Fun for the Family!
Cool cars, games, music, food and exhibits. Open to everyone!!

After the car show, head over to the Buskirk-Chumley Theater at 6pm for a special showing of American Graffiti for $5.00 per person.

All Car participants may enter the show parking lot starting at 10:00 a.m. Enter the parking lot from the Lincoln Street entrance, across from the Public Library. NO ENTRY ON 6TH STREET. Free parking all day! AWARDS AT 3:30P.M. Must be present to win.
Rechter Gallery:

The Ultimate Sacrifice

“The Ultimate Sacrifice” exhibit will honor our Hoosier veterans and their many sacrifices, including death. This exhibit will focus on the personal experiences of those who served rather than on the wars themselves. Visitors, veteran or not, are invited to share their stories or memories of wartime or their beloved veteran within the exhibit. Join us in honoring our Hoosier veterans. Opening reception and free museum admission August 11th, 5-7 pm. Keep an eye out for more educational programs this fall about veterans and wartime.

Exhibit open August 9th – November 14th

Brown Gallery:

Life Behind the Wheel

Can you imagine life without your car? Discover how the automobile transformed American society and impacted Monroe County. Explore automotive expressions of recreation and entertainment, fashion, politics, and more in “Life Behind the Wheel”! Join us Sunday, October 2nd for free museum admission and our 3rd Annual Classic Car Show!

Exhibit open September 6th – December 31st

Hill Gallery:

Forgotten Monroe County

Take a look at “Forgotten Monroe County,” an eerily beautiful look at Monroe County as nature reclaim the handiwork of man. Photographer Kelsey Daniel explores the fascinating theme of rural decay after the abandonment of residents. As her motto states: “something that is falling apart, decayed, or overgrown has more character than something new – it has exponentially more stories to tell.” Opening reception and free museum admission August 5th, 5-8 pm.

Exhibit open August 5th – September 19th

——— Education Room Exhibits ———

United Way

United Way of Monroe County works to create a better world by motivating the power of our community to improve the common good with a focus on health, employment, housing, education, seniors, and childcare. Come see how you can get involved.

Exhibit open August - October

Monroe County Civic Theater

Celebrating their 30th anniversary, Monroe County Civic Theater is Bloomington’s only all-volunteer amateur community theater dedicated to providing theatre experience and opportunities for all skill levels. Come to the History Center September 23rd, 5-7p.m. for a celebratory evening of theatre.

Exhibit open during the month of September
From the President

Dear Members,

Since becoming President of the Monroe County Historical Society Board of Trustees in April, I have attended committee meetings, went on the bus tour of Vincennes, attended various programs, held a board retreat and worked the garage sale. During my first year of retirement, I wondered what in the world I would do to keep busy, but this year has been a whirlwind of activity.

The Board of Trustees attended a board retreat at West Baden Springs, Indiana on June 25. The current executive board members are Sue Ellen Bowman, Vice President; Vicky Fry, Treasurer; Lee Dodge, Secretary; and Scott Wissink, Associate Secretary. The board members are: Linda Forshee, Bob Hammel, David Lemon, Liesl Loudermilk, Janet Stavropoulos, David McCrea, Fred Dunn, Kathy McFall, Bob Dodd, Jennifer Moore and Dean McElhinney.

At the retreat, the board was given a review by Sue Ellen Bowman of the successful garage sale and how the committee puts on such an extravagant sale each year. We learned about all the hard work that goes into it and how many people and hours it takes to make this event a success. Dana Beth Evans explained fundraising and we discussed new ways of being involved. Vicky Fry went over the process of finance for the History Center and what we as a board want to see in financial reports. The staff joined the board in the afternoon to go over the strategic plan. It was a very successful retreat and I would like to thank all the board and staff for the wonderful day at West Baden.

I would like to encourage members to become involved at the History Center by volunteering, attending programs or becoming a committee member. If anyone has development experience and would like to help us enhance our development committee, we welcome new members. We are starting a technology committee and anyone with experience in computing is welcome to join us. The programs the History Center schedules are informative and entertaining. Please attend the programs as we strive to increase our number of visitors.

The staff members at the History Center do a marvelous job with exhibits, library, education, membership and volunteers as well as office administration. Our new Director, Dana Beth Evans, is leading the way in fundraising, advertising and marketing. Erin Anderson has set up the Bicentennial tours this year and the Vincennes tour was fantastic. We have a tour to Corydon and Cedar Farm in August and another tour to the Statehouse and Indiana State Museum in October. You won’t want to miss these tours so please sign up now.

Thank you to Dana Beth Evans, the staff and the board members for making my position as President of the Board easier. You have all done a terrific job and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Linda Stines, President

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

**August**
- 3rd, 5:30pm, Mrs. Ann Hay Jennings - The First Lady of Indiana, character talk
- 5th, 4:30pm, Kelsey Daniel, Exhibit Reception
- 6th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting
- 11th, 5pm, Ultimate Sacrifice Exhibit Reception
- 13th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child
- 18th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting
- 20th, Corydon Bicentennial Tour

**September**
- 2nd, 7:30pm, Friday Folk Series
- 3rd, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting
- 5th, Closed
- 10th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child
- 10th, TBA, Kiddie Drive In
- 13th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table
- 15th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting
- 25th, 1pm Deep Cleaning Day
- 29th, 5pm Night at the Museum
Museum Clean-a-Thon!

Have you ever pulled the couch away from the wall to find a colony of dust bunnies while Spring-cleaning your home? I recently visually checked the corners and nooks of the History Center only to find that we have several colonies of dust bunnies living among the collection and exhibits! I would therefore like to start a twice yearly Museum Clean-a-Thon to help us keep these bunnies under control. Our first event will be September 25th from 1pm to 4pm and will require much help! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Martha Wainscott (812-332-2517 ex. 7) to get your name on the list. Your help will be much appreciated! Please come prepared with comfortable clothes and a broom or duster if you have them. We will be sweeping all the nooks and crannies of the building and getting those dust bunnies to move out!

Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

New Items in the Collection
Compiled by Hilary Fleck

- 10 limestone carving sketches, 5 IU china pieces, 5 Ironstone china pieces, 1 child's doll. Gifts of the Garage Sale Committee. (2016.031)
- Various RCA photographs and items. Gifts of Gib Apple. (2016.033)
- 1935 Auburn model car and map of Indiana car manufacturers. Abandoned property. (2016.035)
- 5 RCA radio vacuum tubes. Purchase by staff. (2016.036)
- Print of "Christ's Entrance into Bloomington" by Jim Hull. Gift of the Garage Sale Committee. (2016.040)

2016 Garage Sale News

A Great Garage Sale!

The 35th History Center Garage Sale was a great success, earning over $82,000 at the annual June event. A huge “thank-you” goes to the many donors of merchandise - and to the approximately 45 volunteers who helped before, during, and after the sale in our 22,000 sq. ft. warehouse, for which we send a big “thank you” to Cook Pharmica.

Our reputation for quantity and quality merchandise has spread. Many buyers came from out of town and were repeat customers. The History Center can be proud of the sponsored event that raises money for general operating expenses, recycles good usable merchandise, and promotes museum awareness and fellowship among so many volunteers, staff, and the general public.

Next Up: THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP

We are now accepting donated items for the annual Holiday Shop at the History Center. Please bring good quality holiday decorations and like-new gift items any time. Gift-type donations may include jewelry, small antiques, decorator items, new and used items like gloves, scarves, games, and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 1 — only a few months away! — so we need donations before then. Re-gifting of those never used or gently used items also is encouraged!

June 2017: THINKING AHEAD

We can accept donations for next year’s big June Garage Sale anytime since we can store items at the warehouse year-round. Call the History Center at 812-332-2517 ex. 2 to make arrangements for bringing donations to the warehouse. Or, you may drop off smaller items at the History Center and we will transfer them to the warehouse.

AGAIN, MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!

We especially wish to thank the entire Garage Sale crew for an outstanding year: our faithful winter committee augmented in the spring by an outstanding team of ladies and gentlemen who we hope come back for the fun and excitement next June.
From the Membership & Volunteer Coordinator’s Desk

History Center Greeters Needed!

We have several morning and afternoon greeter desk openings for volunteers. As a greeter you get to welcome local, national and international visitors to the History Center! You also assist visitors who donate items to the History Center and those making purchases in our museum store. You can volunteer as little as one time a month for a three-hour shift or you can choose to volunteer for one shift each week—it’s up to you!

For more information, please call 812-332-2517, ext. 7 or e-mail mchcvolunteers@gmail.com. Please share this information with a neighbor or a friend who might like to spend a little interesting and fun time volunteering with the History Center.

New Office Support Volunteer Position

Did you retire from an office or have office experience and miss being in a lively environment? Would you like to assist the History Center office staff with things like preparing mailings, copying documents, some data entry or even possibly fill in a few hours for an absent front-desk greeter? We’re looking for someone who has experience in office procedures, is friendly and outgoing, and is comfortable with a flexible work environment.

If you travel from time to time, that’s ok too. We don’t want volunteering to stop you from doing other fun things you like to do! So if this kind of position sounds interesting to you, call 812-332-2517, ext. 7 and talk with the Membership and Volunteer Coordinator.

Kroger Community Rewards Program Can Benefit the Monroe County History Center

You can now link your Kroger Rewards card to the Monroe County History Center so the History Center earns Kroger rewards money!

Just go online to Krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the steps on the website. The History Center ID number is 45993. If you have a rewards card but don’t use a computer, you can call Kroger toll free at 1-866-221-4141 or call 812-332-2517, ext. 7 for help enrolling. The bottom of your cash register receipt will list the Monroe County History Center when enrollment is complete.

If you use your phone number at the check-out register, you can call 1-800-576-4377 and select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number, then choose one of the above steps to enroll your card.

You’ll need to re-designate the History Center each year. You should get a notice on the bottom of your receipt when it’s time to re-enroll—each region has a different month for re-enrollment. So check the bottom of your receipt often for your status.

Thank you for supporting the Monroe County History Center and REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR REWARD CARD SCANNED WHEN YOU SHOP AT KROGER! Scanning your card also gets you the reduced prices listed on certain items, so it’s a win-win.
Remembered – Celebrating the Lives of Members and Friends

**Phil Hathaway** was a Certified Public Accountant and had a career in both public practice and industry. He served as the History Center Treasurer for many years. He also served as Treasurer of the First Christian Church and was a past Treasurer of Cook Group. He was loyal to IU even though he graduated from Purdue University. The Rotary Club and many other service and professional organizations in Bloomington were fortunate to have him as a member. Our condolences to his wife of 62 years, Margaret, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Everett Farley** was born in Owen County and graduated from Spencer High School. He was a History Center volunteer helping out with the annual garage sale. He worked for Stokely Trucking for 19 years, where he had over 2 million accident-free miles. He then worked for 15 years as operations manager for the Star of Indiana Bus Lines. He loved singing, playing music and telling stories! Our condolences to his wife of 26 years, Louise “Lulu” Farley, his children, step-children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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**Bob Hammel Essay in Celebration of Indiana’s Bicentennial**

Bob Hammel was one of 14 distinguished Hoosier authors asked to write an essay introducing a chapter in *Indiana at 200: A Celebration of the Hoosier State* for the Indiana Bicentennial. On May 19 Bob autographed copies of the book at the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington luncheon. The speaker for the luncheon was Perry Hammock, Indiana Bicentennial Commission’s Executive Director. Mr. Hammock outlined all the activities taking place in Indiana during the bicentennial. Linda Stines and Glenda Murray attended the luncheon on behalf of the Monroe County History Center.

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~CONTRIBUTORS~

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who have provided financial gifts to support our operations from May 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016

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<tr>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Welcome to New Members</th>
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<td>John and Karla Kamstra</td>
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**Bicentennial Race Additional Donations**

- Walter Leavitt
- Lou Malcomb
- Linda Stines
- Martha Wainscott

- Brenda K. Polley
- Kerma Murray
- Ron Pennington
- John C. and Carolyn J. Huffman
- David and Natalie Garshaw
- Adrien Himm
- Pip Chamberlain
- Maryann Kopelov
- Jan Ellis
- Mary Strow
Special Bicentennial Event honors Maxwell and Lowe

David Maxwell and William Lowe were commemorated on June 11th at Rose Hill Cemetery for the important role they played in the writing of the 1816 Constitution for the State of Indiana. Thanks to the staff at the Indiana State Archives, a special wreath laying event was held. Professor Matt Pierce, State Representative for House District 61, talked about the first constitution and the significant features it included that made Indiana. Professor James Capshew, Indiana University Historian, described the roles that Maxwell and Lowe played. The Monroe County History Center's Cemetery Committee provided a Bicentennial Featured Hoosiers Walking Tour Guide (produced to accompany the 2016 Cemetery Calendar) to all that attended and assisted with the wreath laying. Several local citizens attended including descendants of Maxwell and representatives from Bloomington Parks and Recreation, which oversees the care of Rose Hill Cemetery. The event and MCHC’s calendar were recognized by the State’s Bicentennial Committee as official Bicentennial projects.

News from the Museum Store

Melville in Love

Celebrated local author Michael Shelden reveals “the untold story of Herman Melville’s affair with a shockingly unconventional and married woman named Sarah Morewood, whose anarchic spirit inspired Moby-Dick, one of the most canonical works in American literary history.”

Available for purchase in the Museum Store.
News from the Library

Research Library Highlights

A new edition of the *Monroe County Marriage Records Index, 1818–1881* is available in the Research Library and for purchase in the Museum Store. This second edition was prepared by Lee Ehman. Lee has also been busy digitizing our collection of marriage records. Books A, B, and 3–17 (covering the years 1818–1921) are now available as PDFs. This project will allow us to prolong the life of these valuable county records.

The Buildings and Houses Index is now available on our website (under Research Library Indexes and Resources). This index covers material found in library books, the Vertical Files, the Church Files, the permanent collection, and other places. Compiled by library volunteers Lee Ehman, Ben Williams, and Beth Lau, it will easily guide researchers to our many resources on local buildings.

Emily Noffke attended the 2016 Midwestern Roots Conference in Indianapolis on July 15–16. She represented the History Center with a booth in the exhibitors hall.

New in the Library

The following books have been recently accessioned:


* Richardson, Randi. *Day Funeral Home Records Index: 1918–1946*. 2016. Contains name of deceased, date of entry, page number in the original records, and notes. Gift from Randi Richardson. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)


Funeral Records: The Last Undertaking
By Randi Richardson

Death information comes from many sources, including county health death records, obituaries from newspapers, tombstone information and cemetery indices, inquest records, and last but certainly not least, funeral home records. The latter is probably among the least used but one of the most helpful sources available.

Funeral records are rich with information helpful to genealogists. Unfortunately, however, no law mandates that funeral establishments archive their records or make them publicly available. Consequently, few early funeral home records exist. As funeral homes go out of business or merge with other companies, records can simply be discarded. Additionally, some records are lost with the passage of time.

Because one may find information in a funeral record that is not readily available elsewhere, it is worthwhile to determine what records may exist and locate the same for review. Typically, a funeral record might contain:

Name and age of deceased
Date and place of birth
Name of spouse
Place of residence
Names of parents and their place of residence
Cause of death
Place of burial
Burial expenses

Although one might not think the cost of a burial would be of much importance to a genealogist, it often can be. Some of the earliest funeral records show burial costs ranging from as little as $14.50, far less than the average. This is a clue to whether or not a tombstone was provided for the deceased even though burial expenses do not include any tombstone information. If the burial expense is minimal, it might be supposed that one lacked the financial resources or interest in providing an engraved tombstone. The absence of a tombstone often precludes mention of burial in cemetery indices.

Another factor to consider while working with funeral records is that very young infants or stillborn babies frequently, but not always, are recorded by the name of the father. (In order to provide consistency among the records for the Day Funeral Home database index, the death records for all stillborn infants and infants of less than one year are noted by the name of the father.) In that case, information about the deceased related to name, age at death, cause of death, and place of burial is included under “Notes.”

Two Monroe County funeral homes, Allen and Day, have made their earliest records available to the Research Library at the Monroe County History Center (MCHC). The oldest funeral home in Monroe County still in existence is the Allen Funeral Home. Their records from 1908–1911 and 1918–1920 have been copied and indexed. (Records from 1912–1917 cannot be located by the funeral home.) An index of the records containing much extracted information is available in hardcopy at the MCHC2 and copies of the actual records are available at the Monroe County Public Library.

The records from Day Funeral Home begin in 1919. At that time, and until the end of 1922, information was recorded on nonstandardized forms, three or four records to a page, and was not particularly inclusive. Occasionally, it cannot even be determined if the record pertains to a death or an ambulance run. The records through November 1946 have been photocopied and indexed with a minimal amount of information. Both the photocopies and the index are available at the MCHC. (The volume containing records from December 1946 through sometime in 1951 cannot be located by the funeral home.) Records from late 1951 through mid–1953, and 1956 through 1958, have been copied and can be viewed at the MCHC, but they have not been indexed. Because a majority of the Day Funeral Home records have not been bound at the time of this writing, please check with the library manager for assistance.

Additionally, keep in mind that the date the body was received by the funeral home was not always the date of death. Therefore, it is important to take page, entry date, and date of burial into consideration if a given record is not found where one might expect to find it. Particularly, this might involve the bodies of individuals who died elsewhere, were prepared for burial, and were shipped to Day Funeral Home for interment.

Lastly, remember that contemporary obituaries often indicate the funeral home that took care of the funeral arrangements of the deceased. That makes it easy to locate the funeral record. On the other hand, if that information is not available, check to see which funeral homes were in operation at the time of an individual’s death and then check with them to determine if they might have a record for the person of interest. Efforts to locate a funeral home record are well worth the reward.

Notes
Bloomington Gas Company Established in 1898

By Penelope Mathiesen

Among the significant advancements in Bloomington’s history were the establishment of utilities that are now taken for granted, such as electricity, water, telephone, and gas. “Electric light and power were introduced to the City Council in 1886,” taking the place of “coal oil lamps on the streets, in homes and industry.” The first effort to establish a water system occurred in 1894. A telephone system was set up in 1895.

On 18 January 1898, the idea of a gas works was presented to the City Council by attorney Joseph E. Henley. He represented the newly formed Bloomington Gas Company, “which desired a franchise to make and distribute gas in Bloomington.” Henley “also asked the Mayor and Council for the right to erect and maintain a gas plant, with use of streets and alleys to lay mains.”

An ordinance agreeable to both side was passed at the next Council Meeting. “The Bloomington Gas Company was required to provide a suitable storage reservoir holding no less than sixty thousand cubic feet of gas to begin distribution. At all times, there must be a sufficient amount of gas in the mains to supply needs of patrons.” Rates were “based upon thousand cubic foot usage,” with charges for gas lights set at $2.00 per thousand and charges for cooking and heating at $1.50 per thousand. The special rate for the City building and Fire Department was 75 cents per thousand.

“The Gas Company agreed to pay all labor and material costs in connection with construction activities. It was evident that the City wished to avoid any damages, both personal and real, that might result from tearing up streets when mains were put in. Written into the ordinance was the demand for a surety bond to protect citizens [sic] and property.” On 19 July 1898, the City Council was informed that “all work of the company … had been completed according to the terms agreed upon.” The city had “reached another milestone in progress.” Gas was now “available for lighting, cooking, heating and operation of gas engines.”

Although the Jenny Electric Light and Power Company had introduced electric lights, “particularly street lights,” and limited power use in 1886, the idea of electric current for domestic use was regarding by some townsfolk with suspicion. “They viewed poles, wires and other electrical equipment, as dangerous and a menace to public safety. … With the innovation of gas for cooking and lighting, the public seemed at ease and saw no dire consequences in store.” As the Bloomington Gas Company progressed in laying mains on schedule around town, “quite a number of citizens … expressed a desire to take service.” Customers could, if so inclined, “dispense with the family cook stove and its demands to keep a supply of split wood or coal on hand.”

Thus in 1898, “the gas light era came as a companion of electricity to add to the splendors of the night.” Eventually, however, “gas lights in home and store began to be discarded and electricity, more potent in diversified uses, became the victor.”

A 1912 photograph shows the Gas and Electric Plant with its distinctive arched windows; a tall chimney and a round storage tank are in the background. The 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows the gas works occupying a block shared with the lighting company. The address was 301 West Fourth Street (on the southwest corner of the intersection of West Fourth and South Morton). Over time, the gas company changed names, and Bloomington city directories listed addresses on various sides of the block outlined by West Third, Madison, West Fourth, and Morton (the railroad tracks). For many years, the enterprise was known as the Indiana Gas and Water Company, listed in directories first at 302 West Third and then at 205 South Madison. Today’s “gas company” still occupies the same location, with the offices and facilities of Vectren claiming most of the block.
Detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Bloomington, Indiana (1913), showing the block where the Gas and Electric Plant was located.

Notes
4. Reed, “Gas vs. Electricity.”
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Reed, “Gas Made Its Bow.”
8. All information in this paragraph comes from Bennett P. Reed, “Something New Added in 1890’s as Natural Gas Manufactured in City,” Bloomington Daily Herald-Telephone, August 23, 1952.
10. Souvenir of Bloomington, Indiana (Bloomington, IN: Commercial Club, 1912), unpaginated.
McCormick Cemetery

The cemetery is located 200 Yards NNE from 9313 West Mt Carmel Rd. Owned by Larry Neidigh, but his brother lives on property. The cemetery was very overgrown, so much so that the people living at the nearby house did not know there was a cemetery that close. But when we showed it to them, they began a cleanup effort, removing trees and brush. When we began to reset and repair the headstones, we found other headstones that were deeply buried and pieces of others that could not be found. It is evident that this cemetery had been partially buried.

In this cemetery are buried Alfred Stephen (1821-1857), and Samuel McCormick, and Charity (1787-1854) and William Wilson (1772-1833).