Today we might call him a draft dodger, but in June 1862, William Henry Harrison Gaines was a refugee. He fled north to Monroe County from eastern Tennessee, the place of his birth, in order to avoid the Confederate Civil War draft. He did not want to fight for slavery; he wanted to abolish it.

William was born in 1836 to James Strother and Letitia Dalton (Moore) Gaines. Like his father, William was a farmer; and the family’s roots went deep in Sullivan County where Letitia was born and William would die in 1912.

It is unlikely that William randomly selected Monroe County as his destination when he fled. Several of his cousins had established themselves there many years earlier. His cousins were members of the Patton, Graham, Campbell, Howe, and Maxwell families.

Although he left his native home, William did not leave his family or his habits. Upon his arrival in Monroe County, he visited his cousins often and kept a journal of his activities. That journal was passed on to his grandson, Charles Newland of Sullivan County, Tennessee.

In 1995, Newland passed on a portion of the journal, that part pertaining to Monroe County, to Ron and Mary Jane Baldwin of Stinesville, Indiana. The Baldwins transcribed the document and provided copies of the transcription to the Monroe County Historical Society. The transcription provides an intimate glimpse into the life of a twenty-something young man who sought only to follow his own beliefs and his own dreams.

Soon after William arrived in Monroe County, according to journal entries, he contacted a Bloomington lawyer who advised him that his refugee status and temporary residence in Monroe County probably made him exempt from Indiana’s draft. The local draft board seemed to agree. The board referred him to Indianapolis, and there the exemption was made official.

With the exemption in hand, William decided to pursue a new career. His chosen career path was teaching. In January 1863 he tried for a position in Stinesville. His reception there was a chilly one. He found mostly Democrats who held abolitionists like himself with disdain. A few days later he contacted the principal of the Female Academy in Bloomington and asked him for a job recommendation. Evidently the recommendation was favorable, because he revisited the Stinesville school and was “unanimously elected to the professorship of the Stinesville Classical Seminary.”

His duties began on a Tuesday, 13 January 1863, the day after his appointment. On his first day, William had twenty-eight students—some adults, some children. Apparently teaching was not what he expected it to be. At the end of the first day he noted in his journal that “Teaching boared [sic] me pretty smartly.”

At the end of his first week of classes he boarded the train for Bloomington to visit his cousins and have some work done on his teeth. The dentist found William’s teeth in poor condition. He set to work immediately “sawing and pulling,” and poor William remained under the doctor’s care for several weeks. By January 27, there were fifty-six students in William’s class, and he used a “timber” to
All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center, unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting
2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm
Collections and Exhibits Committee, most Mondays
Members and public always welcome!

Civil War Roundtable Meetings
Generally meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September—May from 6:30–8:30 pm. Upcoming dates are October 18th, November 15th and December 20th (presenter D. Cronin’s topic will be “Civil War Christmas Songs.”)
For more information, please contact John Crosby at 339-2572.

November
5-27 Festival of Wreaths Silent Auction
25 Canopy of Lights
Noon to 9 pm

February
TBD Annual Auction

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.

MCHS Purpose Statement
The purpose of MCHS shall be to collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit the genealogy, history and artifacts of Monroe County, Indiana as well as research and interpret the relation of that County’s genealogy, history, and artifacts to the State of Indiana and the United States, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Monroe County’s history, culture, and natural environment by all.

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

“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. Exhibit 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.

“Facing the Inevitable: Mourning and Mortuary Practice in Monroe County”
Explore the practical, emotional, religious and social expressions that people use to help them get through this often difficult phase of life. This is a comprehensive exhibit with an emphasis on the Victorian Era and the Civil War. There are few social practices that are truly universal, as each society has its own way to celebrate or mourn death. It is this that makes this exhibit important, and more importantly, provocative. Watch for coming events associated with this exhibit’s topic. Closes Feb. 2006.
New Military Records Available to Genealogists

By Michael Maben

I receive a weekly electronic newsletter titled NCH Washington Update. The NCH is the National Coalition for History, and it reports and lobbies Congress on behalf of historical interests such as the National Archives, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian, and others with an interest in preserving history. The following article appeared in a recent issue (vol. 11, no. 26, 9 June 2005):

NARA SET TO OPEN MILITARY RECORDS

On 11 June 2005, the National Archives and Records Administrations (NARA) National Personnel Records Center in Overland, Missouri will unseal the first release of what is expected to be a “mother load” collection of interest to military historians, biographers, and genealogists. The center houses the military records of some 56 million individuals, beginning in the 19th century and extending into the 20th.

A total of three batches of individual records are slated to be released: Navy enlisted men from 1885 until 8 September 1939; Marine Corps enlisted men from 1906 until 1939; and the first 150 of about 3,000 Americans identified as “persons of exceptional prominence.” Included in the last category are the military records of generals George S. Patton Jr. and Omar Bradley; African American sports hero Lt. Jackie Robinson; President John F. Kennedy; author Herman Wouk; actors Clark Gable, Audie Murphy, and Steve McQueen; and, yes, entertainer Pfc. Elvis Presley.

Until recently, NARA was merely the physical custodian of these records that were open only to the veteran, the next of kin, or the individual’s service branch. In 1999, however, the Pentagon and NARA reached an agreement that would begin the process of systematically opening these records. According to Bill Selbert, chief of the archival operations branch of the records center, the records now “cease to belong to the military and instead belong to the American people... They’re public documents.”

After lengthy discussion with the Pentagon officials over several years, NARA was able to negotiate an agreement that provided for all such military records to remain sealed 62 years past the date an individual left active service. That means that most World War II records, for example, will remain closed for several more years. In addition, because of a fire at the records center back in 1973, some files of Army and Air Force veterans will be withheld even longer—until 2023. Coast Guard records will probably not be available until 2026, and because some individual files contain fragile or crumbling paper, such files will probably be kept on hold for some time.

Persons interested in accessing the collection should contact the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, Overland, MO 63132; phone: 314-801-0850. The web site for more information is: http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records.html

Note: Michael Maben is the vice-president of the Indiana Genealogical Society and serves on the MCHS Board of Directors. This article was originally published in vol. 17, no. 4, of the IGS Newsletter, copyright 2005 by the Indiana Genealogical Society, and is reprinted here with permission.

Get Your Copy of the “Tastes of Monroe County” Cookbook Today!

The “Tastes of Monroe County” cookbook is now available in the Museum Store, Sullivan’s, and Goods Housewares. Thanks to the numerous people and restaurants that submitted mouth-watering recipes, this cookbook will be a must-have gift for the season. The cookbook is $10. Help MCHS celebrate its 100th anniversary by buying a cookbook for everyone on your holiday shopping list.
News from Other Places

Clabber Girl Museum Now Open

Less than an hour’s drive from Bloomington in Terre Haute, Indiana, the Clabber Girl Museum & General Store is now open to visitors. Located in the historic 1893 Hulman & Co. Building at 900 Wabash Avenue (corner of Wabash and Ninth), the free museum provides a history of the company that produced one of the best-known household products in America. (In fact, Clabber Girl products are still manufactured and sold today.) Numerous photographs and artifacts depicting life in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Terre Haute are also on display. Food is available at the museum, along with a gift shop—you won’t go away hungry or empty-handed! For more information, go to: http://www.clabbergirl.com, or call: 812-478-7288. (From museum brochure.)

BRI Occupies Hinkle-Garton House

Bloomington Restorations, Inc. is now “at home” in the Hinkle-Garton house, located on the historic farmstead at 2920 East Tenth Street in Bloomington. BRI offices have moved into the second floor of the farmhouse, and the headquarters for Early Music Associates occupies a one-room rental unit at the rear of the property. In addition to tackling issues of deferred and ongoing maintenance, BRI has begun an inventory of the contents of the site. Also in the works is the pursuit of National Register status and the development of a comprehensive historic preservation plan for the property. (From BRI News, July 2005.)

Owen County Publications

The Summer 2005 issue of Owen County History & Genealogy contains two articles of interest to family and local history researchers: “African-Americans in Owen County 1818-1880” (by Roger Peterson, originally written for the Spencer Evening World, 25 September 1990); and “The Dunns: Owen County Pioneers” (from a paper written by Maxine McIntosh Drescher and Undine Dunn, read at the dedication of the Dunn Memorial Bridge at Spencer, 23 June 1962).

The 14 February 2005 issue of the Spencer Evening World includes an article entitled “1900 ‘The Indianian’ Tells Owen County’s Story.” The article was originally published in the March 1900 edition of the Indianian and was contributed to the Evening World by a former staff member, Dixie Kline Richardson of Indianapolis.

Web Sites

* Looking for ancestors buried in New England cemeteries? Click on the name and location of a cemetery to find a list of people buried there, along with gravestone information. Go to: http://www.gravematter.com
* New York Passenger Arrival Records 1820–1957. This comprehensive guide leads you to finding aids for New York passenger lists, including books, microfilm, CDs, and online databases. Go to: http://home.att.net/~germanroots/ellisisland/nypassengers.html
* Maryland State Archives Census Indexes. Search Maryland’s 1776, 1778, 1870 and 1880 censuses by date, first name, last name and county. Go to: http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/refserv/html/censussearch.html
* Carolina Histories. Use the message boards to drop a surname or answer queries and browse the Image Library for photographs, antique prints, maps, engravings and vintage postcards. Go to: http://www.msnusers.com/carolinahistories

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MCHS is looking for a handy person(s). This person would help with light chores such as changing furnace filters, replacing light bulbs and other small, but essential tasks. Above is Allison Lendman and Jim Dawson changing a furnace filter.
Library Donations
Donations to the book collection or vertical files are gratefully acknowledged from the following: Helen Ackerman, Loretta Condra, Gayle Cook, Mary Lee Deckard, Pat Haley, Don Matson, and Mobie McCammon. A microfilm reader has been received, thanks to Mary Decker, Director of the Bloomington Family History Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Maps
A reproduction (with color highlights) of the 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Bloomington has been donated by Maps of the Past. To purchase other reproductions of historic maps, visit their web site at: http://www.maps-of-the-past.com

A project is underway to index the maps in the Genealogy Library’s collection and list them in a database.

New Books
The library maintains a section of newly cataloged books next to the photocopier, to highlight items before they are placed on the shelves. Recent acquisitions include the following:

- Back Home Again: A Pictorial History of South Central Indiana. [Bloomington]: Herald-Times, n.d.
- “Graves, Isaac C., of Monroe County, In.” A binder containing photocopied documents and newspaper clippings, including a 1907 declaration for a Civil War pension, related to Graves and his family. Donated by Helen Ackerman.
Genealogy Queries Via E-mail

Got genealogy questions? Contact the Monroe County History Center’s Genealogy Library at its e-mail address: genealogy@monroehistory.org (the subject line should state: Genealogy-Attention Library).

Questions that can be answered with a quick lookup are handled as a free service. For more detailed searches, our research rates are as follows: $10 per hour for the first three hours and $8 thereafter for the same line of inquiry. Photocopies cost $.25 per page for regular copies, $1 per deed record of two pages or less plus $1 per additional page, and $1 per page for probate/court records. An invoice for the charges plus postage/handling will be included when the materials are sent to you. When you initiate a request, please provide as much information as possible, specify any dollar limits, and include your telephone number and conventional mailing address.

The library also encourages visits and telephone queries (812-355-5588) during its open hours: Tuesday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Wednesday through Friday (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.), and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

For more information on the Genealogy Library, visit the Monroe County History Center’s web site at: http://monroehistory.org (in the left-hand column, click on “Genealogy Library”).

Have a genealogy question? Ask the knowledgeable volunteers in the Genealogy Library. Mobie McCammon (standing) helping library patrons.

MCHS Finances
YTD for 2005-2006

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

Income YTD $54,885.35

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Expenses YTD $62,556.17

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All donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. MCHS is grateful to have you as a member, but an extra donation would be greatly appreciated.
museum Store

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

100% of the profits from the store goes to the Society to operate the History Center. Support MCHS by buying wonderful gifts or gift certificates from the Museum Store.

William H. H. Gaines
Dodges the Confederate Draft and Teaches Briefly in Monroe County

Continued from page 1

maintain discipline. He complained about his hair turning gray, noisy neighbors that interfered with his sleep, and the lack of hygiene in the kitchen where he took his meals. Reading between the lines, one gathers that William was becoming increasingly unhappy.

During William’s stay in Indiana he stayed in touch with his younger brother, Frank, in Ohio. Frank, perhaps intrigued by William’s letters, later joined William in Monroe County. He was not content, however, to remain for long.

On Monday, March 16, Frank told William he wanted to go to Illinois and encouraged William to go with him. William didn’t need much persuading. Within two days he hired a woman to take over his class for the remainder of the school term; and on Friday, March 20, William “closed his school” and ended his brief stint teaching.

He spent one last weekend with his Bloomington cousins. He had grown very close to them during the past few months and hated to leave them almost as much as he had hated to leave home. On Monday, March 23, they joined him at the train depot to see him off for Illinois.

Note: March 23, 1863, was the last entry in the portion of the journal made available to the Baldwins. William’s cousins as noted in his journal were identified through Monroe County census indices and a Gaines family tree compiled by J. H. Gaines and made available through Rootsweb. Gaines last updated the tree in 2003, and the e-mail address he provided at his web site was not active in July 2005.

The common ancestors of William and his cousins were two sets of great-great-grandparents: Francis and Susannah (Dabney) Strother, and William and Isabella (Pendleton) Gaines. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Susannah, were born to the Strothers; two sons, Thomas and James, to the Gaineses. The two Strother sisters married the two Gaines brothers. William descended through Thomas and Susannah (Strother) Gaines and the Monroe County cousins through James and Elizabeth (Strother) Gaines.

At the time of this writing, nothing is known of the remaining portions of the journal. To access a copy of the transcription held at the Monroe County Historical Society, contact Liz Knapp at 812-355-5588.
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.

**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.

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Signature

Your Membership is Key …

Memberships Make Great Gifts, Too