Monroe County Historian
Preserving the Past for Future Generations
Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

34th Garage Sale
June 12 & 13, 2015

The Monroe County History Center’s 34th garage sale extravaganza will be held June 12 and June 13 at the warehouse located at 1400 S. Rogers Street. Hours are 8 am to 6 pm on Friday, June 12, and 8 am to 3 pm on Saturday, June 13. Last year our sale made over $70,000.00, an important contribution to support the operations and programs of the History Center.

Donations for the sale may be brought to the sale site from 10 am to 2 pm until June 9. We have lots of good merchandise already, thanks to all of you who have been so generous. Special thanks to those who made TWO cars available for the sale. One is a 1998 white Mercedes; the other is a 1993 gold Buick Riviera. Both are “one owner” and in excellent condition. Each will be sold to the best offer on June 13. Call for details! Make sure that you visit the sale and support the work of the History Center. See you there!
Calendar of Events

June
- 7th, 2 pm, Rose Hill Cemetery, Limestone Heroes Tour
- 8th-12th, Jr. Historian Camp — "Lights, Camera, Action," registration required
- 9th, 7:00 pm, Civil War Round Table, free and open to all
- 12th, 8 am-6 pm, MCHC Garage Sale
- 13th, 8 am-3 pm, MCHC Garage Sale
- 13th, 11 am, Saturday's Child, free and open to all
- 18th 4:30 pm, Board of Directors Meeting
- 19th, 12 noon, National American Disabilities Act Legacy Bus Tour and ADA Exhibit Reception
- 19th, 1:30 pm, Cemetery Work Day, White Oak Cemetery
- 20th, 10 am Garden Walk, tickets required
- 21st, 12 noon, Garden Walk, tickets required

July
- 6th-10th, Jr. Historian Camp, “Let Your Garden Grow,” registration required
- 11th, 11 am, Saturday’s Child, free and open to all
- 13th-17th, Jr. Historian Camp, “Monroe County and World Culture Camp,” registration required
- 14th, 7:00 pm, Civil War Round Table, free and open to all
- 16th, 4:30 pm, Board of Directors Meeting

Current Exhibits

Community Voices Gallery
2015 represents the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on July 26, 1990. In commemoration of that event, the Community Voices Gallery will feature the voices and stories of Bloomington residents with disabilities, along with an historical overview of societal changes in attitudes and supports in Monroe County. The exhibit will celebrate the position of persons with disabilities as citizens, workers, artists, and contributors.

A June 19 reception (12 noon – 2 pm) will open the event, and be joined by the National ADA Legacy Bus tour on its Bloomington leg of a country-wide tour, ending in Washington, D.C. on July 26.

Opens: June 17
Closes: July 24

Hill Gallery

Stone Belt Art
In conjunction with the Bloomington Garden Walk on the weekend of June 19, the Monroe County History Center hosts the Stone Belt Arts Program. The exhibit showcases the artistry of persons with developmental disabilities from Bloomington, Bedford, and Columbus, Indiana. The artists work in a variety of mixed-media, including Stone Belt’s signature, the mixed-media mosaic.

Opens: June 1
Closes: August 15

Brown Gallery

Water Woes: Monroe County’s Issues with H2O
Monroe Lake has been our source of water and recreation for several decades. Before the lake, what did Monroe County use as water resource? This exhibition explores the trials and tribulations that our city and county experienced in order to secure a reliable source of fresh water.

Opens: July 18
Closes: January 16, 2016
From the Director’s Desk

Dear friends and supporters of the History Center,

What are the first two things that come to mind when you hear, “it’s summer at the History Center”? Hopefully, garage sale and the Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program are your responses! Our volunteers have been busy all year preparing for the big garage sale fund-raising event — our 34th! They report that there is a wide variety of merchandise being prepared for sale. Make sure that you mark your calendar and visit the sale to support the History Center. The Center also will be hosting three weeks of its highly popular and successful Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program. Spaces are still available so call and reserve your child’s spot now. See the article on page 6 for more details.

It has been a good and busy spring at the History Center. We have welcomed many school groups, numerous out-of-town visitors, and many organizations to use the facility. We opened several new exhibits. “Pigeon Hill: Then and Now,” an exhibit of the work by IU photography professor Jeffrey Wolin, opened to a large audience on 3 April. We were part of a progressive gallery walk featuring Wolin’s work at the IU Art Museum, the History Center, and Pictura Gallery, and we hosted a “town hall conversation” on 7 May that focused on the issues highlighted in Wolin’s work.

Our exhibit, “6th and Washington: One Corner, Many Stories,” continues to attract people to learn about the history of this corner and the preservation efforts for the Carnegie Library. Make sure that you visit to record your memories of the building. Also if you have any materials, especially photographs or objects from the old library, please let us know.

The American Quilt Study Group’s traveling exhibit of reproduction Civil War-era quilts is stunning — make sure that you see it before it leaves later in June.

Make us a part of your summer plans. Watch for upcoming new exhibits and new programs! Thank you for your continued support and visit us soon.

David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director

Farewell to Rebecca Vaughn

We regret to announce that Collections Manager Rebecca Vaughn has taken another museum position. Her last day with us was 15 May. Rebecca, who came to the History Center in late 2012, will become Registrar and Collection Manager at the David Owsley Museum of Art at Ball State University in Muncie. During her tenure at the History Center, Rebecca assisted in the development of numerous exhibits and provided artifact support for our programs. Most notable, however, Rebecca oversaw the conservation and cataloging of thousands of artifacts in the collection and improved the overall organization of our 60,000+ artifacts. We appreciate all that she has done for the History Center and extend our best wishes to her in her new professional position.

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Recommended Books from the Museum Store


LaTourette coverlet section, 1854 (#2015.008.0007a)

Featured Artifact

Six coverlets dating from the 1820s through the 1850s were recently donated to the History Center by W.H. Hegarty. The coverlets are thought to be woven by Sarah LaTourette of the LaTourette family weavers of Covington, Indiana. Sarah’s father, John, created woven coverlets for Parke, Vermillion, Warren, Tippecanoe, and Montgomery counties between the years 1828 and 1875. John’s wife, also named Sarah, dyed fabrics using indigo, black oak and bitter or red hickory, madder, sumac, and tree bark. Using coverlet and carpet looms, the family wove blankets, diapers, jeans, flannel, and carpet.

John LaTourette died in 1849. Daughter Sarah continued the family business until she married John Van Sickie and moved to Kentucky in 1872. The last known coverlet created by the LaTourette’s looms was made by John LaTourette’s son Henry in 1871.

New Items in the Collection

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughan


Wood stool created and used by a lathe operator at the Showers Brothers Furniture Factory in Bloomington, Indiana, date unknown. Gift of Mike Galimore.


"Gayle" Tumer Doll from Virginia’s Very Own LLC; accessories; photograph; and documents, February 2015. Gift of Gayle Cook and Virginia’s Very Own.

Tea towel from Indiana Sesquicentennial featuring map of state, 1966. Gift of Beth Lau.

Handmade quilt made by Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Kappa, Acton, IN, 1975. Gift of Bob & Peggy Petranoff.

5 fossils including large sandstone slab and four concretionary siderite nodules containing fauna. Gift of F. Rudolf Turner.
Contributors

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize all those who have provided financial gifts to support our operations.

January 1st through April 30th 2015

James & Margery Belisle
Mary Ellen Biedler
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dodd
Lee Ehman
Helen & Howard Dan Enslow
Molly A. Faries
Patsy Fell-Barker
Mike and Kathy Galimore
Melvin & May Hawkins
David & Susan Jones

Miles & Marjorie Kanne
Julian & Mary Livingston
Rachel Peden McCarty
Jane P. McIntosh
Joseph C. Miller
Patricia Powell
M. Ellen Riester
Michael & Evelyn Sparks
Theodore Wininger

Gifts in Honor and Memory

*In memory of James and Trudy Callaway*
Nancy Fyffe

*In memory of Anthony Pizzo, M.D.*
Anne Cady
Patty Pizzo

*In memory of Ross Jennings*
CFC Properties and Jim Murphy
Steve and Connie Ferguson
Aimee Hawkins-Mungle
Robert Riemer
Wayne & Margaret Schuman
Paul & Charlotte Ziellow
The Woman’s Club

*In honor of Linda Williamson*
Elaine & Phil Emami

*In honor of Carl and Giny Smith*
Jerard and Nancy Ruff

Corporations, Foundations, Government, and Organizations

Argonaut Club
Community Foundation of Bloomington/Monroe County
Monroe County Commissioners
Perry Township Trustee
Camp time is almost here!! There are still spaces available in all three of our Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program Summer Camps, but they are filling fast!! Visit http://www.monroehistory.org/jr-hist-page.php for the registration forms. Forms may be scanned and emailed, sent via postal mail, or dropped off at the History Center during operating hours.

**Lights! Camera! Action! Theater Camp** (June 8 – 12) will pull back the curtain on the behind-the-scenes work it takes to put on a theater production. We’ll cover set design, costumes, make-up, and more! Registration closes Friday, June 5th.

**Let Your Garden Grow! Gardening Camp** (July 6 -10) explores the history and science behind growing a garden. Campers will learn about historical gardening like that of Native Americans and pioneers to the Victory Gardens of World War II. They will learn how to plant, nurture, and grow their own gardens, as well as study the importance of worms, butterflies, and even fertilizer. Registration closes Friday, July 3rd.

**Monroe County & the World: World Cultures Camp** (July 13 – 17) introduces campers to different cultures each day. Campers will travel the world without leaving 6th and Washington by discovering German, Irish, Native American, Chinese, Hispanic, and African cultures, all of which can be found right here in Monroe County. Registration closes Friday, July 10th.

Call for more details at 812.332.2517, ex. 3

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**Scholarships Available for “Let Your Garden Grow!” Gardening Camp**

The Monroe County History Center is very fortunate to have received a grant from the George E. Archer Foundation to support the “Let Your Garden Grow!” Gardening Camp. A portion of this grant is designated for camper scholarships. Please visit http://www.monroehistory.org/jr-hist-page.php for the scholarship form. Scholarship forms are due to the History Center no later than July 1st.

As of press time, there are no scholarships available for Lights! Camera! Action! Theater Camp or Monroe County & the World: World Cultures Camp.
Volunteer Spotlight

Ben Williams

Ben Williams began volunteering earlier this year in the History Center’s Research Library. He is currently indexing death records. His next project, which he will begin soon, is the indexing of information on local buildings and houses. Ben credits his mother’s career as a research librarian for his life-long interest in research.

After graduating from Owen Valley High School in Spencer, Indiana, Ben completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, and Communication and Culture from Indiana University. Ben is a manager at Ace Pawn Shop where he has worked for 15 years. Ben and his wife Kylene live west of Bloomington. Kylene also volunteers at the Wylie House. We are very happy that Ben decided to stop in as he was passing the History Center a few months ago and requested a volunteer application. Welcome, Ben!

If you are interested in exploring the different volunteer opportunities at the History Center, please contact Martha Wainscott, Volunteer Coordinator, at 812.332.2517 or mchcvolunteers@gmail.com

History Road Trips

The History Center has a goal of providing educational trips for the public to discover and/or learn more about places like Historic Vincennes, Columbus’ architecture and the Irwin Miller House, behind the scenes at the Indiana State Museum, and many more. We are in the planning stage of this program and would like input from the public, especially our valued members, as to what kinds of sites to visit and topics to cover. Please send your suggestions to Erin Anderson, Education Manager, at mchceducation@gmail.com, 812-332-2517 ext 3, or speak to her in person.

Receive your Monroe County Historian by e-mail

If you are looking for a way to reduce the amount of paper that comes into your home, you might consider subscribing to the Monroe County Historian by e-mail. It also will help the History Center save money as we seek to move towards more digital services. If you are interested, please contact the Operations Manager at mchcoperations@gmail.com or 812-332-2517, ext. 2.
Historic Geological Resources of Monroe County

By Bob Dodd

What mineral resources have been produced in Monroe County? Probably the first thing that comes to mind is limestone used for building. This is certainly one of the most important resources taken from the earth in the past and is still being produced today. But several other minerals are or have been produced in the county.

Early settlers found salt licks at places along Salt Creek where deer would come for salt. Because Monroe County was remote from any other source of salt, these pioneers could make a profit from evaporating the salt water that formed the licks. The salt water was leached from the silts and shale that were deposited in a delta formed by an ancient river that flowed from the east into an arm of the sea, which occupied the area in Mississippian time. Even before Salt Creek Township was founded early settlers were digging wells near licks and boiling down the water to produce salt. Goodspeed notes that as early as 1822 or 1823 Henry Wampler, Thomas Literal, and others bored down in Section 12 of Salt Creek Township (this is actually in present-day Brown County) to produce brine for evaporation. Brine was boiled in large kettles such as the one preserved on the grounds of the Monroe County History Center. More than 800 barrels of salt were produced each year at this time. Owners of the salt works successfully petitioned the county in 1823 to build a road to the area to serve the salt works. The creek and township were named for these salt works.

Salt kettle on the grounds of the Monroe County History Center.

In 1839 an iron ore furnace, the Virginia Ironworks, was operating in Indian Creek Township. (See an earlier Historian article by Lee Elman about this operation.) W. J. Wayne reported on the history of the Virginia Ironworks along with other 19th-century iron operations in Indiana. The ore, which came from nearby hills, consisted of ironstone concretions and siliceous banded ore of Pennsylvanian age. The ore was of limited quantity and quality and could not support the smelter for long. Also, the cost of transportation of the pig iron before the coming of railroads too high to make the operation economically sustainable. It operated from approximately 1839 to 1844. The Monroe County History Center Research Library’s Vertical Files contain extensive information about the Virginia Ironworks.

A very limited amount of coal occurs in Monroe County. It is found in the lower Pennsylvanian-aged rocks that make up the highest ridges in Indian Creek Township. In the 1890s coal was mined in the southeast quarter of Section 4 in Indian Creek Township. This is just west of the Mt. Zion Church and cemetery. The mine was abandoned when the roof collapsed after a few tons were produced. The mine was reopened in 1917 but only operated for a short time as the coal seam was of limited extent.

A small amount of gas and oil was produced in the county between about 1929 and 1987. The first discovery and production of gas was in the Unionville area. A small amount of oil was later discovered in Polk Township and northeastern Lawrence County. Of greater economic importance, especially at present, is use of the old Unionville field for gas storage. The structure that once yielded “new” gas is presently used to store gas piped in from outside the area. It can be stored underground in the natural pores in the rock and released as needed into the gas distribution system. A facility used for this process is located on Boltinghouse Road some two miles southeast of Dolan.
The gas and oil fields in the county are all located along the Leesville Arch, a gentle flexure in the rocks underlying the area. The “bend” in the rocks is caused by movement millions of years ago on the Mount Carmel Fault, a long inactive structure that runs north/south through the eastern part of the county. The gas and oil is contained in pores in rocks some 750 to 1,750 feet below the earth’s surface. Small gas discoveries on farms are mentioned in a few newspaper clippings in the library’s Community Files. Most of these are communities in the southeast part of the county along the Leesville Arch. Most of these gas deposits were probably very small, perhaps enough to supply a single farm for a few months or years.

When crushed limestone was first used for improving roads in the late 19th century there were no mandated quality requirements. Because a major part of the cost of crushed stone was transportation to the site of use, numerous small quarries were opened around the county. Many of these overgrown quarries are still visible. Some of the quarries have been filled to make the site suitable for building. For example, a quarry once existed at the site of the Building and Trades Park on West Second Street and another further west near the intersection of Patterson Road and West Second Street. Crushed limestone is still a major geological product in the county. Most crushed stone is used in highway, road, and driveway construction and other building projects. Modern requirements for crushed limestone are quite stringent. Currently only one (very large) quarry is located in the county (Bloomington Crushed Stone Company west of Bloomington on Oard Road).

Various kinds of clay are used for a variety of manufacturing purposes such as bricks, tile, china, and coating for paper. Small deposits of the clay, halloysite (a variety of kaolin), occur in the southwest part of the county in Upper Mississippian rocks. Because of the quality and quantity of the deposits, they have never been mined commercially.

The best-known and most obvious geological product in Monroe County is limestone used for building construction. Local limestone was used for construction almost from the founding of the county. The county courthouse built in 1819, although largely brick, included some limestone for its foundation and windowsills. The first recorded limestone quarry used for buildings was opened in 1827 near Stinesville. Because of the cost of transportation, limestone quarries did not become important until after the arrival of railroads in the county in 1853. The coming of railroads as well as the development of improved quarrying methods caused the building stone industry to blossom. Although changes in architectural styles and the economy have caused the industry to fluctuate in importance, it remains a major geologically based industry in the area. The history of the limestone industry is well documented in publications such as those by Bachelor and Sanders.

Notes
5. Ibid.
Glow from Hindostan’s 1895 Fire Visible in Bloomington

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following newspaper clipping describes a disastrous fire that destroyed Hindostan (spelled “Hindustan” on modern maps) in 1895. The unknown writer describes the lack of available water to fight the fire, the sad fact that some businesses were underinsured or carried no insurance, and the optical phenomenon that the fire’s reflection in the night sky could be seen from Bloomington—a distance of 12 miles—but seemed much closer.

The hamlet of Hindostan was laid out as 12 lots in June 1833, according to the History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties (1914). The small community still exists today along Old State Road 37 North in Monroe County’s Washington Township.

_Bloomington World, 16 August 1895_

Flames Spread with Lightning Rapidity, Destroying Both Homes and Business Houses While the Owners Stand Helplessly By and See the Fire Fiend’s Fiendish Work

Wednesday night shortly after ten o’clock the little hamlet of Hindostan just north of this city was entirely destroyed by fire. Owing to the scarcity of water the flames spread with lightning rapidity destroying almost everything in sight entailing a loss of several thousands of dollars, with but little or no insurance.

The fire was discovered in the rear of Samuel Houston’s grocery establishment. The store proved to be good food [for] the flames and in a remarkable [sic] short space of time had spread to the store of Wm. Neal. The post office and its contents was [sic] the next victim for the flames. Two dwelling houses of Samuel Houston’s were next burned, and a store room owned by Lewis & Co. of Martinsville, which was followed by other dwellings. The fire in fact just burned itself out, as it was impossible for the citizens to make much of a fight, there being little or no water in reach of the fire. The bucket brigade succeeded in saving several buildings after a hard fought battle.

The property of Samuel Houston was valued at $1,200; insured for $800. The store room of Wm. Neal was insured. The loss will amount to about $800. The stock of goods and building belonging to Lewis & Co., was not insured, loss amounting to about $1,000.

In the postoffice was a number of pension checks for the old veterans in that neighborhood, and they were destroyed. It was almost impossible yesterday to get a correct summary of the losses and insurance as the parties who brought the information to the city were very much excited.

Hindostan is about 12 miles north of this city and is a well known place, and where Col. D. O. Spencer spent many years of his life. The fire, or reflection in the sky was noticed here [in Bloomington] by Watchman Smallwood and it appeared to be only a few miles out. The light was seen for more than two hours. The fire is supposed to be the work of incendiaries [sic] and it is claimed that certain parties could explain if they would.
News from the Library

genealogr@monroehistory.org

Compiled by Emily Borchardt and Penelope Mathiesen

Monroe County Birth Index 1882–2014

An online index to Monroe County birth records from 1882 (the year the State of Indiana began requiring birth certificates) to 2014 is now available on the Monroe County History Center’s web site (go to the Research Library section and select “Indexes and Resources”). This compilation uses indexes of original birth records created at the Monroe County Health Department. The department’s indexing project is not completed; some years or sections of records are missing. When the project is finished, the History Center will update the online index. Our thanks to the staff of the Monroe County Health Center for their cooperation in sharing their indexes with us.

MCHC Research Library blog

The Monroe County Research Library has eliminated its bi-monthly newsletter. As a replacement, we have created a blog that will be regularly updated with interesting stories, upcoming events, and other library-related news. To keep in touch with the library, please subscribe at http://mchclibrary.wordpress.com

New resources in the library

The following items have been recently acquired:


* Burkhart, Ron. Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Indiana from American Legion Grave Cards Located in Indiana State Archives. 2014. Gift from Ron Burkhart.


* Hammel, Bob. The Bill Cook Story II: The Re-Visionary. 2015. Contains biographical details of Bill Cook’s historical preservation work, efforts to revitalize his home town, and the final days of his life.


* Lanz, Tom and Ron Litz. The Descendants of Johann Philip Litz: A Journey from Wurttemberg, Germany to Rock County, Nebraska and Beyond. 2014. Contains information on the Litz family with colored photographs and recreations of documents. Gift from Tom Lanz.

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: $500

Corporate - Service Organizations
- Exhibit 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

By: Carol Seaman and Carole Stinson
MCHC Cemetery Committee