The Stines Cemetery is located just east of Stinesville Road and north of the Lincoln Park Stone Company, in Stinesville. About 15 minutes off the road, there is a gate and fenced area that surrounds the cemetery. Huge trees have overtaken much of the cemetery and there are several downed trees. The front part of the cemetery was sunny, but deep in the back it was shrouded in darkness. Most of the stones have either fallen over or been knocked down over the years. According to the Stines Cemetery website, there is a civil war veteran, William A. Stine, buried in the cemetery. We were unable to locate his grave. This cemetery is an 1800s cemetery and unless it is re-stoned, it will disappear into the dirt. We are of the opinion that many of the stones are completely buried. The lettering was very hard to read on the stones we did find.

The 33rd History Center Garage Sale set a new record by earning $78,026 at the annual June event. Huge thankyou’s go to the many donors of merchandise; to the approximately 45 volunteers who helped before, during, and after; and to COOK Pharmica for providing the 22,000-square-foot warehouse. Our reputation for both quality and quantity of merchandise has spread. Many buyers came from out of town and were repeat customers. Every year we improve upon our system and presentation, as every year the sale has grown. The History Center is extremely proud to sponsor this event, which raises money for operating expenses, recycles good usable merchandise, promotes awareness of the History Center, and generates a strong sense of fellowship among the many volunteers, staff, and the public.

Next: Holiday Sale
We are now accepting donated items for the annual Holiday Shop at the History Center. Please bring good-quality holiday decorations and like-new gift items to the History Center any time. Gift-type donations could include jewelry, small antiques, decorative items, and such new/unused items as gloves, scarves, games, and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 4, so we need donations before then if possible. Re-gifting of those never-used or gently-used items is encouraged!

June 2015: Thinking Ahead
We also can accept donations for next year’s big June sale anytime because, thanks to the generosity of COOK Pharmica, we can store items at the warehouse year-round. Call the museum to make arrangements for bringing donations to the warehouse, or drop off smaller items at the History Center, Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm, and we will transfer them to the warehouse.

Again: Our Sincerest Thanks to the Greatest Volunteers!
Congratulations to the volunteer garage sale crew of outstanding ladies and gentlemen, who we expect will return for more fun in 2015. In the meantime, there are lots of other volunteer opportunities at the History Center and for the many events that we sponsor throughout the year.

Help the History Center save resources by having your newsletter sent to your email. To opt out of the paper copy and start receiving your newsletter in your inbox email Hillary Detty at: admin@monroehistory.org
Calendar of Events
All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

August
- 7th, 4:00pm, Cemetery Committee
- 9th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday's Child, free and open to the public
- 21st, 4:30pm, Board of Directors' monthly meeting

September
- 3rd, 5:00pm, Friday Folk Series
- 13th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday's Child, free and open to the public
- 19th, 7:00pm, Civil War Roundtable meeting, free and open to the public
- 18th, 4:30pm, Board of Directors' monthly meeting

The History Center would like to recognize and thank Commercial Service of Bloomington for their excellent service during the installation of two new HVAC units in the museum galleries and two new de-humidifiers in the Research Library. Commercial Service helps the History Center maintain our county’s past for future generations by working with the History Center to provide an optimal environment for our county’s many treasures.

Current & Upcoming Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

"Cracking the Code: Quilt Pattern Meanings" March 6, 2014 to August 1, 2014
In the past, many thought that some quilts made during the mid-19th century were created to aid travelers on the Underground Railroad. However, recent historical research has found no evidence to support this theory of quilt patterns as tools of communication. This exhibit highlights many quilts from our collection and examines different quilt patterns and their purported meanings.

"Auto Indiana", travelling exhibit on loan from the Indiana Historical Society May 9, 2014 to December 31, 2014
From Elwood Haynes's early machine to today's numerous parts manufacturers, this exhibition explores the role of the automobile in the Hoosier State. Indiana was one of the leaders in automobile production until the 1930s when Detroit emerged as the nation's technological and industrial giant. The exhibit also highlights the impact of the automobile on Monroe County and southern Indiana.

"Living in Color, by Avi Katz" April 1, 2014 to September 7, 2014
Local artist, Avi Katz, has taken historic photographs and turned them into colorized, painted masterpieces.

"Celebrating Lotus" August 1, 2014 to November 29, 2014
From his quaint hometown in Orange County, Indiana to cities all over America, Southern Indiana musician Lotus Dickey made his mark on the musical world. A prolific singer-songwriter who played guitar and fiddle, Dickey had a love for music unmatched by any other. In honor of the legend, the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival was established in Bloomington in 1994 as a celebration of music, song, dance, and art. As the 21st Lotus Festival approaches, the Monroe County History Center Community Voices Gallery presents: Celebrating Lotus.

Chickens in the City, 104 Years Ago in Bloomington
By Penelope Mathiesen

Recently, the pros and cons of allowing chickens and other small livestock within the city limits has been a hot topic in local newspapers. A century ago, however, chickens were an everyday presence in Bloomington. Some people kept backyard flocks, and live fowl could be purchased at the grocery store. The chicken in the following newspaper item laid an unusual claim to fame!

The hen in question “escaped from a local grocery store” and entered the court house. We can assume that the store must have been close at hand. The Bloomington City Directory for 1909–10, published at the time the item appeared in the newspaper, lists six establishments around the courthouse square that sold groceries: Collins-Treadway Co. (102 S. College), Hunt & Co. (102 W. Kirkwood), W. S. Sentney (northeast corner of the square), Urmey & Kinser (northeast corner of the square), Whitaker Grocery Co. (southeast corner of the square), and The Wicks Co. (north side of the square).

[Unidentified Bloomington newspaper], 9 June 1910

HEN LAYS EGG IN COURT HOUSE, CLIMBS TO THIRD FLOOR AND TRIES TO REACH THE DOME

A large Plymouth Rock hen escaped from a coop in a local grocery yesterday, mounted to the third story of the court house and laid an egg at the entrance to the dome, defying the recent ordinance of the city council prohibiting fowls from running at large.

The hen entered the east door of the building chased by a boy from the store. The boy returned to the store, saying that he could not find her. Late in the afternoon as Sandy Cardwell, custodian, was sweeping in the court room, he heard the cackle and going back in the direction of the noise, found the hen and a nice big egg. The hen did not want to leave the building, and only after the repeated “shooing” of Mr. Cardwell assisted by Deputy Sheriff Routte would she descend the marble stairs to the first floor again. Sandy says the hen was honest and took that means of paying her share of the taxes.
Monroe County Estray Book, 1833–1846

By Beth Lau

The Research Library contains an “Estray Book” from Monroe County for the years 1833–1846. An estray is what we refer to today as a stray animal, or one roaming at large without an identifiable owner. The entries in the library’s “Estray Book” are written, signed, and dated by justices of the peace (abbreviated “J.P.”), before whom individuals could bring such wandering livestock and become their new legal owners. Each entry gives the name and place of residence of the man (they are all men) who has “taken up” a particular animal, followed by a detailed description of the animal in question, taking care to note distinguishing features such as coloring, wounds, or ear-marks.

Earmarks would have been made by previous owners for identification purposes, but presumably that owner and his marking system are unknown to the men or the J.P. before whom they appear. Descriptions of each animal also include its estimated age and appraised value. The animals featured include “a dark bay mare,” “two head of sheep and a large weather [for ‘werther,’ a castrated male sheep],” a “red steer [castrated male cow] with white sides,” a “black steer,” a “red Brindle Heifer [female cow under three years that has not produced a calf],” a “white shoat [young weaned pig],” “two sow [adult female] pigs,” “two spotted Barrows [castrated male pigs],” a “white and red bull,” and many others cows, pigs, horses, and sheep of various colors, sizes, ages, and genders.

The following are some typical entries. Spelling and punctuation can be erratic and the handwriting difficult to decipher in places, especially for names. Square brackets enclose my own additions or comments.

“11 or 12 years old 13 ½ hands high—no other marks or brands perceivable—a white face and some white on his brisket and belly and his legs principally white—tho balance of him red. Appraised to $3.75 on this 1 day of December AD 1837. Aaron Pinseel J.P.”

“[no title] 1846. An estray is what

Dear Members,

After being the Treasurer of the Historical Society for over a decade, I am finding the job of President of the Board of Directors challenging, exciting and most of all rewarding. I have been blown away at our successes so far this fiscal year. Oops, there I go again sounding like a “numbers guy.” Our first ever Classic Car and Hot Rod show was a huge success. The feedback from the attendees was very positive. Our talented staff did a fantastic job. Our Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program was also very successful and well received. Of course, I cannot say enough about our record breaking Garage Sale. Over $78,000.00 dollars were raised. Those funds are immensely important to our operating funds!! The year-round hard work of the garage sale committee is amazing! The head of security at Cook Pharmica asked me “Where do they get all that energy?” During the summer the directors are working on a strategic plan for the next three to five years. Although we know where we need to concentrate our efforts, it will be great to have a documented plan. We will be using the talents and suggestions of staff and volunteers in this endeavor. I look forward to keeping the successes going for the rest of my tenure. Thank all of you for your hard work and commitment.

Sincerely,

Dave Musgrave

Local Family Gatherings & Events

The History Center is regularly asked to share the news about local family reunions, gatherings and news with our audience. We have decided to start posting family events in our newsletter. If you are holding, or attending, a family event in Monroe County and want to share the news with our mailing list, please contact Operations Manager Hillary Detty at admin@monroehistory.org or 812-332-2517, ext. 2.

Our newsletter is released bi-monthly, in February, April, June, August, October and December. In order to ensure that your event is posted in time, please notify Hillary by the 10th of the month before the publication release. Please include the family name(s), date, time, location, and the email or phone number of a contact person for the event.
New Items in the Collection
Compiled by Rebecca Vaughan

- Ceramic plate commemorating the Monroe County Fall Festival, 1962 and photograph of Hoosier basketball team, 1975. Gifts from: Rebecca Stanger.

Featured Volunteer:
Ava Dickerson has been volunteering in the museum collections since January of this year. Ava has provided much needed assistance in inventorying, researching, photographing, and cataloging the History Center's textile collection. A few of the 200 plus materials she has processed include a Spanish American war military uniform with trowsers and coat (1898), bodices, skirts and gloves (1880s-1910s), World War I-era embroidered silk handkerchief souvenir from France, and Coca Cola baseball and basketball uniforms (c.1940s). Following museum best practices, Ava also has carefully vacuumed a number of items from the collection, including Air Force and Army uniforms (1940s-1960s) as well as women's dresses from the 1920s and 1930s.

Ava is an undergraduate student at Indiana University majoring in English, French, and Archival Studies, a degree she designed herself through the Individualized Major Program. Throughout the past three years, she has worked or interned for various Bloomington publications, including Collins Living-Learning Center's "Dancing Star" literary magazine and Victorian Studies, an interdisciplinary journal. Ava hopes to work in a museum and/or archive with an emphasis on digitization and public access. Aside from her dedicated and meticulous work at the History Center, Ava also has interned or volunteered with the Wylie House Museum, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art as well as the Indiana State Archives.

By Randi Richardson
One of the oldest artifacts at the Smithville Museum and History Center is in Red Men Hall is a well worn, leather-bound Bible published in 1856. It belonged to William Leonard and includes information about his marriage along with the birth and death dates of his children, all written in a firm hand in brown ink.

William Leonard led the efforts to build the Smithville Christian Church in 1888. Photograph from the collection at the Smithville Museum and History Center.

William Leonard died on 12 September 1898 and was buried in the Smithville Christian Church Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Randi Richardson.

On 12 September 1898, William died and was buried in the Smithville Christian Church Cemetery. With at least the four youngest children still living at home, William may have felt compelled to marry again quickly. This he did on 14 February 1874. His second wife was Nancy (Guy) Boruff, the widow of Solomon Boruff.

Through the years, William became a prominent and an esteemed citizen in the Smithville community. He spent time as a township trustee, a township clerk, and was a member of the Christian Church where he served as a deacon for several decades.

William Leonard's family Bible, published in 1856. From the collection at the Smithville Museum and History Center.

William Leonard led the efforts to build the Smithville Christian Church in 1888. Photograph from the collection at the Smithville Museum and History Center.

Thirteen children were born to William and Lucinda. Their names, along with their respective birth dates, are noted below. Two of the children, David and Mary Emily, died in infancy. The others grew to be adults.

John Henry, born 27 December 1843
Martha Jane, born 18 April 1845
James Thomas, born 11 September 1846
Alfred Mathes, born 27 December 1847
Nannie Ellen, born 27 September 1849
William G., born 30 June 1851
David Milton, born 18 May 1853
Mary Emily, born 3 November 1854
Eliza Catharine, born 4 November 1856
Sarah Susan, born 7 November 1858
Silas Marion, born 13 October 1860
Lewis O., born 3 October 1862
Horner Leonard, born 10 October 1865

On 1 August 1873, Lucinda died and was buried in the Smithville Christian Church Cemetery. With at least the four youngest children still living at home, William may have felt compelled to marry again quickly. This he did on 14 February 1874. His second wife was Nancy (Guy) Boruff, the widow of Solomon Boruff.

Through the years, William became a prominent and an esteemed citizen in the Smithville community. He spent time as a township trustee, a township clerk, and was a member of the Christian Church where he served as a deacon for several decades.

William Leonard led the efforts to build the Smithville Christian Church in 1888. Photograph from the collection at the Smithville Museum and History Center.

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William Leonard died on 12 September 1898 and was buried in the Smithville Christian Church Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Randi Richardson.

On 12 September 1898, William died and was buried beside Lucinda, David, and Mary Emily in the Smithville Christian Church Cemetery. His brief obituary was published the following day in the Bloomington (IN) World. At the time of his death he was 81 years old.

Monroe County Historian
Aug/Sept 2014

William Leonard's Bible among Oldest Artifacts at Smithville Museum and History Center

By Randi Richardson

One of the oldest artifacts at the Smithville Museum and History Center is a well-worn, leather-bound Bible published in 1856. It belonged to William Leonard and includes information about his marriage along with the birth and death dates of his children, all written in a firm hand in brown ink.

William Leonard led the efforts to build the Smithville Christian Church in 1888. Photograph from the collection at the Smithville Museum and History Center.

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News from the Library
genealogy@monroehistory.org
Compiled by Nicole Bieganski and Penelope Mathiesen

IGS conference highlights

At the Indiana Genealogical Society’s Annual Meeting in Fort Wayne on 5 April 2014, the Monroe County Historical Society received a Development Grant that will be used by the Research Library for a project to index, organize, and digitize veterans’ oral histories. Library volunteer Randi Richardson was the winner of the Electronic Database award in the Publications Awards category. Next year, the IGS Annual Meeting will be held on 25 April 2015 on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. The featured speaker will be legal genealogist Judy G. Russell, who enjoys helping people understand the interplay between genealogy and the law. This conference will be within easy driving distance for Monroe County residents, so mark your calendars now! For more information, go to: www.indengenoc.org and select “Events.” (From IGS Newsletter, June 2014.)

New resources in the library

The following items have been recently accessioned:


* Rogers, Ida Chenoweth et al. Fifty Years: A Brief Account of the Graduates of Bloomington High School Classes of 1908 and Some Changes in the Town and School that Have Occurred Since Then. N.D.

Special Announcement from the Indiana Historical Society

Local History Partners Appreciation Days

In appreciation of our role as a Local History Partner member of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana Historical Society is offering a free weekend to OUR members!

Aug. 29 and 30

Visit on either of those dates and receive:
Free admission to the Indiana Experience
Free parking
10% discount in the History Market

Just show this newsletter article and your Monroe County History Center membership card at the Welcome Center. To find out more about the Indiana Experience and other programs and exhibits at the History Center, visit www.indianahistory.org. Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202
Free parking in lot at corner of New York and West streets.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jackie Gilkey will be unable to volunteer at our Greeter Desk in July and possibly some of August due to a broken foot. In order to avoid surgery, Jackie must remain sedentary while her foot heals. If you would like to send a “thinking of you” message to Jackie, her e-mail is: Jackie.gilkey@comcast.net.

Also, Greeter Tryna Loos had carpel tunnel surgery July 15th, so will be out until the second Tuesday in August, which is her next scheduled shift.

Currently, we are very short of Greeter volunteers, so if you know if anyone who might like to volunteer as a greeter, please ask them to contact Martha at the History Center, 812-332-2517, ext. 3.

In other news, new Collections volunteers this summer are: Carly Dannennmueller, Kristen Hengggen, and Caitlin Lamb. (Caitlin works on Saturdays at a desk in the Research Library and graciously assists with library patron needs in addition to her Collections work.) New Exhibits volunteers this summer are: Ashley Sullivan, Sam Bonham, and Gina Williams. Our new Library volunteer this summer is Emily Borchardt.

All our summer volunteers come highly recommended and are proving to be a great asset to the accomplishment of the History Center’s mission.
This year’s Gayle Cook Junior Historian Camps were very well attended and were a big hit for all of the attendees. Camp Director Holly Bales-Hall provided campers with a fun-packed week. Each day camper engaged in educational-focused, theme-driven activities, including songs, games, outdoor playtime, arts and crafts, reading, writing and creating! Campers also had time to journal their thoughts and ideas.

On Wednesday during each camp week, Holly and Hillary Detty, Operations Manager at the History Center, took campers on a field trip to a local venue that fit with the week’s theme. Rebecca Vaughn, Collections Manager, provided artifacts from the Museum’s collection to further engage campers about the week’s theme. This year, five awesome teens served as camp counselors: Ivy Richardson, Esther Winterman, Paige Sumerfelt, Mary Stewart and Eli Diersing. The camp counselors provided extra hands to attend to campers’ needs, and extra fun. They also assisted Holly with many other facets of camp each week. Their assistance helped to ensure the smooth operation of this year’s camp.

Week one, June 9 – 13, theme was “Indiana Sings: Indiana’s Music History” and was attended by nine campers. Wednesday’s field trip was to the IU Music School. Campers toured Indiana University’s Music School buildings and also took a look inside the MAC. Campers each received an ocarina which they learned to play and which they painted with their own individual artwork.

The theme for week two of camp, June 23 – 27, was “Gross History: The Yuk Factor” and had eleven attenders. The field trip for the week was to Wylie House Museum, which was built in 1835 and served as the home of Andrew Wylie, the first president of IU. Carey Beam and Wylie House docents explained to campers the “yuckier” side of daily life at that time, including lack of refrigeration and the use of chamber pots for personal sanitation.

Week three, July 7 – 11, boasted the largest attendance with fifteen campers. Week three’s theme was “Who Are We? Searching for Our Roots” and was complemented with a field trip to Rose Hill Cemetery to look at gravestones. Jennifer Barber of the City of Bloomington led the tour while several History Center Cemetery Committee members also attended to talk to the campers about some little known and interesting facts about the Rose Hill Cemetery.

At the end of each week of camp, campers gave their families and friends a delightful thematic presentation covering the week’s activities. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped to make this year the fourth consecutive successful year of the History Center’s Gayle Cook Junior Historian summer camps. We all look forward, enthusiastically, to next year’s camp. Can you help us with an upcoming exhibit?

In April of 2015 the MCHC is hosting an exhibit featuring Jeffery Wolin’s photographs of Pigeon Hill in the 1980s. The Museum is looking for photos of this neighborhood from the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. If you can help, contact Jenny Mack at 812-332-2517 ext. 5 or by email: exhibitdesign@monroehistory.org

The Monroe County Civil War Roundtable will launch its eleventh season in September with the annual Wiley Lecture featuring Gerry Prokopowicz, the host of Civil War Talk Radio, a weekly internet talk show that features expert authors and historians discussing seminal events in our nation’s history. Mr. Prokopowicz is currently the chair of the history department at East Carolina University and was formerly the director of the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Guests on his radio show have included such eminent Civil War scholars as Pulitzer Prize-winner James McPherson, Lincoln Prize winner Allen Guelzo, and our Wiley lecturer from 2012, the legendary battlefield guide and Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, Ed Bearss. Professor Prokopowicz also is a Civil War author himself with two books, Did Lincoln Own Slaves? and Other Frequently Asked Questions About Abraham Lincoln and All For The Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861–62. His lecture this year will be at a special date and time, Saturday, September 13 at 7 pm at the History Center.

The Monroe County Civil War Roundtable was formed over ten years ago as a reaction to the rising interest in the Civil War in the county, and especially the Monroe County connections to it that can be found. These have included in the past the story of David “Big Dave” van Buskirk of Co. F of the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry who was the largest soldier to serve in the Union Army at over 350 pounds; the work by his great granddaughter to maintain the cemetery in the northwest corner of the county where he and several other Civil War veterans are buried; and the letters of James Frank Fee, a local boy from Bloomington who went off to the war and spent four years fighting for his country’s freedom before coming back and marrying his sweetheart and living well into the 20th century and more.

The roundtable also has partnered with the History Center in several Civil War exhibits in the museum galleries and reenactment encampments on the lawn of the Old Carnegie Library. The regular monthly meetings of the roundtable are normally on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, with the December meeting being the annual banquet. Upcoming speakers for 2014-15 will include roundtable member and local author John Crosby in October. Join us for the annual holiday banquet in December. All meetings are free and open to the public, so round up a friend and bring them along to our meetings beginning in September.