Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

Monroe County Historian

February 2006
Vol. 2006 Issue 1

Museum
Museum Store
Genealogy Library
Educational Facility

Highlighted articles in this issue:

Property with a Past: A History of the Fleener Building 3
Annual Meeting 3
News from the Library 5
1949 G-Allis Chalmers On Exhibit 7
Gentry Limestone Horses Head Hitching Rack 8
Maple Syrup: An Indiana Tradition 9
Cook Endowment Announcement 10
Annual Auction—See Flyer

New $3 Million Cook Endowment for MCHS

Details on Page 10

Cook Group, Inc. President Kem Hawkins and Chairman Steve Ferguson officially present The Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. with a check establishing The Cook Endowment in honor of Gayle Cook. Accepting for MCHS was Board President Rachel Peden McCarty. (Photo by: Marilyn Skirvin)
**Schedule of events**

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**  
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from September—May from 6:30– 8:30 pm. For more information, please contact John Crosby at 339-2572.

**February**  
7 “Pioneer Indiana” program begins at 6:30 pm.  
14 Civil War Roundtable at 6:30pm.  
27 “Annual Benefit Auction” Doors open at 5 pm and the auction begins at 6 pm. Refreshments will be available.

**March**  
1 “Women of Biblical Proportion” touring exhibit opening  
1 “Warm and Wonderful” exhibit opening  
14 Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 pm  
22 Changing Roles of the First Ladies. See page six for details.  
29 Changing Roles of the First Ladies.

**April**  
4 “Frontier Indiana” program starts at 6:30 pm.  
5 Changing Roles of the First Ladies  
11 Civil War Roundtable at 6:30 pm  
13 Annual Membership Meeting and Elections. Program starts at 5:30 pm and includes a pitch-in dinner.

**All About: Monroe County History Center**

**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

Monroe County History Center  
202 East Sixth Street  
Bloomington, IN 47408

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

E-mail: director@monroehistory.org  
Web Address: www.monroehistory.org

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

Admission: $2/adult, $1/child (6-18 yrs old), 5 & under free. Members and their guests are always free.

“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. Hurry before it closes on Feb. 12, 2006!

**Was There a Mrs. Kinsey?**  
This wonderful exhibit is dedicated to the other Kinsey – Clara Kinsey. It highlights her life, family and the significant contributions she made to this community.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection, Kinsey Institute, and Monroe County Historical Society. Exhibit closes March 26, 2006

“Women of Biblical Proportion”  
See page 11 for more information.

“Warm and Wonderful: Blue and White Quilts and Antique Coverlets”  
This new exhibit in the Rechter Gallery will feature loans from local residents and artifacts from the museum’s collection. A blue and white color palate will predominate. Guaranteed to brighten your “blues.” The exhibit is scheduled to open on March 1 and will continue at least through May.
Property with a Past: A History of the Fleener Building

By Penelope Mathiesen

In 2005, the Fleener Building at 112 East Third Street in Bloomington received a reprieve from demolition in the form of a historic designation, which “means the building cannot be torn down or its facade altered without approval from the city’s historical preservation commission” (Herald-Times, 16 December 2005). Those interested in an appropriate use for the structure might do well to consider its past. The building, designed in classical revival style, “was constructed in the late 1920s, and housed Modern Cleaners for many years.” A look at the Bloomington city directories, however, shows that Modern Cleaners was a relative latecomer. The property had many other uses over the years, and the character of the 100 block of East Third Street changed as well, undergoing a gradual transformation from residential to commercial sector.

In the early 1920s, before construction of the Fleener Building, 112 East Third was apparently the site of a private home. The directories for 1920 to 1924 list first J. E. Parker and then O. E. Hood at the address. There were seven other residential listings on the block during that period, and only one “commercial” listing: in 1920–22, Sarah A. Smith lived and worked as a dressmaker at 115 East Third. In the latter 1920s, there were nine or ten residential listings in the 100 block, including Joseph B. Fleener at 112 (from 1925 to 1928). The sole commercial entity was Jennie’s Beauty Shop, also at 112 (in 1925–26).

In 1929–30, after construction of the Fleener Building, the character of the property changed. A restaurant operated by J. W. Rendel occupied 112 East Third; the New York Beauty Shoppe and two individuals were listed at 112 1/2—the second story, used as offices and apartments. Commercial enterprises in the 100 block included McCoy Plumbing (119), Detective Guarantee Association (108), and Earl Murphy, justice of the peace (also at 108). There were five residential listings and one vacant address.

In 1931–32, Pete & Harry Motor Sales Company occupied 112 East Third, with four individuals listed at 112 1/2. Other commercial activity in the 100 block included G. O. Galloway, justice of the peace (114); Terrell Homer, constable (also at 114); W. R. Spannuth, painter (119); and Walter Fowler, “expressing and moving” (120). (Some occupants may have conducted business and home life on the same premises.) There were five residential listings.

In 1934–35, the middle of the Great Depression, 112 East Third was vacant, with three individuals listed at 112 1/2. There were no commercial enterprises in the 100 block; two addresses besides 112 were vacant. There were six residential listings. In 1936–37, the WPA Sewing Project occupied 112–114 East Third Street, with three individuals at 112 1/2. McCoy Plumbing had returned to 119 East Third after a sojourn at 312 South Washington Street. There were six residential listings.

In 1938–39, 112 East Third was again vacant; two individuals were listed at 112 1/2. Commercial activity in the 100 block included the Board of Health (114), Indianapolis Star Agency (114 1/2), and McCoy Plumbing (119). There were six residential listings. In 1940, 112 East Third was still vacant; there were four listings for the Mitchell Apartments at 112 1/2. The Indiana State Board of Health (114) and McCoy Plumbing (119 rear; residence at same address) were the only commercial enterprises; there were five residential listings.

In 1945, the Canton Tea Room, operated by Hong Lee, occupied 112 East Third Street, with four individuals listed at 112 1/2. Commercial enterprises in the 100 block included Jefferson Radio Repair, National Cash Register Co., and Nordberg Sign Advertising Co. (all at 114). There were seven residential listings.

In 1948, Modern Cleaners, operated by Loba J. Bruner and Wendell Brown, occupied 112 East Third Street, along with the Automobile Touring Association and Service Agency Insurance. Other commercial listings in the 100 block included Walter F. Roll Insurance (108), Perry Township Trustee (also 108), Ideal Electric Company (114), National Cash Register (also 114), and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (114 1/2). There were six residential listings.

Based on historic precedent, the Fleener Building might be rejuvenated as one of the following: restaurant, hair salon, car dealership, federal assistance project, apartment building, dry cleaners, travel agency, or insurance agency. The building and the 100 block of East Third Street have seen many changes in the last eighty years; perhaps there is another transformation in their future.
No Experience Needed
All Training Provided

**NEWS FROM OTHER PLACES**

**IGS Conference April 2006**

The Indiana Genealogical Society’s 2006 Conference will be held at Austin High School in Austin, Scott County, on the first of April. Information on registration and the schedule of speakers is available in the MCHS Genealogy Library, or go to: http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html

**June 2006 Limestone Sculpture Symposium**

The Tenth Annual Limestone Sculpture Symposium, sponsored by Bybee Stone Company and the Bloomington Area Arts Council (BAAC), will be held in three sessions from June 4–10, 11–17, and 18–24 at Bybee Stone Company in Ellettsville. The registration deadline is 28 April 2006. All levels of carvers, from beginning to professional, are welcome. Faculty will assist with tool selection, cutting techniques, and maneuvering the limestone. Tuition covers a limestone block, a carving bench, and other items. Tools will be available for purchase. There are a limited number of scholarships. To register or obtain more information, call: 812-334-3100; email: info@artlives.org; or go to: http://www.artlives.org/limestone06.html (From Ellettsville Extra, 11 October 2005.)

**2005 U-School Reunion Video Available**

A new 2005 Reunion Video includes the content of the 1998 U-School Video plus much new material. The 1998 video covered the beginning of University School, its history from 1938 to 1972, and the 1992 reunion. The 2005 video adds new interviews, post-1972 history, and coverage of the 2005 reunion. The cost is $25, including tax and shipping. Make checks payable to: Media Images, P.O. Box 3045, Bloomington, IN 47402; specify DVD or VCR. (From promotional flyer.)

**Lawrence County Museum in New Location**

In October 2005, the Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum reopened to the public in a renovated 1908 building, the former Buck Lemon Department Store. Businessman and philanthropist Edward Hutton donated half the money ($1 million) needed to make the dream a reality. The facility represents an increase in space from cramped quarters in the basement of the Lawrence County Courthouse (1931–2002) and temporary housing in the former J. C. Penney building on the downtown square (2002–2005). The first floor has museum displays, a gift shop, and a meeting room. The Edward L. Hutton Research Library occupies the second floor, along with storage and office space. The new facility is located at 929 Fifteenth Street, Bedford, IN 47421. Hours are: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday. There is no admission charge. For more information, call: 812-278-8575, or email: lchgs@hpcisp.com. (From Times-Mail, 6 October 2005, and Herald-Times, 31 December 2005.)

**Midwest Civil War Museum Planned**

No Civil War battles took place in Wisconsin, but many residents served in the conflict, as did those of five other Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota. The Kenosha Public Museum has received donations of artifacts associated with Civil War soldiers from Wisconsin and other Midwest units, including clothing, personal items, and weapons. The city of Kenosha is planning a $15 million Civil War Museum to house the collection. For more information, go to: http://www.kenosha.org/museum or contact: Kenosha Public Museum, 5550 First Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140; phone: 262-653-4140. (From Hoosier Times, 4 December 2005, and the web site.)

**The Politics of Preservation: Theory and Practice**

Historic preservation is essentially a conservative act, prioritizing the past over the future. Since its infancy in the early 19th century, however, the preservation movement in this country has been criticized as elitist and radical alike. It has included both conservative and liberal advocates and has consistently undertaken a wide spectrum of political and social agendas. Focusing on the built environment, this course will examine the theoretical origins of the Historic Preservation Movement in the United States from the Transcendentalists and Romantics to the present. We’ll explore the ways in which we have come to understand, value and promote the past.

Instructor: Ducan Campbell is president of Preservation Development, Inc., a historic preservation consulting firm that advocates for the preservation in the public, non-profit, and private sectors.

2 Thursday, April 13, 20, 7– 8:30pm
Location: IU Student Building
Fee: $33, seniors $31

The course is part of the Bloomington Restorations, Inc. (BRI) effort to increase understanding of preservation in the community.
News from the Library

Genealogy Discussion Group

On Wednesday, 1 March 2006, a genealogy discussion group meeting will be held in the Genealogy Library at 10 a.m. The Genealogy Group has been meeting at the Monroe County Public Library at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. In addition, the group will begin meeting in the Genealogy Library of the Monroe County History Center at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of March, May, July, September, and November.

The meetings are open to the public. The February 1st meeting at MCPL will welcome Julian Livingston, speaking about the use of land records in genealogy. March 1st, at 10 a.m. in the MCHC Genealogy Library, will be a time for group discussion of questions concerning research and for planning upcoming meetings.

Donation

A copy of CFC, Inc.: Building the Future while Preserving the Past: Celebrating 30 Years of History has been donated to the Genealogy Library by Jim Murphy, CFC president. The booklet includes a history and timeline of CFC, Inc., from 1973–2003; color pictures of many of the buildings purchased and renovated by the group; and an anthology of CFC-related newspaper articles. The library appreciates this donation, which shows how much of the revitalization of historic structures in Bloomington (and elsewhere in Indiana) happened by design rather than chance.

Newsletter Collection

The Genealogy Library maintains a collection of newsletters from historical societies elsewhere in Indiana and other states. Some are received as part of an exchange program, some are donated by library volunteers, and others simply arrive in the mail. Those from neighboring counties include Owen County History and Genealogy (Owen County Historical and Genealogical Society, Spencer); and The Seedling Patch (Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society, Bedford). We have many others, so come in and take a look!

A Lady Has to Protect Her Assets:
A 19th Century Nuptial Agreement

Nuptial agreements have been around for thousands of years. During the 19th century, before the Married Women’s Property Act of 1848, the agreements were necessary for women in the United States. Until the act became law, everything a woman owned or inherited was transferred to her husband. If he died or divorced her, she could lose everything. Below is an example of a local nuptial agreement from 1873. This document was found in the MCHS Genealogy Library’s Miscellaneous Book, page 276. It has been transcribed exactly the way it appears, including the several spelling variations of the woman’s name.

This contract made and entered into this the 13 day of December 1873 between John Ehni and Pernetta J Ehni his wife witnessith that whereas before the marriage between said parties the said John Ehni being a widower and having children by a former marriage and the said Pernita J. Ehni being a widow, and having a child by a former marriage, it was agreed by and between said parties that the estate which each at that time owned both real and personal should remain and continue this separate estate and that neither in the event of the death of the other should claim or take any right, Title or interest in the estate of the other but should the said estate of such other to descend to his children or her child as the case may be— Now therefore in consideration of said premise and for the purpose of effecting the said agreement and to the end that the estate of each may in no wise be or become complicated on account of said marriage. It is agreed by and between the parties thus each hereby relinquishes to the other and his and her heirs all his or her right title and interest in that said estate of the others, which right vest in either in the event of the death of the other, and now hereby agree that neither will in the event of his or her survivorship, claim or assert any right title or interest in and to the real or personal estate of such other provided nothing herein contained shall be construed as discharging the said John Ehni from furnishing to the said Perneta J Ehni a home and support during his lifetime. If the said Perneta J Ehni shall survive him.

In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year first herein before written.

John Ehni (seal)
Pernett J Ehni (seal)

Before me J.S. Smith Hunter a notary public in and fo the County of Monroe State of Indiana. this day John Ehni and Perneta J Ehni severally acknowledged the execution of the above and foregoing agreement

In witness whereof I have hereeto set my name and notarial seal this 13th day of December AD 1873

J S Smith Hunter
Notary Public
(Seal)

Recorded Dec 13 1873 at 9 oclock Am
“CHANGING ROLES OF FIRST LADIES” CLASS OFFERED AT HISTORY CENTER

Presidential scholars sometimes overlook the impact and influence of the Presidents’ families, not only on their personal lives, but also on matters of policy. First ladies in particular have had a significant, if sometimes hidden, impact on our country. This class will examine the role of the first lady and how it has changed over time, as well as look at some of the extraordinary women who have served in this role. These will include some well-known women such as Martha Washington, Mary Todd Lincoln, and Eleanor Roosevelt, and some less well known such as Sarah Polk, Lou Hoover and Betty Ford. We’ll finish with Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush.

Instructor: Michael Faber is a doctoral student in Political Science at IU. He has taught two IU courses on the American presidency.

3 Wednesdays, March 22–April 5, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Location: Monroe County History Center, 202 E. Sixth Street
Fee: $47; seniors $45

For more information please contact: Betsy M. Watson, Program Assistant, Lifelong Learning & Mini University, Bloomington Continuing Studies, Owen Hall - Room 201. She can be reached at bmwatson@indiana.edu or (812) 855-5108.

Quiz—How much do you know about our First Ladies?

1. Which First Lady was credited with introducing ice cream to the United States?
   A. Dolley Madison  B. Edith Wilson  C. Letitia Tyler

2. Which First Lady was the first with a college degree?
   A. Elizabeth Truman  B. Hillary Clinton  C. Martha Washington  D. Lucy Hayes

3. Which First Lady studied modern dance with Martha Graham?
   A. Nancy Regan  B. Betty Ford  C. Jacqueline Kennedy

4. Which First Lady was the youngest and the only one to be married in the White House?
   A. Jacqueline Kennedy  B. Lou Henry Hoover  C. Frances Cleveland

5. Which First Lady said the inspirational words “It’s better to light a candle than curse the darkness” and “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent?”
   A. Rosalyn Carter  B. Hillary Clinton  C. Jacqueline Kennedy  D. Eleanor Roosevelt

Questions from kidsforkerry.org


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 Farms Jams and Jellies
- Products made from Local Honey & Beeswax
- Armetale Metal Plate Depicting Courthouse

Cookbooks now $10.

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.
Joyce Peden grew up on a farm in Jefferson County near Madison where her father had a dairy and grain farm. He owned 10 Allis Chalmers tractors. Joyce bought this tractor (photo to right) and used it in her garden on Maple Grove Road. She had it restored in 2005 and exhibited it at the Monroe County and Indiana State Fairs.

History of G-Allis Chalmers Tractors
The first Allis-Chalmers Model G (also known as the “grasshopper”) was produced in 1948 in Gasden, Alabama, and was designed for vegetable gardeners, small farms and landscape businesses. It is a small compact tractor that came with a complete line of implements especially tailored for its unique design. It featured a rear-mounted Continental N62 four-cylinder engine with a 2-3/8 x 3-1/2 inch bore and stroke. The rear-mounted engine provided traction for the rear wheels while at the same time gave the tractor operator a great view of the belly-mounted implements.

Some of the many implements designed for this tractor were plows, planters, and cultivators. In the early 1950’s they even came out with a front-mounted windrower and a front-mounted hay rake. This was a unique idea; however, unless the wind was at the operator’s back, he was subjected to a choking cloud of dust and debris from these implements.

Allis-Chalmers had high hopes and big plans for this little tractor, and produced it between 1948 and 1955. However, production fell far short of their expectations and less than 30,000 ended up being built. It was indeed very popular with small truck farmers but did not meet the needs of the grain farmer with it's inability to properly harvest the grains.

1949 G-ALLIS CHALMERS ON EXHIBIT
Graciously on loan from Joyce Peden

Time is Running Out to Join Century Club
Don’t forget: If you renew your Society Membership before April 1, at the $100 or more level, you will be a member of the Century Club, which commemorates the Society’s 100th anniversary. Names of Century Club members will be displayed on a permanent plaque in the History Center. To all of you who have already joined the Century Club during the year, thank you!

December Income & Expense Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December Income</th>
<th>December Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues From Sales</td>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and Admission</td>
<td>Building &amp; Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and Donations</td>
<td>Printing &amp; Copying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>Promotions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communications &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
<td>Monthly Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New and Renewed Members Cont’d

James & Janice Lundy
Darby McCarty
Rose H. Mcliveen
Ruth Miller
Louis and Norma Miller
Patrick & Cheryl Munson
Jean K. Nahkniann
Kimberly Schmalz Ochsenschlager
Gerald L. Patterson
Harry & Barbara Ann Patton
Elizabeth Perry
Doris B. Philbrick
Randi Richardson
Earl & Lee G. Riggs
Vernon & Chom Rollins
Gary & Ann Schepper
Audrey Elizabeth Schmalz
Sue Shelden
Marion J. Sinclair
Mark & Debbie Sipes
Jeanne Snow
Paul Vincent Spade
Larry & Sherry Stephens
Donna Stogsdill
James & Judith Van Osol
Wayne Warden, Jr.
Richard & Wilma Worsena
Jane Zebendon

Bill & Jackie Gilkey
Robert & Joann Dodd
Bernard & Marjorie Clayton, Jr.
Polly S. Grimshaw
Frank Barnhart
Anne K. Call
Roland Kohr
Jane Laughlin
John W. & D. Patricia Ryan
Gabriel & Sara Frommner
Peter Jacob
Century Club
Tom & Jeana Kapczynski
James and Martha Dawson
David & Lorna Estes
K. Edwin & Betty Applegate
Harriet Fulton
Charles Thompson
John & Wilma Chambers
David and Margery Byrne
Bob and Carolyn Doty
Robert & Maryellen Bieder
Patsy Fell-Barker
Phyllis C. Schiwitzer
George & Louise Arnett Selden
Jan Eklins
Jeff & Pam Davidson
Linda Wisen
Sylvan and Edith Tackitt
Marilyn Skirvin
Ward W. Moore
Breon & Lynda Mitchell
Nat & Patty Hill
John and Karla Kamstra
W. David Martin
Wesley W. & Mary Burch Ratliff III

Contributor
Martin and DeAnna Bassett
Jerry & Phyllis McCullough
M. Phil and Margaret Hathaway

G 1949 G-Allis Chalmers On Exhibit
Graciously on loan from Joyce Peden

Joyce Peden at the 2005 Indiana State Fair Parade
Recently a wonderful example of local limestone carving was added to the green space of the Monroe County History Center. The limestone hitching rack was donated by Virginia and Don Tyte. It originally was at the “winter quarters” for the Gentry’s Dog and Pony Show. The following history was provided by Virginia Tyte.

Henry B. Gentry (H.B.) had the limestone hitching rack made for the dirt road in front of his parents home place. The home was a two-story brick with a wrap around porch. The Gentry Brothers Dog and Pony Show was the inspiration for the carving of a horse’s head.

The hitching rack is one solid piece of limestone—seven feet tall with four feet of that above ground.

The home place (also Winter Quarters for the circus on the old RCA property) was in the 1100 block of south Rogers St. and Adams St. (which was not there, but just a driveway). The hitching rack was on the “curb” in the front yard with three or four limestone steps to enable getting in and out of a carriage or mounting a horse. When the last sister living in the home place died, the house and belongings were auctioned along with the hitching rack. The land was purchased by McDowell Baptist Church. Its present parking lot is where the house stood.

I do not know who bought the hitching rack or where it went. When it next appeared in Bloomington it was in the grass plot in front of 800 Sheridan Rd. The home my parents built and moved into in 1937. Henry Hope bought the house in ca. 1940. The Dean of Art at Indiana University, Henry Hope had bought it at an art auction in California as a piece of Americana art. I tried to buy it at that time as a gift for my parents to get it back in the family. Professor Hope did not want to sell—nor did his brother Quentin Hope, who bought the house next. The house sold two more times and I tried to buy the hitching rack from each one...unsuccessfully.

Next a young couple bought the house. I sent them a letter explaining the family connection and requested to buy it. They offered to sell it to me at half the appraised value—a wonderful thing to do! My parents had by this time moved to Meadowwood and there was no place to “plant” it. I placed it in my home back yard. When we moved to a condo I put it at 302 N. Washington, my husband’s dental office. Often on Monday morning he would come to work to find the hitching rack loose—the celebrations at the bars had prompted several attempts of “taking it home.” It was never taken because it goes deeply into the ground and weighs “a ton”. When my husband retired and sold the office we moved it to our condo at the Bloomington Country Club. It has now been moved again—to the yard of the Monroe County History Center. The Gentrys are my mother’s side of the family—the Hoadleys are my father’s side. The horse head will now be near the large Hoadley urn at the entrance...both sides of my family are represented.

I hope the community will enjoy a part of the circus heritage of the Bloomington-based Gentry Brothers Dog and Pony Show.
MAPLE SYRUP: AN INDIANA TRADITION

February 1888 was quite a profitable month for the enterprising citizens of the community of Dudley, Monroe County, Indiana. Like many other southern Hoosiers throughout the ages, those in Dudley took advantage of their natural surroundings by tapping their abundant supply of maple trees and boiling the resulting sap (maple sugar) down to intensely sweet syrup. Sometimes referred to as “maple’lasses,” maple syrup was produced usually in late February to mid-March and portended annual financial success for farmers with the wherewithal to transform sap into lucrative syrup in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

According to the Bloomington Telegraph (30 March 1888), the labors of the previous month by those in Dudley “yielded over one hundred gallons of syrup.” This in turn prompted the newspaper to then declare that “this has been an uncommon good sugar year; in fact sweetness is just running to waste” (Bloomington Telegraph, 30 March 1888). Although the families of Dudley undoubtedly enjoyed the rare inclusion of such sweetness at their dinner tables, Indiana maple syrup also found its way into the homes and kitchens of other families in the southern regions of the United States. The Bloomington World of 12 March 1897 reported that some of the families had shipped “sugar buckets” to the south and were eagerly awaiting “returns” for them.

Only available for a short window of time, the tapping of maple trees continues to be an annual event in southern Indiana communities, including Dudley. Those wishing to capture the sap of the maple tree have to act fast; sap is only available after freezing and when the thermometer is between 30 and 50 degrees but before the tree begins to leaf (Nearing and Nearing, 131). With restrictions such as those, it is clear that maple sugar is primarily culled during the month of February, the time when these conditions are most often met. Also, the length of time and amount of sap extracted varies a great deal from tree to tree and from year to year (Lawrence and Martin, 1993).

Following the success in maple syrup production towns across the country, the nation’s appetite for maple syrup dramatically declined. The discovery of artificial sweeteners and the availability of processed sugar led to the abatement of the manufacture of maple syrup in the years following 1860. According to the census of 1860, 40,120,000 pounds of maple sugar was extracted from the nation’s maple trees. In contrast, only 341,000 pounds of maple sugar was tapped in 1949 (Nearing and Nearing, 222). Sale and shipment of the syrup to other locales was no longer in such demand and was obviously no longer very lucrative.

On a positive note, a desire to return to earlier times and to indulge in simpler tastes has prompted a modern resurgence of popularity in the maple syrup of Indiana. Contemporary reports estimate that 10,000 gallons of the syrup are made annually throughout the Hoosier state (http://www.southernin.com). Today, the state boasts an active maple syrup association (http://www.indianamaplesyrup.org) dedicated to educating the public on the continuing importance of Indiana in the production of this crop. Also, there are numerous festivals throughout the state where visitors can go to learn of the techniques and to buy local samples of maple syrup. Clearly, there is a tangible link between the past, present, and future provided by the maple syrup of Indiana.

Sources

Cook Endowment continued from page 1.

Cook Group Inc. officially announced on January 19th that it has donated $3.0 million to the Monroe County History Center to create a new endowment called the **Cook Endowment**.

"We are thrilled to receive an endowment from the Cook Group, who along with Gayle Cook, have long recognized the importance of preserving our county's history through our society and museum," added Rachel Peden McCarty, MCHS president.

"It is significant that this endowment was established during our 100th year as a society and our 25th year of operating our genealogy library and museum. We look forward to our next 100 years as a society.

The interest income from the **Cook Endowment** will allow us to better preserve our collections, improve the quality of exhibits, and expand our relationship with the community.

We appreciate the leadership and countless hours of volunteer work that Gayle Cook has given our organization over the past 25 years and hope others will follow her lead and contribute to our success in the future."
Upcoming Exhibits

“Women of Biblical Proportion”

Don’t miss this nationally touring exhibit of fifty 22-inch square art quilts each depicting a different female Biblical character. The award winning quilt artists hail from all across the United States and their styles range from realism to abstract. This special exhibit is sponsored locally through the generosity of Regions Bank. The quilts will hang in the Deckard Education Room of the History Center from Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, March 24. Admission to this exhibit is included in the regular museum admission fee and is free to members.

Thank You Regions Bank!

Future Exhibits

Two new exhibits are being planned for Spring of 2006: “A Collection of Collections III” with a projected opening in April; and “A Garden Wedding” with a projected opening in June. We are seeking the loan of artifacts for both of these exhibits.

“Collections of Collections III”

“A Collection of Collections III” will be similar to its two predecessors and will feature interesting collections belonging to area residents. Collections that have previously been donated to the museum will also be incorporated. If you have a collection you would like included in our exhibit, please call the History Center office with your name, phone number, and information. Because of limited display case space, we must choose collections carefully. Items need not be antique.

“A Garden Wedding”

Would you like to see your wedding dress featured in the “Garden Wedding” exhibit? Please let us know your name, phone number, and the year your wedding took place. We are particularly interested in finding styles from a variety of different decades.

Time to Vote!

It will soon be time to vote for the MCHS Board of Trustees. A list of the nominees can be found on our website and below. See page three for more details.

Officer Nominees for 2006-2007

President  Rachel McCarty
V.P. of Finance  M. Phil Hathaway
V.P. of Operations  Lee Ehman
Treasurer  David Musgrave
Secretary  Laura Newton
Associate Secretary  Marilyn Skirvin
Genealogy Library Dir.  Elizabeth Knapp

Board of Trustees Nominees (term in parenthesis)

Deanna Bassett (2)
Mary Jane Blustein (1)
Mary Lee Deckard (1)
Allison Lendman (1)
Julian Livingston (2)
Kathy McFall (1)
Glenda Murray (1)
David Musgrave (2)
Mary Oliver (2)
Janice Partenheimer (2)
Steve Rolfe (1)
Sue Shelden (1)
Damon Sims (1)
Jamee Wissink (1)

Annual Meeting
April 13th
5:30pm

Past & Present:

Monroe County Historical Society past presidents gathered for a photo during the announcement celebration of the new Cook Endowment. The celebration was held on January 19th at the History Center. (From left to right: Julian Livingston, Dave Roland, Gayle Cook, Glenda Murray, Sue Shelden, Joyce Poling, Allison Lendman, Kathy McFall, and Rachel Peden McCarty.)
Your membership is Key …

Your membership expiration date can be found on 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.

For all listing of all membership benefits please check our website at www.monroehistory.org

---

**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

---

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

**Givers Name, if a gift**
__________

**Name**
__________

**Address**
__________

**E-mail**
__________

**Phone**
__________

**Credit Card #**
__________

**Exp. date**

**Signature**

---

Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

---

2005-2006
100th Anniversary of MCHS
25th Anniversary of the Museum