Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

MORONE COUNTY HISTORIAN

See Stories… Touch Time… Make Memories…

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

By Gayle Cook, Auction Committee

When a group of MCHS volunteers invited members to “just bring something along” to donate at a small evening auction, it was 1993. We were delighted to make an easy $950, and a tradition was started.

Since then, with a minimum of labor and a lot of fun, the auction adds almost $4000 to our operating budget. The event is made possible by our generous professional auctioneers Brett Haley and Tod Wesemann, our sponsor Pinnacle Properties, and Society volunteers. We now collect items all year long for resale, choosing some for the three-hour auction and saving others for our annual garage sale in June (Bloomington’s largest). We’ve also added a tasty food selection to the auction, starting at 5:00 p.m. during the preview hour.

Donors have given us some rare and surprising things. Last year’s auction included an accordion, quilts, a fox cape, an antique walnut bed, IU souvenirs, old tools, a silver tea service, and modern electronics and appliances. Of course, we never sell museum artifacts; in fact, we often add to the collection from appropriate objects donated for the auction.

An intriguing item for this year’s auction is a mohair fur teddy bear, probably made between 1910 and 1940. Its distinctive features are red lip line and tongue, metal wire joints, felt paw pads, and excelsior stuffing. The bear is about 11 inches tall and has a “football” body.

Your donations will make this year’s auction a big success. Bring in those treasures from the closet and holiday gifts you can’t find a use for. If you have an auction item to contribute that is major or unique, LET US KNOW ahead of time so that it can be researched and listed in our newspaper ad. Call for more information or for pick-up.

Monroe County Historian
Editor: Jill Lesh
Design/Layout: Lisa Simmons

Above: Board members Dee Bassett and Sue Shelden model auction apparel.
**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.

**Staff**
- Jill Lesh: Managing Director
director@monroehistory.org
- Erica Kendall: Collection Assistant
collection@monroehistory.org
- Lisa Simmons: Education/Membership/ Volunteer Coordinator
education@monroehistory.org

**Trustee Officers**
- Rachel Peden McCarty: President
rachelmccarty@bluemarble.net
- M. Phil Hathaway: VP of Finance
philmary@prodigy.net
- Lee Ehman: VP of Operations
lehman@indiana.edu
- David Musgrave: Treasurer
dmusgrave@unitedcommercebank.com
- Laura Newton: Secretary
laura@visitbloomington.com
- Marilyn Skirvin: Associate Secretary
mskirvin@bedc.bloomington.in.us

**Curators**
- Liz Knapp: Curator of Collections
genealogy@monroehistory.org
- Allison Lendman: Curator of Exhibits
812-332-2517

**Events Schedule**

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

**General Board Meeting**
2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm

**Civil War Roundtable Meetings**
2nd Tuesday of each month from September—June from 7:00–8:30 pm. For more information, please contact John Crosby at 339-2572.

**3rd Thursday Series**
Every 3rd Thursday of the month a free lecture or tour is held. Most programs are held at 7 pm.

**February**
- WED 7 Blues, Quilts & the Underground Railroad, 7 pm w/ Ayana Smith
- TUE 13 Civil War Roundtable: River Journey—1859, 7 pm w/ Deborah Cronin
- THU 15 3rd Thursday: The Caribbean Origins of Chocolate Soul, 7 pm w/ Amy Thompson
- MON 26 Annual Benefit Auction: Doors open, registration and food available at 5 pm; auction begins at 6 pm
- WED 28 IU Lifelong Learning course: Lincoln’s Indiana Years, 7 pm w/ Keith Erekson; continues on Mar. 7 & 21; call 855-5108 to register

**March**
- WED 7 Genie Group: 10 am
- TUE 13 Civil War Roundtable: The Gettysburg Sharpshooter, 7 pm w/ Bob Wiley
- THU 15 3rd Thursday: The Women Who Came Before Us, 7 pm w/ Glenda Murray

**April**
- THU 5 Annual Meeting: Potluck Dinner, 6 pm; meeting at 6:45 pm
- TUE 13 Civil War Roundtable: Confessions of a Civil War Transvestite, 7 pm w/ John Bower
- THU 15 3rd Thursday: Capturing the Soul of Indiana: A Celebration of our Overlooked Cultural Heritage, 7 pm w/ John Bower

**Exhibit Schedule**

**“Two Centuries of Chairs”**
Opens: October 17
Closes: February 17
More than seventy unique chairs delight museum guests. Interesting pieces include an arm chair upholstered in 10 different fabrics by local designer Robert Harman, a “prie dieu” for either kneeling or sitting, and authentic Shaker chairs. The notorious “Bobby Knight” chair is also on display.

**“Lights! Camera! Action! MoCo Goes Hollywood”**
Opens: January 16
Closes: March 28
This exhibit explores local connections to the movies. With over 100 connections ranging from silent films to Pirates of the Caribbean, there is something for everyone. Bring in photos of your brushes with celebrities to post in the “paparazzi gallery.” Don’t forget to play with our movie magic technology.

**“Come to the Fair: Ribbon-Winning Quilts”**
Opens: February 27
Closes: May 26
This exhibit will feature quilts that have won ribbons at county/state fairs or other competitions.

**“Girl Scouting in Monroe County”**
Opens: March 1

**“After The Harvest: A John Bower Photography Exhibit”**
Opens: April 3
Closes: May 19

**“Unique Wooden Items”**
Opens: TBA

**“The Civil War and Monroe County”**
Opens: TBA
**Update from the Managing Director**

**Humidifiers**
The last part of the heating & cooling system rehabilitation, the repair of our five humidifiers, is taking place now. To preserve our collection, we need to minimize the fluctuations in temperature, and especially, in relative humidity. Lee Ehman continues to track relative humidity using preservation environmental monitors (PEMs) mounted in 12 locations within the building. Our goal is to keep the humidity levels as close to 47% as possible.

**County & Township Support**
The support from Monroe County, Bloomington Township, and Perry Township is very important. Their funding, $5000, $1000, and $1000 respectively in 2006, helps the History Center fulfill its unique role of preserving historical government documents, maintaining a database of cemeteries throughout the county, and providing a genealogical/local history library and educational programs for the benefit of Monroe County residents.

**Board of Trustees Election**
The slate of nominees will be available in February on the MCHC website: www.monroehistory.org. Officers and trustees for 2007-08 will be elected at the annual meeting on April 5.

**Annual Meeting**
Please join us at the Annual Meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society on Thursday, April 5. Bring a potluck dish to share for dinner at 6:00 p.m. This is a lovely opportunity to thank outgoing trustees and president Rachel Peden McCarty. The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. with a report and celebration of the past year’s activities and accomplishments. New officers and trustees will be elected.

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**Cindy DeFries**

Friday, January 19, was Cindy DeFries’ last day of work at the History Center. Cindy has been the office manager for almost three years. Her friendly and gracious manner with visitors and volunteers will certainly be missed. We wish her the best.

Cindy went out with a bang. Her last day was also the “Lights! Camera! Action! MoCo Goes Hollywood!” exhibit opening. Staff, volunteers, and visitors dressed up, sported shades, and donned feather boas.

**Above:** Some of the staff pose in front of the new “Lights! Camera! Action! MoCo Goes Hollywood!” exhibit. From left to right: former staff member Rachael Himsel (dressed as Rita Hayworth), Office Manager Cindy DeFries, Collections Assistant Erica Kendall, and Education/Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Simmons.

**Left:** Monroe County Historical Society Trustee Marilyn Skirvin got into the Hollywood mood with her cool shades. Here she stops for a picture in the office with Erica and Cindy.
Programs Not To Miss

“Blues, Quilts, & the Underground Railroad”
by Ayana Smith
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.

Early quilts contained important symbols for the Underground Railroad. IU assistant professor Ayana Smith will show how this symbolism is expressed in musical forms such as spirituals, and later in the blues, as well in the beautiful designs by modern African—American quilters. This event celebrates Black History Month.

Above: The wagon wheel quilt design had significance for the Underground Railroad.

“Abraham Lincoln’s Indiana Years”
by Keith Erekson
Wednesday, Feb. 28, Mar. 7 & 21, at 7:00 p.m.

This IU Lifelong Learning Program will be held at the History Center. Lincoln lived in Southern Indiana for nearly 14 years, from age 7 to 21. What happened during those years? How did they shape his life and character? Examine both the “public” and “inner” Abe with assistant editor of the Indiana Magazine of History, Keith Erekson. $55 fee; register at www.continue.indiana.edu or call 812-855-4991.

Above: This painting depicts a re-creation of Lincoln’s Indiana boyhood home. www.dentongenealogy.org

“The Caribbean Origins of Chocolate Soul”
by Amy Thompson
Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m.

All things chocolate begin with the growing and harvesting of cocoa beans. Gain an understanding of the history of chocolate and the industry’s impact on the lives of the local growers in the Dominican Republic. Monroe County Extension educator, Amy Thompson, worked in the Dominican Republic for two years and returns frequently.

Above: Small insert found in Belgium chocolates from 1956 depicting the chocolate manufacturing process. The back of the card translates as “For drying the beans, one can make use of the bamboo mat. This will allow free circulation of air.”

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“Standing on Their Shoulders: The Women Who Came Before Us”
by Glenda Murray
Thursday, Mar. 15, 7:00 p.m.

Monroe County Historical Society trustee and local historian Glenda Murray will highlight ways women have impacted Bloomington and Monroe County – from starting the hospital to educating children and building the community over the years.

Left: The 1905 Hospital was founded by local women.
"Lights! Camera! Action! MoCo Goes Hollywood!" This exhibit opened to much excitement on Friday, January 19. The exhibit featured famous movie memorabilia and local theatre history. Guests learned how Monroe Countians found success in Hollywood. Included is Meg Cabot, the author of the novel *Princess Diaries*, which was turned into a blockbuster film. The highlight of the evening was the presence of John Ford’s Oscar for Best Director of “How Green Was My Valley” (1942). It was on loan for the night from the Lilly Library and under high security from guards. Guests were treated to a rare glimpse of this treasured piece of Hollywood history. Other crowd pleasers included a prop sword from the movie Ben Hur, shoes worn by Joan Crawford, and a dress worn by Ella Fitzgerald.

The Grand Opening also provided an old-time Monroe County theatre experience. As guests walked through a theatre curtain to reach the gallery of local theatre artifacts, they were greeted by celebrity look-a-likes from the Bloomington Playwrights Project who dressed in glamorous Hollywood style.
In Search of a Legacy

By Charles W. Meiser

You may know Bloomington, Indiana best as the home of pioneering sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, legendary basketball coach Bob Knight, musician Hoagland Howard "Hoagy" Carmichael, film writer Angelo Pizzo (Hoosiers and Rudy), or the "cutters" in Breaking Away. I lived in Bloomington, too, but never dreamed any relatives preceded me there. However, I learned that Mary Ann Hafley, my first cousin five times removed, and her husband, Jonathan Legg, were pioneers of Monroe County, having moved there from Shelby County, Kentucky in October 1824.

The 1997 Meisser genealogy lists six children—Mary Elizabeth "Betsey," Margaret, Sarah "Sallie," Lucinda, William Ambrose, and Martha Ann. Betsey and Margaret were born in Blount County, Tennessee, and the other four in Shelby County, Kentucky. Betsey married Drury W. Warren on 17 April 1820 in Shelby County. The other five children married in Monroe County, Indiana—Margaret, 16 September 1832; Sarah, 30 April 1826; Lucinda, 13 October 1831; William Ambrose, 7 December 1841; and Martha Ann, 18 January 1844.

With this information, I began my search for a "Leggacy." Last fall (2005) I headed for the Genealogy Library in the Monroe County History Center. When I told library director Liz Knapp I was researching the Legg family, she asked, "Are you connected to the Legg house?" I had never heard of the Legg House or George M. Legg for whom it is named. Therefore, I focused my quest on the house and George.

The original house was a two-room, brick saddlebag house with a central fireplace. The 12' x 16' east room was a "parlor" with an entrance on the north side facing the road and one on the south side facing the farmland. The 16' x 16' west "hall" probably had one entrance on the south side only and still has its original variable-width poplar floor. The interior walls are of horsehair plaster. An article in the Bloomington Herald-Times (13 July 2002) states, "The original structure features hewn beams, handmade pegged doors, windows and trim and built-in [poplar-wood] cabinets made from 20-inch-wide boards." A frame addition was built between 1863 and 1872—at least nine years after the house was sold by George and Melissa Legg.

George M. Legg was born ca. 1812 in Kentucky and married Melissa Ann Moore on 26 November 1840 in Monroe County. The 1850 census has George M., a plasterer, Melissa, and five persons aged 8 years to 2 months. These seven were the probable residents of the "Legg House." But, am I connected to them?

A death notice in the 7 November 1883 issue of the Bloomington Republican Progress states, "Mr. [Geo] Legg was a brother of Mrs. Zimri Worley of Bloomington, Ind. and some thirty years ago was a resident in that town in which he followed the trade of plastering.—Kankakee Times." Zimri Worley married Sarah Legg on 30 April 1826. This IS my connection. Our Meisser genealogy had missed George M. Legg. A whole new branch of my family has been discovered, and for nearly ten years I lived less than four-tenths of a mile from my cousins’ former residence. Now, I have walked on the same poplar flooring where my cousins walked more than a century and a half before me.

Indiana University owns the house and, due to its historical significance, decided to restore it to its 1800s appearance. George M. Legg and Melissa Ann, his wife, purchased the six-acre property on 20 April 1848 for $235 and sold it less one and a quarter acres on 20 February 1854 for $1,000. That’s more than fifty times the price inflation during the period. The conclusion is that a significant structure was built there.

Note: Charles W. Meiser lived in Bloomington from 1947 to 1956, attending Elm Heights and University schools. He is Historian and Director of the Meisser Genealogy Association, Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. The article is reprinted from Chippewa GenTalk: The Journal of the Chippewa County Genealogical Society (April 2006) with the permission of the author.
Penny Mathiesen is a native of Washington state. When she and her husband moved to Indiana, she wanted to learn more about its history, so she started volunteering at the History Center in January 2002. She primarily volunteers in the Library, where she works every Thursday afternoon, helping keep the Library open to the public. In addition, Penny prepares articles for the newsletter.

One of Penny’s major tasks is to maintain the vertical files, which are filing cabinets of folders in the Library. The vertical files are a treasure trove of clippings, papers that were prepared for a class or a presentation and then a copy was donated to the Library, programs from events, and other items. Most photos are copies from the museum collection or from newspapers. There are other items, such as World War II ration books, and a few pieces are duplicates of items in the museum collection. Penny created a list of headings and subheadings, so that someone can ask for a category of material or the name of an event or organization, and the library volunteer can check the list before going to the files.

Penny sees three categories of people who use the Library, whether for genealogy or for other research. There are the people who walk in during business hours, people who email queries for information (and the Library has volunteers who do research for a fee), and staff and volunteer curators who are looking for information for an exhibit, an educational event, or for another project.

In addition to her work in the Library, Penny enjoys helping with the garage sale in June, the auction in February, and other special events. Last year she responded to the Indiana Genealogical Society’s request for help in updating their driving instructions to cemeteries. Penny drove to every township to check information for the Monroe County cemeteries, which involved learning a lot about the back roads of the county.

Penny served a three-year term on the board, including serving as associate secretary. She enjoys her time at the History Center, noting that we have a great combination of hard-working staff and volunteers.

You too can be a volunteer at the History Center. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Lisa Simmons at 332-2517 or education@monroehistory.org.

Volunteers of the Year

Award recipients: Steve Rolfe, Gayle Cook Volunteer of the Year; Emily Heinlen, Genealogy Library Volunteer of the Year; Julian Livingston, Outstanding Service Award; and Dave Musgrave, Outstanding Service Award.
Panthygatric Dance Shakes Up the IDS

By Penelope Mathiesen

In 1906, a series of articles in the Indiana Daily Student (IDS) highlighted an annual sorority event, the Panthygatric banquet and dance. The Panthygatric, organized in 1893, was an association of I.U.’s four sororities. As stated in the 1896 Arbutus, it sought to promote friendship between the organizations and “cultivate a liberal esprit de corps.”

The initial IDS article (16 April 1906) was a tongue-in-cheek account, describing the general consternation when “three masked figures at the window” intruded upon the event held at the Kappa House and glimpsed women dressed in men’s clothing. The sorority girls were clad as “knights, fencing girls, pages and Amazon warriors; many of the girls wore dress suits; some represented broken-down sports in flashy male attire; others appeared in the costumes of gentlemen of the sixteenth century…. As the evening progressed, “The musician struck up a Spanish dance…the gentlemen supped their wine and puffed their cigarettes in keen appreciation, and the scene took on the appearance of an Egyptian Harem.”

A follow-up letter to the IDS (18 April 1906) expressed outrage at the Panthygatric participants: “Feminine modesty should cause them to think a long time before committing such an offense against society, and the University.” The Dean of Women responded (19 April 1906) in vigorous defense of the event, saying that “the dance last Saturday was a delightful affair marred only by one attempt on the part of some men to open a window and peer in.” She considered the letter “an insult not only to the sorority girls but to the patronesses and other society women who were present at the dance.”

The IDS (20 April 1906) explained that the initial story on the Panthygatric was “an account, picturesque, but inoffensive, of a unique incident,” in which the author “drew largely upon his imagination” and expected “that his description would be taken as a joke.” The university faculty didn’t see it that way. They voted to temporarily suspend the IDS’s editor-in-chief and associate editor for publishing an article that “reflected upon the sorority girls and the patronesses of the annual panthygatric” (IDS, 25 April 1906). The IDS (26 April 1906) reported that the editors had resigned from the paper and would be reinstated as students now that they had fulfilled “the conditions placed upon them by the faculty” to sever all connections with the Daily Student.

Articles cited: “Bold Bad Men Interrupt Panthegatric” (IDS, 16 April 1906); “Letter to the Editor” (18 April 1906); “Dean Breed Defends Last Panthygatric” (19 April 1906); “A Sane Amusement” (IDS, 20 April 1906); “University Faculty Suspends Editors of Daily Student” (IDS, 25 April 1906); and “Editor Thompson and Associate Editor Mattox Surrender (IDS, 26 April 1906). The articles were used in a handout (available in the Genealogy Library) for Dina Kellams’s talk, “Coeds at I.U.”


Below: Sketch of the annual Panthygatric event (p. 95).
Both pieces are from the 1896 Arbutus (from the collections of the Monroe County History Center).
On 29 October 1915, an obituary of an unusual woman, Susanah (Davis) Loggins, appeared in the Bloomington Daily Telephone. It brings into focus important aspects of our society 90 years ago and invites comparisons to our present-day life.

WHITE WOMAN WHO MARRIED NEGRO, IS BURIED HERE TODAY

There was buried today from the Bethel Church by the colored people of Bloomington, a white woman who 40 years ago left the people of her own race, married a negro, raised a negro family and during her life-time took an active part in the social and religious activities of the negro people of this city. This woman was Mrs. Milford Loggins who died Wednesday in Indianapolis where she had moved a short time ago and the remains were returned here and this morning laid to rest beside her negro husband who died about a year ago.

Mrs. Loggins was a white girl in Orange county, near the little town of Georgia, forty years ago when the Loggins family came from Kentucky and settled in that section. The white girl became enamoured with Milford Loggins during the time he was employed on her father’s farm as a laborer and deserted her own people and married him. As far as the relatives and friends of the pretty white girl were concerned, she died the day she married Loggins and from that time on was an absolute outcast from her own race.

Some thirty years ago Milford Loggins and his white wife moved to Bloomington, settled among the colored people and lived the life of a respectable colored family. Mrs. Loggins made no pretense of being a negro as is sometimes the custom of white women who marry negro men. If Mrs. Loggins ever regretted the step that made her an outcast with her own race she never told anyone of her regrets. If she did some times think of other days with despair she probably realized the truth of the lines of a world-wise poet:

“Mary, pity women; but you were late in learning,
Down the road you have traveled there is no returning.”

After deserting her own race Mrs. Loggins stayed loyally by the colored. Only a short time after she became the bride of the negro farm hand she went through a period of bitter race feeling which ended up with her brother-in-law being lynched. There was some feeling against the negroes then in Orange county and it came to a climax when a horse was stolen. The man who took the horse was a brother of Milford Loggins and he fled to this city. He was captured here, returned to Orange county and was duly hanged to a tree by the men of the neighborhood. His demise was very simple. He sat on a horse while the rope around his neck was attached to the limb of a tree—then someone hit the horse with a whip.

Today all that was mortal of Mrs. Loggins was laid to rest by the people of an alien race with due ceremony and respect. Kind words were said over her body by the colored people—not a single white person was present. It was an unusually large funeral among the colored people and was in charge of Rev. Cravens, the presiding elder of the Indianapolis district of the colored church and a former pastor here.

The content and tone of this newspaper article is disturbing and revealing. Susanah Loggins is judged throughout as “…an outcast [of] her own race.” Her choice of a husband, “deserting her own people,” and deciding not to disguise her “whiteness,” marks her as socially deviant, according to the writer.

Continued on page 11
News from the Library

From Poor Farm to Karst Farm Park
When people visit Karst Farm Park today, few are aware of its history. This tract of land near the airport in Monroe County’s Van Buren Township once served as the Poor Farm. Cathy Meyer, a naturalist for Monroe County Parks and Recreation, has traced the history and development of this property in her paper, “A Mystery and History at Karst Farm Park,” now available in the Genealogy Library.

Black History Month/Women’s History Month
February is Black History Month, and the Genealogy Library can help with your research. Our resources include a binder of columns from old Bloomington newspapers (“Among Colored People”) and vertical files on Black History, Center School, the Underground Railroad, and local churches (Bethel AME and Second Baptist). For information to help celebrate Women’s History Month in March, see our vertical files on Women and Clubs/Organizations.

Cemetery Committee Chair Needed
The Genealogy Library is seeking a new person to head the Cemetery Committee, and additional members are also welcome. The Cemetery Committee’s activities include working with township trustees to preserve burial sites; clearing, cleaning, and repairing cemeteries and gravestones; and updating cemetery records maintained by the Genealogy Library. If you are interested in this committee, please call the Monroe County History Center (812-332-2517) and leave a message for Liz Knapp (e-mail: genealogy@monroehistory.org).

News from Other Places

Research Event at the Indiana History Center
“How to Use a Research Library” will be offered on Saturday, 17 February 2007, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. Staff will provide an overview of the library’s holdings on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest, a tour of the library with access to areas not normally open to the public, and instruction on various methods of searching the collection, including the archive of digital images. Seating is limited, and registration is required by 10 February 2007. The cost is $12 ($10 for Indiana Historical Society members). Call 317-232-1882 for details. For information on other events and activities, go to: http://www.indianahistory.org. (From the web site.)

IGS 2007 Conference in Fort Wayne
The Indiana Genealogical Society’s annual conference will be held on 28 April 2007 at the Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The featured speaker will be Amy Johnson Crow, current president of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. The conference will be one of the first major events after the opening of the “new and improved” Allen County Public Library. Registration information may be found in the IGS Newsletter (available in the Genealogy Library at the Monroe County History Center) or at the IGS web site: http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html. (From the IGS Newsletter, December 2006.)

Lawrence County Post Office Exhibition
An exhibition, “Fort Ritner Post Office: 1856 to May 12, 2006,” will be on view through 15 March 2007 at the Lawrence County Museum of History, 929 15th Street, Bedford, Indiana 47421. The Museum and Genealogy Library are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. To check on the hours call: 812-278-8575. For information on books and other items available for sale in the museum store, go to: http://www.rootsweb.com/~inlawren/lchgsbooks.htm. (From the web site.)

Left: Talented local limestone carver Ivan L. Adams finished his own tombstone just prior to his death. His artwork can be seen in many of the local cemeteries.
Continued from page 9

The article depicts Susanah’s husband, Milford, as a farm laborer, neglecting to mention his service in the Civil War, as well as his full and honorable life after marrying her. Loggins served as a private in Company D, 8th Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry. According to his 1914 obituary, he was “...a gallant soldier...the wealthiest colored man in Monroe county... a charter member of the Masons...a devout member and treasurer of the Bethel [Church]... [and] a carpenter by trade.” He was “one of the best known colored men of [Bloomington],” By omitting these facts, and deliberately relegating Milford to a low status position, the obituary writer casts his life, and by association, Susanah’s, in a negative light.

Most disturbing is the insertion of the lynching of her brother-in-law, a part of the obituary as irrelevant to Susanah’s life as it is illustrative of the writer’s slant. She “...stayed loyally by the colored,” but according to the logic of the article chose the wrong side, particularly because the family into which she married included an alleged horse thief. The writer approves enthusiastically of the lynching, and moralizes about the “justice” served out to the man, while taking for granted the unlawful act of the Orange county lynch mob. The depiction of this lynching in the middle of her obituary counterbalances the positive aspects of Susanah Loggins’s life.

As we celebrate Martin Luther King’s accomplishments, this 1915 Bloomington newspaper article challenges us to question just how much progress we have made in overcoming the racism, violence, and miscegenation taboo that continue as part of our culture. How might we write Susanah’s obituary—or that of someone like her—today?
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### Additional Information

- If you are interested in volunteering, check here.
- If you are interested in genealogy, check here.
- If you are interested in planned giving, check here.

### Method of Payment

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Check

- Credit Card #
- Expiration Date
- Signature

### Send to:

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408