Be a part of Monroe County history!

Mark your calendar now for our Tenth Annual Gala on Friday, February 17th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center.

The evening will offer the opportunity to meet and mingle with local business people, community leaders, and fellow history enthusiasts during the cocktail hour, dancing with the Blair Carmen Band, and to bid on one-of-a-kind items in our silent auction. Following dinner, you will hear from Bloomington, Indiana native Angelo Pizzo, a screenwriter and film producer best known for the films *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*.

The Monroe County History Center’s annual gala has been one of the most popular fundraising events in Monroe County. We invite you to join us for the 2017 celebration of local history on Friday, February 17th, 2017.

As the History Center prepares for the gala, our auction wish list includes:

- Timeshare or condo getaway—if you have points or certificates to share
- Tickets to shows or events in Bloomington, Indianapolis or nearby locations
- Art objects, jewelry, paintings
- Unique and interesting items
- Wine

You can support the History Center by becoming an event sponsor. Please contact the History Center at 812-332-2517 or e-mail mchcoperations@gmail.com for more details.
**Rechter Gallery:**

**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

**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”

Exhibit open September 6th – December 31st

**Hill Gallery:**

**WE PAINT... The Bicentennial**

The Bloomington Watercolor Society’s Annual Membership Exhibit will be at the Monroe County History Center! The Bloomington Watercolor Society will be displaying paintings, many of which have an Indiana Bicentennial theme. Join us for a free exhibit opening reception December 9th from 5-7p.m.

Exhibit open December 9th, 2016 - February 18th, 2017

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**Calendar of Events**

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

### December
- 3rd, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting
- 9th, 5pm, Water Color Society Reception
- 10th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child
- 10th, 2pm, Afternoon with Mrs. Claus
- 13th, 7pm, Civil War R.T. Holiday Dinner. RSVP to Steve Rolfe
- 15th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting
- 24th, Museum Closed
- 26th, Museum Closed
- 31st, Museum Closed

### January
- 2nd, Museum Closed
- 6th, Last day of the Holiday Sale
- 7th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club Meeting
- 10th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table
- 12th, 5:30pm Sports Interactive Exhibit Opening Reception
- 14th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child
- 19th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting
- 28th, 10am, Puzzle Fest
Happy Holidays! Can you believe it’s the holiday season already? We are so excited at the History Center. So many things have happened and we have a great start on next year as well. As our state turned 200 we celebrated in a number of ways:

• Hosted three Bicentennial bus tours to: Vincennes, Corydon and Indianapolis
• Offered two Gayle Cook Summer Camp programs to kids
• Hosted numerous educational programs and events
• Assisted almost 900 patrons in the Research Library
• Held several receptions and gallery openings in the Hill, Rechter and Brown Gallery’s
• Continued and improved our community outreach
• Held our Annual Garage Sale, Holiday Sale and Gala
• Increased our membership
• Added over 400 items to our collection and….the list goes on.

As the year draws to a close and we look back on our successes we can’t help but be excited for what the future holds.

• We have our Gala scheduled in February
• More exhibits and gallery receptions
• More bus tours
• Plus several surprises. Shhh.

All of this is made possible by our dedicated membership of individual and corporate sponsors. We hope that you have enjoyed your year with us and that as things wind down and we get ready for 2017 you will again join us as we strive to protect and preserve our past, experience our present and plan for our future.

If you have not already made your end of year donations please remember the Monroe County History Center and be part of Monroe County’s legacy (all donations are tax deductible).

Thank you for all you do to help make the Monroe County History Center a success!

Dana Beth Evans
Director

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 has closed. If MCCSC is under a delay the History Center will open as scheduled at 10:00am.
Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

Adopt an Artifact Update
Thank you to all who donated to the Adopt an Artifact program this past year! It truly showed that Monroe County citizens care deeply about the preservation of their history for many years to come. The display in the History Center first floor hallway has been taken down to make way for the Holiday Sale. However, your generosity will always be welcome if you still wish to donate for the selected artifacts. As artifacts head out for conservation and return to the History Center, we will be keeping you up-to-date on the progress of these items.

1891 Bloomington, IN Photo Album - $600 needed to receive conservation
1910 Quarry Panoramic Photo - Fully funded, will receive conservation
Schmalz Taxidermy Collection - Fully funded, will receive conservation
Stinesville IOOF Lodge Ledgers - $3,830 needed to receive conservation

Thank you donors!!

Education’s Corner
by Erin Anderson

Since I started here two years ago, the History Center has quickly evolved into a very active organization with a multitude of things going on at any given time. One way that we’ve done this is through our educational programming. We offer at least one educational program each month in addition to the workshops and classroom outreach we do for schools and community organizations.

Fun was had by kids and adults alike at the Fright Night Halloween Fest on Oct. 21st. This was our most attended program in two years! Not only did the entire staff and volunteer crew dress in costume, but many guests did too. Guests played games like History Mystery Trivia and Zombie Barbie Hunt, made masks and trick-or-treat bags, and even got fun psychic readings.

On Oct. 22nd, we wrapped up our Indiana Bicentennial Tours with a trip to Indianapolis. We learned about the people who built the Statehouse and state government as we toured the stunning building. We strolled along the Central Canal to the Indiana State Museum where we took in a performance about “The Bird Woman” – Gene Stratton Porter, and another about the Irish workers who built Indiana’s canals in the 19th Century. Many guests enjoyed the famous chicken velvet soup when we dined in the L.S. Ayres Tea Room. We finished the day perusing three floors of incredible exhibits and getting an architecture tour from wonderful docents.

During “Why Vietnam Still Matters: 50 Years Later,” on Nov. 5th, local Vietnam veteran Ron Osgood led a poignant discussion on the war and its effects on those who served. Panelists Jim Kryway, Dr. James LaFollette, Cathy Peacock, and Phil Zook, interacted with the audience as well.

Our November programs also included Genetic Genealogy (Nov. 10th), a fascinating presentation by genetic genealogist and consultant Nan Harvey about what you can and can’t expect from DNA tests for genealogical purposes.

Be sure to visit the History Center on December 10th from 2pm – 4pm for another of our best attended programs, An Afternoon with Mrs. Claus. There will be crafts to make, cookie decorating, and story time with Mrs. Claus and her elves. It is sure to be a sleigh-full of fun!

Puzzle Fest 2017 is coming on Jan. 28th, so keep your eyes peeled for more information after the holidays.
Volunteer Spotlights

Ellie Pemberton

BHS South senior and soon-to-be Indiana University student, Ellie Pemberton, volunteered with us through a BHS South internship program. Ellie is at the History Center 10 hours each week from August 2016 through February 2017. In addition to assisting with Education programs and events, Ellie serves as our front-desk greeter/receptionist when a regular volunteer can’t be here. It’s easy to see why Ellie was recently honored as “Student of the Month” by the Northside Exchange Club. She can always be trusted to complete her tasks well but more than that, she sees what needs to be done and offers to take care of it. She has many great ideas to share with the History Center and has helped us further our mission as she learns. She also encouraged her friends to join in the fun and volunteer for History Center events such as Fright Night on October 21st, providing fun for 129 children and adults.

Ellie is a grounded young woman with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. We will definitely feel her absence when she starts her freshman year at IU next year. Best wishes, Ellie!

Robb May

Forty-hour per week interns are more rare than unicorns and rainbows, so when Robb May applied for just such an internship at the History Center, he instantly became known as “Unicorn Robb”, a title he good-naturedly accepted.

Robb is studying Outdoor Recreation and Interpretation in the IU School of Public Health, which requires their students to perform a semester-long, 40-hour per week internship. The History Center was the lucky recipient of Robb’s experience, time and talents. He has assisted with the Bicentennial Tours, outreach to schools, Center tours and programs, and much more, including assisting other History Center staff. Before finishing his degree, Robb served 10 years in the military as a medic and was stationed several places including Babylon (Al-Hillah), Iraq.

Robb and his long-time companion, Lacey (who also volunteered for the History Center) will be off to jobs and a new adventure in January 2017. Robb expressed that he has enjoyed his time here and we’re happy about that because we’ve very much enjoyed working with him. Best wishes, Robb, we’ll miss you!
Remembered

Celebrating the lives of members and friends:

Charles Pritchett, Joe Pritchett’s uncle and one of the founders of Pritchett Brothers Construction, passed away September 12th, 2016. Charles and his brother Richard founded the company in 1963. Pritchett Brothers completed many construction projects for Bill and Gayle Cook and are considered part of the fabric of Cook, Inc. We honor his memory.

The Civil War Roundtable lost one of its most stalwart members and supporters recently. Fred Johanson passed away October 11th, 2016, after returning from a vacation in China. Fred was an active member of the roundtable board and always shared freely the knowledge he gained during his decade-long participation on the Chicago Civil War Roundtable before he came to Bloomington. He will be missed.

Contributors

September and October 2016

Corporate Memberships

Visit Bloomington
Rick Rechter
Bub’s Burgers
Mayor of Bloomington
Smithville Communications
CFC Properties
Rick and Carrie Snapp

Welcome to New Members
Rick Rechter
Bub’s Burgers
Terry and Sarah Fischer
Mayor of Bloomington
Smithville Communications
Rosemary Dever
Elena Von Willer

Rick Richardson – Comp for his generous assistance with History Center projects

Donations

Liesl Loudermilk – Founders Endowment
Justin Robertson – In Honor of Jennifer Borland’s Birthday

Second Kroger Rewards check: $211.12. Link Kroger Rewards card at www.krogercommunityrewards.com or call 812-332-2517, ext. 7 for assistance.
An Afternoon with Mrs. Claus

December 10, 2016
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas fun with Mrs. Claus! There will be crafts to make, cookies to decorate, and story time with Mrs. Claus and her elves!

Free Admission

Holiday Sale

Don’t forget to visit the History Center’s Holiday Shop—and our year-round museum store—for those special holiday gifts. The Holiday Shop features donated jewelry, small antiques, decorator items, and such new and unused items as gloves, scarves, and puzzles. And there will be a great half-price sale the week after Christmas!

Museum Store

The Museum Store has a selection of new books, that will make perfect gifts too. A few of our new books include Days of Knight, How the General Changed My Life by Kirk Haston, Hoosiers, The Fabulous Basketball Life of Indiana, Third Edition by Phillip Hoose, and At Home with Ernie Pyle by Owen Johnson.

The Museum Store also has fun historical toys that make great stocking stuffers.

Both stores are open during all normal History Center hours, Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
News from the Library

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

The following items have been recently accessioned:


* Payne, Fernandus. Memories and Reflections. 1968. Contains Payne’s recollections of his life as well as his poems. Gift from the Garage Sale Committee in memory of Rose Hoadley McIlveen.

New Research Aids

Monroe County Marriage Books 1–30 have been digitized by Lee Ehman. There is a new edition of the 1818–1881 Marriage Records Index available for purchase in the Museum Store. New editions of the rest of our Marriage Records Index collection are pending.

Two new archival collections are ready for researchers to use. The Eva Doty and Rose McIlveen collections are now available upon request in the Research Library.

Cemetery Calendar

The 2017 Cemetery Calendar is now on sale in the Museum Store for $10.00. This year’s calendar highlights the contributions of Monroe County athletes.
Ellettsville Creamery Treats Old Settlers at 1894 Fall Celebration
By Penelope Mathiesen

In June 1894, an executive committee was formed to further the project of setting up a creamery in Ellettsville. The committee members were James Hanna, Benjamin Hansford, Samuel B. Harris, Dora Sedwick, and John R. Williams. A site was selected on “the south edge of town, just across Creamery rill, at the corner of Sixth street and Creamery avenue, in the Ritter addition, where plenty of good water will be piped from a never failing spring.”

Street names have changed since 1894. “Creamery Avenue” doesn’t appear on modern maps. Sale Street now runs approximately where Sixth would have been located and crosses Ritter Street a few blocks south of downtown. A clue to the former location of the creamery is the old Van McNeely spring house at 421 Sale Street, about a block south of Ritter. It is pictured in The Ellettsville Story with the caption: “This spring has never run dry.”

The Ellettsville creamery project was covered in detail by the Monroe County Citizen (Ellettsville’s local newspaper, 1882–1895). Work began on 12 June 1894 and progressed quickly. The foundation pillars were set on June 13. On June 16, the newspaper announced: “The lumber is now being brought in and rapidly put up by the carpenters, Messrs Tracy and Gibbs, from Chicago, assisted by several of our home carpenters. The main building will be about 24 x 30 with a shed room attached.”

“The frame of the creamery building was raised” on June 19, and the “rafters and sheeting put on” the following day. On June 25, “the siding for the creamery building was received,” and by the next evening, “the creamery was sided up.” On June 27, “the cornice and corner boards were put on, and in a few days more the iron roof can be put on, the floor laid, the windows and doors finished up and a little inside finishing and it will be ready for the machinery.”

The new enterprise was named the Blue Grass Creamery, and it was up and running in time for a special celebration in Ellettsville. On September 13, the newspaper announced that the “Old Settlers Convention will convene here on the 26th of this month. Mr. John H. Harris of this city is the secretary.” Harris had spent the summer “corresponding with all the Old Settlers in the county,” using a list “of all residents of Monroe County over 70 years of age. … already a great many have written of their intension [sic] of coming.” The Old Settlers Convention was “to be held at the Ritter Grove, just opposite the new Blue Grass Creamery which by the way has made arrangements with Mr. Harris to supply fresh creamery buttermilk, ice cold, to every man and women [sic] over 50 years of age free of charge.”

Ellettsville’s first annual old settlers meeting had been held 17 years earlier (i.e., about 1877) at Worley Grove on the Fourth of July, “after which time they were held on the 26th of September in honor of the birthday of James M. Parks, then the oldest man in the community. These meetings were continued during the life time of Mr. Parks, who died in 1882, over one hundred and one years old.” After his death, interest declined until the celebration ceased.

The Old Settlers Convention could thus be considered a forerunner of the Fall Festival, held in Ellettsville for the first time in 1935. Now known as the Monroe County Fall Festival, it has taken place annually (with occasional breaks) during the month of September ever since. “Fresh creamery buttermilk,” however, is no longer one of the enticements.

Notes

1. News item, Monroe County Citizen, June 9, 1894.
3. News item, Monroe County Citizen, June 16, 1894.
5. News item, Monroe County Citizen, June 30, 1894.
8. The Ellettsville Story, p. 76.

News item, Monroe County Citizen, September 13, 1894.
Bloomington Confronts Smallpox, 1900–1930

By Emily Noffke

In the early twentieth century, smallpox was a consistent threat to Bloomington residents. Notable epidemic years include 1900 and 1917, but smallpox routinely occurred throughout the Progressive Era, which lasted in the United States from the 1890s to the 1920s. City, county, and state boards of health produced a variety of responses to these frequent epidemics, including quarantine and vaccination; however, this effort was often impeded by uncooperative members of the public.

Quarantine was a regularly tested method of smallpox containment. Individuals, as well as entire families, could be forced into seclusion if signs of smallpox were detected by local health authorities. When Sanford Sander was discovered with smallpox at the Pool Room over the Koontz Second Hand Store on North Walnut Street, Dr. Ross, the Bloomington Health Officer, immediately placed him under quarantine. Houses occupied by sick family members were marked as infected with red quarantine cards (see photo). All family members were expected to remain in the residence until excused by the Board of Health, even if they were not ill.

While city and county authorities made an effort to enforce such restrictions, they were often met with resistance from citizens. During a smallpox outbreak in Ellettsville in 1900, six young preachers studying at the divinity college escaped quarantine. One of the students made it home to Geneva, Canada, and “Dr. J. N. Hurty, secretary of the State Board of Health, received a telegram from the Canadian authorities censuring the Indiana health authorities for allowing the preacher to escape.” The other students had made it back to their Indiana homes outside of Monroe County, but were detained by health officers and placed into quarantine.

Bloomington health officials’ frustration was evident. In 1903, the Bloomington Courier reported numerous “violation[s] of the quarantine rules, and as no policeman was employed to enforce the rules, they were openly violated.” Administrators saw the non-observance of quarantine orders as the main cause of the new cases of smallpox that had developed that year.

For years, city authorities attempted to produce a space to house those who were ill with smallpox and other contagious diseases. One of the earlier mentions of efforts to build a “pest house” in Bloomington was in 1882 when one was slated to be built “west of town, within the corporate limits, by the city authorities.” A contagious disease hospital was almost established on the corner of Third and Lincoln streets in 1900. The house had been completely prepped for new patients when Judge Martin filed a restraining order “until an injunction filed by the citizens against using the house for such a purpose is decided upon.” Residents living in the area objected to having such a building in their neighborhood. The local health committee claimed to have searched for proper outside of the city limits to no avail.

By 1902, Indiana University had already established a contagious disease hospital for students, near the current location of Templeton Elementary School at the northeast corner of Henderson Street and Hillside Drive. However, “University authorities [would] not consent to their building being used by any one except students.” According to the Bloomington Courier, on 22 January 1903, the city council voted to use $1,000 to construct a “city pest house, to which all smallpox victims who had previously failed to be vaccinated will be taken.” Despite this encouraging step forward, “No committee was appointed to see about securing a site for the building, and nothing else was done in the matter.”
In 1917, it seems that the efforts to construct a temporary hospital for those afflicted with smallpox succeeded. According to the Bloomington Evening World, in December 1917, “the city has taken a lease on the Barclay house at the southeastern edge of town known as the Country Club and has already fitted it up with fifteen beds, has placed stoves in each room and otherwise made the building into a temporary detention hospital.” Mr. and Mrs. James Mesmer were put in charge of the hospital. The first patient consigned to the new hospital was Henry Oldhoff.11 This was seen as not only a social benefit, but also had an economic advantage for the city. According to the Bloomington Evening World, “there are now many smallpox cases in the city and many of these people have been receiving all their supplies while under quarantine at the cost of the city. The detention hospital will now receive the member of a family who has smallpox, and it will not be necessary for the city to support all the others while the patient is getting well.”12

Widespread vaccination campaigns were employed to suppress smallpox outbreaks and aimed to prevent future epidemics. In 1881, the Board of City School Trustees made vaccination a requirement for school children.13 In 1917, the School Board decreed that “all school children must present a physician’s certificate of successful vaccination or be excluded from school.”14 This was deemed necessary as 300 out of 2,100 children had failed to get vaccinated. Even as late as 1928, authorities felt compelled to enforce vaccination with the law. Dr. J. E. Moser, secretary of the City Board of Health, threatened to make vaccination compulsory for all school children and university students if they are unwilling to cooperate.15 Again in 1930, County Health Officer J. E. Luzzader struggled with the public, reporting that he and his deputy officer would “vaccinate those who were not vaccinated today, or send them home.”16

Despite the unwillingness of some Bloomington residents to participate in these precautionary measures, many took the threat of smallpox seriously. In 1900, the conductor on the Monon passenger train heading south from Bloomington found two men infected with smallpox. According to the Bloomington Progress, “The speed with which the passengers ran into the ladies car was remarkable in gait, and the athletic ability of the passengers surprised even the conductor.”17 The two men were let off at the next stop.

The case of smallpox in Bloomington is part of a larger national story. According to historian Michael Willrich, during the Progressive era, there was a “sharp uneasiness toward the authority of medicine and the power of the state.”18 Across the country, the public protested by establishing antivaccination societies, fought vaccination laws in court, and hid sick family members from the authorities. Despite these struggles, smallpox has been eradicated; however, in light of current outbreaks of measles and whooping cough, the public’s unwillingness to fully accept the wisdom of health authorities, especially when it comes to vaccination, has not.

Notes
1. “Smallpox in the City,” Bloomington Weekly Courier, February 2, 1912, p. 2. (Source: INMONROE-L Archives.)
2. “Get Vaccinated: Every Precaution Against the Small Pox and No Cause for Alarm,” Bloomington Telephone, n.d. (Source: INMONROE-L Archives.)
5. Bloomington Republican Progress, February 15, 1882, p. 3. (Source: INMONROE-L Archives.)
7. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
13. Bloomington Republican Progress, August 3, 1881, p. 3. (Source: INMONROE-L Archives.)
Chapel Hill Cemetery
Chapel Hill Cemetery is located in section 31 of Polk Township, Monroe County, Indiana. It is located next to the Chapel Hill Meeting House, 9991 S Chapel Hill Rd., Heltonville, IN 47436–9602. The Church and Cemetery files at the Monroe County History Center’s Research Library includes a nice history written by Rebecca Eads about the history of the Chapel Hill Calvary Mission Church. This history dates the beginning of the community at 1856 when David Miller and John Smith purchased land in the area. John’s wife Elizabeth (Betsy) Miller Cracraft took over the store and post office when John went to the Civil War. She provided the land for the Cemetery. The earliest grave at Chapel Hill Cemetery appears to be 1843, although there are some field stones where earlier graves may have been marked. There are more than fifteen graves of veterans including a memorial in honor of American Veterans.

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.

Monroe County Historical Society’s

Monroe County Historian

December/January 2016/2017
Vol. 2016 Issue 6

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

For subscription information contact the Monroe County History Center at 812-332-2517, or www.monroehistory.org

Membership Form

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