Any event or committee that is lucky enough to have Kathy McFall on board, will have the perfect role model for pep, speed, good humor, accuracy and organization. The History Center has been lucky many times. Kathy arrived in Monroe County in 1979, just in time to help open our brand-new Museum in 1980, where she has served as Museum Store manager, Museum Board president, Society Board member, and countless years on committees and as co-chair of garage sales and auctions.

Kathy was born and grew up in Aurora, Illinois. Her father was from the Greek island of Mykonos, and her mother was the child of Greek immigrants. She attended DePauw University for two years, and it was there she met future husband Dick McFall of Bloomington. He is the son of the former long-time minister of Bloomington’s First United Methodist Church, Merrill B. McFall. After Kathy finished her degree in history and English at the University of Illinois, she and Dick married and moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Dick completed a doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Kathy worked for Ohio Bell Telephone as a service representative.

Their next move took them, for fourteen years, to Madison, Wisconsin, where Dick taught at the University of Wisconsin, and two children arrived, Adam and Julie Beth. Later Kathy and Dick opened a small retail establishment called Upland Wool and Sheepskin. It was an exciting retail experience for Kathy, and an experience that soon led her to the History Center.

In 1979 Dick was given an offer he couldn’t refuse at I.U., Director of the Clinical Psychology Training Program. With the chance to come to Bloomington and be closer to family, Dick and Kathy sold their home and headed south. The Monroe County Historical Society Museum was just getting underway, and because of her retail experience, Kathy was recruited
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.

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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 Sep.-Jun. from 7-8:30pm. For more information, please contact Steve Rolfe at 336-0757.

3rd Thursday Series
3rd Thursday of the month from Jan.-Nov. a free program is held, usually at 7pm.

Genealogy Group
Every 1st Wednesday of odd months.

April
THR 2 Annual Meeting & Seward Portrait Celebration; dessert served, 7pm
TUE 14 Civil War Roundtable, “General Isaac R. Trimble,” w/ Tony Trimble, 7pm
THR 16 “Hello Ma Baby: A View of Us in Infancy” Exhibit Reception, 5-7pm
THR 16 3rd Thursday, “Monroe County Outdoors: Reservoirs & Forests” w/ Martha Miller & Teena Ligman, 7pm, see page 4

May
WED 6 Genealogy Group, TBA, 2pm
TUE 12 Civil War Roundtable, “Family History and the Civil War,” w/ Ronald Darrah, 7pm
THR 21 3rd Thursday, “History of the Female Seminary,” w/ Bridget Edwards, 7pm, see page 4

June
TUE 9 Civil War Roundtable, “Traitor or Patriot: Lee’s Decision to Go with Virginia,” w/ John Crosby, 7pm
WED 10 “Photo Identification Workshop,” 9am and “Photo Housing Workshop,” 1pm, w/ IHS paper conservator Susan Rogers
FRI-SAT 12&13 Annual Garage Sale Benefit, opens 8am, at Cook Pharmica
TUE 16 Red Cross Blood Drive, 10am
THR 18 3rd Thursday, “The Cultural Landscape of Limestone in Southern Indiana,” w/ Laurel Cornell, 7pm
SAT-SUN 20&21 Garden Walk Open House, 1-5pm

Exhibit Schedule
“Red & Green Study Quilts”
Opens: January 30
Closes: May 2
The national traveling exhibit features 25 “study quilts” from the American Quilt Study Group. Each quilt is an interpretation of an historic quilt pattern.
One of the antique quilts used as a study pattern is also on display. It was made c1850 by the grandmother of 100 year-old local resident Alma Deckard.

“Hello Ma Baby: A View of Us in Infancy”
Opens: March 6
Closes: June 13
This new exhibition features baby photos of well-known Monroe County citizens, historic infancy-related artifacts, and compares traditions from around the world.

“Community Voices Gallery: Red Cross of Monroe County.”
Opens: April 14
Closes: July 3
This exhibit in the Community Voices Gallery features the history and current activities of our local Red Cross chapter, established in 1917.

“Freedom: A History of Us”
Opens: June 20
Closes: August 1
The traveling “Freedom” exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society is the centerpiece of this exhibition that features the images and words of men and women illustrating the evolving principle of freedom from our nation’s founding to 1968.
Update from the Managing Director

Digitization Grant
The History Center partnered with the Monroe County Public Library in a successful grant application to the Indiana State Library for a digitization grant. The project will compile the History Center’s collection of Matthews Brothers Stone Company photos and memorabilia, scan those items, and create a photo history available to the public on the web. The title of the online history will be “Indiana Bedrock: The Collection of John Matthews, Father of Indiana Limestone.”

Annual Meeting & Seward Portrait Celebration
Join us for a brief Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. followed by a celebration of the recently restored portraits of Austin and Jennett Seward. Painting conservator Margaret Contompasis will tell us how she restored the portraits to their original 1860 beauty. Dessert and coffee will be served.

Thanks to Jamee
Thank you to Jamee Wissink for volunteering as our Exhibit Designer. She creates many of the special exhibits and plans and installs the guest exhibits. The results of the “The Dog Made Me Buy It” exhibit question, “Which is the creepiest advertising icon? are compiled. Don (Don’s Guns) won hands-down over the other five choices: Mr. Whipple (Charmin Toilet Paper), Burger King (Burger King Restaurants), Snuggle Bear (Snuggle Fabric Softener), Original Jolly Green Giant (Green Giant Food Company), and Flo (Progressive Insurance).

Supplies Needed
The Cemetery Committee needs donations of supplies for tombstone restoration: plastic spray bottles; long, heavy duty rubber gloves; rakes or yard brooms; long-handled pruning shears; and handheld soft-bristle brushes. Bring donations to the History Center.

Kathy — Continued from Page 1

Jill Lesh introduces Bill Cook at the Gala, February 6, at the COOK World Headquarters.
Not To Be Missed

Double Exhibit Reception for “Hello Ma Baby” and “Red & Green Study Quilts”
Thursday, April 16
5-7pm

Celebrate two special exhibits, “Hello Ma Baby: A View of Us in Infancy,” and “Red & Green Study Quilts.” Meet the curators, explore the exhibits, and enjoy refreshments; then stay for the 3rd Thursday program at 7pm.

Annual Meeting and Seward Portrait Celebration
Thursday, April 2
7pm

Join us for a brief Annual Meeting followed by a celebration of the recently restored portraits of Austin and Jennett Seward. See the portraits now on display in the Cook Gallery and hear the painting conservator Margaret Contompasis tell us what she did to restored the portraits to their original 1860 beauty. Dessert and coffee will be served.

“Mo. County Outdoors: Reservoirs & Forests”
Thursday, April 16
7pm
w/ Martha Miller & Teena Ligman

Martha Miller, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Teena Ligman, U.S. National Forest in Monroe County, will present the history of our local reservoirs and the Hoosier National forest.

“History of the Monroe County Female Seminary”
Thursday, May 21
7pm

Bridget Edwards will discuss the Monroe County Female Seminary, one of the first publicly funded efforts to provide females ages 7 to 20 with an education. County support in the form of a building and fuel for heat made this school possible from 1835 to 1862.

Bridget Edwards is Curator of Education at the Wylie House Museum.

A program in the free 3rd Thursday series.
The years following World War II saw many changes for Americans. In July 1953, a Bloomington businessman, Joe Crouch, published “Pioneer Hoosier Operator Explains Successful Methods” in the *Automatic Launderer and Cleaner*, a national trade journal. The article tells how he built a business that capitalized on a new way of life. Crouch, born in Indianapolis, was a 1939 graduate of Indiana University. While serving in the Army Air Corps during the war, he became interested in a new machine:

“I saw my first automatic washer in operation while I was still in the service. Like so many thousands of others I was trying to decide just what I should do when I returned to civilian life. Watching about two cycles of an automatic washer decided the problem for me. Automatic washers, with all their ramifications, were the ‘hottest’ things I had seen in many years.” (p. 7)

Crouch’s first laundromat was at 417 East Kirkwood. He describes the difficulties of setting up a business in the immediate post-war era:

“Our first store was opened in April, 1948. It was equipped with 20 coin operated automatics, an ancient 20” slip belt extractor, a 17” extractor, two clothes dryers and two small ironers. In those days equipment was very hard to get, plumbing was even harder. A day’s work with a truck going from town to town buying as I could probably net me no more than six or eight fittings and maybe, one and one-half length of pipe. My wife and I were chief cook and bottle washer and we worked so hard I don’t think either one of us will ever be the same. …customers put in their clothes but we did the rest, including folding.” (p. 7)

The business environment remained challenging in the 1950s, according to Crouch:

“In 1950–’51 business levelled off. Then, due to inflation and the advent of more and more housewives working, the trend was up again. However, our fixed overhead gradually increased and the government controlled the price ceiling. We live in a college town and the students have access to automatic washers in all the dormitories and apartments and trailer courts for 10c per cycle, and this has a sobering effect on the laundry business.” (p. 8)

In the 1950s, Americans experienced contradictory pressures when it came to doing the laundry. According to Crouch, “a family of three could do their washing cheaper at the quick service laundry,” but this was counterbalanced by pride in the ownership of home equipment and the belief that doing laundry at home was more convenient and saved money. At the same time, America was experiencing “the advent of a greater percentage of American housewives into the business world” (p. 8).

Analyzing all of these trends, Crouch responded by opening a new store in a shopping center—another trend. He describes the development of his Crosstown location, designed to provide better service, gain the student trade, and counteract the challenge of home washing machines:

“In 1952 we heard that a new shopping center was to be built close to the school dormitories, so we decided to open our second store. We felt we needed to offer something to the students and to the town people that they could not get in commercial laundries or in their own homes and living quarters. This something was an improved and superior wash. We felt that here was the best way to offset the weight of home washer sales.” (p. 8)

In 1952, other tenants of the Crosstown shopping center on East Tenth Street included Jarboe’s Mens’ Wear, McRoberts Campus Drugs, the Foodliners Super Market, and the Park and Shop Bakery.

Crouch’s new store, called the Crosstown Laundrolux, had six open-end automatic washers, six small automatics, and two 20” extractors with signal timers. Three 36 x 30 tumblers and two dryers were equipped with the latest controls, including a variable thermostat, a timer clock, and a red light and buzzer to indicate when the load was dry (p. 10).

Joseph E. Crouch, considered a pioneer in the development of coin-operated laundry facilities in Bloomington, died on 25 June 2002 at the age of 88. The laundrolux is still in business today, operating as the Crosstown Coin Laundry in the Crosstown shopping center on East Tenth Street.

**Endowment Goal $50,000**

What a wonderful Gala we had on Friday, February 6 at the COOK World Headquarters. Bill Cook entertained and inspired 230 attendees with his presentation. Thank you to Bill, and Cook Group Incorporated, and to everyone who attended or contributed to the success of this event.

The Gala was a fitting kick-off for the new three-year campaign to raise $50,000 for the Founders’ Endowment. The Gala dinner and silent auction netted $9,439. Lead gifts & pledges announced at the Gala totaled $6,000, bringing the campaign gifts and pledges as of March 1st to $15,439.

Honorary chairperson Gayle Cook comments, “We need to grow the Founders’ Endowment to provide additional interest income so that we can hire a curator of exhibits and make our exhibits more interactive and meaningful for school-age children. “I’m thrilled that we are 30% of the way to our goal. What a terrific start!”

Now I ask each of you to make a gift or pledge at any level. Pledges can be paid during a three year period, 2009, 2010, and 2011. We now need to raise $34,561. To make a gift or pledge, you can use the attached envelope, or contact me at 876-0714, or contact managing director Jill Lesh at 332-2517.

Engraved Bricks Give Enduring Recognition

Make your donation of $500 or more by June 1, and you can have a brick engraved and ready for the next installation and ceremony late this summer.

When your gifts to the Founders’ Endowment reach a total of $500, you are entitled to an engraved brick in the Monroe County History path that leads to the Washington Street entrance of the History Center. You can have more than one brick! An engraved brick is lovely way of recognizing family members and organizations.

Above: Volunteer Ann Schechter encourages attendees to place their bids at the silent auction that raised $3990.

Below—Left to right: Gayle Cook; Tina Connor, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana; Marsh Davis, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana; Joe Pritchett, Pritchett Bros. Construction; Carl Cook; Steve Ferguson, Cook Group Incorporated; Rob Santa, Cook Group Incorporated; Jim Murphy, CFC Inc.; and John Kamstra, Cook Group Incorporated, join Bill Cook at the conclusion of his Gala presentation “Ready, Fire, Aim!”
THANK YOU!
A big Thank-you to everyone who made the Gala such a success.

Lead Gift Donors
Smithville
Curry Auto Center
Darby McCarty
Kevin & Debbie Leffel
Glenda & Patrick Murray
Cullen & Rachel McCarty

Event Sponsors
Cook Medical
Classic Catering
Oliver Winery
PIP Printing

Auction Donors
Big Red Liquors, Inc.
French Lick Resort
Ivy Tech Bloomington
Showers-Graham Inn B&B
Ragazzi Arte Café
Janko’s Little Zagreb
Kip May Photography
Arthur Murray Dance Studio
IU Auditorium
IU Memorial Union Tudor Room
Different Drummer
Curry Auto Center
Lennie’s & Bloomington Brewing Co.
Indiana Historical Society
Harry & Izzy’s, Indianapolis
Ellie Mae’s Boutique
Bloomington Sandwich Co.
Bobby’s Pub & Grill
Grazie! Italian Eatery
Scholars Inn Bakehouse
Stefano’s Ice Café
Roots on the Square
Liberty Family Dentistry
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Tim Terry Jewelry & Fine Antiques
Sullivan’s Fashions for Men
Creative Memories, Fishers
Buskirk-Chumley Theater
Crazy Horse
Irish Lion

Table Sponsors
BEDC
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Cook Group Incorporated
Jean & Doris Creek
Ivy Tech Community College
Charlie & Judy McClary
Morrow Realtors
Smithville
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
WTIU

Gala Committee
Anne Cady & Susan Lyons, co-chairs; Sue Bowman; Allison Lendman; Rachel Peden McCarty; Glenda Murray; Dave Musgrave; Janice Partenheimer; Ann Schechter; and Jamee Wissink.

Classic Catering Chef Steve Sims serves roasted steamship round to Janice Partenheimer at the Gala.
Monroe County’s Poor: Part One

By Randi Richardson

In August 1818, the newly appointed commissioners of the newly established county of Monroe appointed two overseers of the poor for each of the four townships into which the county had been divided. The first overseers were: Bloomington Township—David Rogers and John Thompson; Clear Creek Township—William Anderson and John Scott; Indian Creek Township—David Sears and James Trotter; and Bean Blossom Township—George Sharp and Henry Kirkham.

The responsibilities of the overseers were varied. Typically, they placed individuals in need of services with families that could provide for them. Selection of the care provider was an easy task. A notice of a “pauper for sale” for a fixed period of time would be posted, interested individuals would submit bids to the county, and the lowest bidder was always the successful bidder. Occasionally, but not often, the care provider was a member of the pauper’s family.

Children in need of permanent assistance, e.g., orphans, were handled a little differently. They were indentured or “bound out” to learn a trade in exchange for services rendered. Generally, the trade was farming or housekeeping dependent upon the gender of the child. And, regardless of their age, the term of commitment was to the age of 21. Upon completion of their period of servitude, the children were provided, by contract, some small compensation such as a set of clothing “extra of common clothing,” or bed and bedding.

Whenever the county provided financial support to a pauper, the information was noted in the Commissioners’ Records. Some individuals were identified by name, others were not. The table noted below reflects those names noted in Commissioners’ Records between 1818 and 1846.

Pauper Log from County Commissioners’ Records 1818-1846

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BK</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>YR</th>
<th>CAREGIVER</th>
<th>PAUPER</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>54</th>
<th>1832</th>
<th>Frances Taylor</th>
<th>Rebecca Hessa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1818</td>
<td>Jesse Wright</td>
<td>James Green</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Joseph Lee</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Jacob Lake (sic)</td>
<td>Robert Lakes (sic)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Elisha Pollard</td>
<td>Rachel Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Joel Lake</td>
<td>Robert Lake</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1839</td>
<td>G. P. Mayfield</td>
<td>Benjamin Turpin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>Joel Lake</td>
<td>His father</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Edward Sims</td>
<td>Rebecca Sims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>Archibald Prather</td>
<td>Catherine Helton</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Quinton Cain</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cain</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Solomon Butcher</td>
<td>Sally, a child</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Charles Clendenin</td>
<td>Thomas Livingston</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Archibald Prather</td>
<td>Catherine Helton</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>James Spencer</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Jacob Mosier</td>
<td>Catherine Helton</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>John S. Hardesty</td>
<td>Nelson Maples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Jacob Mosier</td>
<td>Catherine Helton</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Edward Jackson</td>
<td>Jonathan Rains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Archibald Prather</td>
<td>Catherine Helton</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Willis Spencer</td>
<td>Crazy Betsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Joseph Phillips</td>
<td>Himself</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Edward Sims</td>
<td>Himself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Edward &amp; Rebecca Themsevles</td>
<td>Sims</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Polly Hudlin</td>
<td>Sally Hudlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Mary Kirk</td>
<td>George Kirk</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Mary Kirk</td>
<td>Herself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>Joseph Hite</td>
<td>Himself</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>William Berry</td>
<td>Wife of Edward Sims</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1838, in response to a growing need, the citizens of Monroe County petitioned the commissioners for a poor farm. The wheels of government, however, turned slowly. It was not until 1846 that the commissioners acted on the petition by purchasing a 120-acre farm from John Acuff. Rather than being displaced by the sale of his property, Acuff remained on the premises as the first superintendent. He was paid $100 for his services and had the use of the grounds and dwelling.
New & Renewed Members

Jan. 14—Mar. 13

History Patron
Ivy Tech Community College

Exhibit Supporter
Hylant Group
ISU/The May Agency, Inc.

Sustaining
Robert & Maryellen Bieder
David & Lorna Estes
Ken & Mary Hawkins
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T. Rex & April Legler II
James & Janice Lundy
Jerry & Phyllis McCullough
John & Joyce Poling
Larry & Ellie Rink
Marilyn Skirvin
Erika Walker*
Gary & Mia Wiggins

Family
Bill & Helen Axsom
Sarah P. Burton
Ted & Kathy Frick
Kevin & Deborah Leffel*
Kyle & Jenn Marcum
Michael & Sue Shelden
April Sievert*
John & Polly Tilford

Basic
Jane E. Billyeald
Richard & Ann Burke
James Capshaw
Jack Carpenter
& Beau Vallance
Pat Haley
William & Emily Hall
Frankie A. Hammond
Steve Hinnefeld*
Teri Klassen
Jorn & Leslie Kollum

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Jack Carpenter
& Beau Vallance
Pat Haley
William & Emily Hall
Frankie A. Hammond
Steve Hinnefeld*
Teri Klassen
Jorn & Leslie Kollum

Marvin & Vivian Lewis
J. Louise (Lou) Malcomb
Randy Marmouze*
Lee Ann Merry
Ruth Miller
Martin & Jeanne Mueller
John & Joan Padawan*
Janice Partenheimer
Terry & Susie Thompson
John & Ann Warden

Student/Teacher
Linda Snow

* Denotes New Members

Record Auction Success
By Gayle Cook

Thanks to all who helped. The March 9 annual auction provided good fun, fellowship, food and a gross profit of $5001.00—a new record.

Some interesting items sold include a mantel clock, a restored Schwinn Breeze, porcelain masks, quilts, New Mexican pottery, an opal necklace, and some very nice furniture.

A special thank-you goes to professional auctioneers Brett Haley and Tod Wesemann and to sponsor Pinnacle Properties; we owe the event's success to their generous contributions. We also appreciate those who contributed merchandise, time, desserts, and vigorous bidding.

Missed sending donation items to the auction? We'll take those treasures anytime and save them for Bloomington's largest garage sale—the History Center's big event on June 12-13.

Corporate Members

Monroe County History Maker ($1,000)
CFC, Inc.
Cook Group Incorporated

History Patron ($500)
Ivy Tech Community College
Monroe County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Smithville
X-Printwear & Promotions, Inc.

Gallery Benefactor ($250)
Regions Bank
Stephen L. Ferguson, Attorney at Law
United Commerce Bank

Exhibit Supporter ($100)
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John Bethell Title Co., Inc.
Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
John Byers Associates
Commercial Service of Bloomington
Curry Automotive Center
David Ferguson, Attorney at Law
D & S Maintenance, Inc.
Gilbert S. Mordoh & Co., Inc.
Hylant Group
Jeanne Walters Real Estate
Malibu Grill
Morrow Realtors
Shean Law Offices
Sullivan’s Inc - Fashions for Men

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By Gayle Cook

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**New Exhibit Thanks to Student Support**

By Lisa M. Simmons

The new “Hello Ma Baby: A View of Us in Infancy” is a fun, informative, and, lets face it, cute exhibit.

The exhibit features items associated with babies, an international section, 1800s photographs, and a section where you can try your luck matching the modern local figure to their baby photograph—from Mayor Mark Kruzan to Coach Crean.

Join us at a reception for this exhibit on Thursday, April 16 before the 7pm 3rd Thursday program, “Monroe County Outdoors: Reservoirs and Forests.”

Volunteer Jenny Mack affixing an exhibit label.

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**IGS Conference in Indianapolis, 25 April 2009**

The Indiana Genealogical Society’s annual conference will be held on 25 April 2009 at the Marriott Center East, 7202 E. 21st St., in Indianapolis. Registration for IGS members is $30 before April 18th and $35 thereafter. Non-member registration is $35. To obtain more information or register online, go to: http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html

The conference theme is “Honoring Our Warriors: Military Genealogy.” The featured speaker is Pamela K. Boyer. There will be seven other speakers whose specialties range from the African-American military experience to the American Legion Library. (From the web site.)

**African American Photographs at the Indiana State Museum**

“Shadow and Substance: African American Images from the Burns Archive” will be on view at the Indiana State Museum from 19 January through 17 May 2009. In collaboration with the internationally acclaimed Burns Collection of New York, dozens of rarely seen photographs of the African American experience in the United States are shown in this exhibition, ranging from Civil War images to twentieth-century family groups. Guest curator for the show is Modupe Labode, Public Scholar for African American History for Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. The Indiana State Museum is located at 650 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. For more information, call: (317) 232-1637 or go to: http://indianamuseum.org

**IGS “Members Only” Databases**

The Indiana Genealogical Society has recently added searchable databases to its web site as an IGS membership benefit. The databases cover military and veterans records, church records, county records, and records of orphans. There are also records for various schools, including Indiana University, Earlham College, Franklin College, Wabash College, Indiana State Normal School, and the Indianapolis College of Pharmacy.

If you wish to access the databases and are already a member of IGS, go to: http://www.indgensoc.org/membersonly and log in using your last name and zip code + 4. For information on joining IGS, go to: http://www.indgensoc.org/membership.html or write to: Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, IN 46852-0507. (From IGS Newsletter, October 2008, p. 1, and the web site.)
Crane Cemeteries
The Genealogy Library has received a copy of “Cemeteries in the Crane Naval Weapons Support Center, Martin County, Indiana.” The burials in each cemetery were registered by the members of the Martin County Historical Society. The original typescript was prepared by Mrs. Russell S. Baker in 1966. The revised copy given to the library was prepared by Harold E. Stone. It is available in the vertical files under “Martin County.”

The Crane Naval Weapons Support Center is located southeast of Bloomington in Martin County. It has provided employment over the years to many residents of nearby counties, including Monroe. The typescript includes a location plan with directions and listings for the twenty-nine cemeteries on the Crane property. There is also an alphabetical index of names. Veterans are identified in both the listings and the index. Burials in Crane cemeteries date from as early as 1831. The size varies from a single grave at Clements Cemetery to nearly four hundred graves at Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Rather than limiting the database to only those individuals who lived in Monroe County at the time of their death, the index also includes references to all obits from counties contiguous to Monroe County. The scope of the index spans from 1922 to the current month. Volunteers continue to work on the index and, eventually, hope to include obits from every year the newspaper was published. Since publication began in the 1850s, the task before them is considerable.

To access the index, visit the library’s web site at www.monroe.lib.in.us/. Click on “Research Tools” in the column on the left-hand side. Then scroll down the page to locate “Obituary Index.” A click on that link will pull up query boxes where a name can be entered. There’s even a wild card option.

To access obits cited in the index, one can either visit the library to look at the obit on microfilm or request a copy from the library. The library charges $3 for their services.

If an obit is not found within the index, it is a good idea to check other newspapers published at the same time. Typically, newspapers had either a Republican or Democrat slant so an obit might have been sent to one newspaper but not another depending upon the political persuasion of the person who submitted the obit. Keep in mind that early newspapers did not necessarily have the money or the manpower to seek out the news but relied heavily on the news that came to them.

Cataloging Project Complete
The Genealogy Library’s cataloging project has been completed. The catalog can now be accessed on-line at http://monroehistory.pastperfect-online.com/30572cgi/mweb.exe?request=ks. When searching, it is best to unclick all except “Library” in the “Content to Search” pane.

Crossword Puzzle & Quiz on Web-site
Two interactive on-line activities have been added to the History Center’s web-site: A crossword puzzle about Monroe County, and a matching quiz about women of Monroe County, both at http://monroehistory.org/interactive_online_activities.htm. Give them a try!
Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels
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