Be a part of Monroe County history!

Tickets for the Monroe County History Center’s annual gala are selling fast! Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to meet and mingle with local business owners, 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 Sykes, a Motown expert who will share his knowledge and insight, focusing on the influential recording label in its golden age, from 1959 to 1972 in Detroit.

You can still 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 “Preservation and Conservation of Collections Campaign.” We are working to keep our building up to date to preserve our collections, benefitting future generations of Monroe County residents.

Call and reserve your seats today. Tickets are $50 for members of the History Center; $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.

Bylaws

Inserted into this newsletter you will find a copy of the proposed amended By-Laws for the Monroe County Historical Society. Please review and vote during the Annual Meeting on April 21st.

Inclement Weather Closings

The History Center will be closed on any days that Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) closes for inclement weather. Please check with the local media on extremely cold, snowy, or icy days to see if MCCSC is open. If MCCSC is under a delay the History Center will open as scheduled at 10:00am.
Current Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Rechter Gallery:

In February and March the Rechter Gallery will be undergoing gallery maintenance and exhibit installation as we prepare for part two of our Strength of Hoosiers Indiana Bicentennial celebration.

Hill Gallery: The Strength of Hoosiers: Struggle, Starvation, and Statehood

Curious to know what Frankenstein, vampires, and volcanoes had to do with the birth of Indiana? Visit “The Strength of Hoosiers: Struggle, Starvation, and Statehood!” This first part of a three part exhibition honors the Strength of Hoosiers in celebration of the Indiana Bicentennial. The exhibit explores the diverse populations encompassed by our state borders and the hardships early Hoosiers endured as our state was born.

February 9 - April 16

Brown Gallery: That About Covers It

Coverlets, quilts, and buttons, oh my! “That About Covers It” takes a look at the evolution of what covers us and explores what happened in our society to cause people to switch from making coverlets out of spun fibers, to making quilts from fabric pieces. A selection of coverlets from Sarah LaTourette of Indiana, a rare professional female weaver, will be on display, as well as the collection of button art by Mary J. Bowman of Bloomington.

March 3 – June 10

Education Room Exhibits

Monroe County Humane Association

Celebrate 60 years of the Monroe County Humane Association. MCHA has been responsibly and compassionately protecting, advocating and educating for animal welfare since 1956. Photographs and assorted documents tell the story of how this group has supported animal welfare in Monroe County.

Opens: January 15
Closes: March 18

The Railroad in Monroe County

This exhibit is filled with railroad curiosities and explores the growth and impact of the railroad in Monroe County.
From the President’s Desk

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! 2016 promises to be a busy and exciting year. As this is our State’s Bicentennial, we have new exhibits, programs, and trips planned as part of the celebration. The first of our exhibits entitled the “Strength of Hoosiers” will be opening in early February. See the exhibits section of our newsletter for details. Field trips for members are planned for Corydon, Vincennes and Indianapolis. Also think about participating in our “Adopt an Artifact Program.” It seems Monroe, the Schmalz Kodiak Bear, is graying and needs a dye job. Other artifacts selected by our Collections Manager are in need of professional conservation as well.

Of course, don’t forget about our upcoming Gala on February 26th. Hope to see many of you there for an exciting evening. Our new venue at the Convention Center allowed us to set an attendance record last year.

Now is the time to start volunteering, join a committee, or if you are interested in serving on our board of trustees, please let us know. A number of the board members’ terms are expiring at the end of March 2016 and we welcome interested members to bring their talents and ideas to our governing body. At our annual meeting on April 21st, the membership also needs to vote on the draft of the bylaws that are inserted with this newsletter as well as listed on our website. The Bylaws Committee has spent many hours amending, correcting and improving this important document. The Board of Trustees approved these changes at our December meeting.

Our newest committee is the Sports History Committee chaired by Bob Hammel. This group is enthusiastic and full of ideas. Watch for a series of celebrations of local sports anniversaries.

Thanks to all of you for all you do!

Sincerely, Dave Musgrave

Calendar of Events
All events held at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>8th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th-13th Share the Love, Share the Food</td>
<td>9th, 5:30pm,&quot;Victorians' Secret: Undergarments in Victorian America&quot; Lecture by Hilary Fleck</td>
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<td>13th, 11 am, Saturday's Child, free and open to all</td>
<td>12th, 11am, Saturday’s Child, free and open to all</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th, 4:30 pm, Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
<td>17st, 4:30pm Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
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<td>20th, 2pm, Wedding Preservation Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th, 6pm, MCHC Annual Gala</td>
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News from the Bookstore

The Museum bookstore has a wide selection of used books. Our most popular item is our variety of *Arbutus* yearbooks from Indiana University. Currently, our oldest *Arbutus* is from 1905! Stop by today to see all of our new and used books.
Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

2016 Adopt an Artifact Program

As part of the Monroe County History Center's Indiana bicentennial celebrations, exhibits, and programs, this year I will be highlighting items from the collection that need professional conservation attention. We could not bring you engaging and diverse exhibits if we did not have an extensive and quality museum collection. It is therefore important to preserve the quality and integrity of the artifacts in our collection through on-site and professional conservation. Various artifacts will be selected for "adoption" and displayed in cases in the first floor hallway. The "Adopt an Artifact" program allows a guest, member, or organization to sponsor an artifact and contribute to the costs of its professional conservation. This contribution can be made anonymously, or recorded. The donor or organization will be notified when the artifact's conservation is complete and any time the artifact is selected for display. It is my hope that this program will bring collections needs to light for the public, and help all to realize that the objects on display in the museum are only a fraction of what our collection holds. Artifact adoptions are a creative, unique way to honor an individual and are perfect at any time of the year. By "adopting" an artifact in need, you will be helping us preserve the past 200 years of Indiana and Monroe County history for generations to come.

Benefits of Adoption

Donations of $100 or more will receive: A Certificate of Adoption, recognition on our website and in upcoming Newsletters, notification of the completion of conservation, before and after photos, and a letter any time the artifact is used in an exhibit.

New Items in the Collection

- 1899 Bloomington High School Commencement Program. Gift of Marion E. Jacobs (2015.067)
- Fireplace mantel. Collected by Staff (2015.068)
- RCA Neckerchief with Nipper motif and RCA Perfect Attendance award. Collected by Staff (2015.072)
- Wiles Drug Store glass medicine bottle. Gift of Susan Bartlett (2015.074)
- Postcard, paper fan, receipt book, commemorative plate, and conch shell belonging to Dos Hite, grocery store owner in Ellettsville, IN. Gifts of Rebecca Rangel in memory of Maryfrances (Goodall) (Bault) Gorham (2015.077)
- 1940s era military fitness shorts and a late 19th century parlor stove. Collected by Staff (2015.082)
Volunteer Spotlight

This month the Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on all volunteers who assisted with our end-of-the-year events and work and helped us get through a very busy six weeks.

Our Canopy of Lights Open House was fun and went very smoothly. Even though the weather didn’t cooperate with us, everyone who came enjoyed themselves immensely. We were fortunate to have wonderful pianists for much of the event.

Children and their families and friends were delighted with An Afternoon with Mrs. Claus. It was very well attended with requests that we do it again next year.

The Annual Holiday Sale brought many shoppers to the History Center and exceeded income expectations. People always look forward to the sale and begin asking in October when it will open!

The 2016 Cemetery Calendar Unveiling and Bicentennial Kickoff reception showcased 13 Hoosiers who made History in Indiana. Treats such as Bison meatballs, Indiana popcorn and sassafras tea helped to make the event festive.

We also had much-appreciated volunteer assistance from the IU Serve IT students during December. They assisted in preparing for and also during An Afternoon with Mrs. Claus and also with our End-of-Year mailings for our Annual Appeal, Gala Sponsorship, and letters for the Gala Silent Auction and Wall of Wine.

The History Center couldn’t do what we do without the assistance of generous volunteers who donate their time and talents so freely. The History Center Staff extends a heartfelt Thank You and Happy New Year!

Share the Love, Share the Food!

February 9th-12th, bring in a nonperishable food donation for free admission to the Monroe County History Center. One food item for each free admission. No limit! The food collection will be donated to Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Come out and share the love and the food!
The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who have provided financial gifts to support our operations from December 1 through January 10, 2015

**Founders Endowment**
Robert and Joann Dodd
Ted and Loretta Condra

**In Honor**
Wildonna Heaton in honor of Helen Enslow
Mark Dodd in honor of Bob Dodd
Debbie Lemon in honor of David and Margaret Lemon
Robert W. Fulwider - in honor of The Fulwider Family

**In Memory**
Audrey T. McCluskey in memory of Eva M. Thomas

**For Education Programming**
Peter and Debra Kloosterman

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**Welcome to Our New Members**
Tim and Ladi Terry
Judy Fish
Ross Ridge
David and Kimberly Williams
Robert Parry, Jr. and Jane Parry
John and Margaret Page
Julie Beth (McFall) Vipperman
Alexis and Ellyn Pruitt
Joseph Ryan
Beverly Elkins
Mary Penzien
Volunteering: the Ultimate Exercise in Democracy!

You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community in which you want to live.

If you have some extra time and would like to volunteer at the History Center, we probably have just the thing for you! You can volunteer for 3 hours, one day, a month, or several days per month—it’s all up to you.

For more information or to request a volunteer application, call Martha at 812-332-2517, ext. 7. You can also find the volunteer application on the History Center website monroehistory.org.

Be a part of making history accessible for future generations!

Happily Ever After

Weddings create lifelong memories, but over time pictures can fade, flowers can wilt, and dresses can deteriorate. Learn from preservation experts how to keep your wedding memories safe for years to come.

Experts will discuss:
- Dress and Veil Preservation
- Photo and Paper Preservation
- Flower Preservation

2pm-4pm
Saturday, February 20th, 2016
The Monroe County History Center
Education Room
Free Admission

Holiday Sale Report—And On To The Big Sale

Many thanks to all of you who donated items, worked, or made purchases at our annual History Center holiday sale featuring Christmas decorations and gift items. We made over $3000.00 this year.

Now it's time to start preparing for our annual giant garage sale on June 10-11. The warehouse is already filling up! We collect all year for the big June sale, which usually brings in over $75,000. We welcome donations of antiques, collectibles, office supplies, furniture, linens, musical instruments, jewelry, books, artwork, housewares, tools, sports equipment, appliances, toys, and bicycles. The sale offers good clean, usable merchandise - no clothing (unless “vintage”), no old computers, no old TV’s, and no non-working appliances.

And, we especially need a car again to sell - We had two last year!

The June Sale will again be held in the warehouse at Cook Pharmica on South Rogers, and we sincerely thank Pharmica for all their help through the years.
News from the Library

Compiled by Emily Noffke and Penelope Mathiesen

Dedication of Archive Room

On 8 January 2016, a reception was held in honor of Julian Livingston, for whom the Archive Room has been named. Julian has played a very important role in the history of the Monroe County History Center’s Research Library, formerly known as the Genealogy Library. His many contributions include helping to make records from the Monroe County Court House available in the library and developing the library’s first web site.

New in the Library

The following items have been recently accessioned:


The White River Co-Op Store on Bloomfield Road closed its doors on 31 August 2015. This long-time Monroe County business had offered a variety of agricultural services, equipment, and supplies over the years. A group of community leaders helped organize its parent organization, which was incorporated as the Monroe County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Inc., in March of 1931. The board of directors was comprised of Luther Lowe (president), J. O. Daniel, William Detmer, Walter Duncan, A. H. Earle, Ray Fyffe, Robert W. Kirby, D. L. Lutes, Edward Bender, I. A. Sluss, and Albert Wells. The general manager was R. M. Mikesell, assisted by managers Paul Shigley and Ellsworth Moore.1

An article announcing the opening of the original store in 1934 stated: “It will handle a line of supplies used by farmers, including feeds, seed, fertilizer, fencing and other articles. Machinery for grinding and mixing feed was installed today.”2 The store was located at 423 South Washington, on the east side of the street between Smith Avenue and Second Street, in a building owned by Ed Duncan.3 The former occupants had been the Duncan Construction Company, Mobley and Fleener Express, and J. L. Duncan Real Estate.4

In 1950, the store moved from its downtown location to a new site on the south side of Bloomfield Road (West Second Street), just west of the intersection with Adams Street. Its offerings included “feed, seeds, fertilizers, coal, chicks, petroleum products, farm supplies and equipment, [and] dairy equipment.” The Bloomington city directory shows the Monroe County Farm Bureau Co-Op Association Hatchery and Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance at the same address.5

According to the city directories, the store was called the Farm Bureau, Inc. from 1934 to 1939. It is listed as the Monroe County Farm Bureau Co-operative Association, Inc. from 1940 to 2000. In 2000, a new building was constructed at the Bloomfield Road location (see photograph), and the store was known as the White River Co-Op until its closing in 2015.

The White River Co-Op provided lawn, garden, and agricultural supplies to home gardeners as well as farmers. The business was valued for its service to customers and for stocking specialized products unavailable in other stores. It will be missed.

Notes
2. “Farm Bureau to Have Store.”
Covenanter Cemetery is situated on the northeast corner of Bloomington’s High and Hillside streets, where many hundreds of cars pass by each day. While of modest size with about 600 graves, it embodies important aspects of the community’s history—its people, institutions, and events.

The term “Covenanters” refers to Presbyterians in Scotland who adhered to their own strict doctrine, deriving their name from the Covenant between God and the Israelites in the Old Testament. In North America, Covenanters became known as members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. South Carolina society was inhospitable to the Covenanters, who were strongly anti-slavery. Some came to Bloomington in its earliest days, a small part of what James Madison terms the Upland South migration.

Arriving in 1820, John and Thomas Moore and Isaac Faris were the first Elders of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. The small congregation met in a schoolhouse on John Blair’s farm near Tenth and Madison streets. In 1827, James Faris, along with his wife Nancy, came from the Pendleton Academy in South Carolina to serve as pastor for 38 years.

Other early Covenanter names echo today in Bloomington’s street names. They include, among many, Covenanter Drive, Moore’s Pike, Smith Road, Fee Lane, Blair Avenue, Curry Pike, East Cathcart Street, and most recently in 2015, Faris Way on the Indiana University athletic campus, where some of the Faris family farmed. The Woodburn and Wylie names grace both I.U. buildings and city streets, although both these families left the original church during the schisms in the 1830s and after.

In 1833, the first of several splits over doctrine occurred among the local Presbyterians when the “Old Light” and “New Light” and “Union” congregations of the Covenanter Church parted ways. In 1834, another group, the “Associate Presbyterians–Seceders,” broke off on their own. The “Seeder” and “Union” groups joined to form the United Presbyterians in 1864, and in 1869, the New Light group joined them. Their church now stands at East Second and Eastside streets. Separate from all of these was the First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1819 by Isaac Reed, David Maxwell, and others, now located at Sixth and Lincoln streets.

By 1836, the Reformed Old Light congregation had built a frame church, called “Bethesda,” on the west part of the cemetery lot. One account mentions that it had an iron rod through its middle to keep the walls from spreading under the weight of snow. It burned in 1847 and was replaced by a brick building. In 1878, a new church on South Walnut Street was occupied, and then in 1927 moved to its present location at First and Henderson streets.

This church followed very strict doctrines, including many prohibitions. They were Sabbatarians, and punished members who did almost anything except attend church on the Sabbath. Violators of this and other punishable errors, such as cursing, drinking alcohol, cheating, stealing, defamation, and voting or running for office, were subject to an internal church process akin to the civil justice system, in which this church apparently did not participate. Their records detail many instances of allegations of transgressions, preliminary investigations, and court-like proceedings with judges, prosecutors, witnesses giving written and oral testimony, and sentencing. Punishments ranged from declarations of guilt and repentance in front of the congregation, to expulsion and shunning by the church.

Covenanter Cemetery is positioned on a lovely hilltop, surrounded by a handsome stone wall. The oldest gravestone, that of Eleanor Ervin, daughter of Charles and Jane, who died on 27 July 1833, can still be found. James and Nancy Faris’s stone is prominent. Many of the early Covenanters are buried here.

According to one account, the 1833 schism among Presbyterians was part of a nationwide dispute over the abolition question. The Reformed Old Light Presbyterians were staunchly anti-slavery. Near the Covenanter Cemetery are the Thomas N. Faris and William C. Smith houses. Both the Faris and Smith families harbored slaves during their escape. Many others in the congregation also actively participated in the Underground Railroad or supported it indirectly.
The Bloomington population as a whole was split on the slavery issue. In fact, there were three active “slave-catchers.” William and Jess Kersaw and Cornelius Mershon attempted to apprehend and return escaped slaves to their masters for rewards. This was legal, according to the federal Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

The organization of the Underground Railroad included “stations” to the south of Bloomington at Walnut Ridge, north of Salem, and at Washington, in Daviess County, and to the north at Morgantown and Mooresville.

An escaped slave named Joel Bee made his way from Salem to the Samuel Gordon farm south of Bloomington, and then to Thomas Smith’s house, where he was harbored during recuperation from frozen feet. During his stay, J. C. Smith, a member of the household, taught him to read. He ended up in Canada, where he sent for his wife and child, who also stayed with Thomas Smith on their way north.8

John Blair was another active Underground Railroad figure. He was able to trick the Kersaw brothers, who were holding an escaped slave and her child for return to Louisville. While they were distracted by a nearby brawl, he spirited the two fugitives away to freedom. Another slave catcher, Isaac Adkins, was foiled by William C. Smith and his father, Thomas Smith, who were harboring an escapee.

Robert Anderson was an escaped slave who arrived at the Bloomington “station” in the late 1850s. He decided to stay, and joined the church in 1860. His descendants still live on the lot just north of the cemetery on High Street.9

Another notable burial in the cemetery is that of Elizabeth Breckenridge, who died at age 67 on 25 September 1910. Known as “Lizzie,” she was born of freed slaves in Bedford, Indiana, and worked from age 13 as a servant for Theophilus and Rebecca Wylie in their house, now Indiana University’s Wylie House Museum, located at Second and Lincoln streets. She was a member of the Covenanter Church for her whole life.10

All of Monroe County’s cemeteries carry historic tales in their thousands of graves. But Covenanter’s highly visible position makes it stand out. Its central place reminds us of near-forgotten forebears whose lives impacted the community. The Covenanter Cemetery and Reformed Presbyterian Church both live on as important pieces of our social and historical fabric.

Notes

4. I have verified memberships in the church’s register. The complete membership of the Reformed Old Light Presbyterian church in Bloomington can be found in the “Church History Archives Index (1818–1900),” accessed at http://monroehistory.org/indexes-and-resources.php.
5. For these church divisions, I have referred to unpublished histories of the various Bloomington Presbyterian churches found in the Research Library’s Church Files.
7. Henry Lester Smith, “The Underground Railroad in Monroe County,” Indiana Magazine of History (September 1917). I have used this research as the basis for this section. All those named were members of the Covenanter Church.
8. Ibid. Several other interesting stories are told in Smith’s article.
9. “History of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Indiana: 1821–1968.” Undated typed manuscript with no author named. See the Reformed Old Light Presbyterian Church file in the Research Library. Anderson’s 1860 date of joining the church was verified in the church register.
10. Bridget Edwards, “Elizabeth Breckenridge and the Wylies,” Bringing History Home: Newsletter of the Wylie House Museum (Fall 2009). I could not find her in the church registers, but her burial in the cemetery suggests she was a member.
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**

**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 Circle: $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

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

**Print Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**E-mail**