On September 22, 23, and 24, Stinesville is celebrating its 150th birthday during the Limestone Quarry Festival. In June of 1955, the Stinesville Centennial organizers published a Centennial Book, with the history of the town and biographies of the early settlers. This book is now a hard-to-find collector's item for the local residents. Today's organizers have taken the text from that book and added a history of the town and businesses from the Centennial to the present time.

The Sesquicentennial committee has organized a display of Stinesville's early limestone industry establishments. Pictures of local limestone quarries and mills, including several panoramic photos, will be displayed at the Stinesville Mercantile during the Festival.

The History Center will also have an exhibit of Stinesville memorabilia during August and September.

The Centennial was a great success for the area and was even supported by the Monon Railroad, which provided extra passenger service from Bloomington and Gosport. The Monon Presidential car was parked on the tracks in town. The support from the Monon was greatly appreciated, for the town of Stinesville owed its existence to the Louisville/Chicago Railroad. At the time, Mt. Tabor was the largest community in Bean Blossom Township. Because the railroad followed Jack's Defeat Creek to get to Bloomington from Gosport, Mt. Tabor was bypassed. Eusebius Stine foresaw the possibilities and purchased this little part of Section 17, then platted Stinesville on both sides of the tracks in April of 1855.

The last train went through Stinesville on 15 April 1996, and the CSX crew removed the tracks as they proceeded through town.

Ron Baldwin is the Monroe County Historian.
All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting
2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm
Members always welcome!

Civil War Roundtable’s Summer Trips
• July and August trips are being planned.
Please check their website for more details—http://mypage.iu.edu/~rawatson/roundtable/. Look at the June 2005 issue of the “Sentinel” newsletter. For more information please call Steve Rolfe 336-0757 or Mary Jane Blustein 334-2319.

Midwestern Roots 2005: Family History and Genealogy Conference
August 19-20
This great conference will be held in Indianapolis. Check this website for more information www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots/

Assembling the Pieces of History: Advanced Hands-on Cemetery Restoration Workshop
Sept. 17
Call 317-233-8913 for more info.

“Lullaby Baby”
This charming exhibit features baby quilts, vintage christening gowns and cradles. Exhibit closes August 30, 2005.

“Bloomington Hospital 100 Years of Medicine”
This exhibit features some of the medical equipment in the Monroe County History Center’s collection. Explore how medical treatment has changed over the past 100 years. Exhibi is on-going.

“Summer Sunday: 1905”
MCHS is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. This exhibit will let you step back in time to a lazy summer Sunday afternoon in 1905. Featured are beautiful white dresses, which were very common, along with information about what was in the news in 1905. Closes October 30, 2005.

MCHS Mission
People develop a "sense of place" through experience and knowledge of a particular area. A sense of place emerges through knowledge of the history, geography and geology of an area, its flora and fauna, the legends of a place, and a growing sense of the land and its history. Developing a sense of place helps people identify with their region and with each other. A strong sense of place can lead to more sensitive stewardship of the county’s cultural and natural history. The Monroe County Historical Society promotes and celebrates this sense of place by collecting, preserving, interpreting and displaying materials and artifacts related to the cultural and natural heritage of Monroe County.

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

Monroe County History Center
Kari Price, Executive Director
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Office/Museum  812-332-2517  Genealogy Library  812-355-5588
E-mail: director@monroehistory.org
Web Address: monroehistory.org

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

Admission: $2/adult, $1/child, 3 & under free.
Members + their guests always free

OFFICERS for 2005-2006
Rachel McCarty, President
David Musgrave, Treasurer
M. Phil Hathaway, VP Finance
Janice Partenheimer, VP Operations
Laura Newton, Secretary
Marilyn Skirvin, Assoc. Secretary
Liz Knapp, Library Director
Water Fight Threatens Showers Plant and Bloomington’s Future

The following article from the Indiana Daily Student (11 March 1924) outlines the problem of a reliable water supply faced by the city of Bloomington.

“Showers Officers To Meet Today To Ponder Removal of Plant From Bloomington—Action of Directors Caused by Obstruction to Settlement of Water Problem—$1,000,000 Expansion Program To Be Resumed If Settlement Reached”

Removal from Bloomington of Showers Brothers’ $5,000,000 furniture manufacturing plant, the largest in the world, will be considered by directors of the company at a meeting today. This ultimatum was delivered yesterday when obstructionists to the Bloomington Water company’s Gruffy creek project indicated they would not retract from their original stand. Since the first step was taken in the direction of installing a new water plant at Gruffy creek, four miles northwest of Bloomington, to replace the old Leonard Springs dam condemned by engineers and geologists, the faction opposing the move to give the city an adequate water supply has declared they would “fight to the finish.”

“Not Bluffing”

“We are not bluffing,” W. E. Showers, president of the company, declared last night in an interview with representatives of the Indiana Daily Student. “It is a cold-blooded business proposition. To continue expansion with the water situation as it is in Bloomington would be folly.” Mr. Showers made it clear that if the water situation was settled in the next two or three weeks the company would make new contracts for the $1,000,000 expansion plans which were withdrawn last week because of the tenseness of the water fight. Otherwise, the company will arrange to begin installation of the new unit either in Burlington, IA., where a branch factory already is operated, or at Louisville, Ky., which has limitless resources to offer, he said.

“Bloomington Overconfident”

“Bloomington is making a mistake by being over-confident of its prosperity,” Mr. Showers said. “From a business standpoint the city is not an ideal manufacturing center. Taxes are high, rent is high, the wage scale is higher than in Flint, Mich., and to top it all off there is no promise of a water supply that will meet the needs of our company as we plan to develop [sic] it. The city is at the point where it either will go forward or slip backward. It is not at all improbable that Bloomington will lose Indiana University if water is not provided. This does not mean the institution would be removed bag and baggage within two or three months, but there is nothing to prevent the state legislature adopting the policy of expanding in other communities.”

By Their Fruits

Family trees are funny; time was when they were tended and pruned, all dead timber being carefully cut out; but now bare limbs are a common sight on even some of our oldest and best family trees.

Some of them produce a lot of peaches, and the same branch may also bear nuts. Many blossoms are found nesting in the leafy branches and perchance a few withered wallflowers are found tucked away in sundry nooks.

Lemons are common on some of the trees; prunes and quinces abound. Some of this fruit is easy picking, some of it has to be pretty well shaken before it will fall. You will find many little love nests tucked away in the branches of the old family tree and also some pretty queer birds. But, everything considered, the family tree is a pretty good tree, and it is quite a calamity to fall out of it.—Current Opinion.

From the March 1930 page of a calendar advertising Brown’s Business College, Sterling, Ill., and Brown’s College of Commerce, Clinton, Iowa, both affiliated with the Scovill System of Business Training Schools. Contributed by Liz Knapp.
Heritage Quest at MCPL

The Monroe County Public Library now has Heritage Quest available, and it can be accessed with the number on your library card! Heritage Quest includes PERSI, a valuable resource for genealogists. For more information, go to: http://www.mcpl.info and click on “Research Tools” from the menu in the left-hand bar. Scroll through the list that appears and click on “Heritage Quest Online.” You will be asked to input your MCPL library card number. After it’s been accepted, a list of options will appear, including PERSI.

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is a subject index to articles in over 6,000 periodicals, including family newsletters. The Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, started PERSI in 1985. So far, there are 1.7 million entries. A successful search will result in a citation to an article, not the full text, which may be obtained for a fee from ACPL or located in any library that carries the periodical.

IGS 2006 Conference

The IGS 2006 Conference will be held at Austin High School in Austin, Scott County, Indiana, on 1 April 2006 (no fooling!). Austin is about 30 miles north of New Albany off I-65 (just a short drive from Bloomington). The conference will be hosted by the Scott County Genealogical Society. The featured speaker will be the president of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Diane VanSkiver Gagel, M.A. There will be additional local speakers at the conference. For conference updates and other information, check out the IGS web site at: http://www.indgensoc.org

Cemetery Restoration Workshop

On 17 September 2005, an informative, hands-on workshop in advanced cemetery restoration techniques will be held at Friendship Cemetery in Johnson County, Indiana. The workshop, entitled “Assembling the Pieces of History,” features two sessions. During the instructional portion, professional cemetery restorers John Walters and Daniel Faris will discuss materials and techniques, as well as how to find the original locations of stones that have been moved. A hands-on session will provide practical experience in working with broken, leaning, misplaced, and disassembled stones and obelisks under the supervision of several experts. The registration deadline is September 10. The workshop is sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. For more information, contact Corrie E. Cook (317-233-8913; e-mail: ccook@indianahistory.org).

Web Sites

* The Bostonian Society’s Online Collection Catalog. Access the Bostonian Society’s library catalog, as well as its database of 3,000 photographs of Boston street scenes between 1850 and 1980, at: http://rfi.bostonhistory.org

* US Steel Gary Works Photograph Collection. View more than 2,200 photos of this corporate town’s steel mill and the people who worked there at: http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/steel


* Genealogy Buffs. Beginners and more advanced genies will find a broad range of helpful information at: http://www.genealogybuff.com

Volunteers Needed

to help with
Book Cataloging
Map Cataloging
Scanning Articles

For more information please contact
Liz Knapp, Genealogy Library Director
355-5588 or 332-2517

News from Other Places

Volunteers Needed

to help with
Book Cataloging
Map Cataloging
Scanning Articles

For more information please contact
Liz Knapp, Genealogy Library Director
355-5588 or 332-2517

New and Renewed Members

Basic
Anne Benckart
Mary England
Indiana Room –MCPL
Marion & Lucy Jacobs
Elizabeth Latimer
Naomi Lawlis
Merv & Linda Meister
Randi Richardson
Wayne Warden, Jr.
Olga Zai

Friend
Alyea Ethan
James & Micaela Richter

Century Club
Jane Hitchcock
Jean Warholic

Sustaining
Lee Ann Merry
Julian & Mary Pat Livingston

Bean Blossom Township Advisory Board
J.F. Grubb, A.J. Litten, E.L. Dunning
From the 1929 “Quarrian”

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For a free sample copy of the print Family Tree Magazine, America’s #1 family history magazine, go to: http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?FAMfreeissue
News from the Library

Library Donations
The gift of a new edition of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Patriot Index, published in 2003, has been received from Donna Viehman, a friend of the Genealogy Library. She is originally from Monroe County and now resides in Jackson, Wyoming. She is researching the Patton and Haddon families. Lineage researchers will especially appreciate this valuable resource!

Tom and Vickie Edington have donated a document that contains a wealth of information on the south-central Indiana community historically known as "Maryland Ridge." It began as an early nineteenth-century industrial and agricultural community, with strong anti-slavery and religious elements, developed cooperatively by black, white, and freed black settlers. Maryland Ridge lies in a band along the Monroe and Greene County line. It encompasses the towns and environs of Elwren, Stanford, and Buena Vista in Monroe County, along with Hendricksville, Solsberry, and Hobbieville in Eastern Greene County. The Virginia Iron Works lies within this region. The document, prepared as the preliminary part of an application to the National Register of Historic Places, contains information on pioneer families, historic events, and black settlement in Greene, Monroe, and Owen counties. An extensive selection of photographs includes the 1870 Methodist Church, Adams Cemetery, Maryland Ridge farmsteads and homes, sugar houses, barns, smoke houses, bridges, community grocery stores, and historic farm equipment.

Index Updates
The Monroe County Death Index has been updated. The 2003–2004 volume is now available in the Genealogy Library. A revised and reformatted copy of the 1882–1920 volume is also on the shelves. This makes the death index complete for the years 1882 to the present. The 1930 Monroe County Census Index, in two volumes, will be ready soon.

Stinesville Yearbooks
The Genealogy Library has three volumes of The Quarrian for 1929, 1946, and 1959. These yearbooks for Stinesville High School also contain class photographs of the lower grades. The 1946 Quarrian has a service roll of World War II participants (including classmates from earlier years) and indicates those killed in action.

Family History Book
Library volunteers are helping with the revised plan for the new Monroe County Family History Book. Mary Jane Bluestein and Jason Slutzky are heading up the effort to complete the project. The original plan required prepaid orders for at least 1,000 copies, but only about 250 orders were received. Under the revised plan, a smaller run of a soft-cover book will be printed to cover the orders and provide some copies for sale in the Museum Store. Those who have already placed orders will receive a refund for overpayment and a copy of the completed publication. New orders are also being taken. For more information, call the History Center office at 332-2517, or e-mail: director@monroehistory.org

Library Projects: Volunteers Needed
The Genealogy Library is in need of data entry volunteers to input information from the Bloomington Title Company books, which contain valuable material for genealogists and local historians. Brenda Lommel has completed the work through 1850, and Randi Richardson has done an index for the tract books. The grant has been extended for one year, and now the pertinent information from the records through the early 1900s must be extracted in order to finish the project. The library has other data entry and scanning tasks that need volunteer help, including the newspaper clipping and card/envelope file project. Some of the work could be done at home. If you can help, please contact Liz Knapp (332-2915; e-mail: lknapp687@insightbb.com)

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New E-mail Address
The new e-mail for the Genealogy Library is: genealogy@monroehistory.org

Addendum
Alice Binkley, whose obituary appeared in the last issue of the Monroe County Historian, was a sixty-year member of Pi Beta Phi.

Stinesville Consolidated School from the 1929 "Quarrian"
Remission of Fine
By Penelope Mathiesen

The following document is from the Monroe County Circuit Court records. It consists of a standard form on which some of the text was already printed, with blank lines provided for writing in whatever was specific to the case. In the following transcription, the portions of the text added in a “flourishing hand” have been underlined.

The party mentioned in the document is Norman Goldsborough. The 1870 Monroe County Census index lists N. Goldsborough, a resident of Richland Township, age 27, whose occupation is “Head sawyer.” The household includes Ada Goldsborough, age 23, M. Goldsborough, age 7, and C. F. Goldsborough, age 4, all born in Indiana. There are no Goldsboroughs listed in the Monroe County census indexes for 1860 or 1880, or in the birth, marriage, or death indexes, so the household members may have lived in Monroe County for only a brief period. In 1870, the “village” of Ellettsville had a population of about 450. The community had several sawmills in the course of the latter nineteenth century.

REMISSION
Of Fine
CONRAD BAKER

To all who shall see these presents—
Greeting:

Know Ye, That upon the payment to the proper officer for the benefit of the School Fund of the Sum of One Hundred Dollars ($100.)—and not otherwise—part and parcel of a fine of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.) assessed against Norman Goldsborough at the March term 1871, of the Monroe Circuit Court on a Conviction on a charge of Assault & Battery, I do hereby remit unto the said Norman Goldsborough the residue—viz: the sum of Four Hundred Dollars ($400.) of the said fine of $500.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the Seal of the State, at the City of Indianapolis, this 21st day of June, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy one

By the Governor:
Conrad Baker

MCHS
Finances
YTD for 2005-2006

This is a new feature that will appear in the newsletter. This column should give the membership a accurate understanding of the financial condition of the Historical Society. The MCHS fiscal year is April 1 to March 31.

Income YTD
$25,441.90

Expenses YTD
$29,809.37
Founders Endowment:
Help Us Build A Path That Remembers Forever

Soon you will receive a packet in the mail announcing the upcoming Founders Endowment. The goal of this endowment is to raise $2,000,000. The interest from the endowment will be applied to the general operating fund of the Historical Society and its facilities and programs. The Monroe County Historical Society is a self-sustaining non-profit organization that financially relies on donations and memberships.

The first million has been raised through private sources, and now it is time for the endowment to go public. The purchase of engraved bricks is a one way for you to participate.

The Monroe County History Path will be surfaced with 4"x8" and 8"x8" bricks engraved to specification. Bricks are only $500 or $1000. Bricks will hopefully be installed in the late fall of 2005. Only a limited number are available, so order yours today.

The Monroe County History Path will be located near the entrance to the History Center at the corner of Sixth and Washington Streets. More than 12,000 people a year will pass over the path and see your brick. Order a brick for yourself, your family, an ancestor, clients or friends. Bricks make creative gifts that last a lifetime.

Proceeds from brick sales will be credited to the Founders Endowment Fund.

Please reserve 4"x8" brick/s at $500.
Please reserve 8"x8" brick/s at $1000.

Name________________________________________
Address_____________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
E-mail________________________________________
Phone_______________________________________

Method of Payment
☐ Check
☐ MasterCard
☐ Visa

Credit Card #______________________________
Signature_______________________________
Exp. date______________________________

For 4"x8" brick
Please use one square per letter or space.

For 8"x8" brick
Please use one square per letter or space.

NOTE: Those ordering more than one brick may attach additional inscriptions to this form.
Museum Store

- Seasonal Items
- Nostalgic Children’s Toys, Books & Crafts
- Note Cards
- Monroe County Coverlets
- Clay City Pottery
- Local History and General Interest Books
- Genealogy Items
- Unique Gift Wrap
- MCHS Publications
- Huge Selection of Paper Dolls
- Postcards
- Canvas Totes
- Limestone and Glass Paperweights
- Nostalgic Magnets
- Earth Drops Soaps
- Dillman Jams and Jellies
- Products Made from Local Honey and Beeswax
- Armetale Metal Plate depicting Courthouse
- A Wonderful Selection of Used Books

100% of the proceeds from the Store goes to the Society to operate the History Center.

Solsberry’s Brush with Destiny
By Jason Slutzky, Volunteer

Chattering, mingling together like so many hens, the citizens swirled about the newly-built train depot. They were breathlessly awaiting the arrival of the great Iron Horse, believing it to be the economic savior of their proud-but-shrinking community. Everyone was there, including the dignitaries with their long-prepared speeches, more flowery and windy than a Kansas spring. School had been let out early that day and the young boys held their ears to the rails, listening for the telltale vibrations of the train. The year was 1906 and this was the day that prosperity would begin to flow into the hamlet of Solsberry.

Solsberry’s day of boisterous celebration was the result of many years of rumor, speculation, and aborted attempts at a new line bisecting Southern Indiana. However, in the summer of 1899, a number of Indianapolis businessmen combined forces and organized the Indianapolis Southern Railway, and their surveyors soon charted a line that would pass through a chain of ridges between Bloomington and Bloomfield. This proposed route would pass through sleepy Solsberry, filling its residents with the prospects of economic renewal and expansion. They placed all their eggs in this railroad basket, hoping that it would reverse the slow population decline that was draining their community.

Though Solsberry was steadily vanishing from existence, the town had not always been in such a torpid state. Beginning in the 1830’s, rough and hardy settlers from Kentucky and North Carolina were putting down roots in the heavily forested area. They soon discovered that the hilly environment was not amenable to farming. Many left for greener pastures, but a small but determined contingent decided to stick it out with this difficult manner of living, preferring a hardscrabble existence here than in the bucolic lands further west.

Despite these inauspicious beginnings, the Solsberry settlers quickly solidified into a
small but lively community, and served as the trading center of the entire Beech Creek Township. By the mid 1870’s Solsberry could boast of such things as grocery stores, blacksmiths, a couple of doctors, and schools. Small frontier community that it was, Solsberry lacked a dedicated entertainment center, but this probably mattered little since many inhabitants pursued amusement of the distilled variety. In the vast economic expansion of the post-Civil War era, Solsberry could not help but prosper.

This prosperity, however was not to last. As the 20th Century dawned, Solsberry found itself in a precipitous general decline, triggering a steady loss of population. Without the benefit of adjacent rail transportation or waterways, the rustic town could no longer compete with other trading communities in the area. Many of its young men decamped for coal fields and better farmlands elsewhere in the county; some left the state altogether. It was in this ominous climate that news of the new railroad line came to Solsberry.

Moving quickly the Indianapolis Southern assembled a large workforce and set them to work, carving the path that the railroad lines would take through the hills of Southern Indiana. The work for the most part progressed steadily, but one massive engineering obstacle stood in their way. The railroad engineers had to devise a practical and safe method to bridge a valley (located three miles west of Solsberry) that spanned almost a half-mile across. Of all the aggregated feats of engineering that would comprise the new railroad line, this was the great challenge.

All of this flurry of activity provided a continuous source of entertainment for the residents of Solsberry and the people of the surrounding area. Each day any number of the townspeople would fill baskets with food and picnic in the hills surrounding the construction area. They would marvel at the dangerous spectacle of the workmen risking their lives in heroic feats of construction; there were many rumors of disfiguring accidents, though in the end there was only one confirmed fatality. With each passing week, people from the area witnessed the massive framework of the viaduct take form, rising off the valley floor like an enormous spider web. Nearly as compelling as the construction project itself, the people came to see the strange-looking outsiders hired on as the work gangs. There was a small contingent of black laborers from the South, which aroused some curiosity from the secluded townspeople. However, it was the Italian laborers, sent directly from the mother country, which set citizens of Solsberry agog with their alien customs and behaviors. At the end of the grueling workdays, the Neapolitans set about entertaining themselves through endless gambling sessions, while simultaneously consuming enormous quantities of wine of their own concoction. This, of course, resulted in confrontations and fisticuffs too numerous to count. The natives of the area took a rather benign view of all this, not bothering to interfere so long as the incomprehensible foreigners kept to themselves.

Despite all the drunken carousing going on in the work camps, work progressed at a rapid rate; by late 1906, the huge viaduct was assembled in time for the last sections of track to be laid. With the completion of the new line came the triumphant predictions of prosperity for Solsberry and the rest of the Bloomfield area. And for a time, those predictions largely held true; tiny Solsberry was transformed into a busy railroad town, distinguishing itself as a logging depot. Unfortunately, the changes wrought by the railroads were not to last; by the mid 1920’s Solsberry found itself in economic decline once more, the victim of shifting economic trends and the decline of railroads as transportation and industrial transport. Although Solsberry quickly became quiet once again, the remaining residents would always look back fondly on those exciting days when the railroads seemed to deliver on their hopes and ambitions.

"Taste of Monroe County" - the MCHS’s new cookbook should be available in mid September for purchase. It will be the “must have” gift this year.

The 4th Annual Festival of Wreaths is just around the corner! MCHS is seeking donations of wreath decorations, pre-decorated wreaths and trees, along with vintage ornaments, gift baskets and gift certificates. All donations need to be brought to the History Center by October 20th. The Festival of Wreaths’ Silent Auction begins the first week of November and concludes Thanksgiving weekend. Please call the History Center if you have any questions.
Lincoln’s Embalming Popularized the Practice
by Rachel Resler, Volunteer

As his body lay on the bed in the White House, he seemed almost like a statue. With the blood of his body now replaced with chemicals, each limb would be nearly as heavy as a statue. But he was not a statue. He was President of the United States. And he was dead. Abraham Lincoln died at Peterson’s Boarding House, across from Ford’s Theater, on the morning of April 15, 1865. His body was placed in a temporary coffin and transported back to the White House. He was placed on a bed frame in a spare bedroom with only a few wooden boards and a sheet to support his lifeless body. Parts of his hair were cut and given to his family, doctors, guards, cabinet members, and servants. This was a popular practice at the time, as hair was often used in scrapbooks, wreaths, and even jewelry.

To perform the embalming, the White House called upon the firm of Brown and Alexander. They had embalmed the president’s son Willie only three years earlier. Embalming had come a long way in those three years. The Civil War saw thousands upon thousands of men dying far from home. They needed preservation to make the trip home to be buried. Medical embalmers worked directly on the battlefields, catering both to men of the Union and of the Confederacy. Families would be charged anywhere from $25-40 for an enlisted man and $50-80 for an officer. Bodies were placed in cheap wooden boxes with the names and addresses of family written on the sides. Inside, next to their remains, were their personal effects. They were then shipped home for burial.

The firm sent one of their employees, Henry P. Cattell. First, he posed the president’s face for viewing by closing his eyes and turning the ends of the mouth slightly upward. Then the actual embalming process began. Blood was drained through the jugular vein and embalming fluid was injected into the femoral artery, located in the thigh. The relatively new mixture of non-poisonous embalming fluid was created by Dr. Thomas Holmes of Columbia University in the late 1850s. The main part of the fluid was zinc chloride, made by dissolving zinc in hydrochloric acid. Almost immediately after being injected with the embalming fluid, the former president’s body became as hard as stone. He was now ready to be put on display.

The president would travel by train, stopping along the way to lie in state in twelve cities before finally being laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois. The staff of Brown and Alexander accompanied the body on its journey to maintain Lincoln’s appearance with the help of several local undertakers and embalmers hired along the way.

The biggest problem with the president’s appearance was easily the discoloration of the skin, especially around the eyes. The skin had been bruised due to “transmitted force,” which cracked both orbital plates in his skull. This was due to the blatant head trauma Lincoln received from the bullet that killed him. However, the skilled doctors of Brown and Alexander were able to disguise the bruises with cosmetic costume makeup and were applauded by both citizens and the media for their efforts.

An estimated one and a half million people stood in line to pay their respects in the cities of Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Harrisburg, PA; Philadelphia, PA; New York, NY; Albany, NY; Buffalo, NY; Cleveland, OH; Columbus, OH; Indianapolis, IN; Michigan City, IN; Chicago, IL; and finally in Springfield, IL. The president’s body arrived in Indianapolis on the morning of April 30, 1865 and remained on display until late evening. Thousands came from throughout Indiana to say their goodbyes; even the torrential rainfall could not stop them. However, Governor Oliver Morton had to cancel a speech he had prepared, fearing he might follow Lincoln’s footsteps and catch his death. Several citizens of Monroe County made the long horse-drawn trip to Indianapolis that day. Many wrote to family members and reported on the good condition of the president’s body. Also reporters, while noting the skin discolorations, commended the embalmers for preserving President Lincoln long enough to be given a final sendoff by the people of Monroe County.

While some families learned the effects of embalming after losing a loved one in the Civil War, the preservation of President Abraham Lincoln for twenty days showcased the benefits of embalming for not only funerary purposes, but also sanitary purposes. Over time, undertakers began to adopt the practice of embalming on a larger and larger scale until it finally became an established custom for most Americans.
Membership Invited to Join MCHS Committees

Current Society members are invited to participate in any of the following committees. If you have questions or are interested in joining a committee, please call the History Center office.

- **Active Policy Document**: Creates a variety of documents that would allow any staff member to be able to run day to day operations in case of emergency, etc.
- **Annual Event Fundraisers**: Coordinates the June garage sale and February auction.
- **Building and Grounds**: Works to maintain the building and grounds.
- **Cemetery**: Works to locate and preserve local cemeteries.
- **Collections and Exhibits**: Works with staff to maintain and expand the collection (including accepting artifacts) and to prepare exhibits.
- **Finance**: Works with director to plan the budget, reviews income and expenses regularly, and makes investment recommendations to the board.
- **Founders Endowment**: Prepares for and coordinates the endowment campaign. The income from the endowment is used for operating expenses.
- **Library and Archives**: Operates the genealogy and local history library, collects primary and secondary source material, and produces finding aids and histories from the materials.
- **Membership**: Works with staff to recruit new members and renew current members.
- **Personnel**: Determines staffing needs, hires staff, reviews staff performance, sets staff compensation, and develops and updates the active policy document.
- **Special Events**: Coordinates activities including wreath silent auction and any added events with the purpose of increasing History Center attendance.
- **Strategic Planning**: Creates a long term management plan.
Your membership expiration date can be found on the upper right side of the address label.

The Monroe County Historical Society is a self-sustaining private non-profit organization. Most of the operating budget comes from membership dues and donations. Thank you for being a member and don’t forget memberships make great gifts.

Your Membership is Key …

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2005
100th Anniversary of MCHS
25th Anniversary of the Museum

Individual
☐ Basic $35
☐ Friend $60
☐ Century Club $100
☐ Contributor $250-499
☐ Patron $500+

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

Method of Payment
☐ Check
☐ MasterCard
☐ Visa

Please Send to:
Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
Or Fax to 812-355-5593

☐ Check if you are interested in volunteering.
☐ Check if you have a special interest in genealogy.

Givers Name, If a gift

Name
Address

Credit Card # Exp. date
Signature

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