Fashion Show & Review of Styles of the 1940s

Take a trip back in time and enjoy a fashion show highlighting the best of the 1940s from playsuits to cocktail suits.

Sunday, August 10th
2-4 pm

Tickets are $10. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today. Special desserts will be served.

Style show presented by Debby Jordan. All clothing is from her extensive personal collection.

Tickets may be purchased at the Monroe County Historical Society
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Or call 812-332-2517

Through November 24, 2003

“In Style” Exhibit
Men’s and women’s clothing accessories from 1850-1950.

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
Exhibits

In Style
May 10-November 24
Retrospective of men's and women's clothing accessories from 1850-1950

185 Years of the Bloomington Square
June 23—November 24
Exhibit features photographs and artifacts that document one of the oldest downtown areas in the state.

The Elementary Essence of Indiana History
May 28—August 10
This fun exhibits features artwork that represents a bold interpretation of Indiana history and significant Hoosiers. Artists are from Binford Elementary’s 4th Grade.

Upcoming Exhibit
Lingering Spirit: A Tribute to Indiana’s Forgotten Places
December 2-31
This exhibits features the fascinating b/w photography of John Bower. His work illustrates the unique beauty found in the “forgotten” places of southern Indiana.

Schedule of Events

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

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

August Programs

• 10 1940’s Style Show  Let’s take a trip back in time… Join us at the Historical Society for a fashion show and review of styles of the 40’s, presented by Debby Jordan. The cost is $10.00 per person. There is limited space, so call to make reservations today.

September Programs

• 11 Downtown Memories  7 pm  Come and enjoy this interactive program on Bloomington’s downtown. Randi Richardson will be showing her historic collection of postcards that illustrate how the Square has changed. Participants will be invited to share their memories of the Square’s stores and activities.
• 18 19th Century Photographs - How to Date Pictures by Technology
  Julian Livingston, MCHS Web Master, MCHS Past President and Past Genealogy Library Director, will conduct a round table seminar, limited to twenty people. Reservations are a must!

November Programs

• 1– 29 Festival of Wreaths  This silent auction, which features over 50 wreaths created by local craftspeople, will run through the month of November. The auction ends at 4 pm, November 29th. Phone-in bids accepted.
• 6 Indiana Nurses in World War I Stationed at a Base Hospital in France
  Julian Livingston, MCHS Web Master, MCHS Past President and Past Genealogy Library Director, will conduct a round table seminar, limited to twenty people. Reservations are a must!
• 28-29 2nd Annual Canopy of Lights Arts and Craft Show  This year’s show will be bigger than last year and the building will be decked out in new lights. The show will run noon-9 pm on Friday and 10 am-4 pm on Saturday. The Festival of Wreaths’ silent auction will end at 4 pm on Saturday.

December Programs

• 4 Exhibit Reception for “Lingering Spirit: A Tribute to Indiana’s Forgotten Places”  7-9 pm  The reception will include a 30-minute presentation by John Bower. There will also be a viewing of the exhibit, as well as a book signing. Light refreshments will be served.
Bloomington’s Stone Lamp Posts
Part I: 1910

By Lee Ridge

Author’s note: Overheard at a chat session after a historical society meeting: “Whatever became of the stone lamp posts that were a part of downtown Bloomington years ago? They were fine examples of the stone carvers’ art work.” No one ventured an answer to Henry Wahl’s question. Months later, I discovered the Bloomington newspapers had carried items on their gradual loss, as well as their prior history. The grammar and spelling of the news columns has been retained.

12 August 1910: If the plans of the city council are carried out the public square will compete in beauty with any square or street in the state. The councilmen are at present considering the installation of about 75 light posts, each of which will carry a cluster of three lights. These posts will be about the square and one block in each direction thereby lighting each street that is to be brick paved. A committee of councilmen also called upon the county council this morning and laid before them a proposition of placing some 16 posts about the court house yard. ....

13 August 1910: Although the contract has not yet been let for the furnishing of the 100 steel light posts to be used about the paved streets, it is estimated that they may cost about $20 each. They are to be placed about 70 feet apart and have a cluster of three lights on top. Any increase in the cost of maintaining the new system can be avoided since all but one light on each post will be turned out after 10 or 11 o’clock with the exception of special events such carnival or show nights. The action of the council in installing this system of lighting seem to be approved by the people in general. The Seward foundry company expects to place a bid for the making of the posts.

23 September 1910: Because only three of the council men were present the proposed adjourned meeting last night from the regular meeting of Thursday night was not called to order. The meeting had been asked that a decision might be made as to the kind of light posts to be used in the new system. Samuel Reed and Harry Johnston, representing stone quarries that had made an offer of donations if the stone posts are used, were present and an hour was spent in open discussion of the subject. The council seems to be favorable to the stone posts and the following committee was appointed to draw plans for the post that would be most convenient to all: Harry Johnston, Councilmen Beard and Fletcher and J. L. Moncrieff. ....

27 September 1910: For the purpose of working out the mechanical points in the light posts to be used in our new lighting system, the following committee met last night at the office of the Lighting company: Councilmen Beard, Fletcher and Freeze, and J. N. Moncrieff and Rufes Weinland. The posts are to be of stone and will be of Doric architecture. They will be turned round and will have square bases. In each base will be an inch opening where the fuse blocks etc. may be reached. A sample post is to be made by the Johnston quarry and set up so the council may see exactly how they appear. The city will need 120 and 94 of these have already been donated by Monroe county quarries.

Continued on page 6
Smithville was founded in 1851 by George Smith and Mansfield Bennett. The best place to see how Smithville has grown and changed is at the Smithville Museum. This museum was founded in 1992 by the Smithville Area Association. It is opened to the public just one day a year—Labor Day. All other times by appointment. The Museum is located in the old Redman Hall. The large room is filled with many treasures from Smithville’s past. Above is one of the oldest examples of the high school’s mascot. Students at the Smithville High School were called the “Skibos” and their mascot was a penguin. Also among their treasures is a nearly complete set of class photographs and yearbooks from 1928-1972 (the year the SHS closed). The collection also includes numerous other artifacts, textiles and photographs. There is no entrance fee and it is well worth the visit.

Directions if needed...
The easiest way to Smithville is to take Hwy 37 south of Bloomington. Turn left onto Smithville Road. Turn right at the first stop sign (Strain Ridge Rd.). The museum is about one block on the left side of street.

For more information about the Museum please call the Patricia Robinson, Curator at 824-8859, or to rent the lower floor call 824-9336.

Smithville Labor Day Celebration
200+ Antique Cars and Trucks
Music
Food (11 am– 2 pm) Museum
Labor Day
10 am– 4 pm

Next to the parking lot is Dr. George Mitchell’s office. The building was moved a few blocks so that it could be next to the Museum. Dr. Mitchell was Smithville’s only physician from 1914-1968. The building has been refurbished with period furniture, medicine bottles and herbal remedies.

Smithville Museum is located on the 2nd floor of the Redman Hall. The Hall was built in 1910 and was renovated in the early 1990s. The lower floor, which includes a kitchen, is available for groups to rent.
“Genie” News from Other Places

Certificate Fees Increased
As a result of legislation approved by the 2003 Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana State Department of Health has doubled the fees for birth and death certificates. The search fee for either certificate is now $8.00, up from $4.00. Since birth certificate charges also include a $2.00 fee (unchanged) for the Birth Problems Registry Fund, which tracks infants with birth defects, the total cost is now $10.00. The fee for ordering more than one copy of a birth or death certificate at the time of the search is $4.00 for each extra copy, up from $1.00. The State Department of Health conducts 58,000 searches for birth and death certificates each year and fills requests for 40,000 additional copies of these certificates. Its schedule of fees was last changed in 1983. The average cost of searches for birth or death certificates at state health departments nationally is $15.00. Fees for certificates at Indiana’s 94 local health departments vary. (From the Gosport Express, 7 July 2003)

Stinesville High School Web Site
A web site has been set up to aid in collecting information on the history of Stinesville High School. There are plans to compile a history covering the entire 59 years of the school’s existence. The editorial committee is especially interested in information and pictures relating to early classes that have no surviving members. A full description of the project, along with names of committee members and contact information, may be found on the web site at: http://home.bluemarble.net/~rbaldwin/. Information, questions, or comments may also be sent to Carol May, 7958 North Old Dutch Church Road, Ellettsville, IN 47429.

Greene County Historical Society
The Greene County Historical Society, located on Spring Street on the square in downtown Bloomfield, is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information about the society and its publications is available by writing to P.O. Box 301, Bloomfield, IN 47424, or at: http://greenecountyin.org. The web site, called “Roots of Greene,” also includes information on the Greene County Genealogical Society, Greene County Landmarks Foundation, and Scotland Historical Society, along with links to other Greene County organizations of interest to genealogists.

Helpful Suggestions from the DAR
If you are just getting started with on-line research, Jane Klotz of the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter, Indianapolis, of the Daughters of the American Revolution (http://darindiana.org/csh) suggests several web sites where you can glean genealogical information at no cost:
- SSI at: http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi/
- State and County Searches at: http://usgenweb.net (go to States Pages)
- RootsWeb at: http://rootsweb.com/
- Cyndi’s List at: http://cyndislist.com/
- Genealogy Spot at: http://genealogyspot.com/
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) site at: http://familysearch.org/ (see 1880 census)

Web Sites for Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom
Some worthwhile web sites mentioned in recent issues of Family Tree News Service (http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp):
- Sweden Genealogy Gate. The site has been updated to include more than 350 new pages of historical and genealogical information at: http://

4-H Genealogy Projects
Two representatives of the MCHS Genealogy Library served as judges for the 2003 4-H genealogy projects at the Monroe County Fair. Randi Richardson and Allison Lendman met with each of the young genealogists who ranged in age from nine to 17 years.

“We were able to discuss their projects in some detail and to point out both their strengths and those things they might work on in the future.” Allison says. It was an honor to encourage these young people as they begin what might become a life-long interest.
8 October 1910: A sample light post of stone has been placed on the south west corner of the square for criticism.

12 October 1910: A stone post design submitted by Councilman Henry Beard, chairman of the street committee, of the city council, has been adopted and will be used for the new cluster lights of Bloomington. Ninety-six stone posts have already been subscribed and twenty-four more are needed for the business district. The posts already subscribed are to be donated free of charge to the city by the following companies: George W. Henley Co., Consolidated Stone Co.; Empire Stone Co; South Side Stone Co.; Monroe County Oolitic Stone Co.; Reed Cut Stone Co., Bedford; Central Oolitic Stone Co., Chicago; Bloomington Stone Co. Other stone men are yet to be solicited, and it is believed enough will be thus obtained to save the city any expense.

The posts given to the city are worth $20 apiece, making the contribution from each quarry $240. If iron posts had been bought like those used in Indianapolis the city would have had to pay $3,720 for them. The present post in front of the gas office is a little too heavy and the others are to be reduced in size. The idea of installing stone posts originated with the assistant city attorney R. L. Morgan, who personally solicited every post that has been donated. Bloomington will be the first city in the United States using stone posts for lights.

25 October 1910: The first cluster lights were placed on the sample stone post in front of the gas office last evening and were kept burning during the night. The lights are very beautiful and shed enough radiance to pick up a pin off the street surrounding them.

12 November 1910: Assistant Attorney R. L. Morgan went before the board of county commissioners yesterday and secured an appropriation of $500 with which to pay for sixteen electric cluster lights to be placed at each entrance to the court house. The sum secured will be used in paying for the stone posts and lights. Two lights are to be located at each entrance and Mr. Morgan and Harry Johnson were empowered to select the design to be used. They will prepare plans and specifications after which the county board will advertise for bids among stone men of the district. With the lights installed every fifty-two feet at the outer edge of the sidewalk along the entire business district and additional clusters at the four corners of the court house yard, the business section of the city will present a beautiful appearance at night.

12 November 1910: At the session of county commissioners just held the sum of $500 was appropriated for light posts around the court house. Attorney R. L. Morgan presented the matter to the board and Harry Johnson the well known stone operator is having blue prints made and bids are to be advertised for at once. The posts are to be much more elaborate than the city’s posts. They are to be octagon shaped and are to have one large globe instead of three smaller ones. Two posts are to be placed at the entrances which make a total of 16 posts.

12 November 1910: Business men of the city generally are desirous that the city council have the cluster system of electric lights installed in the business district. It is understood that the council has already arranged to have the lights placed around the public square, but the desire is that they also be placed as far as the present paving goes, one block in each direction from the square. It is pointed out that in extending the lights with the paving, it would include the new post office building at College avenue and Seventeenth street, the Harris-Grand theatre at Walnut and Seventh streets and the Monon depot. ... The county commissioners will also be asked to order the lights placed at each entrance to the court house.

LATER:
At a meeting of the city council last night, the electric light company was instructed to lay conduits for 108 lights and the entire business district is to be included. The poles are to be of steel, will cost $20 a piece, and are...
Museum Store ... What’s New

- Nostalgic children’s toys, books & 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

Great Gift Idea!
A piece of Indiana limestone in the shape of Indiana.

Looking for something to do this summer?
Check out the Store’s great Hoosier travel books.
- Paddle Indiana
- Traveling the Ohio River Scenic Route
- Off the Beaten Path
- Roadside Geology of Indiana
- Nature Walking in Southern Indiana
- Scenic Driving Indiana
- To name just a few!

Bloomington’s Stone Lamp Posts
Continued from page 7

to be manufactured by the Seward Company. The original order of the council called for only 28 lights and included only the public square. There will be three lights in each cluster ....

3 December 1910: Twelve stone posts donated by the National Stone Company for the cluster lights are being placed in position today. It is understood that another consignment of posts will be ready next week. The dozen received today are being put up on College avenue between Seventh street and Kirkwood avenue, and will be connected and lighted within a week or ten days.

30 December 1910: Bloomington merchants are being asked to pay for the lighting service of the new electric cluster lights in the business district. The charge for the service will be $200 a month and there is not enough money in the city’s lighting fund to pay the bill. Some of the local merchants have already subscribed.

To be continued in the next issue of the newsletter.

Photographs Needed
The Society is seeking photographs of the businesses and activities that have been on the Bloomington Square from 1960s-1990s. Also seeking general Monroe County photos from 1920’s to recent.

“The Changing Faces of the Square”
Now through November 24th

This exhibits features photographs depicting the changes the Square has undergone. An interesting part of the exhibit are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1887-1927. Great reference material.
News from the Genealogy Library

Summer Activity
With the advent of summer, the Genealogy Library has been busy. Many visitors come to us from out of state and are delighted with our resources. We have a new volunteer, Lee Ehman, who is working on deed records. Thanks, Lee! There is always more to do, so please contact Liz Knapp or Loretta Condra if you would like to assist us.

New Shelf Dividers
The library’s shelves have never looked better, thanks to the services of Ted Condra and Mobie McCammon. Ted manufactured a set of U-shaped metal dividers that could be inserted into the shelves to hold the books upright, and Mobie installed them. Not only do the dividers keep the volumes in order and the shelves looking tidy, but they are a great help when it is time to reshell things after a busy day in the library. Thanks, Ted and Mobie!

Computer Upgrades
Julian Livingston has been working to get several recently donated computers up and running. The addition of more computer work stations will improve access for both visitors and volunteer staff in the library. We appreciate his ongoing efforts to enhance the usability of our computer equipment.

Midwestern Roots 2003
The Midwestern Roots 2003 Family History and Genealogy Conference took place in Indianapolis on July 11 and 12. Representatives from MCHS included Liz Knapp and Randi Richardson from the Genealogy Library, Kari Price, Executive Director, and David Price. The MCHS booth offered a variety of our publications for sale. Many conference participants stopped by the booth to make on-site purchases or pick up copies of our publications brochure for future orders.

New Acquisitions

DAR Donation
The Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in Indianapolis has donated the 1990 edition of DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition, part 1-2-3. Thank you, Daughters for this wonderful gift. It is a great addition to our library.

Attention, Monroe County Researchers!
Randi Richardson recently completed a revised version of Monroe County, Indiana, Records: What They Are and Where to Find Them. She originally wrote the book about two years ago, but has made some revisions to bring it up to date and has also added a table of contents and an index. The book, published by the Monroe County Historical Society with a softbound cover, is available for $7.00 in the Museum Store. It can also be ordered by telephone at (812) 855-5588 or (812) 882-2517. All proceeds from the sale of this book go to the support of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Corporate Members
- Central Lions Club
- Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- ONB Bloomington
- Smithville Telephone
- Mapleton Memorial First Baptist
- Cook Inc.
- Cook Group
- CFC, Inc.
- Union Planters
- All American Title, Inc.
- Bank One Corp.
- Monroe Bank

Who’s Who at the Society
Kari Price
Executive Director

Christy Deykes
Office Manager

Soon to be announced
Volunteer and Membership Coordinator

Carrie Hertz
Collection Assistant

Liz Knapp
Genealogy Library Director

Glenda Murray
Board President

Interns and Work Study Folks
Jessica McArtor
Leonard Gruntman
Dianne Wilson
Sara Vargas
Andrew Storer

Departures
We are sad to announce that Jenny Meurer has resigned her position of Volunteer and Membership Coordinator. Jenny has been with MCHS since January, 2001. The good news is that she is leaving to get married and move to California.
Ask Genie

Dear Genie:

Who is the mother of Hazel Glodine Wampler, who was born on 26 September 1919 in Bloomington? In a copy of her obituary, undated with no source noted, it is indicated that she was born to George and Myrtle (Parnell) Wampler. She died at the age of 67. The Allen Funeral Home handled the burial arrangements. Survivors included two sisters, Ruth Galloway and Betty Hays; two brothers, Lloyd and Harold, preceded her in death. I question the accuracy of the obituary because I saw information on-line noting that George Wampler's wife was Ethel Lou.

Answer:
First, let me note that information provided in the absence of documentation or corroboration should not be taken as fact. If you have a dated, sourced obituary noting Hazel's mother as Myrtle (Parnell) Wampler, that is evidence even though it is unsubstantiated. Any evidence is more creditable than information provided without a source. (The Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington has an on-line database that should provide you with the date of the obituary; you can then request a copy for your files.) Marriage and census records are just a few of the ways to substantiate the information from the obituary. Although I have used marriage and census indices published by the Monroe County Historical Society as sources, the proper way to substantiate information is with copies of original records.

According to the marriage record index, Lula M. Parnell, daughter of James and Rebecca A. Parnell, married George E. Wampler in 1907. In 1910, George Wampler, 33, was noted head of household. Other members of the household included: Lou, 30; Lloyd, 3; and Herald [sic], 2 months. In 1920, George Wampler, 40, was noted head of household. Other members of the household included: Lulu, 31; Lloyd 12 (noted twice); Harold, 9; Ruth, 2; Glodine, 4 months; and Rebecca Parnell, mother-in-law, 75. (Lulu’s age appears to be incorrectly noted.)

These three records suggest that the information provided in the obituary is correct. Other types of substantiation might include: Hazel’s birth record; Hazel’s marriage application; Hazel’s death record; Hazel’s funeral record; an obituary, death or probate record for James or Rebecca Parnell that identifies Hazel as a survivor/heir.

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 monroehistsoc@hotmail.com. Please keep in mind that space does not permit a response to every question or lengthy research.

New and Renewed Members

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Help Needed in the Genealogy Library!
- Data Entry
- Research
- Special Projects

Please contact Liz at monroehistsoc@hotmail.com or call the Museum at 332-2517.

Basic
- Benjamin & Wanda Keutzer
- Damon Floyd
- Mary England
- Nancy Boerner
- Virginia Capshaw Leonard
- W.L. Bradley
- Helen Alltop
- Ozark Dreams Ranch
- Majorie Counsilman
- James Ramsey
- Larry & Sherry Stephens
- Lee Ann & Eric Sandweiss
- David & Sheila McCune
- Sarah Cleverenger
- Betty Kuntz
- Stella Jane Franklin
- Timothy Morrison
- Earl Graves
- William & Ivey Gosser
- Ronald & Sally Kofmehl
- Robert & Allison Lendman
- Patricia Patton
- J.M. & Doris Warring
- Stanley & Elizabeth Newhall
- Catherine Meyer

Basic
- James & Jeanne Madison
- Michael & Melanie
- Sweezy

Sustaining
- Nancy Bryan
- Jeanette Marchant
- Elizabeth Knapp
- Theodore & Loretta Condra
- Wayne & Marilyn Warden

Contributor
- Julia McClary

Patron
- Rachel & Cullen McCarty
Garage Sale Success!

The Society’s annual garage sale on June 6-7 brought in $10,600 for our operating fund, exceeding the goal of $10,000.

A big thanks to these wonderful people:

1. The many sorters, markers and drivers who worked on the sale from moving-in day on May 15 to clean-up day on June 9.
2. The owners and staff of Building Four, at the former RCA/Thomson plant, for making the location available and work so well.
3. The staff at CFC Inc. for use of their truck, for merchandise and for storage. We couldn’t do it without them.
4. All of you who donated the huge selection of merchandise and who came to shop for the bargains.

We still have several pieces of Roseville and a 44-piece set of Cambridge glass to sell. Let us know if you’re interested.

And if you still have too many treasures in your closets — save them for our February auction!

Birthday Bash

The 185th Birthday Celebration of Monroe County was held on July 4th from 10 am to 6 pm. The celebration included food, music and an arts and craft fair, which had 39 booths featuring local artists. The exhibit “Changing Faces of the Square” also opened that day. The day was a great success and nearly 1500 people came and participated. Mark your calendars for the 186th birthday. The celebration will be on July 4th, 2004.

The artists featured in the July 4th event represented a wide variety of art types. To the right are some examples of pottery by Jim Sanders.

MCHS would also like to express a special thank you to Dan Rarey of Dan Rarey Real Estate for providing a wonderful 1929 Ford truck, that was used in the July 4th Parade. We would also like to express a great deal of gratitude and amazement of Andrew Storer’s willingness to wear the “Schmalz” bear costume during the parade.
Newsletter Sponsorships Now Available

The *Monroe County Historian* is now offering newsletter sponsorships to local businesses. MCHS is proud to announce the first six sponsors: Cookies by Design, Oliver Winery, RE/MAX, Sue Ann’s Scrapbook Shoppe, United Commerce Bank and Smithville Telephone.

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