Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

Monroe County Historian

Exploring Our History

Feb. 2010
Vol. 2010 Issue 1

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 (6-17 yrs)
5 yrs. & under free
Members are always free.

Highlighted Articles in This Issue

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Monroe County Historian
Editor: Jill Lesh
Design: Lisa M. Simmons

Gala — Friday, February 12

By Jill Lesh

You will certainly want to attend the Third Annual Gala. James H. Madison will regale us with stories of his favorite Hoosier Heroes. The silent auction will feature irresistible items including a hot air balloon ride and an overnight stay with golf at French Lick Resort.

Please consider sponsoring a table of 8 for $500. It is a great donation and qualifies the table host for an engraved brick in the History Path at the entrance to the History Center.

The Gala proceeds go to the Historical Society Founders' Endowment. We kicked off the current endowment campaign at the Gala last year and are making great progress toward our $50,000 campaign goal.

Individual seats are $40 each for members ($50 for non-members). Pre-paid reservations are required.

Some Monroe County Heroes: Quarry workers of Victor Oolitic Stone Company. The two men at the right on the front row are Frank Smith and Vern Kelly. 1920s photo donated by Betty J. Russell-Read with a short history about Franklin Cleveland Smith, 1999.024.0001.

Thank you to our sponsors:

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History Center

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 7-8:30pm.

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.

February

TUE 9 Civil War Roundtable: "Examining the Committee on the Conduct of the War," w/ Ric Watson, 7pm
FRI 12 Gala Benefit, COOK World Headquarters, 6pm
THR 18 3rd Thursday: "History of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater," w/ Susan Ferentinos, 7pm
MON 22 Annual Auction Benefit, 5pm
FRI 26 "County Extension Office" exhibit reception, 5-7pm

March

WED 3 Genealogy Group: "If a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words," w/ Randi Richardson, 1pm
TUE 9 Civil War Roundtable: "Pvt. Jacob Mann who Died at Andersonville Prison," w/ Allan Sather, 7pm
THR 18 3rd Thursday: "Extension Homemaker Clubs," w/ Sue Berg, 7pm

April

SUN 10 2nd Annual Craftacular, Hands-on Demonstrations, 12-5pm, Free
TUE 13 Civil War Roundtable: "Battle of Perryville Kentucky," w/ Michael Willever, 7pm
THR 15 3rd Thursday: "First Ladies of IU," w/ Laurie Burns McRobbie, 7pm

Snow Closings

The History Center will not open on days when the MCCSC is closed for snow.

Exhibit Schedule

"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.

"Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures from Dollhouses to *Coraline*"

Opens: Nov 27
Closes: May 22

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*.

Community Voices Gallery "County Extension Office"

Opens: Jan 23 Closes: May 8

The Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service provides education to Indiana citizens through land-grant university research and knowledge base to develop youth and strengthen agriculture, families and communities.

Purdue Extension
Knowledge to Go
Monroe County

"The 9 Lives of Quilts"

Opens: Mar 4 Closes: July 10

Examine the stages in the "life" of a quilt, from its origins to suggestions for its adaptive reuse and learn how to care for and to preserve your heirloom quilts.

Do you have a quilt that is past its useful life? Or do you have items that have been made from old quilts? If you do, please share these with us for this upcoming quilt exhibit. Contact Jenny Mack at the History Center, 332-2517.

Update from the Managing Director

New Design for Website

Lee Ehman has redesigned our website. Among the many volunteer roles Lee fills at the History Center is that of webmaster. The newly designed website features fly-out navigation menus, reorganized sections, and expanded content. Everything is easy to find from the main page. In particular, the Genealogy Library on-line database resources have been reorganized and expanded. Of special interest is the new Monroe County Maps page which adds on-line plat maps for 1856, 1909, 1920, and 1932. I really like having Photo Gallery section under About Us. Take a look at http://monroehistory.org/.

Online Photo Project

We are making steady progress in the photo project with four people working as contract workers. We're up to 6,464 photos now available in the searchable online database.

Mark Grosser scans photos and inserts thumbnails of the photos into our PastPerfect database. Devin Blankenship, Brenda Lommel, and Michael McDowell have been entering photo descriptions into PastPerfect since November. This work is possible through grants from The Community Foundation and Smithville Charitable Foundation.

Jill Lesh next to display of micro-knits by Althea Crome in "Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures from Dollhouses to *Coraline*" exhibit.

Wahl Family Charitable Trust

We received a $2000 grant from the newly established Wahl Family Charitable Trust. The grant will be used to purchase much-needed artifact preservation supplies.

Jill Recovering

On December 30, I had back surgery to remove a piece of ruptured disc that had been compressing a nerve for seven weeks. The pain is greatly decreased, and the nerve is gradually healing. The therapy is "walk, walk, walk." Thanks to everyone for the warm support.

Search for New Managing Director

I will be leaving the History Center next month to pursue some personal and family pleasures. Working with the volunteers and staff for almost four years has been wonderful. This has been a dream job for me. However, now I need to devote more time to taking care of myself and my family. We are conducting a search for a new managing director. Applicants can send resumes to hr@monroehistory.org. The closing date is Friday, February 5.

—Jill Lesh

Resale — Good News and More to Come

By Gayle Cook

A big thanks goes to all who donated items for resale throughout the year. We also thank those who purchased merchandise, and the hardworking volunteers who conducted the sales.

Here's the good news on income generated:

February auction	5,001.82
June garage sale	18,653.89
October art sale	985.00
Holiday sale	778.20
Total:	$25,418.91

from YOUR Donated merchandise!

Donating merchandise is an easy way to help the History Center, and to clean out those closets. Hint to donors: we cannot accept clothing, broken furniture, outdated computers or TVs, or non-working appliances.

Next Resale Event

Annual Benefit Auction

February 22

-see newsletter insert for details-

Not To Be Missed

"Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures from Dollhouses to *Coraline*"
On exhibit until May 22

Be sure to visit the current exhibit in the Brown Gallery and use the magnifying glasses to examine the hand-crafted miniatures. Items range from a 30-ft miniature parade from Sara & Bob LeBien to the tiny vignettes created by Diana Hoffman, and the micro-knits by Althea Crome. Congratulations to Jamee Wissink and Jenny Mack for creating this delightful exhibit.

The micro-knit sweater made by Bloomingtonian, Althea Crome and used in the movie *Coraline*.

"Extension Homemaker Clubs of Monroe County"
Thursday, March 18
7pm
with Sue Berg

What makes Monroe County a family friendly place, with many volunteers in all kinds of organizations? One answer is that women have quietly developed a network of support and sharing of homemaking skills. Extension Homemakers have been active in neighborhood clubs whose purpose is to provide life-long learning, friendship and an awareness for community volunteerism.

Join Sue Berg, who for over 20 years was the Monroe County Extension Educator for Family and Consumer Economics, as she talks about the history of the homemaker clubs in Monroe County. There are currently over 20 active clubs and several associate clubs with nearly 350 members.

This free program is part of the History Center's *3rd Thursday* program series.

"A Legacy of Leadership: The First Ladies of Indiana University"
Thursday, April 15, 7pm
with Laurie Burns McRobbie

Laurie Burns McRobbie, the current first lady of Indiana University, will discuss some of IU's remarkable first ladies, the roles they played in the life of the university, and what she has learned from them. Laurie received her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan and has been involved in the use of information technology in higher education for over 25 years, including serving as executive director of Internet2.

She is now an adjunct faculty member in the School of Informatics. As first lady of IU, Laurie is working to foster active relationships between Indiana University and the community.

This free program is part of the History Center's *3rd Thursday* program series.

"History of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater"
Thursday, February, 18
7pm
with Susan Ferentinos

Discover the history of a Bloomington landmark. Susan will provide a pictorial history of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater (formerly the Indiana Theatre) and its importance to community development in Bloomington, Indiana.

Susan is the Public History Manager at the Organization of American Historians.

This free program is part of the History Center's *3rd Thursday* program series.

Restoration and History of the White Oak Cemetery

By Bob Dodd

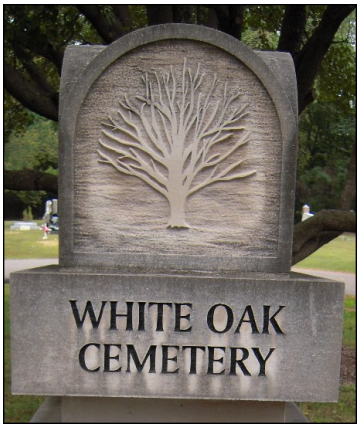
On 10 October 2009, about 42 participants in a cemetery restoration workshop sponsored by the Cemetery Committee of the Monroe County History Center spent several hours restoring grave markers in the old portion of Bloomington's White Oak Cemetery. They cleaned many stones, leveled others, and used a special epoxy cement to rejoin pieces of broken stones. Participants made great progress in restoring the markers, but much remains to be done. Many of the participants would like to return to complete the task. The restoration project was just the latest event in the long history of the cemetery.

For most of its history, the White Oak Cemetery was named the United Presbyterian Cemetery. The United Presbyterian Church (or its predecessor, the Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church) was established in 1833 and built an early log church building on this site, which was given to the church by John Blair. The first burial in the adjoining cemetery was probably in 1837 (as stated in the 1 November 1898 issue of the local newspaper, the *Republican Progress*). This cemetery is thus one of the oldest in the county, having been started only 19 years after Monroe County was organized. Many of the pioneer church members, several being important figures in early Monroe County history, were buried here. These include names such as Fee, Wylie, Bryan, Gourley, Woodburn, and Henderson, important names in Monroe County and United Presbyterian Church history.

An article in the *Bloomington Telephone* (22 December 1883) notes that a substantial stone fence was placed around the cemetery through the efforts of James Strong. But less than 15 years later, an article in the *Republican Progress* (1 November 1898) stated that the trustees of the church had put the cemetery up for sale. The article indicated that burials had been removed to Rose Hill Cemetery. Many monuments in the cemetery, some dating back to the 1830s, suggest that this is not correct. Apparently the cemetery did not immediately sell, as records indicate that the City of Bloomington purchased the property from the church in 1914. The city made improvements to the cemetery in 1982, including re-grading, landscaping, and installation of a new lawn on the east end. They gave the renovated cemetery the name White Oak Cemetery in 1983. The west part of the cemetery is still being used for burials.

November 3, 1989, was an important date in the history of the cemetery. On that date the Bloomington Township Trustee, James Dawson, and his advisory board, with the support of Bloomington Mayor Tomilea Allison, dedicated the Pioneer Memorial. The memorial commemorates early settlers who were buried in small cemeteries that are now lost or destroyed, mostly in the name of "progress." The marker lists names of 132 early settlers buried in small cemeteries in Bloomington Township from 1815 to 1947. Dawson also prepared a booklet with the names of people buried in those cemeteries.

Vandals have probably desecrated monuments within the cemetery multiple times, most recently on July first or second of 2008. At that time 44 headstones were knocked over. Fifteen stones were reset, but 29 were too large for workers to move. An article in the *Herald-Times* (4 June 1994) quotes United Presbyterian member Frank Jones as commenting on damage to stones in the cemetery: "I'm hoping that somebody will come out and work on this because this goes way back in the history of Bloomington." Frank Jones, who died earlier this year, probably would be pleased to know of the efforts of our workshop participants.



John Walters describing how to clean grave markers to participants (from left to right: William Schmeltzer, Ron Ball, and Larry Bennett) at the 10 October 2009 cemetery workshop held at White Oak Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Bob Dodd.

Marker at White Oak Cemetery. Photograph courtesy of Bob Dodd.

Campus Spirit Strong in 1911

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following undated newspaper article uses excerpts from the *Indiana Daily Student* to provide a snapshot of campus life in 1911. Note the reference to the "Union poolroom" (paragraph 3). The Indiana Union was formed in 1909 as a campus mens' organization to promoted goodwill instead of hostility between rival groups, such as freshmen and sophomores or fraternities and independents. It occupied space in the east wing of the Student Building. The Memorial Union building was dedicated in 1932 and has expanded several times since then.

LOOKING BACK ON OLD BLOOMINGTON

In these days when college has subsided into a civilized wilderness and the convention seems to be to forget conventions, students are prone to wonder what their predecessors a few years back did to liven up the old place. Some frayed files of The Daily Student published in 1911 reveal that while "whoopee" and "yugg" were not yet a part of collegiate vocabularies, campus spirit was strong to the point of rowdyism.

At that time Don Herold, '13, edited the Arbutus, John Mellett, whose pseudonyn [sic] is Jonathan Brooks, was editor of The Daily Student and his brother, the late Don Mellett of Canton, Ohio, was a sub-editor. The paper was published on Mondays as well as the five days following and consisted of four five-column pages.

Fraternity men were prohibited from giving or receiving a "treat" drink. Freshmen were not allowed to enter saloons. Swearing was forbidden in the Union poolroom. There was a Board of Traditions appointed by the presidents of the three upper classes. Rhinies were ordered by the Board to procure green caps or be visited by a special delegation. In addition to providing for the headgear, the Committee decided that the "infants" should not be allowed to use tobacco in any form on the campus.

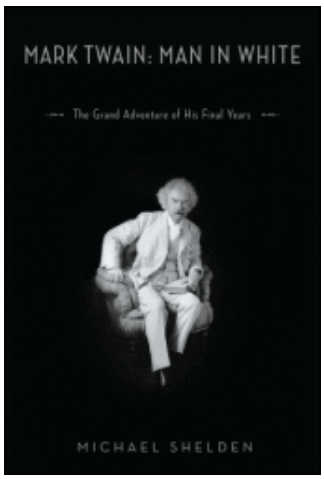
Indiana in a game with Franklin college "piled up a score of 42 points against the little fellows, using only simple plays," [t]he chronicle declares. Winners of various athletic meets wore their numerals on their caps. Miss DeNise, dean of women, announced that girls could applaud "in a modest, womanly manner" and help the cause of the football team.

President William Lowe Bryan ordered freshmen and sophomores to put a stop to the haircutting which had terrorized members of the campus for a week. The trap drum as an accompaniment for the music of the piano was declared barbaric by a professor in the Music department. One thousand students enrolled for the fall term. — Indiana Daily Student

Sources: "Looking Back on Old Bloomington" (undated newspaper article); "Union: The IU Landmark celebrates 100 Years of Bringing People Together," by Pete DiPrimio (*Homes & Lifestyles of South-Central Indiana*, August 2009).

News from the Museum Gift Store

New Random House Book from Monroe County's Own, Michael Shelden



Drawing on a number of unpublished sources, including Twain's own journals, letters, and a revealing four-hundred-page personal account, ***Mark Twain: Man in White*** brings the legendary author's twilight years vividly to life, offering surprising insights, an intimate look at his family life. It is filled with first-rate scholarship, rare and never-published Twain photos, delightful anecdotes, and memorable quotes.

Michael Shelden is the author of three previous biographies, including *Orwell*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He was a correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph* (London) and a critic for the *Baltimore Sun*. He is currently a professor of English at Indiana State University.

Also New to the Museum Gift Store

While visiting the Museum Gift Store be sure to check out the new cookbook, *Taste of Monroe County*. The book features historic recipes from Boxman's restaurant and favorites from Monroe County residents.

Modesto: Tales of Life in Southern Indiana written by Jean and Don Rhoads, features the history of the Modesto and Maple Grove Road areas and is now available in the Museum Store.

Bean Blossom or Beanblossom?

By Lou Malcomb

Monroe County has numerous communities, rivers, creeks, townships, and other "features" that quickly fuel one's curiosity about their origins. Gazetteers often provide explanations to these questions. In the case of Bean Blossom vs. Beanblossom, the searcher may find some confusion. An electronic search of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names' official repository of domestic geographic names, or GNIS (http://geonames.usgs.gov) provides the following results: Beanblossom (one word) is used for Beanblossom Creek, in northern Monroe County; Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve, in the northwest portion of Monroe County; Beanblossom Lake, in northeastern Monroe County; and Beanblossom, the community that exists in Brown County. Bean Blossom (two words) is used for the township in northwestern Monroe County and the dam in northeastern Monroe County.

The debate was taken to the Indiana Board of Geographic Names. Their findings, reported in September 1965, cover Beanblossom in Brown County, Beanblossom Creek, and Beanblossom Lake. Beanblossom Creek is described as: "A stream about 51 miles long, heading about 0.4 mile south of the community of Spearsville, Brown County, Indiana…. Not: Bean Blossom Creek, South Bean Blossom Creek, South Fork Bean Blossom Creek, South Fork. February 10, 1965."[1]

What is the explanation or origin of the name, whether spelled as one word or two? There are several possibilities. *From Needmore to Prosperity* states:

"Beanblossom…This village was platted in 1833 and first named Georgetown for the first settler and founder: George Grove. A post office named Bean Blossom, for the nearby stream of the same name, was established on July 8, 1842; closed on August 15, 1911. The Miami name for Beanblossom Creak was Kochioah-se-pe, which also was the Miami name for the Saint Joseph River and means 'Bean River'; consequently, the name seems to be a translation of the Indian name. One traditional account of the naming, though, says in 1812 a man by the name of Bean Blossom nearly drowned trying to swim the creek, and General Tipton named the stream for him. Another traditional tale holds that Captain Beanblossom was an officer in Harrison's army and nearly drowned in the stream in 1811. According to other traditional accounts, the name comes from wild bean plants that grew along the stream or for beans the early settlers raised as their main crop."[2]

Sign for a protected portion of the Beanbloosom creek, located in Bean Blossom township. Photo from Devin Blankenship.

Forest M. "Pop" Hall states in *Historic Treasures*, in the chapter on "Indian Fighting of 1811–1813": "The rain had swelled the creeks until they were past fording; those who could swim had to do so. They came to a large creek in the north end of Monroe County. A man by the name of Bean Blossom, in attempting to swim the creek, came very near drowning, and Tipton named the creek 'Bean Blossom,' after his name—and so it is called to this day."[3]

Searching the manuscript census,[4] it is interesting that there do not appear to be any Beanblossoms who settled in Monroe County, with almost all settlers by that name reporting Harrison County as their residence. Throughout the census, the family name "Beanblossom" is spelled as one word.

The standard history of Monroe County, *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana*, notes in a discussion of William K. Rogers: "Mr. Rogers was a soldier of that war [War of 1812]. While he and a Mr. Beanblossom were in pursuit of some Indian horse-thieves, they came to a creek, which they named Beanblossom, which name it now bears."[5]

Notes

1. Findings of the Indiana Board on Geographic Names, July 1963 through June 1965. List No. 3. Indianapolis, Indiana: The Board, September 1965.
2. Ronald L. Baker, *From Needmore to Prosperity: Hoosier Place Names in Folklore and History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995), p. 61.
3. Forest M. "Pop" Hall, comp., *Historic Treasures: True Tales of Deeds with Interesting Data in the Life of Bloomington, Indiana University and Monroe County* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c1922), p. 11.
4. The manuscript census exists for every Decennial Census, 1790–1930 (released after 70 years by the National Archives for research purposes). It can be accessed through print or online resources, including HeritageQuest.
5. Charles Blanchard, ed., *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana [microform]* (Chicago: F. A. Battey, 1884), p. 589.

News from Other Places

IGS to Hold April 2010 Conference in Fort Wayne

The Indiana Genealogical Society's Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, 10 April 2010, at the Allen County Public Library, located at 900 Library Plaza in downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dick Eastman, author and creator of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, will be the featured speaker. His topics will include "Genealogy Searches on Google," "Blogging for Genealogists," "Conservation: Keeping Up with Technology," and "Grandpa in Your Pocket: Portable Gadgets for Genealogists." A Society Management Seminar will be held on Friday, 9 April 2010, at the library. For additional information go to: http://www.indgensoc.org (From the web site.)

Registers of Lighthouse Keepers, 1845–1912

Researchers who are interested in the history of lighthouses and their keepers will benefit from a new resource. *The National Archives Microfilm Publication M1373: Registers of Lighthouse Keepers, 1845–1912*, covers lighthouses along the Atlantic Coast, the Pacific Coast, and the Great Lakes. (From *Connections: The Hoosier Genealogist*, Fall/Winter 2009, p. 126.) For more information contact:

National Archives, Great Lakes Region
www.archives.gov/great-lakes/archives • 773-948-9001

Central Normal College Collection at Danville Public Library

The Danville Public Library's Indiana Room has a special collection of materials related to Central Normal College (1878–1946) and its successor, Canterbury College (1947–1951). CNC was one of the nation's earliest "normal schools," or teacher training colleges. The collection includes histories, memorabilia, newspapers, photographs, postcards, student catalogs, and yearbooks. A finding aid is available. The Indiana Room also houses additional genealogical and historical materials about Danville and Hendricks County; resources for other Indiana counties (particularly Boone, Montgomery, Morgan, and Putnam); and Quaker records. (From library brochure and the web.)

Danville Public Library
101 S. Indiana Street • Danville, IN 46122
www.dpl.lib.in.us • 317-745-2604

News from the Library

New Volunteers and Needed Resources

The Genealogy Library would like to thank the following new volunteers who have joined its ranks during the past year. Vivien Bridges, Beverly Davis, Richard McLelland, Laura Pinhey, and Randy Stephenson are assisting with special projects. David Goss is working on World War II cards, and Dan Turpen is helping to organize Civil Court records. The library appreciates the efforts of these volunteers and all the others who help keep the library open and provide service for its visitors.

New Genealogy Library Materials

A 3-volume set of marriage record indexes for Monroe County have been added to the collection. They were created by the WPA during the 1930's. They provide an alternative index with additional information for the 1882-1920 time period.

New Books on the Shelves

1. *Affidavit of Soldier Exemption, Monroe County*, *1938.* Gift from Cinda L. Neal.
2. *Affidavit of Soldier Exemption, Monroe County, 1939.* Gift from Cinda L. Neal.
3. Gardner, David E. and Smith, Frank. *Genealogical Research in England and Wales*, volume 3. Salt Lake City, UT: Bookcraft, 1964. Gift from Henry H. Gray.
4. *The Gothic*. Bloomington High School yearbook, 1909. Gift from Robert and Wilma Conder.
5. *The Gothic*. Bloomington High School yearbook, 1937. Gift from the estate of Mary Mildred Harrell.
6. *The Gothic*. Bloomington High School yearbook, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, and 1963. Gift from Sarah Hartman.
7. Himm, Katie and Eisenberg, Lana Ruegamer. *There Are Jews in Southern Indiana: The Bloomington Story*. Fort Wayne, IN: Indiana Jewish Historical Society, 2009. Gift from Lana Ruegamer Eisenberg.
8. *John F. Kennedy, 1917–1963*. Collection of *Indianapolis Star* articles regarding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, covering the period of 23 November 1963 through 26 November 1963. Gift from the estate of Mary Mildred Harrell.
9. Keesecker, Guy L. *Marriage Records of Berkeley County, Virginia, 1781–1854*. Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House. Gift from Henry H. Gray.
10. Madison, James H. *The Indiana Way: A State History*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1986. Gift from Henry H. Gray.
11. *The Optimist*, vol. 51 (May 1963). Bloomington High School newspaper, special issue ("This Is Our 50th"). Gift from the estate of Mary Mildred Harrell.

The library welcomes donations of historical and genealogical resources related to Monroe County families and their history. We are currently looking for materials on Monroe County churches and the Civil War era. If you have items of interest, please contact Library Director Liz Knapp at 812-332-2915, or genealogy@monroehistory.org.

Membership

☙ New & Renewed Members — Nov. 15 to Jan. 14 ❧

Monroe County History Maker
M & I Wealth Management*

Contributor
Willa D. Keller*

Sustaining
Fleurette M. Benckart
William & Patricia Cron
James & Martha Dawson
Robert & Joann Dodd
Henry & Alice Gray
Richard & Jill Lesh
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Pam Gunkel*
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Liesl Loudermilk*
Rex Morgan*
Brian Muehlhaus*
Jennifer Mungle*
Gladys Newsom*
Wendy Podany*
Kristen Publow*
Heather Rhodes*
John Roth*
Debra Tyree*
Pat Wilson*
Cameron York*

*** Denotes New Members**

☙ Corporate Members ❧

Monroe County History Maker ($1,000)
CFC, Inc.
Cook Group Incorporated
M & I Wealth Management
Smithville

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

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Stephen L. Ferguson, Attorney at Law
Regions Bank
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Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
John Byers Associates
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Malibu Grill
Meadowood Retirement Community
Morrow Realtors
Oliver Winery
Shean Law Offices
Sullivan's Inc - Fashions for Men

☙ Thank You ❧

I would like to say an extra "Thank You" to our wonderful members who have supported us during 2009. In times of economic downturn, many may find it hard to donate to non-profits, like the Monroe County History Center. Our supportive members have continued to donate to the Center through the format of a membership. On behalf of the entire staff I want to pass on a most sincere message of thanks for your continued support.

Lisa Simmons, Outreach Coordinator

A Dynamic Duo

By Jill Lesh

Exhibit designer Jamee Wissink and exhibits assistant Jenny Mack have combined their talents to ratchet up our exhibit production since June when Jenny joined the staff to assist Jamee, our super-volunteer. As Jamee says, "Many more things are possible with two of us," and indeed they are tackling exhibit issues from all directions.

Jamee Wissink, exhibit designer, and Jenny Mack, exhibits assistant, with a giant nutcracker figure in the History Center lobby.

They have completely reorganized the Exhibits Preparation Room into an efficient workspace with large production table in the center, and they have moved big items into the newly remodeled storage room behind the Brown Gallery. Fresh paint abounds.

In the permanent Cook Gallery, old signage is being replaced with new signs using larger fonts and more readable formats. The schoolroom has been re-arranged and new artifacts installed for a more authentic 1880s experience. Plans are underway to install five reading rails and more interactive components to the exhibits. A new mini-exhibit highlights our building when it functioned as a Carnegie Library.

Of course, they created the fabulous "Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures" exhibit in the Brown Gallery that runs through May 22 – a must see.

You Can Help

Since Santa must have lost our Wish List for Christmas, Jenny and Jamee need your help!

If you have any of these items and are willing to donate them, please contact Jenny at 812-332-2517.

1. Pre-1900 clock for school room exhibit area.
2. Pre-1900 globe, also for school room.
3. DVD players, speakers, and stereo receivers.
4. Any size used, clean tires (for soapbox derby exhibit).
5. Life-size models of a dog, a pig, and a horse.

Volunteers of the Year

The 2009 *Library Volunteer of the Year* award went to Lou Malcomb, and the *Gayle Cook Volunteer of the Year* award went to Jamee Wissink.

Lee Ehman and Anne Cady received *Outstanding Service* awards at the Thursday, December 10 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Pictured: Lou Malcolm and Jamee Wissink with their respective award plaques.

Recent Events

Create Your Own Miniatures Workshop— December 19

1: Diana Hoffman, whose miniatures are on exhibit in "Size Does Matter: The Art of Miniatures from Dollhouses to *Coraline*," poses with Emma Isenhour at the Creature Your Own Miniatures Workshop conducted by Diana.

2: Workshop attendees like Ralph Sears and his daughter Keira, crafted miniature tables that featured tiny plates, candy canes, an other festive accoutrements. The workshop was free and attracted several families.

Members Only Tour of Shower Inn—December 12

3: An inside view of the main living space of the Showers Inn.

4: The Showers Inn graciously allowed the History Center to hold a special members-only event at their beautifully-restored, historic venue. Guest enjoyed the warm fire, festive decorations, tasty treats, and the opportunity to explore the recently opened Inn.

Canopy of Lights Open House—November 27

5: Board president, Glenda Murray, and Advisory Board member, Dave Musgrave, assist patrons in the Museum Gift Store. The History Center holds an open house the night of the Canopy of Lights. The event allows the community to explore the History Center free of admission—not to mention that many appreciate the opportunity to warm up while waiting for the Courthouse lights.

6: Volunteers Penny Mathiesen and Joanne Dodd were kept busy in the kitchen—they helped to provide hot cider and donuts to the over 800 attendees.

Monroe County History Center
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Museum established 1980

THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

For subscription information contact the Monroe County History Center at 812-332-2517, or www.monroehistory.org

Annual Benefit Auction Monday, Feb. 22, 5pm

Make Your Reservations Now

Gala Benefit

Friday, Feb. 12, 2010
Jim Madison "My Hoosier Heroes"
6pm COOK World Headquarters

Membership Form

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

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

Check if you are interested in:

- □ Volunteering
- □ Genealogy
- □ Civil War History
- □ Planned Giving

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