Clear Creek Cemetery is on South Rogers Street, adjacent to and east of Clear Creek Church. Originally established by the church in the mid-19th century it is now owned and maintained by an independent organization, the Clear Creek Cemetery Association. At present the cemetery consists of 40 acres, 20 of which hold about 7,000 graves. The other 20 acres are maintained as open field, thus providing space for future growth. The oldest section is next to the church and holds the graves of most of the original founders of the church. There are at least ten Civil War veterans in the oldest section, as well as one Mexican War veteran and one Revolutionary War vet.

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

**Annual Membership Levels**
- Student/Teacher: $20
- Basic: $35
- Family: $60
- Sustaining: $100
- Patron: $500

**Corporate - Service Organizations**
- Exhibit Supporter: $100
- Gallery Benefactor: $350
- History Patron: $1000
- 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

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

**Credit Card #**

**Expiration Date**

**CVV Number**

**Signature**

**Print Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**E-mail**

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### Helen’s Harvest of Hats

**Afternoon Tea and Vintage Hat Auction**

**At**
The Monroe County History Center

**Thursday, November 6, 1:30**

You are invited for afternoon tea and an opportunity to see and bid on vintage designer hats.

The hats, dating from the late 19th century to the 1950s and 1960s, are from the amazing and extensive collection of Helen DeSawal.

**TICKETS:** Members $20.00
Non-Members $25.00

**Reservations are required because seating is limited.**
Call (812) 332-2517 ext. 2 or come to the History Center to make your reservations.

All proceeds benefit The Monroe County History Center.

A sampling of the 60+ hats that will be available to bid on during the event.

**Annual Canopy of Lights Open House**

While you are downtown watching Courthouse Square light up for the holiday season, don’t forget to stroll over to the History Center for our Canopy of Lights Open House tradition! Admission is free. There will be hot cider, pastries, holiday music, and our ever-popular holiday sale where you are sure to find that perfect gift for all of your favorite people! The doors will open on Friday the 28th of November at 5pm and will stay open until 9pm. Drop by, bring the whole family, meet friends, and enjoy our charming museum and gift shop.

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
The man and woman seated on the float are identified on the back of the photographs as “Levi Fyffe” and “Eagle.” They were among the Maple Grove neighbors mentioned in Peden’s columns. Eagle Stanger “had lived on the same [R]oute 7 farm since 1894.” Both the Stanger and Fyffe families were longtime residents of the Maple Grove area. Levi Fyffe (age 93) and Eagle Stanger (age 90) died in 1960 and are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Maple Grove was a close-knit community where neighbors helped each other out by sharing seasonal tasks such as silo-filling and threshing, the men doing most of the outdoor work and the women preparing hearty meals from scratch, using homegrown produce. As described by Peden, “You have to have several kinds of meat…you have to prepare 19 vegetables, make pies and cakes and [I]f you want to copy and record burial inscriptions in old cemeteries, also to record the reminiscences of older people.” “Grandpa” Fyffe was “one of the important remaining few who [could] remember much of the local history.”

The Maple Grove R.F.D. Club’s float for the Fall Festival parade reflected this interest in the history of their community.

Notes

3. The R.F.D. Club, “Home Decorating Can Be Fun,” undated article from the Bloomington Daily Herald Telephone. (R.F.D. stands for Rural Free Delivery, which provided postal service to rural residents.)
6. Stewart, “At Home with Mrs. R.F.D.”
7. Ibid.
Maple Grove R.F.D. Club Float in Fall Festival Parade

by Penelope Mathiesen

The first Fall Festival was held in Ellettsville in 1935 and marked the beginning of a Monroe County tradition. The event has continued, with an occasional hiatus ever since. Now called the Monroe County Fall Festival, the community spirit that sustains it remains a vital element.

The 1938 Fall Festival program listed four days (September 29–October 2) of events that drew both local and visiting performers and attendees. The community parade led by the Indiana University Marching Hundred. Other musical highlights included an organ recital, solo and choral selections, the “famous colored Foster Hall quartette of Indianapolis,” and the Morgan County Farm Bureau Band. Among the varied entertainment options were Sparkle, the Wonder Horse; Professor Wallenstein, magician; the WFBM Radio Stars; and something called a Movie Prevue. Festival goers competed in various contests: hog calling, husband calling (women), button sewing (men), twins (with prizes for oldest, youngest, most alike, etc.), tug-of-war, and wheelbarrow races for married and unmarried couples. Sunday morning’s church service featured a sermon by Dr. William Lowe Bryan, IU president emeritus. The festival concluded on Sunday afternoon with a Pageant of Progress in which over 200 characters depicted the history of Ellettsville and Richland Township.

The community parade was always an important feature of the Fall Festival. The accompanying photograph (taken in the late 1940s) shows a float sponsored by the Maple Grove R.F.D. Club. The tableau depicts a scene of rural domesticity, with a churn, an oil lamp on the table, a cast-iron stove, and people in old-fashioned attire. The R.F.D. Club was formed after World War II as one of the Monroe County Home Economics Clubs. It served the farming community along Maple Grove Road in northwestern Bloomington Township. It was named in honor of “Mrs. R.F.D.,” the signature line used by Rachel Peden in her “Hoosier Farm Wife” columns for the Indianapolis Star, which she began in February 1946.

The Maple Grove R.F.D. Club Float in Fall Festival Parade.

From the Director’s Desk

As I write this, I have just returned from the land of Garrison Keillor and Lake Wobegon. I had the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the American Association of State and Local History in St. Paul, Minnesota last week. Known as AASLH, this 74-year-old organization represents over 6,000 individuals and institutions that focus on state and local history in the U.S. The annual meeting always is a great opportunity for people to gather and learn what other historical societies and museums are doing, gain ideas about successful fundraising efforts, discuss the latest methods and technologies in the conservation and preservation of artifacts, hear about successful school programs and outreach initiatives, and generally celebrate state and local history.

I have been associated with AASLH since the early days of my career and find myself energized each time that I return home. This year was no different. Over 1,000 people representing institutions ranging from small historic houses to large state historical societies to federal agencies attended the meeting in St. Paul. I have pages of notes with numerous ideas, which I will share with the staff and board as we proceed with planning for the future of the History Center. I hope that the staff will be able to attend next year’s meeting in Louisville so they too can become energized and excited about local history.

AASLH calls itself “the home for history” and it really is. The organization encourages its members to share ideas and support each other — just like a family — as we each seek to preserve and interpret history for our respective audiences. I want the Monroe County History Center to be “a home for history” as well. I invite you to learn about the surprising stories of our community by visiting the Monroe County History Center — whether it is to use the local history and genealogy library, visit the exhibits, attend one of the upcoming programs listed elsewhere in this newsletter, or shop in our Museum Store. We will soon be announcing plans for our annual gala to be held on February 27, 2015, so mark your calendars now. Also, we welcome your ideas for programs, exhibits, and community outreach in order to make local history enjoyable and relevant to our community and our visitors. Help us make the Monroe County History Center YOUR “home for history.” Visit us soon!

David G. Vanderstel, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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.

27th Elkinsville Community Reunion

October 5th, at Bill Miller’s farm near Browning Mtn. (Carl Hall’s old farm). Bring well-filled baskets, drinks and table service.

They will hold a fund drive to raise money to pay for mowing expenses at the Memorial. This may be the last reunion, so please attend if you can. If you have any questions, you can contact Bill Lutes at (812) 988-2313.
We wish Sarah well as she begins her second year of graduate school!

Sarah Trew has been volunteering at the Bloomington History Center working towards a Master of Library Science degree. Her coursework at IU focuses on rare books and archives. After graduating in 2015, Sarah would like to work in museum collections. The History Center has been fortunate to have Sarah Trew as a volunteer in collections since January of 2014. Assisting with cataloging and digitization, Sarah has processed photographs relating to RCA, Little 500, the limestone industry, historic homes and area businesses (including Johnson’s Creamery, Harris Grand Theater and First National Bank). Through great attention to detail and thorough research, Sarah has generated over 200 records in our database relating to our photographic collections!

In addition to her volunteering, Sarah is a full time graduate student at Indiana University, Bloomington working towards a Master of Library Science degree. Her coursework at IU focuses on rare books and archives. After graduating in 2015, Sarah would like to work in museum collections.

We wish Sarah well as she begins her second year of graduate school!

Can you help us with an upcoming exhibit?

In April of 2015 the MICH is hosting an exhibit featuring Jeffrey Wolin's photographs of Pigeon Hill in the 1980s. The Museum is looking for photos of this neighborhood from the 1940s, through the 1960s. If you can help, contact Jenny Mack at 812-332-2517 ext. 5 or by email: exhibitdesign@monrohistory.org.

To explore Jeffrey's work visit his website: http://www.jeffreywolin.com

New Items in the Collection

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughan

- North Washington Street postcard, 1912. Gift of Pam Gililliat.
- Four 19th century school textbooks: McGuffey's First Eclectic Reader and Spelling Book; The School and Family Primer; Monteeith's First Lessons in Geography; 2 volumes. Gift of Harmon A. Baldwin.
- GAR commemorative materials; annual fair of Monroe County program, Henry Wahl's Hessler Brothers coupon book; First Presbyterian Church script and photographs of church production, 1883-1964. Gift of Monroe County Public Library.
- Postcard of McMillan Bridge in Monroe County, 1980s. Gift of Lucy and Marion Jacobs.
- Mid-America Festival of the Arts Button, c. 1990s. Gift of Samuel N. Rosenberg.
- Sarks Tarzian Selenium Rectifier Instructions, date unknown. Gift of Indiana University Department of Chemistry.

Notes

4. Ibid.
7. Monroe County Historian, October/November 2008, p. 3.
8. Bloomington city directory covering the years 1951–57.
12. Bloomington city directory covering the years 1931–47.
News from the Library

By Nicole Bieganski and Penelope Mathiesen

Midwestern Roots conference highlights

The Church Records Project has completed its 34,000 item database of member names from 19th-century Monroe County churches. It can be used to research family histories, and will help fill in gaps in other records. Two examples: 1) Prior to 1850 the U.S. Census did not enumerate all members of households, using only the head of the household. Our index includes names of women and children not otherwise available for that time period; and 2) Since the 1880 census was lost, the church index can serve as a partial substitute for those missing data. The database can be accessed at: monroehistory.org/indexes/Database/Web_Version.pdf.

Church Records Project update

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In order to make the index complete, we can use your help in obtaining records or histories from the following institutions: Bethel AME Church in Bloomington
Crossroads Methodist Church in Richland Township
Fairview Methodist Church in Bloomington
First Methodist Church in Harrodsburg
Harrodsburg Church of Christ
Hindustan Christian Church in Washington Township
Maple Grove Church of Christ in Bloomington Township
Second Baptist Church of Bloomington
Smithville Christian Church
Smithville Methodist Church
South Union Church of Christ in Van Buren Township

Contact Nicole Bieganski, the Library Manager, at (812) 332-2171 Ext. 4, or email: genealogy@monroehistory.org.

New resources in the library

The following items have been recently accessioned:

* Greiff, Glory-June. Remembrances, Faith, and Fancy: Outdoor Public Sculpture in Indiana. 2005. Contains information on public sculptures found in Indiana, including Monroe County and Bloomington. Gift from David G. Vanderstel.

* Historical Annual, Indiana National Guard, 1938. Contains illustrations and narrative concerning the 1938 Indiana National Guard and Naval Forces. Gift from Myra Baker.

* Pictorial History, Thirty-Eighth Division, Army of the United States, 1941. Contains illustrations and text related to the Thirty-Eighth Division, which included servicemen from Monroe County. Gift from Myra Baker.


Lost and Found

by Randi Richardson

Roger Duncan of Monroe County, Indiana, drove a Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCSC) school bus for 18 years beginning about 1981. His route took him through Smithville. Sometime in the 1990s, he found a school ring on the bus. He believes it is a Smithville High School ring because of the “S” insignia. He also believes it belongs to a female, who at the time of her senior year in 1950, had the initials “C. P.”

When the ring was discovered, Duncan tried to find the ring’s owner, but to no avail. So he took the ring home with him and put it in a drawer where it was forgotten for many years. Recently, he came across the ring and is again attempting to locate the owner or the owner’s family. Unfortunately, the Smithville yearbook can be of no help because it is believed none was published that year.

If you know of a female with the initials “C. P.” who graduated in the History Center.

Indiana Cars Presentation: A History of the Automobile in Indiana

Saturday November 1, 2014 1:00 pm

Dennis E. Horvath is an automotive writer and historian who writes books, blogs, and develops websites intended to energize and excite auto enthusiasts. His work allows auto enthusiasts to demonstrate who they are and what they care about. For him, sharing our automotive heritage fuels his creativity in developing new work. In the fall of 2002, Dennis and his wife Terri wrote Indiana Cars: A History of the Automobile in Indiana. In addition to these books, Dennis has been a contributing writer for Old Cars Weekly, and the Indianapolis Star.

Dennis is a recognized speaker on automotive topics to groups like the Antique Automobile Club of America region chapters, Classic Car Club of America region chapters, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, the Studebaker National Museum, the Lincoln Highway Association, Wabash College, and the Biennial Automotive History Conferences sponsored by the Society of Automotive Historians. Join us on Saturday November 1 at 1:00pm for this exciting look at a rich part of our state’s history. Dennis also will be available for a book signing after his presentation. Hope to see you there!
Annual 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 we are open. 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. We will, however, take donations year-round.

Not only will we have special donated items in the holiday shop, but the Museum Store has new and unusual books, cards, and gifts for you to see, too. We have popular children’s books such as *The Fish on the Dome* and *Stuntology* by local authors. We have the entertaining *Bloomington Then & Now*, by Derek and Jen Richey, offering an insightful look at the Bloomington of yesterday and what it has become. The newest book on local history is *Hoosiers* by IU’s James Madison, which is now available and would be a great addition to any Hoosier’s library.

Both stores are open during all normal History Center hours, Tuesday–Saturday 10:00am–4:00pm.

Slow Fashion Event

Rebel Weavers and Spinners

Do you know where your clothing comes from? The Rebel Weavers definitely know because they have made their garments themselves. This is Slow Fashion, an alternative to mass-produced commercial clothing. Tools once viewed as obsolete – hand-spindles, spinning wheels and looms – are being used today to create contemporary, sustainable hand-made garments.

Soon to celebrate their second anniversary, the Rebel Weavers and Spinners are helping to revolutionize the fiber arts by eagerly exploring new techniques and skills. Their monthly gatherings are characterized by hands-on spinning and knitting with ongoing show-and-tell of members’ fiber projects.

On October 11, drop in anytime between 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Monroe County History Center at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets where the Rebel Weavers will present a FREE public demonstration of Slow Fashion. Wearing clothing that they have made themselves by weaving, knitting, spinning and/or dyeing, members of the group will demonstrate a variety of portable looms, hand-spindles, and spinning wheels. Hand-knitted sweaters will be on display, along with scarves and shawls, blankets, hats, and many other items. Resources listing local fiber classes will be available and refreshments will be served. Contact Carrol at 812-339-7392 for more information.

A Celebration of Hoagy Carmichael’s Birthday

Join us on Friday, November 21 at 6:00pm as sculptor Michael McAuley and pianist Mark Wiedenmayer present a one-hour evening event surrounding Bloomington's favorite son. Michael will give a brief history of Hoagy Carmichael’s hometown upbringing and unusual highlights of his musical life and will show a short video of his vision for creating the sculpture located at the plaza north of the I.U. Auditorium. Mark will perform a small selection of Hoagy's songs during the program. A reception will follow the program.

Tickets are $5.00 each for members and $10.00 each for non-members. Advance tickets can be purchased starting November 4th by calling 812-332-2517, ext. 2 or visiting the History Center. Advance purchase is recommended since seating is limited.