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

Corporate - Service Organizations
- Exhibits Supporter $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

E-mail

Expiration Date  CVV Number

Signature

Print Name

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

Credit Card #

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Bloomington, IN Permit No. 301

Monroe County History Center

Please 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: mchcoperations@gmail.com

We invite you to join us for this year’s celebration of local history at the Monroe County History Center’s Annual Gala Fundraiser. The event, which has been one of the most popular fundraising events in Monroe County, will be held on Friday evening February 27, 2015, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center.

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. There will be a cash bar, silent auction with one-of-a-kind items, and a raffle before the evening program. Make sure that you bring cash to participate in these activities! There is an ATM conveniently located onsite at the convention center.

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. In conjunction with this work, he has assisted in the development of underwater museums to preserve sites of shipwrecks.

You still can support the History Center by becoming a table sponsor for $500. Event and underwriting sponsorships are still available. Contact us for more details. Proceeds from the event will benefit our “Experience History Campaign,” which focuses on developing more interactive exhibits and educational programming in the museum.

Call and reserve your seats now since tickets are going fast. Tickets are $50 for members, $60 for non-members.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Monroe County History Center’s Annual Gala. Contact us at 812-332-2517 or email mchcoperations@gmail.com with any questions or for additional information. We hope that you will join us there!
**Calendar of Events**

**February**
- 3rd, 11:00am, Coltrain Group Lunch and Learn, free with pre-registration
- 10th, 7:00pm, Civil War Roundtable, free and open to all
- 14th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, free and open to all
- 19th, 4:30pm, Monthly Board of Directors meeting
- 21st, 10:00am, Indiana Barn Foundation Meeting
- 27th, 6:00pm, History Center’s Annual Gala, Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center

**March**
- 7th, 1:00pm, Curator’s Talk—Log Cabins: Endless Possibilities—quilts of the 19th century
- 10th, 7:00pm, Civil War Roundtable, free and open to all
- 14th, 11:00am, WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, free and open to all
- 19th, 4:30pm, Monthly Board of Directors meeting

**Upcoming**
- Watch for information about a reception to mark the opening of the Bill Cook exhibit and the “6th and Washington” exhibit, and to celebrate our 25th anniversary—coming in March!
- Also watch for information on the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and a children’s tea in April.

**Current Exhibits**

**“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.

**“Indiana Disasters” Traveling Exhibit**

*Begins March 3, 2015*

In this traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society, photographs from various collections from around the state capture unforgettable Indiana catastrophes. Newspaper headlines, illustrations, and survivor accounts show how Hoosiers persevered in the face of all types of disasters. Made possible by Kroger.

**Opens March 3: Close: April 1**

**“American Quilt Study Group Presents: Quilt Study of Civil War Era Quilts”**

*Begins Mid-February 2015*

The purpose of the Quilt Study Group is for members to replicate, either exactly, or as an interpretation, a quilt of a particular style or period. In this way, members can learn from the textiles about the history, techniques, and perhaps something of the person who made the original quilt. This year, the Quilt Study Group replicated 25 Civil War Era Quilts.

**Opens: February 2015 Closes: June 2015.**

**Research Library Hallway Project**

Nicole Bieganski, former Research Library Manager, planned a project to display important county documents and provide a more appealing entrance to the facility. She had learned that the poor hallway lighting, as well as the headstones and other cemetery items near the library’s door, had been off-putting to some, particularly younger, children. Furthermore, she had been asked to anticipate ways for the library to help celebrate Monroe County’s upcoming bicentennial in 2018. The hallway project met both of these challenges.

The Library Committee voted to use funds from the Lola Burkhart Bequest to support the project’s two parts. First, the committee selected furniture and cabinet-maker Nancy Hiller, who previously had installed the library’s beautiful permanent bookcases, to construct a handsome display case. Second, a local carpentry firm renovated the hallway leading into the library, including the addition of exhibit lighting. The result is a much more inviting entrance to the Research Library.

**Opens: February 2015 Closes: June 2015.**

**Calling All Genealogists: Register Now for IGS 2015 in Terre Haute**

By Penelope Mathiesen

The Indiana Genealogical Society’s Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, 25 April 2015, on the campus of Indiana University in Terre Haute. The main speaker will be Legal Genealogist Judy G. Russell. The conference is within easy driving distance from Monroe County, so don’t miss this opportunity! The registration fee is $35 for IGS members, $45 for non-members. The pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, April 21. Registration at the door is $50 for both members and non-members. The complete program, registration details, and driving directions are available at: www.indgensoc.org (click on “Events” and select “Conference”).

The Monroe County History Center has strong ties to IGS: we have received several grants over the years, and Research Library Committee member Michael Mahen is the current IGS president. IGS offers valuable resources for Indiana genealogists through its online publications and the growing collection of databases available (some free, others for members only) through its web site. The society supports activities such as the Indiana Marriage Indexing Project, state and county records preservation, and the matching grant program for the War of 1812 Pension Digitization project. If you are not yet a member, consider joining now.

Legal Genealogist Judy Russell will be the featured speaker at IGS 2015

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Legal Genealogist Judy Russell will be the featured speaker at IGS 2015
Preparing for the Upcoming Bicentennials

By Beth Lau

As explained in the preceding article, the History Center’s Research Library contains twenty-one record books, each one titled “Enumeration of White and Colored Males Over the Age of 21,” for various townships in Monroe County. The officials who compiled the record book for Indian Creek Township in 1931, having no African-American men to report, decided to redefine their mission. In this book, the heading “Colored Males” is crossed out and replaced with “White Females.” Also, this book, unlike the others, includes information on each person’s occupation and political party affiliation and thus offers a more detailed picture of its residents.

Few men had white-collar jobs. The majority list their occupation as farmer, quarryman (with some specifying their position at the quarry such as machine runner, hooker, powermen, blacksmith, lodge foreman, and superintendent), or general laborer. A few exceptions are a schoolteacher, several bus drivers, a Shower’s employee, and a clerk for Sim and Hudson, as well as a few men who worked both as a farmer and at another job such as mail carrier, bus driver, or county road patrolman. One man was employed as both a farmer and a quarryman. Clearly men worked strenuous, physically demanding jobs. Remarkably few identify themselves as retired, as does Frank Koontz, a “blind retired farmer.” The implication is that, if he were not blind, he would still be working. Aaron Young, age 45 and “deaf and dumb,” is a farm laborer. Life spans were shorter than today, as most of the men range in age from their 20s to their 60s, with few in their 70s, even fewer in their 80s, and none in his 90s. A note identifies Jacob S. Weyer, aged 89, as the oldest person in the township.

The vast majority of women give their occupation as either “wife,” “domestic,” or “housekeeper.” A domestic presumably does housework for someone other than her family and is paid for her services, and “housekeeper” is used by widows and apparently designates a woman who does not work outside her home but no longer has a husband. One woman is a housekeeper for her brother. Only three women, all in their early 20s, have jobs in the public sector. One is a nurse, another a telephone operator, and the third, most surprisingly, is a “steam shoveled firewoman,” probably at a quarry. At a time when so few women were employed outside their homes, it is encouraging to learn that this woman, Nettie Albert, did such traditionally masculine work.

As for political affiliation, most identify as either Republican or Democrat, with one man, Everett Teague, listed as a Socialist. The 1930s, sometimes called the “Red Decade,” was a period of widespread sympathy with Communist and Socialist ideas. A number of people state that they “don’t vote.” This remark is especially common among wives. Just ten years after women won the right to vote, some of them apparently chose not to take advantage of that opportunity.

By redefining their assignment as a census of white men and women over 21 and including information on occupation and political party preference, the Indian Creek Township administrators left us a valuable glimpse of its 451 residents in 1931.

From the Director’s Desk

Dear Members and Friends of the History Center,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a good start to the new year. The History Center was very busy over the winter. We welcomed approximately 500 people to our Canopy of Lights Open House. During December and January, people came from far and near to see our exhibits and shop at the annual Holiday Sale. Our volunteers did a tremendous job of stocking the sale with holiday decorations and gifts. The sale raised over $3,800 — a new record! A special “thank you” to all of the volunteers who made this event a smashing success.

2015 promises to be a very busy year for the History Center. At its November 2014 meeting, the Board adopted a new strategic plan, which establishes an aggressive agenda of programs, exhibits, fundraising, and community outreach goals for us. As we move forward with the implementation of this three year plan, we will be looking for your assistance in supporting those efforts by attending, promoting, and maybe even underwriting those events. Our staff is currently busy planning new exhibits and programs, including the next Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program scheduled for this summer. Details will be forthcoming.

In February we will be opening a semi-permanent exhibit in the main hallway that addresses the history of the corner of 6th and Washington Streets. It focuses on Bloomington’s “Colored School,” which stood on the corner from the 1870s to 1915; the Carnegie Library, built in 1917 and vacated in 1970; the extensive and controversial efforts to save the library from demolition; and the work that ultimately led to the creation of the current Monroe County History Center. We plan to have a celebratory reception later in March to mark the opening of the new “6th and Washington” exhibit and the updated Bill Cook exhibit, and to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the History Center. Watch for details.

I hope that you will attend our annual gala fundraiser on Friday February 27. See the details on the first page. Make your reservations now—seats are going fast. I promise you that it will be a festive evening to celebrate history. I hope to see you there! Thank you for your continued support of the Monroe County History Center.

David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director
**New Items in the Collection**

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughan

- Photograph of Bernie Clayton's experimental kitchen, date unknown; two Bloomington High School athletic award sweaters, 1966; one framed oil painting of John Hoadley, c.1910s. Gift of Tom Hoadley.
- Hunter Elementary School call bell, c. 1953; cast iron double spout smelting ladle and long-handled spoon, date unknown. Gift of Beverly Kinser.
- Horton Miracle No. 22” hand crank washing machine, date unknown. Gift of Eleanor Lahr.
- Purple Heart medal, WWII and framed hair wreath, 1880-1886. Gift of Robin Humphrey.
News from the Library
genealogy@monroehistory.org
Compiled by Penelope Mathiesen

Monroe County Civil War Centennial Committee Organized in 1960
By Penelope Mathiesen

On 25 April 1960, a meeting was called by Monroe County Judge Nat Hill at “7:30 p.m. in the courtroom on the third floor of the Courthouse” to “help plan the observance of the Civil War Centennial here.”1 “Twenty-four persons responded to the call,” including “representatives of Monroe County schools, patriotic organizations, and historical groups.” The purpose of the meeting “was to consider ways of observing the Civil War Centennial in Monroe County during the 1961–1965 period.”2

The newly established Monroe County Civil War Centennial Committee met on 13 June 1960 to elect its first slate of officers: Henry Wahl,3 president; Dr. Ralph W. Taraba, vice-president; Frances M. Harding, secretary; and Charles Records, Jr., treasurer. Committees on military records, window displays, historical markers, old local newspapers, collections of letters, a Civil War drill team, a newspaper column on Civil War happenings, a speakers bureau, and publicity were formed.4

Of particular interest to us is the genesis of a joint publishing project that involved our own Monroe County Historical Society. As a part of the overall Civil War Centennial observations, the following diaries were published jointly by the Monroe County Historical Society and the Monroe County Civil War Centennial Commission:

- Civil War Diary of James H. Hougland (1962)
- Pvt. Henry F. Dillman (1962)

Three more volumes of Civil War diaries and letters continued the MCHS’s publication series:

- The Civil War Diary of Col. Jeff Scott (1962)
- The Personal Letters of Captain Joseph Willis Young (1974)

The MCHS’s publication series has grown to include many more items over the years, but it is interesting to note that all of these original volumes are still available in the History Center’s Research Library and Museum Store.

Notes
2. “Secretary’s Book for the Monroe County Civil War Committee,” compiled by Frances M. Harding, [1].
4. “Secretary’s Book,” [4–5].
5. “Secretary’s Book,” [9].
6. “Secretary’s Book,” [10].
7. “Secretary’s Book,” [12].
8. “Secretary’s Book,” [13].
9. “Civil War Dinner Wednesday,” item in unidentified Bloomington newspaper, [April 1961]. Henry L. Smith was a nationally known educator and former dean of the IU School of Education.

Volunteer Spotlight: Fran Wampler

Fran Wampler has a love for genealogy, which prompted her to volunteer in our Research Library—twice! Fran has only been with us a short time this year, however, she volunteered in the library previously from 1987 to 2002 when it was known as the Genealogy Library. One of Fran’s current tasks is helping to laminate documents and papers to preserve them. During her past volunteer position, she loved helping library visitors with their genealogy research and questions.

Fran was born and raised in this area. She worked at GE for 26½ years while she raised her four children—one girl and three boys. When Fran retired from GE, she moved to Kentucky and lived with her son for a time but moved back to Bloomington in 2011.

She has 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. All Fran’s children now live in different states but she talks with them on the phone daily.

Thanks for your service to the History Center, Fran!

The Monroe County History Center owes its success to a dedicated corps of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering your time to conduct research, assist with programs and special events, greet our visitors, or a variety of other activities, please contact volunteer coordinator Martha Wainscott at 812.332.2517.

Watch for details about our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April!
RE-SALE FUNDRAISING SETS NEW RECORD!

The annual Holiday Shop at the History Center again set a new record in sales of new or like-new holiday decorations and gift items—over $3,800!! Thanks to all of you who so generously donated merchandise. And a special thanks to those volunteers who kept the shop stocked throughout the season.

Did you realize that your donations to and support of that sale and the 2014 June garage sale extravaganza has earned over $80,000 for the History Center this year? Thanks to all of you for supporting the ongoing work of the Monroe County History Center.

NEXT GARAGE SALE: June 12-13, 2015

We are now seeking and accepting donations for the June 2015 garage sale. Items may be brought to the History Center Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special arrangements also can be made to meet donors at the sale site; pick-up of larger items also may be arranged in some cases. We accept almost everything in good condition. Exceptions include: outdated computers or TVs, mattresses, contemporary clothing, and non-working appliances. Each year we love to offer a special, major item. Do you have a car, boat, golf cart, or other big ticket item to donate?? Let us know! Call the museum office, 812-332-2517, extension 2.

Donations are tax deductible and benefit the Monroe County History Center.

The 2014 sale earned nearly $80,000. Let’s set a new record in 2015!!

MUSEUM STORE

When you visit the History Center, stop by the Museum Store for a wide selection of Indiana history books, children’s books and games, craft items, and gift items. The store is open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

In conjunction with the Indiana Heritage Quilt Show held March 5-7, 2015 at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center and the Quilts of the Civil War exhibit at the History Center, we will be hosting a curator talk featuring Mary Jane Teeters-Eichacker, a curator from the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. Mary Jane, who specializes in American history, textiles, and quilts, will offer a presentation called Log Cabins: Endless Possibilities that examines the log cabin quilt pattern, which dates from the 1860s. The presentation will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2015 in the Deckard Education Room at the Monroe County History Center.

Visit the MCHC website — www.monroehistory.org — for additional information as we get closer to March 7th.

For more information about the 24th Annual Indiana Heritage Quilt Show at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center, visit www.ihqs.org

Welcome Emily!

The History Center is pleased to introduce Emily Borchardt as the new Research Library Manager. Emily began work at the Center on December 8, 2014. Emily is currently completing a dual MA/MLS degree in history and library science at Indiana University Bloomington. She has a focus in U.S. History and is particularly interested in the history of public health in the nineteenth century. It has been her career goal to work at a historical society and she is excited about the experiences and challenges the Research Library at the Monroe County History Center will provide.

Emily is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and completed her undergraduate degree in history at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She is currently engaged and plans to marry her fiancé, Ben, in October. She misses Wisconsin and Chicago, but greatly enjoys living and working in Bloomington.

Emily came to the History Center as an intern in 2014 and has proven herself to be excellent staff member. We welcome her to the History Center!

If you would be interested in learning more about the Research Library and possibly volunteering, stop by or contact Emily at 812.332.2517 ex. 5.