Fantasia: Fans from the Sage Collection

By Jill Lesh

More than seventy fans from the Sage Collection's extensive archive of fans will be on exhibit at the Monroe County History Center from October 12 to January 5. Fantasia explores the use of the handheld fan as a personal accessory and form of adornment across history, from its beginnings in the Middle and Far East, to its height in the 18th and 19th centuries as a Western fashion statement, and its eventual decline in the early 20th century.

The exquisite examples of different fans from around the world will illustrate the many forms and ways in which fans have been ceremonial and practical, symbols of high status, and fragile, feminine playthings. Outstanding artifacts from the Sage Collection's more than 300 fans were chosen for this exhibit.

The Sage Collection is part of Indiana University's Department of Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design in the College of Arts and Sciences. One of the nation's premier collections of historical and contemporary clothing, accessories and educational fashion resources, the Sage Collection brings social history to life. Celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2007, the Sage Collection was founded by Miss Elizabeth Sage, the first professor of Clothing and Textiles at Indiana University. It is our pleasure to partner with IU to bring this exhibit to the community.

Opening Reception
Friday, Oct. 19, 5-6:30pm
Meet the co-curators Kelly Richardson and Kate Rowold. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, and be one of the first to view the exhibit.

The History and Language of Fans
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7pm
Join Kate Rowold and Kelly Richardson for a lively discussion of fans throughout history and see their demonstration of the little-known language of fans.

For more information about the Sage Collection, see www.indiana.edu/~sagecoll.
### 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.

#### 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
- Jennifer Gowen: Library Associate
gowen0006@umn.edu

#### Curators & Trustee Officers
- Glenda Murray: President
glmurray@indiana.edu
- Lee Ehman: VP of Finance
ehman@indiana.edu
- Steve Rolfe: VP of Operations
srolfe@monroehistory.org
- 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

#### Exhibit Schedule

**“The Civil War and Monroe County”**
Opens: June 2  Closes: October 26
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.

**“Fantasia: Fans from the Sage Collection”**
Opens: October 12  Closes: January 5
Fantasia explores the use of hand-held fans as a personal accessory and form of adornment across history. More than 70 examples from the Sage Collection’s fans illustrate the different forms of fans from around the world and demonstrate the manner in which a fan is: ceremonial and practical; a symbol of high status; and a fragile, feminine plaything. Co-curators are Kate Rowold and Kelly Richardson.

**Don't miss the Fans Opening Reception**
Friday Oct. 19 at 5:00 p.m.

**“Memories of WWII”**
Opens: October 5  Closes: February 29
Photos, uniforms, and wartime memorabilia spotlight the faces and experiences of Monroe County residents during WWII. More items are needed: letters, medals, souvenirs, arms, etc. Especially wanted are photos of young soldiers (in uniform if possible) as they looked when they left Monroe County. Photos are needed immediately, and will be added to the exhibit as they come in.

**“Knock on Wood: Interesting Items Made of Wood”**
Opens: November 6  Closes: January 19
Needed: interesting and unusual items made primarily of wood. Items can be toys, furniture, décor items, tools, etc. and need not be antique or valuable. Bring loaned items to the History Center by Friday, Oct. 19.

### Events Schedule

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

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

**3rd Thursday Series**
Every 3rd Thursday of the month a free program is held, usually at 7pm.

#### October
- **TUE** 9  Civil War Roundtable, “Battle of Franklin” w/ Bob Willey, 7pm
- **SAT** 13  Civil War tour and program w/ Steve Rolfe & Bob Willey, free, 1pm
- **MON** 15  “The Civil War in Indiana,” I.U. Continuing Studies Course, 3 Mondays, October 15-29, 7-8:30pm, call 855-5108; class meets at the History Center
- **THU** 18  3rd Thursday: “History of the Old Northeast Neighborhood,” w/ Nancy Hiestand, 7pm
- **FRI** 19  “Fantasia: Fans in Fashion” Opening Reception, 5-6:30pm

#### November
- **WED** 7  Genealogy Group, “Aviation in Monroe County,” 10am
- **FRI-SAT** 9-10  Holiday Decorations & Baked Goods Sale, 10am-4pm
- **TUE** 13  Civil War Roundtable, “Henry B. Carrington in the Civil War” w/ Bill Overlease, 7pm
- **THU** 15  3rd Thursday: “Researching Family History with Maps,” 7pm w/ Lou Malcomb
- **FRI** 23  Canopy of Lights Open House, 5-9pm
- **WED** 28  “Language of Fans” w/ Kate Rowold & Kelly Richardson, 7pm

#### December
- **MON** 3  Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 5:30pm; RSVP by Fri. Nov. 30
- **TUE** 11  Civil War Roundtable Holiday Celebration, 7pm
Update from the Managing Director

Family Heritage Book
The long awaited 2007 Monroe County Family Heritage Book will be available in November. The price of the soft cover book is $35 plus shipping. In addition to over 200 family histories, the book will include special articles: “The Lure of the Courthouse Fish,” by Allison Lendman and “A Brief History of Monroe County” by Glenda Murray. The previous Family Heritage book was published by the Historical Society in 1987.

New Staff Member
The new Library Associate position is filled. We welcome Jenny Gowen who joined the staff on September 11. Jenny has a master’s degree in history from the University of North Carolina and is currently working on her doctoral thesis. She will assist Liz Knapp for 12 hours each week.

Old Tree Comes Down
On Labor Day weekend, one of the old sugar maple trees along Washington Street lost a large section of its trunk. Upon the recommendation of Bloomington City forester Lee Huss, the aged tree was removed, and four remaining large trees were pruned. This has opened up a lovely view of the History Center entrance and should improve our ability to grow grass in this area.

Association of Indiana Museums
Board president Glenda Murray and staff members Lisa Simmons, Erica Kendall and I went to Evansville for the two-day conference of the Association of Indiana Museums. We took advantage of the excellent workshops and were inspired by visits to the historic Reitz Home Museum and the new Evansville African American Museum.

IU Freshmen Volunteer
On Saturday, August 25, 10 freshman students from Indiana University spent three hours at the History Center for their first local volunteer experience. They sorted school yearbooks, transcribed WWII letters, scanned accession forms, and wrapped county deed books in protective paper.

Marriage Record Books
The Monroe County Clerk, Jim Fielder, recently entrusted marriage record books to the History Center. These large and valuable books document Monroe County marriages from 1852 to 1954. The books are available to the public for research in our genealogy/local history library.

Corporate Members

Monroe County History Maker ($1,000)
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History Patron ($500)
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Gallery Benefactor ($250)
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Exhibit Supporter ($100)
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Malibu Grill  Morrow Realtors
Hylant Group  ISU/The May Agency, Inc.
Olson & Company, P.C.  Sullivans Inc-Fashions for Men

IU Bethell Title Co., Inc.  Blmngtn Convention & Visitors Bureau
Finelight, Inc.  David Ferguson, Attorney at Law
Gilbert Mordoh & Co., Inc.  Morrow Realtors
Oliver Winery Co., Inc.  ISU/The May Agency, Inc.
Jeanne Walters Real Estate  Sullivans Inc-Fashions for Men
**Programs Not To Miss**

**The Civil War in Indiana**
**I.U. Continuing Studies Course**
with Dawn Bakken
3 Mondays, Oct. 15-29, 7-8:30pm
Classes meet at the History Center
Fee: registered by Oct. 8—$50, after Oct. 8—$55

What was it like to be a Hoosier during the Civil War? Were most loyal to Lincoln and the Union? Course participants will examine the letters, diaries, and memoirs of Hoosiers who lived during this great conflict, and will learn about their most cherished beliefs and everyday lives.

Dawn Bakken holds a Ph.D. in American studies/religious studies from IU and is associate editor of the Indiana Magazine of History.

To register: 812-855-5108, www.continue.indiana.edu

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**History of the Old Northeast Neighborhood**
with Nancy Hiestand
Thursday, Oct. 18, 7pm

Bloomington’s Old Northeast Neighborhood abounds with a rich and diverse history. Nancy Hiestand, historic preservation program manager for the City of Bloomington, will share many unrecognized aspects of this neighborhood that includes seven historic districts.

The area is bounded by Kirkwood, Walnut Street, 12th Street and Woodlawn and includes the early location of the Showers Furniture Factory, homes of the Showers family, the segregated “Colored School,” and Moses Dunn’s farm. It encompasses modest shotgun residences on Ninth Street and mansions of early industrialists on North Washington. The Old Northeast Neighborhood is a story of the City of Bloomington, its growth and its decisions.

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**What It Means to Be a Civil War Collector**
with Bob Willey and Steve Rolfe
Saturday, Oct. 13
1pm Tour; 2pm Program

Steve Rolfe, president of the Monroe County Civil War Roundtable, will lead a free tour of the exhibit, “The Civil War and Monroe County,” at 1pm followed at 2pm by the special program by Bob Willey, “What It Means to Be a Civil War Collector.” Bob generously loaned many of the items for the Civil War exhibit that closes October 26.

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**Researching Family History**
with Maps and Cartographic Tools
with Lou Malcomb
Thursday, Nov. 15, 7pm

Learn how to use maps to trace your family’s history. This program will explore the use of historic and contemporary maps and atlases, both print and electronic versions. Indiana, and specifically Monroe County and its communities, will be the primary focus.

Rare maps of southern Indiana, including original Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and how to access various digital map sites will be highlights of the presentation.

Lou Malcomb is Head of Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services in the Herman B Wells Library, and she is Librarian for the Geography and Map Library at Indiana University.
Tea Party Success

Sixty-two guests attended the afternoon Tea Party on September 6. The benefit raised $1,029 to restore the Austin and Jennett Seward portraits on display in the Seward exhibit in the Gayle Cook Main Gallery.

Carol Darling orchestrated every detail and introduced each splendid course of the tea party. Suzanne Julian entertained everyone with rapid changes of women’s Civil War era clothing. Thanks to the events committee and volunteers who prepared and served the tea with such grace: Sue Shelden, Janice Partenheimer, Jamee Wissink, Sue Bowman, Allison Lendman, Wenona Freeman, and Mary Lee Deckard.

A special thank you goes to our generous sponsor, United Commerce Bank, for matching $250 in ticket sales.

Top: Guests enjoy scones and oat cakes. Standing are Penny Mathiesen, Maureen Ryan, Pat Ryan, and Nancy Martin. Seated are Kay Beth Harrell, Dee Bassett, and Patty Pizzo.

Left: Nancy Seward Taylor, great, great granddaughter; and Nancy Warden Wroblewski, great, great, great granddaughter of Austin and Jennett Seward.

Bottom: Carol Darling (at podium) delighted guests with tea lore and customs as she compared the Chinese Keenum, Indian Darjeeling, and Earl Grey teas that were served.
New Publications
The following items are now available in the Genealogy Library:

- MCPL/Indiana Room Vertical File Index, 2007.
- Index to the Local History Microfilm in the Indiana Room, Monroe County Public Library.

Seminary Park Memorial Plaques
Five color photographs of the Seminary Park Memorial Plaques, taken in 1996, have been donated to the library by Victoria Neff. The plaques give the history of the site and the various school buildings that occupied it from 1824 to 1967, representing 150 years dedicated to the education of young people in Indiana. The structures included the original Seminary Building (1824), and several buildings used over the years by Indiana University and Bloomington High School.

Order of Red Men Handbook
The Genealogy Library has received a copy of Ceremonies for Funerals, Memorial Services, Dedication of Wigwam, Laying of Cornerstone, as revised by the Great Council of the United States of the Improved Order of Red Men (n.d.). The handbook was kindly donated by Loretta Condra. In Bloomington, the Order of Red Men met for many years in the lodge building on the east side of the courthouse square that it co-owned with the Knights of Pythias. The local entity, Arizona Tribe #52, once had a thousand members. It disbanded in 1996.

News from Other Places
Levi Coffin State Historic Site
The Levi Coffin home in Fountain City, Indiana, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. More than 2,000 slaves passed through the town between 1826 and 1847, when Coffin moved to Cincinnati. Today, the house is operated as a state historic site. Visitors not only find a well-preserved historic home but also learn about the abolitionist movement and the roles played by people such as Levi and Catharine Coffin. Fountain City is north of Interstate 70 near Richmond, Indiana. For more information, call (765) 847-2432, or go to: http://www.waynet.org/levicoffin

(From “Make a Stop on the Underground Railroad,” by Abe Aamidor, Indianapolis Star, 1 July 2007.)

“Probing” Those Probate Records
Meredith Thompson has written a concise and informative guide to probate records in “Mysteries Explained in Probate Records” (Indiana Genealogist, June 2007), available in the Genealogy Library. She discusses different types of probate records, the kinds of information they contain, and the administration and settlement of an estate, including the disposal of property and the guardianship of minor children. The process of settling an estate often took years and involved many people, leaving a valuable record of names and family relationships.

Area Historic Structures Featured
Financial support from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana has helped save and restore historic structures throughout the state, as is demonstrated in “Money Well Spent,” the feature topic in a recent issue of Indiana Preservationist (June/July 2007). Several buildings of local interest are featured. Shown in “before” and “after” photographs with commentary are the Stinesville Christian Church (Stinesville) and the Morgan House (Bloomington), both in Monroe County. The Tivoli Theater and other projects in Spencer (Owen County) are also mentioned.
Second and Rogers Streets: On one corner a parking lot for Bloomington Hospital. On another corner an abandoned lot covered with crushed stone and encroaching shrubbery. On another corner a doctor’s office occupying a much-modified two-story building. On the final corner a large building under construction on a long-empty lot. Little evidence remains of the neighborhood shopping area serving a once vibrant, bustling community long before the days of supermarkets, fast food restaurants, and huge chain discount stores. Near this intersection were two grocery stores, two gasoline filling stations, as many as four coal yards, a feed store, a shoe repair store, a barber shop, and a short-order restaurant and variety store. The shopping complex at the intersection was at its peak in the late 1930s into the 1950s, after which it faded as the way of life in Bloomington gradually changed from small stores and shopping areas to supermarkets, larger chain stores, and fast food restaurants. Also, the hospital was continually expanding and incorporating an ever-larger area for buildings and parking.

The “social hub” of the area was the Wigwam restaurant. It was hardly a restaurant in the modern sense. Seating was confined to a dozen or so stools at a linoleum-covered counter. The menu consisted of sandwiches, soups, soft drinks, and ice-cream specialties from the traditional soda fountain. In addition to food the Wigwam sold tobacco products, magazines and paperback books, and a limited supply of over-the-counter drugstore items. In one corner was a pinball machine.

The Wigwam got its name from the inverted conical shape of the front part of the building, which resembled an American Indian wigwam. Originally, in the 1930s, the cone was built to resemble an upside-down ice cream cone. At that time, apparently, it served only ice cream and was called the Brown Cone. Edgar Dodd purchased the cone in the mid 1930s, naming it the Wigwam, and expanded the menu. It was mostly a family operation. Ed and his wife Elizabeth were the main operators of the establishment, but when their two sons and daughter were barely old enough

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to operate the cash register and fry hamburger on the grill, they joined the team.

It became a favored lunch location and “loafing” spot for a generation of teenaged boys. A few of those teenaged boys still live in Bloomington. One of them, Don Shiflet, has many fond memories of the days when he and his friends used to hang out around the Wigwam. Among the stories Don remembers is late one night when they drained some gasoline out of the hoses of the nearby bulk storage plant, poured it into the storm sewer, and dropped a lighted match. The resultant explosion blew manhole covers for blocks around and revealed (too late) the poor judgment of their actions to the young men. Another time the boys were playing knock rum, a game of chance involving gambling small amounts of money, strictly illegal in 1940s Bloomington. The police made an unexpected visit and rounded up a portion of the offenders for a good talking-to at the downtown police station (today, the Waldron Arts Center). The boys were released with a reprimand, probably to play knock rum another day. A favorite pastime was to try to “cheat” the pinball machine at the Wigwam and win free games. This was accomplished by carefully raising the front of the machine so the balls would roll more slowly and could be better controlled by appropriate taps and thumps on the sides of the machine. The secret was to manage this without getting the machine to register “tilt,” terminating the game. Another challenge was to prepare metal disks (slugs) that would substitute for the nickels and make the machine play.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to find a single photograph of the Wigwam or the surrounding shops from this era. If any of our readers has a photo or other special memories of the Second and Rogers shopping area, please contact the Monroe County History Center (332-2517) or Bob Dodd (dodd@indiana.edu).

Bob Dodd is a volunteer in the Monroe County History Center’s Genealogy Library.

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Vicky Crowe
Marjorie Counselman
Peter & Nancy Boerner
Myra Baker
Jean L. Anderson
Dale & Carolyn Anderson
Dan Deckard
 & Maria Bucur-Deckard*
Stella Jane Franklin
Michael & Sheila Maben

**Denotes New Members**
Polk Township History: Burgoon Church

By Penelope Mathiesen

Polk Township, in southeastern Monroe County, holds a reminder of rural life in nineteenth-century Indiana: the Burgoon Church, still in use today. Originally called the Friendship Baptist Church, it was organized on 19 February 1880, prompting the nickname “leap year church.” There were 21 charter members. The first pastor, Rev. Daniel Sexton, presented the church with a bible. The meetings, held initially in the Saddle Creek schoolhouse and later in the Burgoon schoolhouse, were lengthy affairs that took place once a month.¹

Early church records describe a meeting that began on the first Saturday in April, 1888. It resumed the following morning at 10:30 a.m.: “After singing some good songs, opened by prayer by brother Goodman. After this had a prayer and social meeting. A goodly number of the brothers took up their cross and we was revived spiritually had a warm meeting.”¹²

The congregation soon sought its own building. On 8 January 1889, Francis Burgoon and his wife, Anna, deeded a tract of land to church trustees for the sum of ten dollars, with the stipulation that the property be used “solely for church purposes.”³ Rev. William Goodman was the pastor. Some 46 men and women contributed money, labor, or material towards the new building.⁴

Who were the Burgoons? Francis’s ancestor, Jacob Burgoon, emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine to Maryland about 1740; “Burgoon” may be an Anglicization of “Bourgogne.”⁵ Francis was born in Ohio in 1827. He married Anna Keene in Mississippi in 1862. They moved to Monroe County, Indiana, in 1865 and settled on a farm in Polk Twp.⁶ The 1856 Atlas of Monroe County lists a “Francis Buergeon” who owned land in Polk Twp., but there is no Francis Burgoon (or a variant spelling) in Monroe County census records until 1870, where he appears with his wife and four children. By the 1880 census, the household included seven children and two hired men. Francis Burgoon died in 1897 at his home on E. Fourth St. in Bloomington. Some years earlier, he had given up farming and moved to the city. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.⁷

Anna Keene was born in Ireland in 1839.⁸ In the 1860 U.S. Census, there is an “Anna Keene” of approximately the right age, living in New Jersey.⁹ Anna and Francis Burgoons’ oldest child was born in Mississippi in 1863,¹⁰ before they moved to Indiana. The family may have left the Polk Twp. farm for Bloomington by 1886, when a newspaper reported that “Mrs. Burgoon, now occupying the Cherry property in the north part of town,” had recently inherited $3,000 from an aunt in Ireland.¹¹ At the time of Francis Burgoon’s death in 1897, the family resided at 221 E. Fourth St., where Anna remained for many years. According to Bloomington city directories, she was living at 120 S. Lincoln by 1916 and 513 E. Second by 1920; after that, she is not listed. Anna died in 1932, aged 92, at the home of a daughter in Pasadena, California. She is buried with her husband in Rose Hill Cemetery.¹²

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In the late 1930s—shortly after Anna’s death—Burgoon

Burgoon Church, Polk Twp., Monroe County, Indiana. Courtesy of Penelope Mathiesen.

Burgoon School, built in the 1870s, burned in 1968. From the collections of the Monroe County History Center.
Church records indicate that services hadn’t changed much in the 57 years since the congregation was organized: “Oct. 9, 1937. Meeting called to order by Rev. George Godsey. Songs: ‘Standing on the Promises’ and ‘What A Friend We Have in Jesus.’ Prayer was led by Rev. Leonard Eads, after which the group sang, ‘Heavenly Home.’ Verses from Psalms 37 read by Rev. Godsey. Subject of sermon, ‘Duties of pastor to church and duties of Church to Pastor.’… Preaching services are on the fourth Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Sunday evening in each month.”13

The Burgoon School, where church members held meetings before erecting their own building, was established in 1873. The frame schoolhouse was in use until it burned almost 100 years later. It officially closed on 15 May 1968.14

The Burgoon Church and cemetery can still be found on Burgoon Church Road, off SR 446, a mile south of the causeway that crosses Lake Monroe. On a beautiful autumn day, enjoy the drive and recapture a bit of history!

Notes

2. Ibid.
3. Deed Record Book 22, p. 1; Barnard, “Burgoon Friendship Baptist Church.”
7. Ibid.
8. Wiggins, Burgoon Family; 1870 and 1880 Monroe County censuses.
10. Wiggins, Burgoon Family; 1870 and 1880 Monroe County censuses.

Fun at the County Fair

The History Center’s booth in the Commercial Building at the County Fair was a big success and a lot of fun. Volunteers and staff members worked at the booth for the seven evenings and gave away 342 complimentary passes to the visitors they engaged in conversation.

Thanks to volunteers Allison Lendman, Dax Collins, Kate Cruikshank, Joel Foust, Jackie Gilkey, Liz Knapp, Rachel Peden McCarty, Lou Malcomb, Glenda Murray, Laura Newton, Marilyn Skirvin and Steve Rolfe.

Kate Cruikshank, Joel Foust in Civil War Re-enactment attire, and Lou Malcomb, MCHS Trustee, staff the booth on July 26.
Our Volunteer: Jackie Gilkey

By Erica Kendall

It was 1970 and the 1969 Dodge Coronet R/T was packed. Jackie Gilkey and her husband Bill waved bye to Texas as they drove to their new home in Bloomington. Arriving in a new town and with Bill in a new position, Jackie had the opportunity to seek a master’s degree in Education at IU. In the early years, substitute teaching gave her a feel of the school system. After her degree, she taught for many years at University, Childs, Unionville, and Templeton schools.

Following retirement in 2005, Jackie immediately began to volunteer for BRI. Her first project was being a docent at Jamee Wissink’s house followed soon after with working at the Red Cross book sale where she met Mary Lee Deckard. Both Jamee and Mary Lee explained that the MCHS was in need of volunteers. Eager to find activities that she was interested in that included her love for old books and artifacts, she decided to give the History Center a go. Whether she knew it or not, Jackie was bitten by the volunteer bug.

I met Jackie in October of 2005 when she began helping me to sift through the artifact database, Past-Perfect, and to process the glassware in the collection. Upon asking what she fancied most, she explained that she enjoyed learning a new computer program and learning about the accessioning process—how a donated item becomes an artifact in the museum. Overall, learning about the history of the items greatly interests her since she is not originally from here. She explained, “I think volunteering, from a teacher’s point of view, provides structure in your life.”

When Jackie is not working to organize artifacts in the collections, she works at the greeter desk and in the museum store. She is also secretary of the Historical Society Board of Trustees and serves on the Membership Committee. One might think that she has little time for anything else, but her kindness and willingness to help others does not stop here.

Jackie also volunteers at the Public Library and for Master Gardeners. She also enjoys taking yoga and body shop classes at the YMCA. Jackie explains, “I enjoy volunteering because I am able to do a variety of jobs that I have not yet had an opportunity to experience.”

Stone-Age Institute Tour: Part of the 3rd Thursday Series

Nick Toth and Kathy Schick captivated 3rd Thursday participants in August with a behind-the-scenes look into their research of the Stone Age and the study of human origins.
Greeter Desk Volunteers Needed

Will you volunteer at the greeter desk for one or two shifts each month? A three-hour greeter shift can be fun and gives you the opportunity to perform tasks that help the History Center.

Call volunteer coordinator Lisa Simmons,