One of the most interesting facets of research in early Monroe County deed book records is the variety of non-land transactions found there. There are records of ownership changes of farm animals, household goods, and indentures, and parcels of land. While working on one of the deed books, I found recorded the 1830 emancipation of a slave. Apparently, Richard McCorkle moved from Tennessee to Monroe County some time before 1830, bringing with him his family and property willed to him by his father, William. Part of the estate was a young male slave named Michael. Late in 1830 Richard recorded the following:

Know all men by these presents that whereas I, Richard B. McCorkle of the County of Monroe and State of Indiana, by the Last will and Testament of my father William McCorkle at the time of his death, resident of the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, had bequeathed to me as heir of the said William McCorkle a certain colored person Slave named Michael, which said Michael is now about Twenty Two years old and resident of the said County of Monroe in the state of Indiana. 

Now I the said Richard B. McCorkle hereto induced by the meritorious conduct and character of the said Michael as well as for other good and worthy reasons do thereby liberate and set free and Emancipate the said Michael for and during his natural life to all intents and purposes and as fully resting in the said Michael all the rights and privileges of freedom as if he had been a free born Negro or other free born person. In testimony whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the second day of November A.D. eighteen hundred and thirty.

Witnessed by J. B. Lowe
(Monroe County Land Record Book C, p. 179)

In the earliest U.S. census of Monroe County, 1830, Richard McCorkle was listed with his large household, but no separate enumeration of Michael was made. Neither Richard nor Michael was listed in later Monroe County censuses, although local land transactions were made by Richard McCorkle during the early 1830s.

You might wonder about slavery in early Indiana. According to the Indiana Historian, the earliest recorded slaves were noted in 1746 in French settlements at Vincennes. After the American Revolution, the Ordinance of 1787 prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, of which Indiana was a part. Nevertheless, early settlers brought many slaves into Indiana. By 1800 pro-slavery politicians in the Indiana Territory had created laws evading slavery prohibition set forth in the Northwest Ordinance.

However, by the time Indiana became a state in 1816, anti-slavery sentiment led to a change in the state constitution prohibiting slavery. The Indiana Supreme Court ruled consistently to uphold this law, and gradually slavery and indentured servitude were eliminated. Nevertheless, partly because of the sharp conflict between pro- and anti-slave factions, Indiana was not a hospitable place for black persons. Their civil rights were not insured, and even after 1831 black settlers “were required to register with county authorities and post a $500 bond as a guarantee of good behavior.” (The Indiana Historian) Some slaves were still held in violation of law as late as the 1840s. Increasing prejudice was shown in provisions of the 1851 Indiana Constitution, which prohibited new immigration of blacks, and required those already in residence to register with circuit courts.

Nothing more is known of what became of the emancipated Michael, whose last name was never recorded. He might have stayed with the McCorkles and worked for the family. He might have taken a last name other than McCorkle and settled on his own in Monroe County. Perhaps he moved on after being freed, seeking a more welcoming home. It would be wonderful to have someone clear history’s mists enough to follow his path. Should any reader have more information, I would be delighted to include it in a future issue and add it to the library’s collection!

Sources Consulted
Dunn, J. P., Jr. Indiana: A Redemption From...
Exhibits

Stop in soon to enjoy our two new current exhibits. The first, in the Brown Gallery is “Crazy About Quilts” and features some spectacular locally-loaned examples. Some of the intricately embroidered pieces date from before the turn of the 20th century and others are recent creations. All are displayed in vignettes with Victorian and other antique furniture and accessories. You will be wowed by the beautiful colors and extensive embroidery. Exhibit closes at the end of April.

The second exhibit, in the Rechter Gallery, is “What Did You Do Today, Dear?” – Housekeeping in the 1930s and 40s. This gallery is transformed into vintage kitchens, a dining room, and a laundry area. If the 30s or 40s were in your lifetime, you will enjoy “stepping back” into your Mother’s or Grandmother’s houses. Bring your children or grandchildren with you to teach them about life in that era. Exhibit closes at the end of May.

Don’t miss them! See photos on page 8

Schedule of Events

All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center and are FREE, unless otherwise stated.

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

Exhibit Reception
Members and their guests are invited to a reception thanking those who have loaned items for the two current exhibits – “Crazy About Quilts” and “What Did You Do Today, Dear?” The galleries will be open and light refreshments will be served between 4 and 6 pm on Sunday, February 29. Please join us in expressing gratitude to those who helped make our current exhibits possible.

Bloomin’ Scrapbook Program will be on March 2. See page 4 for more information.

Machine Quilting & Embroidering Demonstration
On Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6, Abbey’s Sewing Center will present demonstrations of their Viking quilting and embroidery machines at the History Center. You can stop by anytime between 12-3 pm.

Hands-On Embroidery Workshops
To encourage those who have been inspired by our exhibit of lavishly embroidered crazy quilts, we have scheduled two hands-on workshops to teach participants several of the basic embroidery stitches they might use to create their own crazy-style items.

A two hour program will be presented on March 13th from 10 am—noon. The presenter will be Linda Hunt. This program will cover many basic stitches used in embellishments. Reservations deadline for this program is March 10th.

The instructor for the Saturday, March 20th workshop is Rosemary Trubitt. Participants may drop in anytime between 10 am and noon for the informal instruction which will be appropriate for school-age children through adults.

Reservations are encouraged for both programs to be sure enough supplies are available. Please call the History Center at 332-2517.

Annual Meeting and Board Elections
The 2004 annual meeting of the membership of the Monroe County Historical Society will be held in the Deckard Education Room of the History Center on Wednesday, April 7 at 7 pm. Active committees will give brief reports of last year’s progress and of plans for the new fiscal year. New Board of Trustees members and officers will be elected by vote of those Society members present at the meeting. The names of the candidates for trustees and officers will be available for review by March 1 on our web site at www.kiva.net/~mchm. All Society members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Monroe County Birthday Celebration
The 186th birthday of our county will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, April 18. Plans are in process for old-time artisan demonstrations and music. There will again be a photograph scheduled of the descendants of Monroe County’s “Old Settlers.” Reserve the date to celebrate here at the History Center. If you would like to help to plan the day’s activities or would be willing to volunteer to help at the event, please call the History Center at 332-2517.

Monroe County History Center
Kari Price, Executive Director
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Office/Museum          Genealogy Library
812-332-2517          812-355-5588

E-mail: mchm@kiva.net
Web Address: www.kiva.net/~mchm

Museum/Store          Genealogy Library
Tue– Sat              Tues and Sat
10 am—4 pm           10 am—4 pm
Sunday 1-4 pm         Wed-Fri 1-4 pm

Glenda Murray, President
Larry Stephens, VP Finance
Rachel McCarty, VP Operations
M. Phil Hathaway, Treasurer
Holly Joy, Secretary
Penelope Mathiesen, Assoc. Secretary
Liz Knapp, Library Director
Street Numbers Were Quite an Innovation
By Penelope Mathiesen

Today, street addresses are considered indispensable, especially for anyone expecting the delivery of a package. But until the 1880s, Bloomington residents had to get along without them. According to this article in the Sesquicentennial Edition of the Bloomington Herald Times (24 September 1968), street numbers were considered a bold new idea when they were implemented in 1888.

“Numbering of City Streets Began with Council of 1888”

During the few years prior to 1888, there had been some talk regarding the need of numbering houses within the City’s corporate limits. As it was, residents were known as simply residing on a certain street, east, west, north or south.

What or who backed a direct proposal to number dwellings, was not made of record, but the matter was not brought before the Council until January, 1888. Mayor M. M. Dunlap and the Council thought so well of the idea a committee was appointed to investigate and make recommendations. Appointed were Councilmen James D. Showers, J.H. Ryors and Henry H. Voss.

The next Council meeting found the committee ready to report. It was stated that the committee believed the numbering of houses in the City would, to quote, “contribute greatly to the peace, health, prosperity and good of the City.” Just how the venture in mind would affect the City’s peace and health was not defined, but those points seemed to carry weight, nevertheless. Recommendations as to the manner of numbering were made. Numbering would start with 200 on streets each way from the public square. Walnut would divide the City east and west, and Kirkwood north and south. Public square buildings were to be given numbers, presumably starting with 100, the committee failing to so specify. However, later changes in numbering were made. The committee’s recommendations were approved and an ordinance ordered drawn up.

In March, 1888, the ordinance came before the Council for action and was passed. Numbering expense was to be borne by property owners, the cost not to exceed 10 cents per figure, unless by special contract between owner and the person doing the work. The ordinance specified that completion be effected and paid for within 30 days.

Having street numbers was hailed as quite an innovation by the householder and the business man, who were now more easily located. Of aid it was also to strangers in the City and incoming students of the University.

Paid in Fuel
By Penelope Mathiesen

In an age when accounts can be settled by sending a credit card number over the Internet, it is reassuring to look back on a time when business was conducted on a more solid basis. According to this item from the Bloomington Weekly Progress (20 June 1867), the newspaper accepted “in kind” payment of subscription fees, though they were clearly anxious not to take any wooden nickels.

“Wood Subscribers”

Those of our subscribers who have contracted to pay in wood, will please call at the office and notify us before delivering. It had become a custom with many, to haul wood to the residences of the former proprietors of this paper, without notifying them of the fact until six months or a year had transpired, and in consequence, a general misunderstanding and confusion of accounts was the result. We desire to see the wood and know who delivers it, as we do not propose to pay $2 for a quarter cord of indifferent fuel.

Items Sought for Next Exhibit

What do you collect? Will you share your collection for exhibit during the coming summer months? The exhibit will be “Collection of Collections II.” Last year’s “Collection of Collections I” was very popular and so we are planning its sequel. We hope to feature a whole new selection of items that people collect. The items may be antique or contemporary. Last year a few of the categories represented were: seashells, compacts, Indiana pottery, English cups and saucers, cast iron soldiers, and photos of unique mailboxes. Please call the museum (332-2517) to leave your name, phone number, and a brief description of your collection. All items will be displayed securely in locked glass cases.
Fulwider Histories

The Genealogy Library has received copies of two histories by Edwin Fulwider. A Memoir (1989) looks back on the years he spent growing up in Bloomington. He was born at 525 West Third Street (on the corner of Third and Jackson) in the house now owned by Patrick and Glenda Murray. The family moved to a house at the corner of East Seventh and Lincoln in 1922 and later lived in a house on West Fifteenth Street. In the memoir, Fulwider recalls his various homes and neighborhoods, Fulwider Lumber Company (founded by his grandfather in 1888), and Bloomington’s railroads, newspapers, bakeries, schools, band concerts, and local personalities.

The other history, For My Grandchildren (1987), details Fulwider’s life as an artist. He studied at the John Herron Art School in Indianapolis, where he was awarded the Milliken Traveling Fellowship for European travel in 1936. After his marriage, he and his wife lived for a short time in Bloomington, where their son, Edwin Fulwider, Jr., was born in 1937. Fulwider lived, painted, taught, and had paintings exhibited throughout the United States. After his retirement from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1973, he moved to Lakeview, Idaho, where he continued to be active as an artist. Both histories will be cataloged and shelved in the library. We extend thanks to Ira B. Zinman for his assistance in making these materials available to library users.

Tombstone Photographs

The collection of photographs of the graves of Revolutionary War veterans of Monroe and Owen Counties, donated to the library by Ed Hitchcock, has been copied and placed in a binder by Betty Yoder and her daughter, Karen Ellis. Information from the SAR web site was added, along with a table of contents and two appendices giving directions to the Monroe and Owen County cemeteries where the graves are located. The original photographs are stored in the library, and the binder will soon be available to library visitors.

Community Foundation Grant

An application prepared by Julian Livingston and Kari Price for a $2,000 Community Foundation Grant has received the go-ahead. The next step is to work out a methodology for analyzing, preserving, and indexing several bound volumes of property transactions. The books were donated to the Genealogy Library by Ron and Mary Jane Baldwin on behalf of Stephanie Maloney, granddaughter of Martha Simms, who owned Bloomington Title Company. Since the tracing of property titles can include all the heirs if the sale is made in the course of settling an estate, these records are of considerable interest to genealogists.

Cemetery Committee News

A work day was held at Brock Cemetery in conjunction with a project funded by a $500 grant from the Indiana Genealogical Society and $500 for site work from the City of Bloomington. John Walters assisted by cleaning stones with ammonia and water; some straightening and repair was also done. Walters will come back again in the spring. Thanks also for help from committee members Dave Foster and Herman Young. Larry Stephens, committee chair, has prepared a Power Point demonstration on the project, which was shown at the January meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society board. Stephens says he has learned a number of techniques that would be useful for the activities of the Cemetery Committee if money can be found to purchase supplies.

Bloomin’ Scrapbook Program

Come and learn a classic approach to preserving your family heritage photos. By using the classic colors and styles, your history can be preserved in a beautiful album to be enjoyed. Leave this session with pages that will honor your treasured photographs. Bring 6-8 themed photos or copies. This great program will be held on March 2 from 1-4 pm at Bloomin’ Scrapbook, which is located at 232 S. Pete Ellis Drive. There is a fee of $10, which can be paid the day of the program. Space is very limited, so reserve your space today by calling 332-2517!!
Stretching the (City) Limits  By Penelope Mathiesen

The 2002 demise of the Day Funeral Home and its replacement by a CVS Pharmacy marked a significant change of scenery at the intersection of Third and the 45/46 Bypass. The funeral home sat on a corner lot, separated from the street by an expanse of green lawn, the last substantial open space on Bloomington’s East Third Street.

In an interesting twist of history, the limestone building itself signified change when it first appeared. The land vacated by Day in its twenty-first-century move to a new location even further east is now part of a commercial district, but fifty years ago, the funeral home represented major construction in a previously undeveloped area.

An article on the history of Day Funeral Home (Bloomington Courier-Tribune, 3 October 1968) includes a stunning aerial view of the site on East Third Street, then little more than a country road surrounded by open farmland. The undated photograph was taken before the 45/46 Bypass was completed and College Mall was built in 1955–56.

The Day Funeral Home moved to East Third Street from its prior location at 302 South Walnut in downtown Bloomington. The business had been established by Arthur Day, who died in 1947. His widow, Mary, sold it to William Apple. The business’s operators are listed as Stephen J. Campbell and William H. Apple, “funeral directors and ambulance service," in the Bloomington City Directory for 1952–53. At that time, the city limits ended just past the intersection of East Third Street and Overhill Drive; there was one address beyond Overhill in the 2500 block of Third Street. The 1955 City Directory listed Day in its new location at 2701 East Third Street. Overhill was still the last cross street, but several new addresses had appeared east of it in the 2600 block of Third. Day Funeral Home was the last address within the city limits on East Third Street.

Coming Soon to a Convention Center Near You!

The Indiana Genealogical Society’s annual meeting and conference will be held on 3 April 2004 at the Bloomington Convention Center. Speakers include James Madison, Julian Livingston, Randi Richardson, and Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. There will also be an exhibition of genealogical materials and publications. Don’t miss the opportunity to attend the conference this year! Registration is $17 per member; $21 per non-member if received by 20 March 2004; or $25 per person at the door. Please make check payable to Indiana Genealogical Society and mail to: IGS 2004 Conference, 6922 Rocklane Road, Greenwood IN 46143-9739. Registration forms and additional information are available at: http://www.IndGenSoc.org

We will need volunteers to help keep the Genealogy Library open until 9 p.m. on the Friday evening before the conference and to staff the Monroe County Historical Society’s booth at the conference. To volunteer, please contact Liz Knapp, Genealogy Library Director (355-5588; 332-2517; monroehistsoc@hotmail.com).

Kettle’s New Home

A new display space was built to enhance the donation kettle’s visibility. The display will also be used to showcase information on membership and opportunities to volunteer. The display was built by David Price, a member of the Society for three years, and his
ASK GENIE: The Wives of Samuel Bennett

Dear Genie:

Who were the wives of Samuel Bennett, who was born sometime between 1798 and 1804, died in Monroe County, Indiana, on 14 December 1885 and was buried in the Farley Cemetery, Indian Creek Township, Monroe County?

Answer:

This was not an easy question. And it does not have an easy answer.

Samuel Bennett first appeared in the Monroe County census in 1840. In 1850 his household included an adult female named Mary A. In 1860 and 1870 the name was noted simply as Mary. Her age in the census records suggests a date of birth sometime between 1800 and 1804. In 1850 and 1860, the place of Mary’s birth was noted as Maryland; in 1870, Kentucky was identified as the place of birth.

There is no record of a marriage between a Samuel Bennett and a female named Mary or Ann in Indiana prior to 1850. However, it appears that Mary/Mary A. was the spouse of Samuel based upon their similar ages and their appearance in a single household over at least three decades. This assumption was borne out by an 1866 land record in Monroe County in which Samuel Bennett and “Mary Ann” sold property. Further evidence of their spousal relationship is derived from their burial in the same cemetery, Farley, and the inscription on Mary A.’s tombstone that notes she was the wife of Samuel.

Mary Ann (___?___) Bennett died on 9 October 1873. After her death, Samuel married Mary Jane May in Monroe County on 4 April 1878. They were enumerated together in the 1880 census, where it was noted that Mary J., age 52, was substantially younger than her eighty-year-old husband. Census and civil court records indicate that Mary Jane was the spinster daughter of Peter and Rachel May.

Samuel died in 1885, as noted above. There was no death record, and his brief obituary did not mention the names of his children. Three sons were, however, mentioned in Samuel’s will dated shortly before his death: Jahu, William, and Samuel Bennett, Jr. William and Samuel were named as executors of the will.

In the Orange County, Indiana, Circuit Court, on 10 January 1887, Jahu Bennett and others sued William Bennett, Samuel Bennett, Jr., and Mary J. Bennett to set the will aside. The judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and declared the will invalid. The defendants, William, Samuel, and Mary J., requested an opportunity to appeal their case to the Supreme Court, and the judge granted their request. (The Supreme Court record, if one exists, has not been reviewed.)

In February 1888, in Monroe County Court, William J. Lowe, appointed by the court as administrator of Samuel Bennett’s estate, provided the names of Samuel’s only heirs: Mary J. Bennett (widow), Jahue Bennett, Rebecca Smith, Mary E. Taylor, Sarah A. Johnson, Lewie Bennett, Mary C. Beard, Samuel Bennett, Jr., Eliza Beard, Will N. Bennett, Mary J. McLoughlin, Louisa Buchanan, Elsworth Moore, Comodore Moore, and Newton Moore. Four individuals (Jahue, Rebecca, Mary, and Sarah) received a full share. Two shares were divided into one-fifth portions and distributed to the remaining heirs with the exception of the widow. This suggests that Will N. (William), Samuel, Jr., and others were more distantly related to Samuel, Sr. than those who received a full share. In fact, Mary J. McLoughlin, Louisa Buchanan, Elsworth Moore, Comodore Moore, and Newton Moore have been identified as the children of Samuel’s daughter, Elizabeth, who was likely deceased, and her husband, Pinkney Moore. The parents of the remaining five individuals have not been identified.

A review of obituaries for Samuel’s heirs in Monroe County did not reveal anything of significance. A death record was available for only one of those heirs, William, who received a one-fifth share of
News from Other Places

Canal Euphoria, Anyone?
If Indiana’s canals intrigue you, check out “Indiana Canal Euphoria, Part I” by Ron Darrah in the December 2003 issue of the Indiana Genealogist, available in the Genealogy Library. Not only are the canals themselves fascinating, but their records contain information useful to genealogists: migration routes, investment and employment records, and court records such as damage claims from angry farmers. The article outlines the history of Indiana’s canals and provides a list of resources, including manuscript collections, repositories, web sites, and a selected bibliography.

County Historic Survey On-line
The Monroe County Historic Preservation Board of Review recently posted an inventory of historic sites and structures on its web site. The survey was compiled by Bloomington Restorations, Inc. in the late 1980s; hard copies of the survey report are available in the Monroe County History Center’s Genealogy Library and Museum Store. To find the on-line version, go to: http://www.co.in.monroe.us and click on Planning Department, then click on Historic Preservation. Monroe County Interim Report of Indiana Historic Sites and Structures is highlighted as a link within the text. The web site also includes information about the Historic Preservation Board, which handles requests for historic landmark protection for property held outside the Bloomington city limits in Monroe County. (From BRI News, December 2003, and the web site.)

Web Sites
Some worthwhile web sites mentioned in recent issues of Family tree News Service (http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp):

- To view maps of Scottish towns, browse the National Library of Scotland’s digital library of more than 1,900 maps of 62 towns, surveyed between 1847 and 1895. Available at: http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/map/townplans/index.html
- Alabama newspapers, maps, and photographs can be accessed via the Alabama State Archives Web site. Available at: http://www.archives.state.al.us/dataindex.html

To find out more about the Wright brothers’ first powered airplane flight on 17 December 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, take a look at these sites:

- Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum. Available at: http://www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers
- National Park Service Wright Brothers National Memorial. Available at: http://www.nps.gov/wrbr
- NASA’s Re-Living the Wright Way. Available at: http://wright.nasa.gov

ASK GENIE: The Wives of Samuel Bennett
continued

Samuel estate. The death record indicates that William was the son of Samuel and Anna (Douglas) Bennett who were both born in Kentucky. The marriage of Samuel and Ann is noted in Spencer County, Kentucky, on 13 January 1825.

As the Samuel who died in 1885 was not old enough in 1825 to have a son eligible to marry, the Samuel on the death record is likely one and the same as the Samuel who died in Monroe County in 1885. Whether or not Ann/Anna (Douglas) Bennett is one and the same as Mary Ann cannot be ascertained from the information at hand. Furthermore, there is no evidence that the parents identified on William’s death record are his birth parents or, more simply, the parents who raised him. If Samuel was, in fact, William’s birth father, why did William, among others named in Samuel’s will, inherit only a one-fifth portion from Samuel’s estate? This question looms large!

In conclusion, it appears that Samuel had at least two wives: Ann/Anna Douglas and Mary Jane May. More research is needed to fully explore additional relationships.

—Compiled by Randi Richardson. The documentation on which the above findings are based has been placed in a Bennett Family File available at the Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, Indiana.
Elinor Ostrom
James Peterson
Bob & Ilknur Ralston
James & Barbara Randall
Andy & Fran Rogers
Robert L. Santa
Erdine Simic
George M. Smerk
S. B. Taylor
Allen Wood
Robert & Nancy Wylie
Sustaining
Richard & Cathy Beard
Jeff & Pam Davidson & Family
James and Martha Dawson
Sterling Doster
Bob and Carolyn Doty
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Oliver Wine Company, Inc.
Level 2
Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.
Old National Bank
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Commercial Service Heating & Cooling
Level 4
CFC, INC.

Museum Store
Every purchase you make helps to support the History Center, so start shopping!

- Seasonal Items
- 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

Current Special Exhibits

Crazy About Quilts
Closes April 30, 2004

What did you do today, Dear?
Closes May 30, 2004
Newsletter Sponsorships Now Available

The Monroe County Historian is now offering newsletter sponsorships to local businesses. Ads are approximately 2 1/4" high x 3 1/2" wide. Each ad runs $50 an issue. For more information or to arrange an ad, please call MCHS at 332-2517.

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Excitement at the History Center
Have you ever noticed the opening at the floor of the elevator and the elevator shaft? Well, it was discovered that it is large enough for a set of keys to fall through. Thanks to the resourcefulness of Rachael Himsel, Rachael’s magnetic name tag, Loretta Condra and Julian Livingston, the keys were rescued. The photo to the right captured the moment of victory.
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Rachael Himsel

On Thursday, December 12, nearly 30 volunteers and their guests gathered at the History Center to be recognized for their dedication and service. Including staff, the number of guests reached nearly 70—an outstanding turn-out! The evening began with a getting-to-know-you game, followed by a dinner provided largely by local restaurants and grocers, and culminating in a recognition ceremony during which every volunteer in attendance received an insulated gift bag, donated by Old National Bank and printed by Baugh Enterprises. Inside the bag were even more goodies—a beautiful ornament and discount coupon from Elegant Options, as well as coupons from Serenity-A Place of Relaxation, Spaahl, and Crooks, Books and Spacemen Bookstore. Food was provided by: Panera Bread, Café Pizzaria, Golden Corral, Kroger, Grazie, and The Bakehouse.

Throughout the dinner portion, strains of classical music filled the air. A trio from Bloomington Winds, coordinated by Mike Mattner, provided live music free of charge.

Our Executive Director, Kari Price, went above and beyond the call of duty, staying late to help set up tables and decorate, and cooking her own now-famous salmon and chicken breasts. Our Collections Manager Carrie Hertz bustled about town to pick up donations, and shared her talents of arranging flowers as well. Collections Assistant Diane Wilson literally worked over a hot stove all day, stirring green beans, creating trays, and cutting cakes and pies. Vice President of Operations Rachel McCarty provided beautiful centerpieces courtesy of the Nutmeg House.

Allison Lendman was named Volunteer of the Year for her many years of tireless service in so many capacities to the Historical Society. Allison currently serves the Society as Volunteer Curator and is responsible for mounting many, many exhibits, including the current Crazy ’Bout Quilts exhibit, as well as the recently-opened What did you do today, Dear? exhibit, which displays women’s work up to the 1950’s.

Allison has created and facilitated numerous outreach programs over the years, has served on many committees, and has also acted as an active Board Member and Board President. Mary Oliver and Oliver Winery generously provided a beautiful gift basket for Allison.

During the evening, I spoke briefly of the dedication and spirit of volunteerism I have seen here at the History Center in the past months that I have been here. I would like to reiterate how special and rare it is that a non-for-profit organization can not only be run primarily by volunteers, but run well by these volunteers. From the board members to the greeters to the genealogy library researchers to office assistants to running the store to collections assistants and groundskeepers, the volunteers at the History Center show dedication above and beyond any expectations. It seems to me that a Recognition dinner is the least we as staff could do for them; I hope that this token of appreciation begins to express what I feel already, what staff over the years have felt, and what the community feels as well. And, I hope that the spirit of volunteerism continues to thrive here at the History Center.

A Tribute to Our Volunteers

Through a Legend from the Middle East

A little sparrow is lying on his back in the middle of the road. A horseman comes by, dismounts and asks the sparrow what he’s doing lying upside down like that. “I heard the heavens are going to fall today,” said the sparrow. “Oh,” said the horseman, “and I suppose your spindly little legs can hold up the heavens.” “One does what one can,” said the sparrow. “One does what one can!”
NEW VOLUNTEERS!

In September I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the IU Volunteer Fair. Over 60 students stopped by the MCHC booth, and 20 students signed up to get more information about volunteering.

As a result, Andrew Cohee began volunteering, and has been spending, on average, about 3 hours per week at the Center. He has been very helpful and efficient in assisting in office work; we are very happy to have him and his experience in Anthropology.

Other IU students who have began volunteering include Elizabeth Pinnick, who is currently majoring in East Asian Studies, and Deanna Fields, who is an Elementary Education major. Elizabeth is serving as Greeter, doing research for exhibits, working on education projects, and will be training as a Docent. Deanna is creating new program plans for our Hands On History programs for school children, as well as supplemental resources for teachers.

Steve Rolfe also comes to the History Center from IU, where he is a Housing Manager. Steve brings with him an avid interest in Civil War History, a charming demeanor, and much experience with computers, office work, and most importantly, working with people. He is a wonderful addition to our team of volunteers.

Please join me in making our new volunteers feel welcome. And remember that the office door is always open—literally and figuratively! - so feel free to stop in and give us your feedback anytime.

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to the following businesses and persons for their generous support of our Volunteer Recognition Dinner:

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