

Apr. 2009

Vol. 2009 Issue 2

## Monroe County History Center

*Museum  
Genealogy Library  
Museum Gift Store  
Educational Facility*

### History Center

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

### Hours

Tuesday — Saturday  
10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

### Museum Admission

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

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### Monroe County Historian

Editor: Jill Lesh  
Design: Lisa M. Simmons

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

# Monroe County Historian

*Exploring Our History*

## Our Volunteer: Kathy McFall

By Gayle Cook

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.

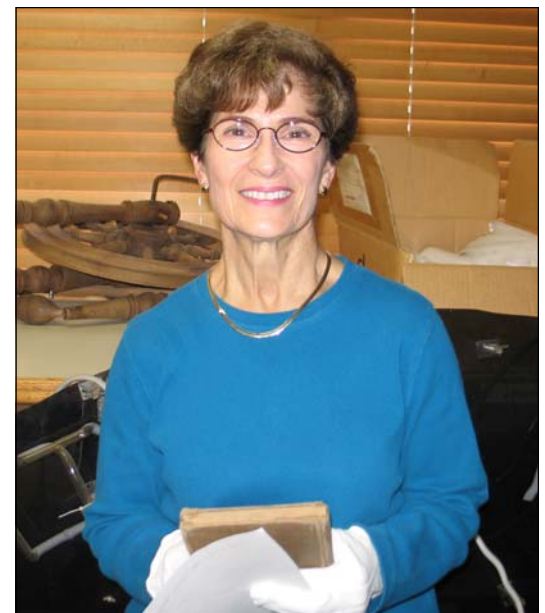
Kathy was born and grew up in Aurora, Illinois. Her father was from the Greek island of Mykonos, and her mother was the child of Greek immigrants. She attended DePauw University for two years, and it was there she met future husband Dick McFall of Bloomington. He is the son of the former long-time minister 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

Continued as 'Kathy' on page 3.



Kathy McFall in dock room reviewing donations for possible accessioning.

# History Center

## MCCHS Purpose Statement

The purpose of MCCHS 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  
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Jamee Wissink: Exhibits Designer  
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Rachel Peden McCarty: Historian  
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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.

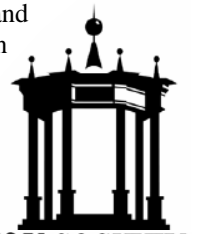


## "Freedom: A History of Us"

**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.



INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 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 advertizing 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.

*— Jill Lesh*

Jill Lesh introduces Bill Cook at the Gala, February 6, at the COOK World Headquarters.




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## Kathy — Continued from Page 1

to manage the new Museum store. She asked to have a partner, Kitch Somers accepted the invitation, and they had a great time setting up the store. Kitch left to begin another business a couple of years later, and Mary Lee Deckard took over her position.

In the early years, the Historical Society and the Museum had separate but related boards. It was during Kathy's tenure as Museum Board president that the annual garage sale was started—now Bloomington's largest garage sale, and an important source of History Center income. Kathy calls it a wonderful, fun, bonding experience for all the volunteers involved. They look forward to the weeks before the sale when the annual sorting and pricing (and laughs and lunches) begin.

Kathy did take time off to work again, first at the Center for Behavioral Health and then at I.U., leaving the store in

Mary Lee's capable hands. In 1992 she "retired" and again became a volunteer at the Center as a member of several committees including Personnel, Collections and Exhibits, Building and Grounds, and Fundraising Events. She has done everything from demonstrating spinning wool to cleaning bathrooms. Her joy is in seeing how far the Museum, now the History Center, has come, and in knowing we have the best staff yet. She treasures the wonderful friends made there and the memories of good times working together to make things happen.

When Kathy is not volunteering at the History Center, she enjoys tennis year-round at the I.U. tennis pavilion, golf in the warmer months, reading, and crossword puzzles. She has an 11-year-old grandson in Minnesota, and her 91-year-old mother in Bloomington, and she tries to see both as often as possible. The History Center is truly lucky to share in her talents.



## 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.



### “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.

*A program in the free 3rd Thursday series.*



### 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 restore the portraits to their original 1860 beauty. Dessert and coffee will be served.



Close-up of the Jennett Seward portrait by Bloomingtonian, Marion Blair.

### “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.*



Female Seminary, NE corner of College & 7th St. in Bloomington.

## Bloomington's Crosstown Laundrolux Opens in 1953

By Penelope Mathiesen

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 would 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.

Additional sources: "Joseph Edward Crouch, 88," Bloomington *Herald-Times*, 30 June 2002; and Bloomington city directories for 1948 and 1952-53.



## Endowment Goal \$50,000

By Rachel Peden McCarty, Endowment Committee Chair

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**

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Classic Catering  
Oliver Winery  
PIP Printing

**Table Sponsors**

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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.

**Auction Donors**

Big Red Liquors, Inc.  
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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  
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Creative Memories, Fishers  
Buskirk-Chumley Theater  
Crazy Horse  
Irish Lion

Trojan Horse  
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Eagle Point Golf Resort  
Spaah!  
Oasis A Hair Salon  
Kroger  
The Dog House  
Bloomington Car Wash  
Ackerman Auto Detailing  
The Herald-Times  
Coaches Bar & Grill  
El Norteño  
Malibu Grill  
Opie Taylor's  
Restaurant Tallent  
Samira Restaurant  
Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaner  
Tonya's Touch, Inc.  
Argentum Jewelry



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

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

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.





## News from Other Places

### 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.)

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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 was spearheaded by intern Rachel Mitchell, an IU Masters student in Arts Administration, and volunteer Jenny Mack, a recent graduate of the IUPUI Museum Studies Master’s Program.

It was a pleasure to supervise the creation of this exhibit and a special thanks is owed to board member, Jamee Wissink for the concept of the exhibit and to staff

member Erica Kendall for all of her collections work.

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.

## News from the Library

By Penelope Mathiesen & Lee Ehman

### 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.

### MCPL Obituary Index Database

The Obituary Index database compiled by the Monroe County Public Library is an excellent tool for genealogists. It contains tens of thousands of obituary citations. Although most were gleaned from the Bloomington *Telephone*, there are also citations to obits from the *Christian Record*, a publication that predates the *Telephone*. References include name of the deceased, including the maiden name when that information is available, the age at death when noted, and the date and page of the publication.

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/](http://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 Website

Two interactive on-line activities have been added to the History Center's website: A crossword puzzle about Monroe County, and a matching quiz about women of Monroe County, both at [http://monroehistory.org/interactive\\_online\\_activities.htm](http://monroehistory.org/interactive_online_activities.htm). Give them a try!

		
<a href="#">Monroe County Women: Matching Quiz</a>	<a href="#">Monroe County Crossword Puzzle</a>	<a href="#">Search Picture Database and Library Catalog</a>
		
<a href="#">Tour of School Room</a>	<a href="#">Tour of Main Gallery</a>	<a href="#">Tour of Log Cabin</a>

Screen shot of the interactive on-line activities page on the History Center's website.



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

Non-Profit  
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Bloomington, IN  
Permit No. 181

# Annual Meeting and Seward Portrait Celebration Thursday, Apr. 2, 7pm

## Monroe County Historian

Apr. 2009

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Brought to you by the Monroe  
County Historical Society

*Society established 1905  
Museum established 1980*



For subscription  
information contact the  
Monroe County  
History Center at  
812-332-2517, or  
[www.monroehistory.org](http://www.monroehistory.org)

## Membership Form

Time to donate for the

### Garage Sale

*Monroe County's Largest*

**Friday & Saturday,  
June 12 & 13**

Donate items at the History  
Center any time between  
10am - 4pm • Tues. - Sat.  
or call us for large item  
pickup at 812-332-2517.

Donate—Shop—Support

### Annual Membership Levels

- Student/Teacher..... \$20
- Basic..... \$35
- Family..... \$60
- Sustaining..... \$100
- Patron..... \$500

### Corporate - Service Organizations

- Exhibit Supporter..... \$100
- Gallery Benefactor..... \$250
- History Patron..... \$500
- Monroe County History Maker... \$1000

### Method of Payment

- Visa     MasterCard     Check

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Check if you are interested in:

- Volunteering
- Genealogy
- Civil War History
- Planned Giving

*Please write your information  
as you would like it to appear.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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