See Stories... Touch Time... Make Memories...

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

Monroe County Historian

June 2007
Vol. 2007 Issue 3

Museum
Museum Store
Genealogy Library
Educational Facility

202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-332-2517
www.monroehistory.org

$2/adult
$1/child (6-18 yrs)
5 yrs. & under free
Members are always free.

Highlights:

- Award Winning ArchiCamp
- Museum & Store
- Genealogy Library
- Hours
- Museum Admission

June 19-20, 2007
9am-3pm

What is ArchiCamp?! It’s two fun-filled days exploring Bloomington’s unique architecture and stories!

- Discover gargoyles and more with a guided campus tour and scavenger hunt
- Visit the historic Hinkle-Garton Farmstead
- Enjoy flower planting and pot décor
- Explore the newly renovated courthouse and create a courthouse of the future
- Have fun with a special tour at the Indiana University Art Museum

ArchiCamp is for kids ages 8-12. We will meet at the Monroe County History Center, 202 E. 6th St., rain or shine. Snacks and drinks will be provided—you will need to bring a sack lunch. Registration is $30.00 and includes materials, tours and souvenirs.

To reserve your ArchiCamp place, call the History Center by June 12th.
Camp is limited to 25 kids, so don’t delay! Questions?
Contact Lisa Simmons (812-332-2517, education@monroehistory.org).

Insert: Annual Report

Monroe County Historian
Editor: Jill Lesh
Design/Layout: Lisa Simmons
**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
- Dara May: Office Manager
admin@monroehistory.org
- Lisa Simmons: Education/Membership/ Volunteer Coordinator
education@monroehistory.org

**Curators & Trustee Officers**
- Glenda Murray: President
glmurray@indiana.edu
- Lee Ehman: VP of Finance
lee@indiana.edu
- Steve Rolfe: VP of Operations
sr@indiana.edu
- David Musgrave: Treasurer
dmusgrave@unitedcommercebank.com
- Jackie Gilkey: Secretary
jackie.gilkey@insightbb.com
- Laura Newton: Associate Secretary
laura@visitbloomington.com
- Liz Knapp: Curator of Collections, Genealogy Library Director
genealogy@monroehistory.org
- Allison Lendman: Curator of Exhibits
812-332-2517

**Events Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>2nd Thursday</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Civil War Roundtable Meetings</strong></td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>7am-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every 3rd Thursday of the month a free program is held, usually at 7pm.</td>
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**June**
- FRI-SAT, 8-9 Garage Sale
- SAT-SUN, 9-10 Civil War Encampment
- TUE 12 Civil War Roundtable:
  - River Journey: 1859, 7pm w/ Deborah Cronin
- SAT 16 Cornerstone & Time Capsule Ceremony at Courthouse, 2pm
- TUE 19 ArchiCamp, ages 8-12
- WED 20 ArchiCamp, ages 8-12
- THU 21 3rd Thursday: A Jewish History of Bloomington, 7pm w/ John King
- SAT-SUN, 23-24 Garden Walk
  - Headquarters, Flower Show & Garden Décor Mkt.

**July**
- THU 19 3rd Thursday: Indiana in the Civil War: Doctors, Hospitals, & Medical Care, 7pm w/ Nancy Eckermann

**August**
- THU 16 3rd Thursday: Stone Age Institute: Tour, Talk & Walk, 1pm w/ Nick Toth & Kathy Schick

**September**
- TUE 11 Civil War Roundtable, 7pm
- THU 20 3rd Thursday: National Latino History Month, La Cara Latina de Bloomington—The Latino Face of Bloomington, 7pm w/ Lillian Casillas

**Exhibit Schedule**

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<th>Exhibit</th>
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<th>Closes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“The Civil War and Monroe County”</strong></td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>This remarkable exhibition highlights the effects of the Civil War on Monroe County. A large portion of the artifacts are on loan from Bob Willey, a mid-western Civil War enthusiast who has been collecting artifacts for over 50 years. Artifacts include Union and Confederate uniforms and accoutrements, photographs, muskets, swords, knives, letters, and an interesting array of things that have been hit by bullets during war.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“Girl Scouting in Monroe County”</strong></td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>The exhibit features Girl Scout clothing, badges, and memorabilia from local residents, our collection, and from the Tulip Trace Council to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Girl Scouting in the United States and the 45th anniversary of Girl Scouting in Monroe County.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>“It’s Tea Time”</strong></td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Allison Lendman has put together a delightful exhibit portraying the pleasures of ladies’ tea time in America. Tea sets, table settings, and furniture from the History Center’s collection have been combined with beautiful loaned items from the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Fantasia: Fans in Fashion”</strong></td>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Be sure to see the highlights from the more than 300 fans in the Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection of the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design at Indiana University. “Fantasia” will examine the history, use, and artistry of this enchanting accessory, from its beginnings in the Middle and Far East, to its decline as a fashion accessory in the 1920s. Visitors to this exhibit can expect to see fans made of exotic feathers, airy laces, intricately carved ivory, bone and wood, skillfully painted fabric and paper, and delightful novelty and advertising fans.</td>
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Update from the Managing Director

Summer Interns
We are fortunate to have three Indiana University interns this summer. Pilar Taylor, a master’s degree student in SPEA is helping with grant research and long range planning. Alex Greulich, a history and comparative literature major, is working on exhibit guides and updating our newsletter. Elisabeth O’Donnell, a master’s degree student in SLIS, is helping with accessioning.

Time Capsule for Courthouse
The year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Monroe County Courthouse will begin with a Rededication Ceremony, Saturday June 16 at 2:00 p.m. At the ceremony, members of the Fraternity of Freemasons will rededicate the cornerstone, and a new time capsule will be presented. Rachel Peden McCarty has been overseeing the selection of items to be included in the time capsule to represent life in the year 2007. Items submitted for consideration are on display at the History Center through Saturday, June 9. The 40 or more submissions include a cell phone, an incandescent light bulb, a Monroe County Public Library card, a county map, a photo-series of public art; an endovascular graft from Cook, Inc., and an Indiana quarter. Can anyone donate an iPod? Come in to vote for your favorite selections or suggest other items.

New Board Members
Newly elected Board members have enthusiastically assumed their responsibilities. The president’s gavel passed from Rachel McCarty to Glenda Murray at the Annual Meeting on April 5. Following is a current Board of Trustee list.

Officers
Glenda Murray, president
Lee Ehman, vice-president of finance
Steve Rolfe, vice-president of operations
Dave Musgrave, treasurer
Jackie Gilkey, secretary
Laura Newton, associate secretary

Trustees
DeAnna Bassett
Dax Collins *
Tosha Daugherty **
James Dawson
Mary Lee Deckard
Wenona Freeman *
Pat Haley *
Liz Knapp
Allison Lendman
Julian Livingston
Susan Lyons *
Lou Malcomb *
Kathy McFall
Janice Partenheimer
Sue Shelden
Damon Sims
Marilyn Skirvin **
Jamee Wissink
* new Board member
** second term Board member

Left: Forty members and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner at the Annual Meeting; (left side) Dot Spore, Cindy Benson, Jackie Gilkey, and Trent Deckard, (right side) Jerry Spore.
Below: New Officers (left to right) Jackie Gilkey, secretary; Dave Musgrave, treasurer; Steve Rolfe; vice-president of operations; Lee Ehman, vice-president of finance; and Glenda Murray, president, at Annual Meeting, April 5.
Programs Not To Miss

“A Jewish History of Bloomington”
with John King
Thursday, June 21, 7pm

John King will present, “The Jewish History of Bloomington on Thursday, June 21 as part of our free 3rd Thursday program series. John assisted Gal Shifron in creating the recently published, A History of the Jewish Community of Bloomington, Indiana, 1844-2005.

Proceeds from the sale of this comprehensive history of individuals and families throughout Bloomington will go to the archives fund for the Congregation Beth Shalom. A copy of the book has also been placed in our Genealogy/Local History Library for research purposes.

This program is free and open to the public.

Civil War Encampment at the History Center
by Joel Foust
Saturday & Sunday, June 9 & 10

42nd Regiment Indiana Infantry re-enactors will be in full attire to set up an authentic Civil War encampment on the History Center grounds. The fully-equipped infantry, led by long-time re-enactor Joel Foust, will demonstrate Civil War weaponry, camp cooking, and medical treatment throughout the day on Saturday, June 9. Musket firing demonstrations will take place on Saturday at 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm. The exhibit, “Monroe County and the Civil War,” will open June 2.

Right: Joel Foust travels throughout the state with the 42nd. Photo is from the Evansville Courier Press.

“Stone Age Institute: Tour, Talk & Walk”
with Nick Toth & Kathy Schick
Thursday, August 16, 1pm

Take a long lunch hour and enjoy this unique opportunity. The Stone Age Institute has graciously agreed to give us a Tour, Talk & Walk followed by light refreshments. Drs. Nick Toth & Kathy Schick started the independent research center dedicated to the archeological study of human origins and technological development and to the advancement of research and education in human origins studies. They are interested in also educating the general public and especially Bloomingtonians about this unique facility. It is truly an amazing place and we are very fortunate to have it here in Monroe County.

Above: The Stone Age Institute & CRAFT Research Center located across from Oliver Winery.

Bloomington Garden Walk
Sat. & Sun. June 23 & 24
1-5pm, rain or shine

Flower Show and Garden Décor Market
Sat. & Sun. June 23 & 24
10am-6pm Sat., 12-5pm Sun.

The Headquarters and Annual Flower Show for the Bloomington Garden Walk will be located at the Monroe County History Center this year. Tickets for the Garden Walk include admission to the History Center Museum. Ticket sales begin June 1 at the History Center; $8 in advance; $10 the day of; children free.
New Cookbook

Name-the-Cookbook Contest
We need a catchy title for the second edition of the “Tastes of Monroe County” cookbook. The winner of the Name-the-Cookbook contest will get five complimentary cookbooks – great gifts. Send your ideas to me, sshelden@yahoo.com, or contact the History Center, 332-2517. The book will be published in November, just in time for holiday sales. The first cookbook was an excellent fundraiser for the History Center.

Send Recipes by Aug. 31
We need your favorite recipes. We especially need historic recipes from Monroe County families or restaurants. Your name will be included in the book for up to 6 recipes. The goal is to have 300 recipes recommended by local residents by August 31. To contribute recipes, go to www.typensave.com, The login is mccooks2 and the password is 5eesq. At the next screen, click on the “Add Recipe” button at the top. Recipes can also be mailed to the History Center.

Delicious Cracker Spread
(a favorite at History Center receptions) from Liz Knapp

- 2 c. mayonnaise (only)
- 2 c. onion, chopped
- 2 c. Swiss cheese, shredded

Mix ingredients well and place in a small casserole dish. Bake 20 minute at 350º. Serve with Triscuit crackers.

Our Volunteer: Mobie McCammon

Passionate and enthusiastic cannot begin to describe Mobie McCammon’s vigor for telling stories, fishing, mushroom hunting, and his most favorite hobby, genealogy. He is his family’s historian, and when he is not busy researching or volunteering, he spends time with his grandson in his backyard where he set up a pitching area.

Mobie was born in Monroe County on the west side of Bloomington near what used to be called the “Turkey Farm.” As a Monroe County native, Mobie has seen many changes take place within the community. Having attended Sanders, Kirksville, and the old Bloomington High School, he carries with him many memories. The family stories he heard as a child developed into his passion for genealogy. Naturally, when he retired as a U.S. History teacher and baseball coach from Bloomington High School South in 1993, he dedicated his time to documenting his family history.

About ten years ago, while studying in the Indiana Room at the Public Library, he said he hit a blank wall. After coming into the Genealogy Library, he got back on track and could continue his family research. During his visit, he had been asked if he had any interest in volunteering. He figured that since he had been looking for something that was related to his interests in familial research, it was a perfect fit. Here, he had the benefit of helping people and having access to records.

Years ago, Mobie fashioned the high school exhibit in the Cook Gallery using information he found at the Genealogy Library, along with his previous knowledge in the County’s athletics history. Today he is compiling a book about Kirksville athletics from 1931-1972. At the 2007 Indiana Genealogy Society Annual Meeting, he was able to learn how to use the Fort Wayne Library’s collection (the second largest genealogy library in the world), had the opportunity to make useful contacts, and was an honorary inductee into the Society of Civil War Families of Indiana. Needless to say, he is looking forward to his next trip there. He explained to me that, “genealogy is kind of like a sugar high. Because you never know what you are going to find, you experience rushes of excitement when you uncover a genealogy gem.”

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Monroe County Historian

June 2007

When my father, Clifford “Livy” Livingston, bought the newspaper, the Rising Sun Recorder, in Ohio County, Indiana, in 1937, he took on the former owners’ memorabilia dating back to the early 19th century. He did so with pleasure, but when he sold the newspaper, the new owner picked up a wastebasket and prepared to sweep the whole hatful into the trash. There were ink pots, clippings, ledgers turned to scrapbooks, and a doorstop—a three-pound shot-shaped missile of iron. If ever an office needed a door stopped open, that office did. In summer, the river caused a layer of miasmic breathlessness over the whole river valley. Combined with the overheated rotary press with its gas-flame ink driers and the smell of the recycling melted lead pots of the linotype machine and the non-flammable paper matte casting forms, circulating air was clearly a priority.

The only air conditioning in the town was at the drugstore and the movie theater, so the tough old shot could have well continued its benevolent propping until its true worth finally could be noticed. But the new owner of the paper was determined to clean house. It was 1940, and there were a couple of stories extant as to how that artifact ended up in Rising Sun, where J. H. Morgan never came during his inflammatory romantic dash across southern Indiana. But Livy was now on his way out of town himself, headed back to Spencer, IN, and so was the almost forgotten shot. As a result, I have a decision to make with regard to a Civil War artifact of Col. John Hunt Morgan’s raid on Indiana.

We note Morgan was foremost driven by anger and grief from the recent death in action of his youngest brother, Thomas. But he believed he was toning down the violence in his foray into Indiana, still in hope of history seeing him as a dashing commander of Southern sensibilities, striving to bring a doomed culture honorably back from destruction by Northern “know-nothings,” Lincoln Republicans, and other despicable abolitionists.

It was July 8th, 1863, when Col. Morgan began his now famous attack on Indiana, crossing the Ohio River near Brandenburg, Kentucky, using and burning one steam boat in the process, then proceeding to Corydon, the old state capital. One popular idea was that our projectile was part of Morgan’s return fire on the defending Northern steam tinclads that rushed to the scene. This is unlikely since such artillery missiles, missing their targets, were lost in the water, and a little hard to find. A better idea of the origin of our projectile, and much closer to Rising Sun, were the various skirmishes that occurred when Morgan decided to avoid the heavily barricaded Vernon area on July 11th. After feinting at Vernon, Morgan went around to the south, sleeping west of Dupont on the 12th, then traveling northeast, passing through Versailles, and arriving at Sunman July 13th. Before entering Ohio at Harrison, Indiana, he, or likely one of his lieutenants, taking advantage of a rest stop just north of Milan, decided to unlimber a field-piece and frighten some local corn cultivators with the taste of big iron. The discharge from the field-piece, a Corning & Winslow 6-pound semi-steel 2.32-inch caliber rifle, scared the defenders half to death with its whirligig and shrieking as the spinning missile pulverized the target, some rows of dirt in a corn field. The survivors (all did) brought the projectile to the Rising Sun Recorder newspaper office, located in Rising Sun, Indiana. An explosive round would have had better effect, but no one would have lived to tell the tale, which was the important point, not achieving a big casualty list.

Now, here is my dilemma: Should I give the projectile to Rising Sun’s Ohio County Historical Society or to Bloomington’s Monroe County Historical Society? My current thinking is that the artifact is of general interest to the whole state, but not particularly to Rising Sun. Since it went from Sunman to Rising Sun, where it spent seventy-seven years, to Spencer for three years, to Indianapolis for twenty years, to Freehold, New Jersey, in my possession for forty years at its previous job as a door stop, and finally to retire in Bloomington, Indiana, for the last four years as a revered artifact, I think here is a good spot to halt, considering the high quality of the endowed and curated museum here. The artillery round is now on exhibit at the History Center.

What do you think I should do? My e-mail address is julian@bluemarble.net

Graduation Day & Beyond: Three Members of Bloomington High School’s Class of 1927

By Penelope Mathiesen

Question received in the Genealogy Library: “Do you have any information on Edgar Cumings, Alice Rumple, and William Hepley, charter members of Bloomington High School’s National Honor Society chapter in 1928? What did they do after graduation?”

Answer:

According to the Gothic (Bloomington High School’s annual) for 1928, the National Honor Society chapter was organized on 1 June 1927. “Charter members were chosen from the upper fourth of the class of 1927” (p. 106). The officers were Edgar Cummings, President; Alice Rumple, Vice President; and William Hepley, Secretary.

The 1927 Gothic provides additional information on the three officers. During his senior year, Edgar Cumings was a member of the Gothic staff, “B” men’s association, and the baseball team. He was president of the Science Club and HiY. Alice Rumple was a member of the Science Club, Blue Triangle, and G.A.A. William Hepley was senior class secretary and participated in basketball, football, track, and glee club. What did they do after graduation? Bloomington city directories, the Arbutus (Indiana University’s annual), local newspaper obituaries, and Monroe County records provide some answers.

Honor Society President Edgar Cumings (sometimes spelled Cummings) attended Indiana University. According to the 1931 Arbutus, he graduated that year with an A.B. in German. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the German club, and Phi Beta Kappa. City directories list Edgar C. Cumings as a student living with his mother and father (Edgar R. Cumings, an IU professor) at 327 E. Second St. through his college graduation in 1931. After that, Edgar C. Cumings apparently left Bloomington for awhile, returning a decade or so later. The 1945-46 city directory shows him employed at IU and living at 315 E. Kirkwood with his wife, Eleanor. After that, his whereabouts are unknown. His parents disappear from the city directories at about the same time. An obituary for Edgar R. Cumings (Bloomington Herald-Telephone, 3 August 1967) states that he retired from IU in 1944 and died in Arlington, Virginia. There is no mention of his son.

After high school, Honor Society Vice President Alice Rumple continued to live with her family at 418 S. Walnut until 1931. Although the 1929–30 city directory lists her as a student, she isn’t mentioned in the IU Arbutuses for 1928 through 1931. The 1931–32 city directory lists her as a teacher residing at 320 N. College. Alice Rumple doesn’t appear in later city directories or in the Monroe County marriage records. A tantalizing bit of information turns up in an obituary (H-T, 4 September 1954) for her father, Fred Rumple, who is buried at Rose Hill. Among his survivors was a daughter, “Mrs. Alice Nichols, of South San Francisco, California.”

Much more local information is available for Honor Society Secretary William Hepley. The son of a Monon railroad freight agent, both of his parents were “pioneer Monroe County citizens,” according to an obituary for his father, William O. Hepley (H-T, 13 June 1935). The 1930 city directory lists William Hepley as a student living with his parents at 1112 Atwater. According to the 1931 Arbutus, he graduated from IU that year with a B.S. in general business. He was a member of Kappa Sigma (its fraternity house on E. Third St. was torn down in 2006), Delta Sigma Pi (a national business honor society), and—as in high school—glee club. He married fellow IU student Analie Shaw in Monroe County on 31 January 1934. The city directories show them living at various addresses over the years: 812 E. Eighth, 1112 Atwater, 1721 E. Hunter, 932 Ballantine Road, and 2620 Covenanter Court. William Hepley was a clerk for Public Service Co. of Indiana in the 1930s and 1940s. In the early 1950s, he was manager of The Vogue, a ladies’ and misses’ clothing store at 120 N. Walnut. He worked at IU in various administrative roles from the 1960s until his retirement in 1978. According to his obituary (H-T, 25 July 1983), he died at the age of 74 and was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Analie, and one son, Paul Hepley.
Showers Brothers Factory

The public will soon be able to take a walking tour of the famed Showers Brothers Furniture Factory courtesy of the City of Bloomington. The self-guided tour through the Showers complex provides a glimpse into what was once the “the world’s largest producer of bedroom and dining room furniture.” The tour highlights architectural features of interest and importance as well as interesting facts about the company that ceased business in 1955.

At its peak in the 1920s, the Showers Brothers Furniture Factory produced more than 700,000 pieces of furniture a year, enough to fill sixteen train-car loads a day. This amount counted for more than half of all furniture manufactured in the United States.

Charles C. Showers, cabinetmaker and part-time preacher, founded the company in 1856 and later turned ownership over to his sons. The company remained in the family for three generations.

Showers was a major employer in Bloomington, employing as many as 1,200 workers and accounting for a quarter of the City’s tax revenues. The company was so important to the local economy that the City paid almost half the cost of a new factory on Morton Street after a fire destroyed its production facility on Grant Street. The company occupied a seven-acre complex on Morton Street.

The family-run business was known for its innovative employee benefits and was exceptional in its hiring of women and African Americans. The Showers brothers established a bank “solely for the benefit of its employees…” to encourage and enable them to buy their own homes. The brothers also sponsored a number of company events including professional performances in the auditorium (601 N. Morton), the Showers Brothers orchestra, basketball and baseball teams, and boxing leagues. In addition, Showers provided a company grocery store and subsidized cafeteria to its employees. The brothers were so highly regarded that when the eldest brother, James, died, business in Bloomington virtually stopped so that all classes of people could pay their last respects to him. James was a pioneer, industrial leader and banker who during his life gave outstanding service to Bloomington.

For a more in-depth look at Bloomington’s Showers Brothers Factory, pick up “A Walk Through The Showers Brothers Furniture Factory” at the Monroe County History Center later this year.

Left: Advertisement for Showers & Hendrix Furniture Factory, Bloomington Progress, June 2, 1868.
Above: Photo from the personal collection of Elsie Kinser Bowlen. She stands (3rd from left) among her coworkers dressed for her shift. She was approximately 17 years old when this picture was taken.

Photos courtesy of the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Department
Decoration Day in Hindustan, 1897

Decoration Day (the forerunner of Memorial Day) was celebrated in style in northern Monroe County in 1897. Activities at Simpson Chapel and in the hamlet of Hindustan (or Hindostan, as it was also known), were reported in the following article, which appeared in two Bloomington newspapers, the Courier and the World, on 4 June 1897.

HINDOSTAN

Saturday, being Decoration day at Simpson’s chapel, a large crowd assembled and a profusion of flowers brought to scatter not only on the soldiers’ graves but on the graves of others. The church was decorated with evergreens and flags and draped with mourning. The recitations were well rendered. At Hindostan the exercises were held on Sunday. Rev. Lee preached the memorial sermon and Mr. Steele made a short address. Mr. Jones then spoke on the condition of the negro in North Carolina, before and since the [Civil] war. Mr. Jones said he was a native of the south and had no apology to make for being southern born. His father died in the Confederate army. Miss Belle Mattingly recited quite a lengthy piece on the history of the wars of the United States. All the recitations and addresses at both places were touching and many tears were shed.

Note: Simpson Chapel is north of Bloomington on SR 37, across from Oliver Winery. Hindustan is on Old SR 37, south of the Morgan/Monroe county line.

Above: Hindustan Christian Church, built in 1852. Photo by Penelope Mathiesen.
Area Representative Needed

The Indiana Genealogical Society is looking for someone to represent our area. The South Central District Director represents Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange, Scott and Washington counties. The District Director acts as a liaison, relaying the concerns (as well as activities) of genealogists and organization in the area. The position is part of the IGS board, and you would be expected to attend the quarterly board meetings. If you would be interested, please contact the IGS President: Michael Maben, 1212 S. Barnes Dr., Bloomington IN 47404; Phone 812-331-2128; E-mail mmaben@indiana.edu

Public Documents Added to ISL’s Online Catalog

Librarians at the Indiana State Library are entering items from the pre-1966 public documents (p.d.) card file to the online catalog. These documents contain a wealth of information on various topics. For example, World War II regimental histories mention battles and names of soldiers—information that is useful to historians and genealogists. For more information on the p.d. collection and the online catalog, call (317) 232-3678. (From ISL Connection, September 2006.)

New Uses for Old Library Buildings

Modern uses for old library buildings are featured in the Indiana Preservationist (January/March 2007). The following issues are discussed: continuing the traditional role of a historic library, adding on to house a growing collection, and adapting to a new use (such as an arts center, gallery, history museum, law office, learning center, restaurant, or town hall). The feature covers Indiana library buildings in Auburn, Corydon, Greenfield, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, New Albany, New Harmony, North Manchester, Pendleton, Salem, and Vevay.

Web Sites

- Old Mersey Times. Discover English ancestors from Liverpool and Merseyside in this site’s transcriptions, vital records, and passenger lists. Go to: http://www.old-merseytimes.co.uk
- German-American History and Heritage. Read biographies and history articles here, and view information on the first German settlers in America. Go to: http://www.germanheritage.com
- Canadian WWI Soldiers Database. Search by name or regimental number for Canadian soldiers who served in World War I. Go to: http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/02010602_e.html
- Civil War Battlefields at Risk. The Civil War Preservation Trust’s 2007 list of ten most-endangered Civil War battlefields has sites that face threats from residential and commercial development, installation of power lines, and damage from hurricane Katrina. The sites include Gettysburg, Pa.; Harpers Ferry, W.Va.; Spring Hill, Tenn.; Fort Morgan, Ala.; and New Orleans Forts, La. Go to: http://www.civilwar.org

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Monroe County Historical Society Members Join Society of Civil War Families of Indiana

By Penelope Mathiesen

During a special ceremony on 28 April 2007 at the Indiana Genealogical Society’s annual meeting and conference in Fort Wayne, the first members were inducted into the Society of Civil War Families of Indiana. Three members of the Monroe County Historical Society received certificates and medals: Elizabeth Knapp, honoring her ancestor, Isaac Porter Hopewell, 43rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry; Michael Maben, honoring his ancestor, Richard Cox, 67th Infantry and 24th Infantry of Lawrence County, Indiana; and Mobie McCammon, honoring his ancestor, William McCammon, 43rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The Society of Civil War Families of Indiana is an affiliate organization of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Those wishing to apply must be members in good standing of IGS and must submit an application and supporting documents for approval. For more information on IGS and this program, go to: http://www.indgensoc.org.
New & Renewed Members—March 15—May 12th

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