“Valentine’s Day is a holiday with a long history. Though it bears a saint’s name, its origins seem more firmly rooted in pagan celebrations of the beginning of spring than in the history of its martyr named saints. Valentine’s Day traditions are wide-ranging, but have long involved the exchange of some love token or small gift with one’s valentine. In 18th century England and North America, these exchanges often took the form of hand-made valentine cards. By the 19th century, these traditions expanded. Home-made cards were widely replaced by commercially produced valentine cards, and the cards were sent not only to one special valentine, but often to a wider circle of friends and relations.

At first, these valentines weren’t cards at all. Decorated writing papers had become popular in the years before the turn of the century, and by 1800 decorated papers appeared with Valentine’s Day themes.

When uniform postal rates for the entire United Kingdom were established in 1840, the English Valentine card tradition began in earnest. Decorated papers were still the norm at this time. The papers were folded sheets in quarter size, commonly decorated with embossed borders as well as pictorial scenes. The sheet would be folded and sealed with wax for mailing.

Over the next thirty years, Valentine cards were made in great numbers and variety. The quality of the cards was as variable as the themes they represented. Though the dominant theme for Valentines would always be love, comic and even insulting Valentines were also common.

On the upper right is a valentine that is both comic and somewhat insulting in its rejection of the suitor. At the lower right is a comic card with a gentler theme, mocking fashions of the day. A tab at the bottom of this card, when pulled, moves the young woman’s skirt up slightly, revealing the “scarlet petticoats that are all the rage”.

Highlighted articles in this issue:

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Monroe County Historical Society’s Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret and display materials and artifacts which reflect the cultural and natural history of Monroe County and Indiana.”

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980
Schedule of Events

Regularly scheduled MCHS Museum meetings. All meetings and programs will be held at the Museum, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting—2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm
Executive Board Meeting—4th Wednesday of the month, 4 pm

February Programs

- **15 Meet George Washington** 10:30 am
  Come and celebrate Presidents Day! Frank Zeller, Professor of Zoology at Indiana University, will portray George Washington, and discuss his life as a farmer, soldier, and politician.

- **15 Overuse Injuries in Guitarists** 2:00-3:00 pm
  Do you ever worry about the tingling sensation in your fingers after a long day of practicing? At this program, you will be introduced to overuse injuries and “tunnel syndromes” in musicians.

March Programs

- **6-8 Indiana Heritage Quilt Show**
  This yearly Bloomington event will be held at the Bloomington Convention Center on College Avenue.

- **8 Bloomington Classical Guitar Society** 1-4:00 pm

- **15 Preserving Monroe County History** 10:30 am
  Ron Baldwin, a Monroe County Historian will tell us about his duties and how we can work together in preserving the history of Monroe County.

Upcoming Programs

- **April 9 Annual Membership Meeting** 7:00 pm
  Annual elections of board trustees, light refreshments will be served.

- **May 5 On the Road Again**
  We have planned a trip to the new Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Includes transportation, admission, and lunch at the LS Ayres Tea Room.

- **July 4 Annual Monroe County Birthday Celebration**
  Come join us for 2nd Annual Monroe County Birthday celebration. Food, entertainment, games, and an arts and craft sale. It’s sure to be an exciting event.

Exhibits

_Dolls and Trains_
December 15-February 28
Local doll and train clubs will be participating in this fun exhibit.

_Oh! Dr. Kinsey!_
February 1-April 30
This exhibition documents the media and public reaction to the 1953 release of _Sexual Behavior in the Human Female_

_National Traveling Quilt Show_
February 24-March 14
"Miniatures from the Heart"

_Red, White & Blue Quilts and Cloth Dolls_
March 1-April 30
Local quilters will be exhibiting their quilts that feature the colors of red, white and/or blue.

Do you have a cloth doll or a quilt that is red, white and/or blue?

The Museum is looking for cloth dolls (of any color) and quilts that are red, white and/or blue (in any combination) for an upcoming exhibit. The exhibition is for three months and it would be a great chance to let others see your “treasures.” Please bring the items to the Museum by February 14th. If you have any questions, please call 812-332-2517.

Don’t forget to check out the Monroe County Historical Society’s web site to take a look at our future Board members.

www.kiva.net/~mchm

Annual Meeting
April 9th, 7 pm
In 1892, “The Corner,” a large shoe and clothing store in Bloomington, operated by H. T. Simmons and Company, advertised in the newspaper that it was giving away Collins and Karsell’s Belle Flour. Each week, the giveaway was a barrel of flour (eight sacks). On 5 August 1892, the Bloomington Republican Progress carried a list of the recipients with their locations. From the names of the communities, one can conclude that, as early as 1892, people were traveling quite a distance to shop in Bloomington. Several of the communities are now nonexistent.

The ad did not carry an address for “The Corner,” but the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (at the Monroe County Public Library), place its location north of the courthouse on West Sixth Street and the alley. At the time of the giveaway, men’s shoes were selling for $1.25 and up and men’s suits for $3.00 and up. According to the Bloomington Telephone (15 September 1891), the store’s grand opening was held in September 1891 and promoted as “The Corner Twins,” a great double store. The owners had purchased the stock of C. H. Stone and connected the two stores by a large archway.

Since the Indiana 1890 census is not available, we often look for other sources to find an individual’s whereabouts during this period.

Flour Giveaway Winners, 1892

Bloomington:
Dave Smith
Wm. Ray
Chas. Hickham
Dell Whisnand
Fannie Cirgan
L. W. Shields
A. V. Faris
E. B. Ulene
L. McClelland
Mr. Shinn
Alfred Shields
Emma Davis
C. F. Butler
A. K. Dowden
Jno. A. Kerr
Mary Bonty
Marthy Kruse
Harley Anderson
Lena Jenkins
Nicholson Adams
Mark Stockdale
Asa Peterson
Eliza Arthur
Benj. Bass
Bert Eller
Alice Crane
Thos. Farley
Billy Blair
Morton Stout
J. W. Taylor
Geo. Thornton
F. Payne
Owen Richardson
Philip Jones

Wm. Clendennen
Elizabeth Jackson
C. F. Finch
Rachael Slow
Claman Patton
Frank Sater
M. D. Mathers
Mrs. L. Mayfield
Jno. Brogan
Wm. Mefford
Jas. Sare
Harley Eller
E. B. Cassel
Chas. Reeves
Ben R. Whisnand
F. A. Leffler
Henry Shields
Fred Marxson
Jas. F. Morgan
Chas. Butcher
Wm. Callahan
J. K. Beck
Jas. Griffin
David Hendrickson
Jno. Campbell
Tom Kilpatrick
Dave Smith
Menerva Badgley
Wm. Leas
Wm. Stultz
Jno. M. Corry

Blanche:
M. G. Morris

Fleener:
Mort. Christman

Stanford:
Eliza Gruby
B. F. Thrasher
Jessie Eller
Wm. Sparks
J. W. Sparks

South Grange:
E. C. Gilstrap
Isaac Chandler

Stinesville:
A. H. Boughman
Chas. Walker
Chas. Wetzel
E. E. Hoadley

Clear Creek:
Catharine Fodrell
Thos. Fowler
Miller Robinson
C. R. Matthers

Dolan:
Bell Weimer

Unionville:
Jas. Height
L. Nungester
Blount Campbell

Smithville:
Jas. Sylvester
Mack Rush
Wm. Carson
Wilson Clark

Buena Vista:
Jno. R. Graves
Payne:
Geo. L. Knight
Guthrie:
W. L. Kinser

Ellettsville:
A. W. Jones
Jno. R. Williams
Sarah Gaskins
C. F. Kelley
Wm. Stanger
J. H. Berman
Geo. Aikin
C. Grant

Gent:
Geo. Holder
Thos. Shields
Wm. Robinson

Peter Cooper:
Lawery Lucas
James Deckard

Whitehall:
Wm. Hall
A. K. Neel

Hobbieville:
Thos. Hudson

Allen Creek:
S. A. Wisely
Jas. Stillion
Peter Eads
King Deckard

Logan:
Wm. Schulty

Cross Roads:
B. F. Jones

Blossom:
Billy Puett

Nashville:
Thos. Floyd

Harrodsburg:
J. C. Clay
Alex. Smallwood

Victor:
Alvis Moore

Bryant’s Creek:
Marion Carroll
Thos. E. Robinson

Solsberry:
Chas. Pichard
Jon. Weaver

Elkinsville:
Elmer White

Cincinnati:
Matt Ranard
FROM THE GENEALOGY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As we begin a new year, I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped in the library in 2002 and who will continue to help in 2003. I am especially grateful to those volunteers who are making a special effort to keep the library open on Saturdays. As I think of ways to encourage both ongoing and prospective volunteers, I realize once again just how many things can be done to enhance our research opportunities and aid in the preservation of Monroe County history. If you would like to assist in some way, please contact Loretta Condra, Genealogy Library Director, Monroe County Historical Society.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

The Monroe County Historical Society recently published the *Monroe County, Indiana, Will Book I (1818-1841)*, by Randi Richardson and Angel Gebhart (2002; 52 pp.). Randi transcribed the wills and Angel formatted and indexed them. The wills are from the Monroe County Will Book I located in the Monroe County Clerk's Office. In addition to the wills, there are a few other related documents. Also included are a name index of wills and an every-name index. The publication is now available in the MCHS Museum Store for $10 plus $2.00 shipping and handling.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The Genealogy Library has arranged for two upcoming programs:

Sat., Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.: Frank Zeller will portray George Washington.

Sat., March 15, 10:30 a.m.: Ron Baldwin, County Historian, will speak and answer questions about the role of the county historian and how we can work together to preserve Monroe County history.

Newspaper Clippings from the Past

*Bloomington Telephone, Friday, 21 June 1901*

**Marriage Records**
**Number of Cases Where Proper Record Not on File**

Few people in Bloomington or Monroe county are aware of the stringent laws governing marriage ceremonies in Indiana. [Unreadable line] minister or justice of the peace officiating at a wedding must make due return to the clerk of the county within 90 days from date of such ceremony. The penalty for failure to comply with the provisions in such case is a fine of $100. Also a record of such marriages must be kept on file in the clerk’s office, in a book for such purpose. To this must be attached the minutes of justice’s certificate setting forth the date and place of such a ceremony and when performed. In the absence of such certificates the marriage is, in a measure, illegal. A glance over marriage record No. 5, from November 14, 1874 to November 12, 1877 shows that returns as provided by law have not been made in the following cases:

Continued on page 7
Ask Genie

Dear Genie:

I have a copy of the 1930 Monroe County, Indiana, census on CD (also available free, on-line at Rootsweb.com), but the names are not indexed. Consequently, looking for my ancestor is like looking for a needle in a very large haystack. Is there help on the horizon?

Answer:

The Monroe County Public Library is currently indexing the 1930 Monroe County, Indiana, census. It is not, however, anticipated that the work will be complete for many months. Until then, you might take advantage of the every-name index for the entire 1930 United States census available exclusively through Ancestry.com, an on-line, subscription genealogy site. The index lists approximately 123 million people, making it larger than the combined indices of all other census records at Ancestry.com!

Each indexed entry is linked to an actual census image. Although the search engine for the index works rather quickly and is user friendly, the images download somewhat slowly. To speed up the process, you might copy the information from the index and use it with your CD. Bear in mind, however, that Ancestry.com has used methodology to enhance census images and, therefore, the images on-line may be more readable than those on CD.

If you have a question for ASK GENIE, you may send it to: Ask Genie, Attention: MCHS Genealogy Library, 202 E. Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408, or monroehistassoc@hotmail.com. Please keep in mind that space does not permit a response to every question or lengthy research.

Auction Time!

Fun and fund-raising will be combined on Monday, February 24, when the Society holds its annual auction in the Education Room at the Museum.

The auction will start at 6:00 PM, and food will be on sale when the doors open at 5:00. Let us know if you want to help on the food committee.

Remember that antiques, collectibles and better-quality items sell well at the auction. (We’ll be asking for garage sale items for our June sale.) As usual, no clothing, no non-working appliances, no console TVs, no broken furniture!

The Haleys will again be our great professional auctioneers, and Pinnacle Properties is generously underwriting expenses.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR AUCTION!

Bring in your donation for the February 24 auction as soon as possible, to give the committee time to sort merchandise and to list items in newspaper ads. Call 332-2517 for information or pick-up. See color insert for details, and pass the insert along to a friend.

This is an entertaining and important annual fundraiser — please help!
**MONROE COUNTY’S BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN**  By Penelope Mathiesen

February is Black History Month! The Genealogy Library contains materials for interested researchers, including “Andrew Ferguson: Monroe County’s Only Black Revolutionary War Veteran” by Oscar F. Curtis. Curtis compiled his material from census records, veterans’ records, newspaper articles, and documents relating to Ferguson’s military service.

Andrew Ferguson was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, about 1765. He and his father were taken prisoner by the British in December 1779:

“We ran away from them because they whipped us with a cat o’ nine tails, and fell in with the American soldiers under Green. General Green told us that if the British ever got us again they would kill us, and he had better draft us. I was then put under the immediate command of Captain William Harris, and Colonel William McCormack, and stayed under their command and in this company during most of the time I was out.”

Ferguson fought in the battles of Camden (August 1780); King’s Mountain (October 1780); Cowpens (January 1781); and Eutaw Springs (September 1781). During the course of service that took him through North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, he sustained leg and head wounds. By late November 1781, he had been discharged and returned home.

Sometime after 1820, Ferguson came from Virginia to Indiana. He was in Vincennes in 1822, then shows up in the Monroe County censuses for 1830, 1840, and 1850. At the time of the 1850 census, Ferguson’s residence was “located on the west side of Lincoln Street, between Third and Fourth Streets. The Ferguson home would have been about where the mail drop boxes are located at the Post Office on south Lincoln.”

In June 1839, Ferguson applied for a pension, stating that “17 years ago he lived in Vincennes, Indiana and he was told at that time a colored man could not get a pension, and that he did not know until four years ago that he could get a pension.” On 10 September 1839, Ferguson was issued a pension “for 20 dollars per annum, retroactive to 4th day of March 1831…warrant for 180 dollars arrears to date, for services in the revolutionary war.” In March 1855, at approximately ninety years of age, he made an application for bounty land, but he had died by the time the land grant for 160 acres was issued in 1856. He was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Curtis’s account of his attempt to find Ferguson’s grave touches on the early history of Rose Hill Cemetery. The typescript reproduces a lengthy affidavit from Ferguson’s pension application that details his revolutionary war experiences, with tantalizing references to “Cornwallis” and “Col. Washington.”

**Museum Store … What’s New**

- Nostalgic children’s toys, books and crafts
- Note Cards
- Monroe County Coverlet
- Clay City Pottery
- Local History and General Interest Books
- Genealogy Items
- Unique Gift Wrap
- Calendar Towels
- Armatale Metal Plate depicting Courthouse

**REMEMBER all Society members receive a 10% discount**

**Not Sure What To Get?**

Gift Certificates from the Museum Store make great and thoughtful gifts!
"Genie" News from Other Places

GENEALOGY PROGRAMS/INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The 2003 Genealogy Programs scheduled at the Indiana History Center and presented by the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis are:

- German Genealogy—January 18
- Genealogy Research Workshops—Feb 14&15
- Genealogical Research on the Internet Computer Labs—March 7 and 8
- Share-A-Legacy: Family History Day—March 15
- Military Records—May 17
- Midwestern Roots 2003—July 11 and 12

To request a conference brochure, call (317) 232-1882 or e-mail tickets@indianahistory.org.

SOCIETY BUYS A TOWN
The town of Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, consisting of three acres and seven buildings, has been sold. The Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, Historical Society, has purchased it. They will preserve the buildings, including a store over 160 years old. Rabbit Hash is across the Ohio River from Rising Sun, Indiana. (Reprinted from the Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society newsletter.)

NEW HOAGY CARMICHAEL WEB SITE
For more of those stardust memories, check out www.hoagy.com, the new official Web site for Bloomington composer Hoagy Carmichael. Created by his son, Hoagy Carmichael, Jr., the site allows users to view a timeline of Hoagy’s career, hear his music, shop on-line, and talk with others on the bulletin board. For additional information, visit the Web site or send e-mail to: contact@hoagy.com.

OTHER COMING EVENTS:
January-March, 2003, Boats of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Photo Exhibit, Jefferson Memorial Gateway

Queries of 40 words or less may be submitted for publication in the newsletter. Please e-mail them to: genlibdir1@hotmail.com.

Newspaper Clippings from the Past

Continued from page 4

Milford G. Koonts [Koons?] to Elizabeth Jones
Joshua T. Hendricks to Marie J. Goodman
S. E. Gillaspy to Eliza A. Mitchell
William M. Golden to Sarah Waterford
Frank Conrad to Nancy C. Stephens
Frederick Stephens to Sarah Jane Patton
George R. Grubb to Phoebe [Phoebe?] E. Phillips

During this period, or while W. F. Browning was clerk, two licenses were returned by prospective grooms for the reasons that the brides had changed their minds. One license that had been issued on July 11, 1876, to Charles E. Lanam and Harriet L. Burt, was returned by the groom and the clerk indorsed it with red ink: “a slip betwixt cup and lip.”

Bloomington Saturday Courier, 16 February 1895

There have been quite a number of business changes in the city during the past month:

“The new Hotel Gentry opened, Nugent’s drug store in the same building, Lee Dove & Co. moved to new quarters, Cox Bros. opened a shoe store, the Walnut Street Hotel burned out, Crutcher the grocer closed, Helton Pauley opened a jewelry store, the Acom restaurant closed, Blount Campbell opened a meat shop, Al Hays bought out the Davis tin shop, Dr. Whitted, the dentist moved away, Mrs. Bowman’s millinery moved to Indianapolis, a new law firm of Wilson & Henley, the K. of P’s moved to their new hall and their old hall occupied by the Oolite Club. The city clerk opened a new office.”

Dolls and Trains Exhibit
- Trains are from the Museum’s collection (left)
- Ethnic dolls collected by Lynn Bower (above)
- Howdy Doody doll from the 1950s donated to the Museum by Michael Miller (top)
See Stories… Touch Time… Make Memories…

As most of you know, your membership expiration date appears on this newsletter’s label. Please check it now……..

Your membership dues are the keys to the Society’s success. All membership income goes toward operating expenses and is a vital part of our budgeted income.

Individual – Family

☐ Basic $25
☐ Friend $50
☐ Sustaining $100-249
☐ Contributor $250-499
☐ Patron $500+

Corporate - Service Organizations

☐ Level 1 $100-249
☐ Level 2 $250-499
☐ Level 3 $500-999
☐ Level 4 $1000+

Check if you have a special interest in genealogy.

☐ Check if you are interested in volunteering.

Please Send to:
Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Or Fax to 812-355-5593

☐ ________________________
Gift Givers Name

☐ ________________________
Name

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Address

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E-mail

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Phone

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Credit Card #

☐ ________________________
Exp. date

☐ ________________________
Signature