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

New Items in the Collection

collection@monroehistory.org

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughn

Gift from Susan Marie Jenkin:

- 1 photograph of Western Union, Bloomington, IN
- 1 class photograph, Freedom, IN; March 1st, 1905
- 2 photographs of telephone operators, 1914-1915

Gift from Penelope Mathiesen:

- 1 photograph of Captain Williamson Martin Alexander in funeral guard uniform, post-1885.
- 1 photograph thought to be of Captain Williamson Martin Alexander, c.1860.