While you are downtown watching the Courthouse Square light up for the holiday season, don’t forget to stroll over to the History Center for our traditional Canopy of Lights Open House. There will be hot cider, pastries, holiday music, and our ever-popular holiday sale where you are sure to find that perfect gift for all of your favorite people! Doors will open Friday the 25th of November at 5 pm and will stay open until 9 pm. Drop by, bring the whole family, meet friends, and enjoy our charming museum and gift shop.

Save the Date!

♦ Holiday Sale opens November 1st at 10am.
♦ Afternoon Tea at the History Center. Auction of Accessories, November 10th
Current Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Rechter Gallery:
The Ultimate Sacrifice
“The Ultimate Sacrifice” exhibit honours Hoosier veterans and their many sacrifices, including death. This exhibit focuses 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. Keep an eye out for more educational programs this fall about veterans and wartime.
Exhibit closes November 14th

Season’s Greetings
This Holiday exhibit will feature the story of winter holiday greetings from holiday cards to caroling. Vintage greetings, photographs, and decor from the MCHC collection will be on display. We will also be making and collecting holiday cards to be delivered to residents of a local nursing home. There will be toys and games for children of all ages to play.
Exhibit open November 25th – January 7th

Hill Gallery:
Hoosiers & Their Hooch: Perspectives on Prohibition
This traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society will feature the rise and fall of prohibition in Indiana and throughout the country. The exhibit spans the dawn of the temperance movement of the 1900s, the roaring 1920s and the unprecedented repeal of a constitutional amendment during the Great Depression. Accompanying this exhibit are artifacts from MCHC’s collection telling the story of Monroe County during the prohibition era.
Exhibit Open September 30 – November 2nd

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

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
From the President

The History Center has been very busy this past month and October promises to be just as busy. Programs included the Mrs. Jennings Character Talk and the Kelsey Daniel exhibit reception. Both programs were informative and interesting. The Ultimate Sacrifice exhibit is now on display and the staff has done a great job with this exhibit. The Automobile exhibit is also open. Please plan to visit the exhibits as I believe you will be impressed with the history and professionalism displayed.

Erin Anderson and Emily Musgrave guided a very full bus of enthusiastic tourists to Corydon on August 20th to see the Birth of a State. We visited the state capital from 1816-1825, Cedar Farm in nearby Laconia and the Battlefield of Corydon. Thanks to Gayle Cook for the wonderful tour and lunch at Cedar Farm and David Mowery, Morgan’s Raid and Battle of Corydon expert. Thank you, Erin for planning this wonderful trip. If you haven’t signed up for the Indianapolis trip on October 22, please do so.

A brick laying ceremony took place on September 1 honoring five families by placing bricks on the History Center path. Each family has been a contributor and supporter of the History Center and you too can honor your family by purchasing a brick.

The Board of Trustees continues to meet monthly and are presently working on updating Policies and Procedures for the History Center board, committees and staff. Each member of the board attends various committee meetings to help staff with their respective areas. We appreciate the time and dedication they provide. Also, thank you to the volunteers, staff and Dana Beth for all you do for the History Center.

Linda Stines, President

Holiday Card Call Out

For our upcoming exhibit, “Season’s Greetings,” we are looking for loans or donations of greeting cards of the season for holidays other than Christmas. Examples would be Chanukah, Kwanzaa, St. Stephen’s day (celebrated in Austria), Boxing Day (celebrated in the UK), Winter Solstice, or Yule. We wish to show the diversity of celebrations and exchange of greetings during this season.

Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting</td>
<td>5th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd, 12pm, Hot Rod &amp; Classic Car Show</td>
<td>8th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
<td>10th, 2pm, Afternoon Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>10th, 5:30pm, Genetic Genealogy Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
<td>12th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th, 6pm, Cemetery Calendar Reception</td>
<td>17th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st, 6pm, Fright Night at the Museum</td>
<td>25th, 5pm, Canopy of Lights Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd, 8:45am, Indianapolis Bicentennial Tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th, 5pm, Downtown Trick or Treat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

Collections Corner:

Although the Monroe County History Center strives to collect a broad range of representative items from Monroe County’s history, our collections contain some sizable gaps. We are reaching out to you, our members and visitors, to help us actively fill those gaps, and add some much needed history to our collection. We are looking to add these items to our collection:

- Old Salt Creek Bridge Photos
- Photos and items of small Monroe County Communities (Unionville, Stinesville, Ellettsville, Stanford, Salt Creek, Hindustan, Dolan, New Unionville, Kirksville, etc.)
- Sports memorabilia from small Monroe County Communities (example: letterman jacket from Ellettsville, team posters or photographs, school pennants or banners)
- Otis Elevator company materials
- Ralph Rogers and Rogers Group, Inc. history and materials
- Local media photographs and history, important journalists or reporters (WTTV, WFHB, WFIU, The Herald-Times, The Ellettsville Journal, etc.)
- History and photographs of minority families and communities in Monroe County

We are also seeking loans or donations for our upcoming holiday exhibit, focusing on Holiday Greeting Cards:

- Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, and Kwanza greeting cards – Deadline for donations: November 1st
- Unique, unusual, or locally made Christmas greeting Cards – Deadline for donations: November 1st

New Items in the Collection:

- US military issue World War Two mess kit utensils and RCA factory lab coat. Gifts of Nancy Host in memory of Verna L. Snyder. (2016.044)
- Letters, deed records, and commission papers belonging to the members of the Fee family. Gifts of Laura Carroll. (2016.046)
- 17 sketch drawings of Monroe County soldiers killed in action during the Vietnam War. Gifts of Anonymous donor. (2016.053)
- Schmalz’s store and museum tags, banner, and notepad. BHS sports program. Gifts of Gerald L. Patterson in memory of Lawrence Patterson. (2016.054)
- Monroe County Shrine Club jacket, fez, and parade costume worn by Billy Ray Salmon. Gifts of Glen Salmon. (2016.056)
- Scrapbook of World War Two photographs taken by Robert Clegg, Jr. while stationed in the Pacific Theater. Gift of Wanda Clegg in memory of Robert Clegg, Jr. (2016.057)
From the Membership & Volunteer Coordinator’s Desk

Saundra Taylor

Volunteer Spotlight

Saundra Taylor is one of our most dedicated, long-time History Center volunteers. In addition to being an active member of our Cemetery Committee, she is also rehousing and indexing the Research Library’s large probate records collection. Saundra also greets visitors two Tuesday afternoons a month and volunteers at other History Center events.

She began her career of organizing and studying original source materials of history and literature at UCLA. Then in 1975, Saundra came to IU as curator of manuscripts at the Lilly Library.

Saundra was actively involved in the Lilly Library’s collecting of manuscripts relating to the production of motion pictures, including the papers of film directors Orson Welles, Peter Bogdanovich, and Federico Fellini. She also produced exhibitions drawn from the Lilly Library’s extensive manuscript collections. Saundra has served on many professional organizations and advisory boards and volunteers with the Kinsey Institute Library. In addition, she received a “Sagamore of the Wabash Award” from Governor Robert Orr.

The Principles of Administration of Manuscripts and Personal Papers course taught by Saundra annually for the IU School of Library and Information Science, was always popular. She stayed in touch with many of her students, some of whom have gone on to hold responsible positions at libraries and archives. She is an avid traveler, and a longtime loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the Indiana Hoosiers’ basketball and football teams.

Thank you, Saundra!

Contributors
July and August 2016

Sponsor Membership
Julian and Mary Livingston

Welcome to New Members
James G. Jenkins
Mike Jones
Charley Nelson
Bruce Bundy
Mahasweta Baxipatra
Jan Wasson
Elaine and Warren Brinson
Jason Kinney
Karen E. Cain

Our first quarterly check from the Kroger Rewards program was $101. Link your Kroger Rewards card to the Monroe County History Center and remind your friends and family to link their Kroger card as well. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com or call 812-332-2517, ext. 7 for assistance.
History Path Installation

The Monroe County Historical Society’s Board of Trustees established the Founders’ Endowment in 1981 to provide ongoing support for the preservation of our collection, upgrades to exhibits, and improvements to our facility. History Path bricks purchased by donors to the Founders’ Endowment are engraved to honor their loved ones. Thursday, September 1, at 4:30, five new bricks were dedicated at a brief ceremony followed by a reception. Honorees along with the donor’s name listed below:

- Amos, Martha, Lessie, Mimia, and Gene Jones. Donor: Marilyn Skirvin
- William Baxter, 1814 – 1858 and Mary See Baxter, 1812 – 1872. Donor: Dee Keller
- In Memory of Ross Jennings. Donor: Anonymous

Thank you to Nature’s Way for mulching and cleaning up around the History Center!

Thank you to Dean McElhinney and Linda Stines for sponsoring the Nature’s way work day.

Genetic Genealogy

What to expect from DNA Testing

Autosomal DNA testing like Ancestry DNA, 23andme, and the Family Finder Test from FTDNA is becoming more and more popular. Learn what you can - and can’t expect to learn from this type of DNA test.

Presented by:
Nan Harvey of Nancestors Genetic Genealogy Guidance

November 10, 2016 ~ 5:30 pm ~ Free Admission

Downtown Trick or Treat

Celebrate Halloween in style by supporting local businesses and celebrating Family!

Join us, Friday, October 28th from 5-8pm as we participate in the Downtown Bloomington Trick or Treat Walk. Bring your families, bring your kiddos, wear your best costumes!!

Parking is FREE in the 4th St Garage located between College & Walnut on 4th Street after 6pm.
Old Simpson Chapel Cemetery Work Day

On Sunday, August 28th, several members of the Cemetery Committee gathered at the Old Simpson Chapel Cemetery to meet with three members of the Simpson Chapel Church. The day was hot and humid, but the cemetery had lots of shade. Due to the heat everyone was ready to stop for the day after about three hours.

This cemetery contains the burials of several families that settled this part of Washington Township. There are a few monuments to Civil War veterans and one to a John Back, who was a member of General George Rogers Clark’s unit, and was in Indiana for the Frontier Campaign of the War for Independence.

Simpson Chapel members, Diane and Jack Branam, contributed a chain saw to cut brush and a truck to haul it away. Earl Brummett who, despite being 82, cut quite a bit of the brush by hand. Cemetery Committee members were: Carol Seaman, Bob Dodd, Lou Malcomb, Saundra Taylor and Scott Emery.

During the three hours worked that day a pile of brush, limbs and old stumps were removed from the cemetery. Also three headstones were epoxied together and four more set back in their bases. At least one more workday will be needed for this cemetery, and is tentatively scheduled for the month of October.

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 to the History Center any time during our open hours. Gift-type donations could include jewelry, small antiques, decorative items, and new and unused items such as gloves, scarves, games and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 1, so we need your donations before then if possible.

Not only will we have special donated items in the holiday shop, but the Museum Store has new and unusual books, cards and gifts too. We have wonderful titles including the three featured below.

1) *A Guide to Southern Indiana* by William and Gayle Cook, which describes traditional Southern Indiana attractions and lesser known points.

2) *Road Trip: A Pocket History of Indiana*. Andrea Neal has selected the top 100 events/historical figures in Indiana history, some well-known like George Rogers Clark, and others obscured by time or memory such as the visit of Marquis de Lafayette to southern Indiana.

News from the Library

mchelibrary@gmail.com
Compiled by Emily Noffke and Penelope Mathiesen

Thanks to the Burkhart Bequest, the Research Library was able to purchase new shelves to store over a hundred court records boxes. A big thank you to Raymond and Dana Beth Evans for transporting and installing the shelves!

The Court Records are the largest collection of county records the Research Library holds and are utilized by patrons often. These shelves will make the items more accessible.

The following items have been recently accessioned and are available in Audiovisual Drawer 1, Oral History Box. All are gifts from Donald and Jean Rhoads:

Spankers Branch and the Third Street Bridge
By Penelope Mathiesen

Once upon a time, navigating from one side of Bloomington to the other involved crossing Spankers Branch. The creek flowed from spring-fed Axtell’s Pond on the east side of the Indiana University campus, bisected Dunn Meadow, and followed a southerly course through the town to join Clear Creek.¹

In 1891, when IU was moving from the downtown area to its present location, President David Starr Jordan, who was leaving IU to become the president of Stanford University, reportedly told the Board of Trustees “that they need name no building after me. I asked only that the brook coming through the campus should be called the River Jordan.”²

The Jordan River’s name changed back to Spankers Branch after it crossed the campus boundary at Indiana Avenue between Sixth Street and Kirkwood Avenue. According to an 1898 map, Spankers Branch passed through the intersection of Kirkwood and Dunn Street and continued diagonally to the southwest, crossing Grant Street, Fourth Street, and the intersection of Third and Lincoln streets. Running south along Lincoln, the creek skirted the eastern boundary of the Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Spoke Factory (now the site of a city park). After crossing Smith Avenue, the creek ran behind the Bloomington Creamery Company, then crossed Washington Street at Second Street and headed on south to Clear Creek.³

A stream flowing through town meant that bridges were needed. One of these, the Third Street Bridge, spanned Spankers Branch at Third and Lincoln. This bridge became the focal point of “The Third Street Gang,” recalled Earl “Stick” McMillan, who was a member “in my 7th or 8th year,” which would have been in the late 1890s.⁴ The gang members’ homes were between Fourth Street on the north, Dunn Street on the east, Second Street on the south, and Walnut on the west. “Other kids outside of these lines after dark were liable for a good scrap, if caught in our territory.”⁵

“The old Third Street bridge, with its three-foot iron fence on either end, was the general meeting place every night,” McMillan reminisced. A street light “made it an ideal place to play our games. [T]he bridge was about the smoothest place in that end of town to play ‘shinney,’ that’s the game where the gang divides sides and uses clubs and a tin can (very much the same as ice hockey) only we didn’t wear guards on our shins as are in use now, and many a kid still carries the scars on his shins to this day from some of those games. … our favorite game after dark was ‘Go Sheepie Go’. Two captains were picked, and the sides were evenly divided, a boundary of several blocks square was set. [The idea] was for one side to outsmart the other in keeping on the move” while staying out of sight. “It was a game of alertness and speed. … As the hunters rrove around the district, the runners captain would call out numbers or names for designated places and it was up to the runners to get to these points without being seen by the hunters. If any one of the runners were spied by a hunter, out would go the cry of ‘GO SHEEPIE GO’ and the side reaching the base first (and the base was the Third Street Bridge) was the winner of the game.”⁶

The waters of Spankers Branch were later covered over by a “concrete box,” or culvert. Local residents may remember the “big dig” a few years ago in 2012 and 2013, when “a World War II-era storm water culvert” that channeled the Jordan River and Spankers Branch was replaced, causing major disruptions to traffic and businesses due to road closures and lane diversions.⁷ Today, there is no visible trace of the stream, but it still flows underground at the place where Third Street Bridge once crossed Spankers Branch and kids played outside at night beneath the street light.

Notes
6. Ibid.
7. Robinson.
Prohibition in Monroe County

By Lee H. Ehman

On the southwest corner of the courthouse square sits a limestone monument, originally a four-sided water fountain, erected in 1913 by the Bloomington Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), founded in 1874. Its carved inscriptions include “Thirsty and Ye Gave Me Drink” and “Drink and Be Grateful.” It was one of many such fountains placed in cities and towns nationwide.

A century ago there were numerous local businesses that served alcohol. But unlike then, there is now little counterbalance to alcohol’s use and abuse. The late 1800s and early 1900s saw the rise of the Progressive movement, whose aim was to rid society of its ills, such as child labor, unsafe food, and the pernicious effects of strong drink on the family and society in general. The WCTU was part of this effort.

Edythe Thompson of Bloomington gave a personal account of the harms of alcohol:

“I had been a member of the WCTU ever since 1914 … My husband had a cousin who fell down the stairs and broke his neck when he was drunk. One of the grandchildren was sent home from Purdue because he couldn’t hold the liquor. One of my uncles was killed when he was too drunk to see a train coming. He had a little boy eight years old with him … [who] had to help pick up the brains and so forth …. Things like this were going on all over America. We had two men in our neighborhood who couldn’t … pay their taxes and come home with anything at all. They were so drunk, they didn’t know where they were.”

There has been push and pull for and against alcohol since Indiana’s inception. When it was part of the Northwest Territory in the 1790s, liquor sales to soldiers and Native Americans were prohibited. James Madison, in his recent history of the state, describes its prevalent use by pioneers. Corn whiskey was “drunk like water,” according to one source.

Laws banning sale to minors and Sunday sales were passed in the early 1800s. “Local Option Elections” were enacted in 1842 by the state legislature. This permitted citizens of an Indiana county to petition for an election to determine if prohibition of alcohol sales would be enforced.

This local option law was overturned by the Indiana Supreme Court in 1853. The national Know-Nothing political party was instrumental in passage of Indiana’s 1853 statewide prohibition law. The Indiana Supreme Court declared this prohibition unconstitutional three years later.

The state’s WCTU, established in 1874, made its sole purpose the banning of strong drink. Monroe County established prohibition organizations in addition to the WCTU. Meeting at the Methodist Church, the Loyal Temperance League formed in 1886. The Gold Cure Club for men first met in 1894, with 16 taking a temperance pledge. 1902 was the earliest mention of the Good Citizen’s League, which worked against licensing saloons, among its other Progressive Era causes.

The Good Citizen’s League used the 1828 Indiana law that allowed remonstrance petitions to block issuance of liquor licenses. A petition was used against three applications in May 1904 and 335 of the 586 eligible voters in Bloomington’s First Ward signed the remonstrance. Judge Wilson reversed denial of the licenses on a technicality in the petition. In July, the League again filed a remonstrance against seven licenses. Such petitions continued for the next 10 years.

The Indiana legislature passed the Beardsley Law, the so-called “Blind Tiger” law, in 1907. Blind Tigers were places alcohol was sold illegally. The law defined “dry beer” as containing less than 0.5% alcohol.
In 1908, Indiana passed a new local option law for counties. Monroe County voted to go dry in May 1909, after a vigorous campaign involving the WCTU, local churches, and other organizations. The vote was close, 2,619 to 2,200. Three days after the vote, a meeting of about 30 businessmen was held to organize enforcement of prohibition. There followed a number of raids on blind tigers and saloons selling beer with higher alcohol content than permitted by law. In one high-profile act, Sheriff Ratliff dumped Blind Tiger contraband—2,500 bottles of beer and 400 gallons of whiskey—into the street in front of his office.

The November 1909 elections saw Democrats wrest control from the prohibition-supporting Republicans in the county. In 1911, the state legislature changed the focus of the local option law from counties to cities and townships. The May 1911 elections resulted in Democratic control of Bloomington. The city and some other county townships voted wet once again. The margin was close, 1,171 wet, 1,148 dry.

Regardless of the local option vote, the period from 1912 to 1918 saw continued enforcement of the Blind Tiger Law. Newspaper headlines featured “Blind Tiger Hunting in Monroe County.” Druggists who sold alcohol were frequent targets. One amusing account of a raid told of apprehending liquor sellers on a houseboat cruising up and down the White River near Gosport.

In early 1914, temperance petitions again led to a local option election in Bloomington. On March 2, a majority of 183 decided in favor of the drys. Several Blind Tiger raids followed immediately. However, in March, Democrat city police chief Hensley declared that any family who wished could have a barrel of beer every three weeks to slake their thirst.

In 1915, Indiana had 49 wet and 33 dry counties. Of 42 local option votes, drys won 27 and wets 15. In the summer of 1916, wet supporters petitioned for another local option election in Bloomington. The dry vote upheld prohibition by a 388-vote majority. Bloomington was dry thereafter until Indiana passed statewide prohibition in April 1918, the 25th state to do so.

World War I saw the rise of anti-German sentiment. Beer brewing was associated with Germans, which increased the burgeoning prohibitionist sentiment. After passing its own prohibition, Indiana was the seventh state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, after which nationwide prohibition took effect in January 1920. Despite this victory for temperance advocates, there were so many problems that the nation repealed prohibition in December 1933 with passage of the 21st Amendment.

In today’s permissive alcohol culture, the prohibition movement of a century ago might seem hard to believe. There is no corresponding push today—no active WCTU, nor a Good Citizen League working against drinking. But the ills caused by alcohol use now are the same as 100 years ago. A very visible indication of its bad effects is the incidence of sexual assault on campus and elsewhere in the county, where alcohol is nearly always a factor. But the broader problems, while not as obvious, persist as well.

**Notes**

3. For a general history of Indiana prohibition I have depended upon Jane Hedeen, “The Road to Prohibition in Indiana” (Indiana Historical Society, 2011).
4. I have relied upon a large collection of newspaper clippings about prohibition kept by Amzi Atwater, President of the Historical Society during its early days. His clipping scrapbooks can be found in the Research Library’s Archive Room Closet. Scrapbooks no. 6 and no. 17 contain the prohibition material. For the period 1914 to 1919, not covered in his clippings, I searched *Bloomington Telephone* issues for additional items.
5. The First Ward was located just west of Walnut Street and north of Third Street.
6. *Intercollegiate Statesman*, vol. 12, no. 1 (October 1914), 11.
Do you want to help preserve history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 7 to learn about volunteering in one of the many History Center departments

**Membership Form**

**Annual Membership Levels**
- Student/Teacher: $10/20
- Individual: $35
- Household: $50
- Sustaining: $100-249
- Sponsor: $250-499
- Patron: $500-999
- MC History Circle: $1000-1999
- 1818 Bicentennial Club: $2000+

**Corporate - Service Organizations**
- Bronze: $250
- Silver: $500
- Gold: $1000
- Platinum: $2500
- Double Platinum: $5000
- Diamond: $10000

**Check if you are interested in:**
- Volunteer Information

**Send to:**
Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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

**Credit Card #**

**Expiration Date**

**CVC Number**

**Signature**

**Print Name**

**Address**

**Phone**

**E-mail**