The Griffith Cemetery is located within the highway right-of-way and is owned by the State of Indiana, but it is managed by the Bloomington Township Trustee. In most cemeteries you talk in hushed, respectful tones, but because of the proximity to the highway you almost have to shout to be heard in this cemetery. The fence that surrounds this cemetery is in very poor shape and needs to be replaced.

Round this cemetery is in very poor condition and needs to be replaced. There is no room for more burials within the fence, and the cemetery appears to be inactive.

Do you want to help preserve history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 7 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 Supporter $100
- Gallery Benefactor $250
- History Patron $500
- Monroe County History Maker $1000

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Print Name

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Corporate - Service Organizations

The Monroe County History Center’s annual gala has been one of the most popular fundraising events in Monroe County, often selling out weeks in advance. We invite you to join us for this year’s celebration of local history on Friday February 27, 2015.

The evening will offer the opportunity to meet and mingle with up to 350 local business and community leaders and fellow history enthusiasts during the cocktail hour, and to bid on one-of-a-kind items in our silent auction. Following dinner, you will hear from Indiana University’s Dr. Charles D. Becker, a noted underwater researcher and archaeologist. Dr. Becker has led dive teams in the discovery of historic shipwrecks off the coast of the U.S. and in the Caribbean, including investigations of the mysteries surrounding Columbus’ arrival in the New World.

As we prepare for the gala, we are seeking donations for the silent auction. Our wish list includes:
- points or certificates for a timeshare or condo getaway;
- tickets to shows or events in Bloomington, Indianapolis, or other nearby locations;
- art objects and jewelry;
- other unique and interesting items.

You also can support the History Center by becoming an event sponsor, which will benefit our “Experience History Campaign” to develop more interactive exhibits in the museum. Contact us for more details.

Mark your calendars now for our eighth annual gala – Friday evening, February 27, 6:00 pm at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Monroe County History Center’s annual gala. Contact us at 812-332-2517 or email admin@monroehistory.org with any questions or for additional information. We hope that you will join us there!

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:
admin@monroehistory.org
Calendar of Events

December
- 9th, 7:00pm, Civil War Roundtable, Holiday Dinner
- 10th, 11:00am, Coltrain Group Lunch and Learn, free with pre-registration
- 13th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday's Child, free and open to all
- 18th, 4:30pm, Monthly Board of Directors meeting
- 18th, 6:00pm, Local Author Talk and Book Signing, Dr. James Madison, free and open to all
- 24th and 25th, Closed for the holiday
- 31st, Closed for the holiday

January
- 1st, Closed for the holiday
- 10th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday's Child, free and open to all
- 13th, 7:00pm, Civil War Roundtable, free and open to all
- 15th, 4:30pm, Monthly Board of Directors meeting

Current Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

“MoCo’s Prehistoric Past”
October 14, 2014 to March 31, 2015
Come see and examine fossils of plants, organisms, and animals found in the Hoosier state and learn how they contributed to Southern Indiana’s natural landscape. This is a fascinating exhibit that will engage people of all ages. Special thanks go to the Indiana Geological Survey for assisting with the exhibit.

“Auto Indiana”
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 specifically highlights the impact of the automobile on Monroe County and Southern Indiana.

“Festival of Santas”
November 28, 2014 to February 7, 2015
The image of Santa has changed over the years. Come and explore how this jolly man has changed over the decades and where the images originated.

First Wreck on the Monon’s Indiana Stone Route

By Penelope Mathiesen

In 1899, the Monon railroad line established a new route between Harrodsburg and Clear Creek called the Indiana Stone road (see article and map elsewhere in this issue). The following newspaper item reports the first accident that occurred on this line. It didn’t involve a regularly scheduled train with passengers or freight, but was nevertheless considered worthy of mention in the local press.

“Bloomington Telephone, Tuesday, 11 April 1899

The first wreck on the new Indiana Stone road occurred this morning about 9:30. Though no one was injured, several had very narrow escapes from serious injuries. The engineer’s corps in charge of Assistant Smith desired to go down to near Ketcham’s, and called a hand-car to be used for transportation. There were ten men on the car including 4 section men. As they were crowded, Mr. Smith caused a long plank to be laid across the car, thus giving seats for four men, two on each side of the platform of the car. In the rear of the Davis farm, south of Clear Creek, is a big cut, from the sides of which project ledges of stone. As the car neared the cut some of the men discovered that the improvised seat upon which they sat could not pass through without striking the ledges. To stop was out of question, and the car dashed into the mouth of the cut. The board came in contact with the stone ledges, swinging it about and dumping its load. The costly instruments used by the surveyors were broken to pieces and the men with torn clothes and bruised forms hands and faces gathered themselves together and trudged back to Clear Creek to report at the general office the first wreck on the new road.

Both of these publications are available for purchase in the History Center’s gift shop.
It was customary when building railroads in the nineteenth century to construct them as quickly — and inexpensively — as possible. Then, after they were up and running and generating revenue, the company would go back and correct some of the problem areas that originally existed. This was the case regarding the 1853 Smithville route vs. the 1899 Indiana Stone route of the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Louisville (Monon) Railway between Harrodsburg and Clear Creek.

If you look at the comparative profiles, you can see why the builders originally chose the Smithville route and then later the Indiana Stone route. Even though there was a very restrictive hill northbound on the Smithville line, they only had to build two bridges on this route. Later in 1899 when they rerouted the line to the west, they eliminated the restrictive hill, but had to build 14 bridges to do it. They had to cross Clear Creek 14 times between the Clear Creek station and Harrodsburg Junction.

Besides avoiding the steep hill, the new route had another advantage. It is referred to as the “Indiana Stone route” or the “Stone Road” because the Monon also wanted a route nearer the vast new limestone holdings developing in Van Buren and Indiana Creek townships. The reroute provided that as well.

News articles from turn-of-the-century Smithville papers were extremely critical of the Monon for taking “their railroad” away from them because they were no longer on the “main line,” even though they still had some service until trains between Smithville and Harrodsburg were removed in the 1940s. A portion of the line was still in operation until the 1960s between Clear Creek and Sanders because of the quarries and mills in that area.
Bigger's Trading Post and Monroe County's Native Americans
By Lee H. Ehlman

A 1933 historical map shows, just southwest of Bloomington in Van Buren Township, "Bigger's Trace" and "Bigger's Trading Post." There are tantalizing but contradictory bits of information about these places in the Research Library's vertical file on the topic. Pam Service, the first director of what is now the Monroe County History Center, wrote: "Around 1820, John Bigger ran a trading post where Indi- ans banded for trade and brought textiles and glass beads." Unfortunately, she cites no sources for the information. The trace was a trail leading north from Lawrence County into Monroe County, the only path connecting the two on the map.

An unsourced document also names John Bigger as the likely proprietor of the trading post who in 1816 bought land in Richland Township, Section 14, in the southeast part of present-day Ellettsville, six or seven miles north of its place on the historical map.

Adding confusion about its location and proprietor, another undis- cerned historical article by Claude Parsons suggests that James Bigger was responsible both for the trace and the trading post. According to this article, James Bigger was captain in a rifle compa- ny in William Henry Harrison's army that fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. He organized rangers to protect Clark County citizens from Indian raids during the War of 1812. After the war he moved to Monroe County, and according to Parsons, established Bigger's Trace from Lawrence to Monroe counties. Parsons locates the trading post "...on a ridge between Clear Creek and Indian Creek near the present Kirkville." This would put it in Indian Creek Township, yet further south than the other two sources indi- cate. In 1818, James Bigger was appointed a "Justice," or auditor, by the Monroe County Commissioners. By 1822, he was sheriff in Morgan County and later moved to Illinois.

From the evidence we have, the trading post began sometime around 1815, but we do not know how long it existed. There is one fleeting reference to it having to move from its location one mile southeast of Ellettsville: "For their own safety, the settlers eventual- ly compiled the [amended] trail to move his post because the Indians were always quarreling with the [local] Creeks."

Who were the Indians who would have used the trading post? The Miami Indians had occupied all of Indiana in 1717, although Ser- vice wrote that they mainly used the Monroe County area for hunt- ing because the land would not support their farms. "The Delaware moved into the area after the Revolutionary War, having been pushed westward from their lands in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio. Miami and Delaware leaders signed the Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809, agreeing to allow the Delaware to share with the Miami land "watered by the White River." The Wea and the Piankishaw (also called Pecoskickers), both subgroups of Miami, were also in the area, as well as Pottawatomies. James Parks, Sr., in his reminis- cences, mentioned that "Delaware and Pottawatome were quite plentiful [and]...quite friendly" in the area of his 1817 farm in sec- tion 14 of Richland Township. He wrote that "they had a trading post within a half mile of where I now live."

After 1818, when the New Purchase of the Treaty of St. Mary's was signed, Monroe County owned all of what previously had been Indian land. In that year the Delaware were forced west into Missouri, Arkansas, and in 1831 onto a reservation in Kansas. In 1867 they were removed again to a reservation in Oklahoma. The Miami, Wea, and Piankishaw groups began ceding land beginning in 1803, and made their last Indiana land cession in 1840. They were unwilling to leave, and in 1846 the army forcibly removed many to Kansas. Some eluded that removal, or later returned. In the 1870s these Miami groups joined in a federation in Oklahoma. In 1950, there were 700 Miami still living in Indiana.10

Notes
1. Indiana Department of Natural Resources Publication No. 122 (1933, rev. 1960).
9. Ibid., p. 499.
and literacy projects. It fed children and redistributed food, built buildings and roads, and operated large arts, drama, media, and public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and schools. At the onset of the Great Depression, the federal government instituted an extensive program of unemployment relief. At its peak in 1938, the WPA provided paid jobs for 3 million unemployed men and some women. Between 1935 and 1943, it provided almost 8 million jobs. The WPA tried to provide one paid job for all families where the breadwinner suffered long-term unemployment.

In 1939, responsibility for the direct relief of Indiana residents was transferred to the Indiana Department of Public Welfare and administered through county departments. People in need of assistance filled out comprehensive applications that included information about every member of the household. The agency then did a home inspection to verify the information and, based upon their findings, financial assistance and/or job referrals were made. Both the application and inspection reports became part of the applicant’s file.

With the economic boom of World War II that coincided closely with a reduction in unemployment, the relief program was liquidated. Eventually, without state mandates to preserve the files, they were destroyed. In Indiana, the one known exception was the records from Monroe County, which survived.

For a number of years, the Monroe County records were located in boxes at the Monroe County History Center in Bloomington and were not available for public review. Several years ago, however, following a consultation with the Indiana State Archives, the records were moved to the Archives building in Indianapolis and indexed preparatory to making them available for research.

Within the past few months this index was placed online along with a number of other databases and is now available on the Archives web server at http://www.in.gov/icpr/2355.htm. A hard copy of the index is also available at the Monroe County History Center. The index includes only the name of the head of household and finding information.

Actual files, all rich with information of great value to genealogists, can be accessed at the State Archives located at 6440 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. To view the files on site, it is best to contact the Archives 24 hours in advance of a visit to be certain of availability. Additionally, requests for copies can be made by phone or email. Remember to include the location information as well as the file name when making a request.

At the onset of the Great Depression, the federal government instituted an extensive program of unemployment relief. After September 1935, direct relief to the unemployed was transferred to the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The WPA employed millions of unskilled workers to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads, and operated large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects. It fed children and redistributed food, clothing, and housing. Almost every community in the United States had a park, bridge, or school constructed by the agency.

As you read in President Musgrave’s message, the History Center’s Operations Manager Hillary Feldmeyer-Detty resigned her position effective November 25 to take a position with Cook Medical. Hillary was a dedicated, hard-working staff member who handled numerous responsibilities and contributed to the smooth operation of the History Center during her five-year tenure. She will be greatly missed.

Research Library Manager Nicole Bieganski also departed the History Center in mid-October to take a new position with the Indiana University Archives. She is serving as the archivist for the Richard G. Lugar senatorial papers.

Congratulations and best wishes to both Hillary and Nicole in their new positions!

We are pleased to welcome Erin Anderson as the new Education and Public Programs Manager. See her story on page 7. We also welcome Emily Borchardt as the new Research Library Manager beginning December 8. Emily has been an intern with us during the past year and is completing her MA/MLS degree at Indiana University. More on Emily in the next newsletter.
Annual Holiday Sale

We invite you to visit our annual Holiday Sale at the History Center during our regular business hours. The selection includes a wide variety of holiday decorations, jewelry, and crafts. We will continue to accept donations through the holiday season. Please bring good-quality holiday decorations and like-new gift items to the History Center any time we are open. Gift-type donations may include jewelry, small antiques, decorative items, and such new/unused items as gloves, scarves, games, and puzzles. The holiday boutique will remain open until early January.

Not only do we have special donated items in the Holiday Sale, but the Museum Store has new and unusual books, cards, and gifts for you to purchase. We have popular children’s books such as The Fish on the Dome and Stuntology. 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 Dr. James Madison of Indiana University — a volume that would be a great addition to any Hoosier’s library.

We also are pleased to offer the new 2015 Monroe County Cemetery Calendar compiled by the History Center’s Cemetery Committee. It features art work of local cemeteries made by campers in the 2014 Junior Historian Program.

Dr. James Madison Book Signing

Join the History Center on Thursday, December 18 at 6:00pm as we welcome Dr. James Madison to celebrate the publication of his new book, Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana. Dr. Madison is the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History Emeritus, Indiana University Bloomington. His books include Eli Lilly: A Life, 1885-1977; Slinging Doughnuts for the Boys: An American Woman in World War II; The Indiana Way: A State History; and A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America. Madison serves on the boards of Indiana Humanities and the Indiana Historical Society and is a member of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. He began teaching Indiana history in 1976 and has lectured and consulted widely on Indiana topics.

Dr. Madison will offer comments on his book Hoosiers. Who are the people called Hoosiers? What are their stories? Two centuries ago, on the Indiana frontier, they were settlers who created a way of life they passed to later generations. They came to value individual freedom and distrusted government, even as they demanded that government remove Indians, sell them land, and bring democracy. Down to the present, Hoosiers have remained wary of government power and have taken care to guard their tax dollars and their personal independence. Yet the people of Indiana have always accommodated change, exchanging log cabins and spinning wheels for railroads, cities, and factories in the 19th century, automobiles, suburbs, and foreign investment in the 20th. The present has brought new issues and challenges, as Indiana’s citizens respond to a rapidly changing world. Madison’s sparkling new history tells the stories of these Hoosiers, offering an invigorating view of one of America’s distinctive states and the long and fascinating journey of its people.

Books will be available for purchase, but you are welcome to bring your own copy for signing. This event is free and open to all.

Welcome Erin!

The History Center is pleased to introduce Erin Anderson as the new Education and Public Programs Manager. Erin comes to us from the Indiana State Museum where she led gallery and educational programming for three years. She also worked in the Indiana State Senate’s Page Office. Prior to that, she was a middle school social studies teacher for five years. She is eager to develop wonderful educational and public programs that will increase attendance and make MCHC more of a resource for teachers, students, and the community in general. She already has begun developing several in-house and outreach programs.

Erin grew up in Hope, Indiana, but has deep roots in Monroe County. Her great-grandmother’s family has lived in Monroe County for well over 100 years. Her great-grandparents met and were married here in the 1910s. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Matt, for fourteen years and they have two children, Cade (age 10) and Kaylee (age 9). Erin currently commutes from southwestern Shelby County, but she and her family are looking forward to relocating to the Monroe County area in the near future.