Our Volunteer: Glenda Murray

By Julian & Mary Pat Livingston

Who could better volunteer for our Historical Society’s presidential role than someone who cannot remember when she did not want to be an historian. Glenda Murray has that kind of basic drive rooted in every aspect of American History: research, archaeology, museums, and genealogy.

But a more natural place to settle her vital energy thereafter has been the Monroe County Historical Society where she began volunteering in 1994. Having been on the Board of Directors, she participated in the merger of the Society and the Museum which was a long process due to the need to gain a commonality of view for all the membership. During our interview she emphasized the importance of the History Center’s future planning, a process she has been championing throughout her presidency.

Glenda Murray, president of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Glenda’s current focus underscores her interest in local women’s history and her key role in representing the History Center in the grant writing and now the implementation of the Teaching American History Grant with the Monroe County Community School Corporation to help school teachers show students a living...
Mission Statement
The mission of the Monroe County Historical Society is 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 7-8:30 pm.

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

Genealogy Group
Every 1st Wednesday of odd months.

October
THR 8 Bricks Dedication Ceremony, 5:15 pm
FRI-SAT 9&10 Cemetery Restoration Workshops, see page 5
TUE 13 Civil War Roundtable, “U.S. Grant’s Campaign Against Vicksburg,” w/ Greg Biggs, 7 pm
THR 15 3rd Thursday, “Hindustan Whetstone: Gravestones in Southern Indiana,” with Dick Powell, 7 pm
FRI 16 Opening Reception for Sage Collection’s exhibit “Child’s Play,” 5-7 pm, see page 4
SAT 17 Home Movie Day, vintage projectors available, 11:30 am-4 pm
SAT 24 Collections Management Workshop, w/ Erica Kendall, 10 am
SAT 24 Free Tour of Civil War Soldier Exhibit, w/ Steve Rolfe, 10:30 am
THR 29 Kaffee Klatsch (Benefit Brunch), reservations $25 each, $20 members, 11:00 am, see page 4

November
WED 4 Genealogy Group, TBA, 2 pm
FRI 6 “Celebrating Indiana Barns” Opening Reception, 5 pm
SAT 7 Children’s Workshop: Do-it-yourself Paper Doll Fashions, 11-3
TUE 10 Civil War Roundtable, “Legacy Profiles” 7 pm
THR 12 Community Foundation Reception, 5:30 pm
THR 19 3rd Thursday, “Hoosier Cabinet in Kitchen History” w/ Nancy Hiller, 7 pm, see page 4
FRI 27 Canopy of Lights Open House, hot cider & donuts, 5-9 pm

Exhibit Schedule
“Community Voices Gallery: Bleeding Heartland Rollergirls”
Opens: Jul 18 Closes: Oct 17
Last chance — a must see.

“The Civil War Soldier”
Opens: Aug 22 Closes: Nov 14
The exhibit features personal effects and mementos of Union and Confederate soldiers.

“Child’s Play: Aesthetics, Gender, and Children’s Clothing”
presented by the Indiana University Sage Historic Costume Collection
Opens: Oct 17 Closes: Feb 27
Children’s attire provides a glimpse into social and cultural implications of children’s clothing.

“Community Voices Gallery: Community Foundation”
Opens: Oct 24 Closes: Jan 16
Celebrate the Community Foundation’s 20 year history in Monroe County with a spotlight on the recent programs, initiatives, & scholarships their grants have made possible.

“Celebration of Indiana Barns”
Opens: Nov 6 Closes: Dec 31
Portraits of Indiana Barns by Gwen Gutwein. For details see page 4.

“Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures from Doll Houses to Coraline”
Opens: Nov 27 Closes: Mar 20
This exhibit celebrates handmade miniatures on loan from local collectors and artisans, including Althea Crome who contributed the featured micro-knit sweater for the movie Coraline.
Update from the Managing Director

Online Photo Database
5000 Monroe County photos are now in the History Center’s searchable online photo database. Three new functions have been added. You can now click an icon to (1) send the photo link to a friend, (2) order a photo, and (3) give us additional information about a photo. Take a look: www.monroehistory.org.

Baby Changing Station & Laser Pointer
We are looking for generous donors to help us purchase a baby changing station ($180) to put in the Women’s Restroom and a laser pointer ($40) for presentations in the Education Room. These items are not in our barebones budget, and they would greatly enhance the experience of our patrons.

Benefit to Restore Hoadley Urn
Thursday, Oct. 29, 11:00-12:30, we will have our first “Kaffee Klatsch” a benefit brunch to raise money for professionally removing the graffiti and cleaning the limestone Hoadley urn at the entrance of the History Center. See more information on page 4, and watch for your invitation in the mail. Reservations are $25 per person and $20 for members.

Founders’ Endowment – Thank You
Generous donors like you continue to send in donations during our first year of this three-year Founders’ Endowment Campaign. Gifts and pledges now total $30,066 – what great progress toward the goal of $50,000. If you haven’t already pledged, please send a gift or pledge of any amount.

You are entitled to a 4x8 engraved brick in the History Path leading to the entrance of the History Center when your gifts to the Founders’ Endowment total $500 or an 8x8 brick for a total of $1000. The ceremony dedicating the most recent installation of 43 engraved bricks will take place Thursday, October 8 at 5:15 p.m. (right after the Board meeting). Please join us.

— Jill Lesh

Coming In November — Holiday Gifts

By Gayle Cook

The History Center will once again have its popular sale of gently-used holiday decorations and gifts. If you have items to donate you may bring them to the History Center anytime from 10am-4pm Tues-Sat. Hint to Santa: we have lots of dolls again.

The Museum Gift Store will, as usual, offer a wide variety of new holiday merchandise—cards, books, toys, ornaments, Clay City Pottery, and much more. Don’t forget to ask the cashier for your member discount. Both the Store and the gently-used holiday sale will be open to evening shoppers during the Canopy of Lights Open House on Friday, November 27.

The long-awaited new cookbook, Mouth Watering Monroe County, should arrive from the printers in time for your holiday shopping in November. It will make a delightful gift priced at $10. This book of 300 recipes with comments is a fundraiser for the History Center.
Not To Be Missed

“Hindustan Whetstone: Gravestones in Southern Indiana”
with Dick Powell
Thursday, October 15, 7pm

Whetstone grave markers were among the very first commercial tombstones used in Indiana. Nearly 1,800 Hindustan whetstone markers have been found in 221 cemeteries in southern Indiana. Dr. Powell has been working with local citizens to identify all the whetstone markers and will talk about their location and preservation.

Dr. Richard Powell is a research scientist at the Indiana Geological Survey.

Exhibit “Celebration of Indiana Barns”
Opening Reception
Friday, November 6, 5-7pm

Fort Wayne artist Gwen Gutwein’s paintings of Indiana barns plus historical profiles of each barn will be on loan from the Fort Wayne Museum of Art during November & December. Bloomingfoods is the exhibit sponsor, and they are joining us to kick off the exhibit with a reception featuring fall harvest refreshments at the History Center on November 6th – a Bloomington First Friday event.

Gutwein’s goal is to complete a painting of two barns in all 92 Indiana Counties. Included in the exhibit of 48 paintings will be two Monroe County barns. Gutwein plans to attend the opening reception.

Kaffee Klatsch (Coffee Party) Benefit
Thursday, October 29, 11am–12:30pm

Enjoy coffees, brunch, desserts, a colorful rendition of coffee lore and history by Carol Darling, and a demo by Inner Chef’s David Wade. Guests will have chances at great door prizes plus an early opportunity to purchase West Baden art.

Seating is limited. Pre-paid reservations are required. Send $25 person, $20 for members, to the Monroe County History Center or call to use a credit card.

Help us raise funds to remove the graffiti and clean the Hoadley Limestone Urn.

“The Hoosier Cabinet in Kitchen History”
with Nancy Hiller
Thursday, November 19, 7pm

The Hoosier Cabinet was among the earliest design innovations of the modern American kitchen. Hiller draws on her design expertise to reveal the influence of the Hoosier Cabinet on the development of the contemporary American home. Desserts from 1910-20s recipes will be served.


Exhibit “Child’s Play”
Opening Reception
Friday, October 16, 5-7pm

Join us at a playful opening reception for the exhibit of children’s clothing from Indiana University’s Sage Collection. Enjoy refreshments from your childhood and talk with the exhibit curators.
Cemeteries:
An Historical Resource in Monroe County

By Bob Dodd

How many cemeteries do you think there are in Monroe County? Before you answer, remember that in addition to the large, well-known cemeteries such as Rose Hill and Clear Creek, there are many small, no longer active, cemeteries scattered around the county. In fact there may be cemeteries that we do not even know about. Some cemeteries are hidden in the forest, far from any existing roads. There are several in the Deam Wilderness area in the southeast part of the county that can only be reached by hiking several miles from the nearest trailhead. Several cemeteries are now under Lake Monroe. Most of the burials from these cemeteries were moved to the Polk Township Cemetery on Allen’s Creek Road before the lake was completed. Some small cemeteries have been destroyed, i.e., the stones moved or discarded when they were in the way of other uses.

There are many things about cemeteries in the county that we would like to know. What was the earliest cemetery? What cemetery is or was longest in continuous use? Where are the historically important people in our county’s history buried? Where are the veterans from various wars buried? Where are especially distinctive tombstones located?

The Monroe County History Center’s Cemetery Committee is trying to accurately locate as many cemeteries as possible. Many of the locations described in our records are vague or imprecise, and some are simply wrong. We have located many of these cemeteries and determined their GPS coordinates and their exact location on detailed topographic maps. Ultimately we hope to prepare a map or maps showing these locations. The maps will be available for use by History Center patrons. However, many of the small cemeteries whose stones have been removed will probably never be found.

Another important function of the Cemetery Committee is to preserve our historic cemeteries. Many are not being maintained and are becoming overgrown with vegetation. Stones are often toppled or broken, sometimes simply the result of natural processes and sometimes due to vandalism. There are far too many cemeteries for our small committee to attempt to maintain, so we try to work with township trustees, city and county officials, and cemetery associations. Still, we’d like to encourage others to help. The committee is sponsoring a workshop on Friday and Saturday, October 9–10, to train interested individuals in methods of cemetery preservation. The workshop will have a discussion session (free) at the Monroe County History Center on Friday evening and a hands-on session ($30) on Saturday at the White Oak Cemetery in Bloomington. We will show methods of restoring tombstones and rehabilitation at the cemetery. We hope that you will join us.

To register, go to: www.monroehistory.org or call 812-332-2517.

What is the answer to the question of how many cemeteries are in Monroe County? There are 313 cemetery names on our register. In coming issues of the Monroe County Historian, we will profile specific cemeteries and give you additional information about our county’s cemeteries.
The Nurre Glass Co. opened in Bloomington on 12 March 1912. Over the years, the Nurre Companies expanded to include plants in Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, and Tennessee. At first, Nurre provided decorative mirrors to Showers Bros. Later, it provided mirrors for Pullman cars, medicine cabinets, and cigarette machines, as well as supplying glass for store fronts, automobiles, and other commercial and industrial uses.

In the early 1920s, Nurre made the first glass basketball backboard (or “backboard,” the term commonly used today). Prior to Nurre’s invention, basketball backboards were made of wood. The solid material blocked the view of the court for spectators sitting behind the basket. The new plate glass backboards were preferred for their transparency and also for their consistent rebounding characteristics. Nurre was the sole supplier of glass basketball backboards until the advent of tempered glass rendered the patent obsolete and other manufacturers entered the competition. Nurre retained the advantage of name recognition, however, and remained a dominant supplier.

Nurre’s glass backboards had one drawback: a piece of wood running across the bottom where the basket was attached, which partially obscured the view of spectators seated in or near the end zone. In the 1950s, Nurre’s designers began working on an all-glass backboard with the basket attached directly to the glass. According to an article in the Bloomington Daily Herald (21 March 1950):

“This requires a special, heat-treated glass that can withstand the shock of the ball striking it from all angles and with varying degrees of force. Nurre’s designers have been working on a backboard which they believe will do the trick. Although one other manufacturer [sic] has already turned out an all-glass backboard, Nurre believes it can produce a better one…the Bloomington plant is the only one in the Nurre chain that manufactures the backboard, the other plants sticking to mirrors and window glass, etc.”

Nurre closed its doors on 31 October 1964, but its introduction of the glass backboard still counts as a unique local contribution to basketball history.

Bloomington's Little Giants
Win 1919 State Basketball Championship
By Randi Richardson

On Saturday evening, 28 March 2009, the Bloomington South High School basketball team competed for, and won, the state championship. In the past, Bloomington teams have won twice. In 1997, it was the team from Bloomington North. In 1919, it was Bloomington’s Little Giants.

On Thursday, 26 March 2009, the Bloomington (Indiana) Herald-Times ran an article about the 1919 championship team titled “Win Heard ‘Round the World.” The win occurred just days after the end of World War I, the war that was supposed to end all wars. It was a time when the news of the day consisted mostly of death—death from fighting in a war far from home and death from the flu epidemic that seemed to afflict the nation as a whole.

The article was accompanied by a large team photo from the trophy case at South. Nearly a hundred years old, the photo was damaged so that one member of the team, the coach, was barely recognizable and part of the date obliterated. The team members are identified only by their last names, someone no doubt thinking that everyone knew and would remember these young men for what they had accomplished.

They are now best remembered by their children and grandchildren. Their names are: Coach Clifford Wells, formerly a star forward on the Bloomington five; Donald Rogers, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Rogers; Robert Marxson, son of Mrs. C. H. Marxson; Lawrence Short, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcom Short; John Crane, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Crane; Don Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Robinson; Wyatt May; Allen Axtell; George Coffey; Floyd Wells; and Preston McBean.

They were called the “Little Giants,” and sometimes referred to in news reports as “little lads,” because they had an average height of 5’7” and an average weight of 125 pounds. Handicapped by their size, playing on a strange floor in a hostile town without any breaks of luck in their favor, on March 15 the Little Giants played at Lafayette against Jefferson High of that city. Four thousand people crowded the Purdue gym to watch them compete against players that outreached them many inches and outweighed them many pounds.

But they played about the fastest and cleanest ball it is possible for a team to play while practically at all times on the offense, carrying the fight to the enemy. It was so fast and so clean that the team was the favorite of the meet with all of the spectators, excepting the Lafayette people, rooting for the Bloomington boys. When at last the game was over, Bloomington won the championship by a score of 18 to 15.
Bartholomew County’s Genealogy Day 2009
The Bartholomew County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a free program from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, 21 November, in the Red Room of the Bartholomew County Public Library, 536 Fifth Street, Columbus, IN. Genealogy Day 2009 will feature speakers, individual consultations, and a buffet lunch (for a $3.00 donation). Dr. Giles Hoyt, Charlotte Sellers, and Jane Johnson will speak, and Donna Kuhlman will provide individual genealogical assistance. For more information, e-mail: bcgs47202@yahoo.com or call (812) 372-9274.
(From IGS Newsletter, August 2009.)

Indy’s Monon Trail Tracks History
The Monon Railroad merged with the Louisville and Nashville line in 1971, and the Monon emblem on the cars and engines was replaced with the L&N. Eventually, the railroad ceased operation altogether. The memories linger on, however, along the Monon Trail in Indianapolis. The first stretch of this “rails-to-trails” venture opened in June 1996. The trail follows the former railroad corridor, established in 1847, for 10.5 miles from Tenth Street in central Indianapolis to Ninety-sixth Street on the Marion/Hamilton County line. It links the Indiana State Fair Grounds, commercial areas such as Broad Ripple Village, several parks, and a dozen residential neighborhoods. It also connects to the Fall Creek Trail, the Central Canal Towpath, and the Monon Greenway of Carmel. The Monon Trail was named to the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame in 2009. Pedestrians have the right-of-way, but bicyclists and roller skaters are also welcome. For information on parking and access points, go to: http://www.indygreenways.org (From Monon Rail-Trail brochure; “End of the Line” [newspaper clipping, July 1971]; and the Web site.)

Genealogy Resources at Evansville’s Willard Library
The Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana, is a rich trove of genealogical resources for the tri-state area (Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky) as well as other places. The Special Collections Department contains a number of in-house media sources of which researchers may not be aware. Items available on microfilm, microfiche, and CD-ROM include county and state records, family files, funeral home records, ship’s passenger lists, Eastern Cherokee records, church records, Evansville city directories, Revolutionary War pension files, and the 1836 Census for Districts of Alsace Lorraine. The collection of newspapers on microfilm has the Virginia Gazette (1736–1780; a hardbound index is also available) and a number of newspapers published in Evansville, Booneville, and Princeton during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including several German-language publications.

The holdings of the Willard Library and its Special Collections Department include many items not mentioned here. The library is located at 21 First Avenue, Evansville, Indiana 47710. For more information on the collections, e-mail: willard@willard.lib.in.us (From Bettie Cummings Cook, “Microfilm, Microfiche, and CD-ROM Sources at the Willard Library,” The Tri-State Packet, March 2009, pp. 16–19.)
New & Renewed Members
July 15 — Sept. 14

Exhibit Supporter
Curry Buick-Pontiac-GMC, Inc.

Sustaining
Jack & Sue Bowman
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Bob & Carolyn Doty
John & Helen Hollingsworth
Bill & Liz Knapp
Scott G. May
Edward Joseph & Marcia Parham
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Darrel & Jane Smith
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Louise Arnett Selden
Randy & Linda Williamson

Basic
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Holly Barton
Michael Bell & Danielle Bachant-Bell
Sarah Bowman*
John & Marie Boyd
Larry & Anne Cady
Ray & Sarah Caudill
Marian Cobine

Scott & Rebecca Eberle
Wenona Freeman
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Jerry & Dot Spore
Benton Stidd
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Jane & Chuck Zebendon

Student/Teacher
Lynn Abbott-McCloud*
Alex & Donna Cartwright
Jerry & Nancy Ruff

* Denotes New Members

Corporate Members

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

History Patron ($500)
Ivy Tech Community College
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Monroe County Farm Bureau, Inc.
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Gallery Benefactor ($250)
Monroe Bank
Stephen L. Ferguson, Attorney at Law
Regions Bank
United Commerce Bank

Exhibit Supporter ($100)
Bloomington Central Lions Club
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Jeanne Walters Real Estate
Malibu Grill
Meadowood Retirement Community
Morrow Realtors
Oliver Winery
Shean Law Offices
Sullivan’s Inc - Fashions for Men

Monroe County History Path
You Are Invited to the
2009 Founders’ Endowment Bricks Ribbon Cutting & Dedication Ceremony
Thursday, October 8, 2009
5:00 p.m. Refreshments
5:15 p.m. Ceremony
Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN
812-332-2517
**New Rose Hill & White Oak Cemetery Records**

A completely new publication is now for sale: *Rose Hill and White Oak Cemeteries, 1818–2008*. Mary Lou Stonecipher prepared the information up to the year 2000 from a database produced by the City of Bloomington’s Information Technology Services. David Foster and Julian Livingstone formatted the book. Crystal Matjasic, Library Associate in the Genealogy Library at the Monroe County History Center, entered the additions from 2000 through 2008.

The index contains maps of each area of Rose Hill. All burials are listed alphabetically by last name. The entries include all information about each interment: the section and lot in the cemetery, the book and page where listed in the original record, date of death, last name, first name, middle initial, place of birth, late residence (city), age, sex, which cemetery (Rose Hill or White Oak), and notes that were added.

This 400-page index is exceptionally easy to use. It is priced at $42.00 for a soft cover, spiral bound book or $21.00 for a CD, plus shipping costs. For information on ordering your copy, go to: www.monroehistory.org, click on Genealogy Library, and select Historical Publications for Sale. You may also call (812) 332-2517.

**New Books on the Shelves**


*The Optimist*, June 1, 1993. Bloomington High School newspaper.


**New in the Library**

Several original land deeds are now available in the Genealogy Library. These include Land Deed, Craven P. Hester to John Thompson, 12 April 1836; Land Deed, John A. Hay to S. P. Thompson, 1 March 1853; Land Deed, John Thompson to Samuel P. Thompson, 22 December 1849; and Land Deed, S. P. Thompson and Wife to John A. Hay, 19 February 1853. They may be found in a black three-ring binder, “Assorted Land Records,” located on top of File Cabinet 1. The land deeds have been transcribed by Mita Glass, Indiana Room volunteer at the Monroe County Public Library. A copy of the transcription is included with each original deed in the binder.

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**Teaching American History Project**

Twenty-seven MCCSC teacher-participants and six project leaders met with History Center staff for four hours on September 21 to begin implementation the $497,917 Teaching American History (TAH) Grant. Workshop leaders were project directors Lynne Boyle-Baise, Jim Madison, Glenda Murray, Pat Wilson; assistant director Connie Ables; and website development – director of education Elaine Larson.

Elaine Larson from the Agency for Instructional Technology (AIT) distributes materials.
Civil War Encampment
August 22 & 23

Re-enactors from the 35th Indiana Infantry “1st Irish” regiment set up camp on the lawn of the History Center Saturday & Sunday, August 22 & 23. More than 400 visitors and volunteers interacted with the re-enactors, attended programs in the Education Room, and visited the exhibit “The Civil War Soldier” on its opening day.

1: Charity Shettle shows early sewing machine operation to Diana Lambdin (seated), Marilyn Rolfe, and Charles Lambdin.

2: Damian Logan played Irish music on the tin whistle, Bodhran, and concertina.

3: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry re-enactors performed drills and musket firing every hour.

4: Fred Schaefer, Rodney Davis, and Rodney’s daughter in the surgeon’s medical tent.

5: Patrick Griffin explained care of muskets to Sean Coleman and his father Joseph Coleman.
Membership Form

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
Phone
E-mail

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

Mark Your Calendar!
Canopy of Lights
Open House
Friday, Nov. 27
5-9pm

Gala Benefit
Friday, Feb. 12
2010