The Monroe County History Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In 1980, the Center opened its doors as a museum and steward of Monroe County History in the Carnegie Library building. Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, the Center has grown from sharing the building with other nonprofits to owning the building and expanding the space dedicated to local history.

Through the ensuing years, many changes have taken place. An addition in 1998 increased the building square footage to its present size. The History Center is now home to five museum galleries, an education conference room, a museum store, genealogy library, a climate controlled storage space for artifacts, and administrative and support areas.

Today, looking at how far the History Center’s timeline has traveled, it is remarkable to reflect on its course of continued growth and influence. To share a few milestones:

- There are over 70,000 artifacts that have been donated and comprise an enviable historical collection.
- Cataloging of all artifacts is maintained on a specialized computer software program.
- Photographs are in the process of being digitized and placed on the web site.
- Over 16,000 visited the museum last year or attended programs.
- Cemeteries throughout the county are being restored through the efforts of volunteers.
- The genealogy library is a resource for research and maintains publications, books and documents.
- Programs are routinely conducted at the museum on historical topics. Programs taken into the classrooms meet the State of Indiana academic standards and give our next generation a sense of history and pride.

We have talked about the building that houses the History Center. It is a wonderful, historically significant limestone structure. And, we have talked about the achievements through the years. But the heart and soul of the Monroe County History Center are the volunteers who made the museum, the library, the store, and the programs a reality and give their time and talent today.

Monroe County and its citizenry say a heartfelt thank you. Your legacy is a gift of history today and in the future.
Monroe County History Center

Calendar of Events — All events will be held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

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

October
TUE 12—Civil War Roundtable: Evolution of the Line, w/ Bob Wiley, 7pm
WED 13—National Fossil Day: Climate, Crinoids, and Carnivores w/ David Polly, 7pm
THR 21—3rd Thursday: Historic Maple Grove Road, w/ Joe Peden, 7pm

November
WED 3—Genealogy Group, Topic TBA, 2pm
FRI 5—Mt. Gilead Exhibit Reception, refreshments served, 6:30pm
TUE 9—Civil War Roundtable: The Curious History of the Indiana 63rd Volunteers w/ Matt Hoagland, 7pm

SAT 23—Free Admission Day, in celebration of the History Center’s 30th Anniversary

THR 18—3rd Thursday: History of the Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat, 7pm
THR 25—Closed for Thanksgiving

FRI 26—Annual Canopy of Lights Open House Featuring: Hot Cider, Donuts, and Live Music, 5-9pm. While waiting for the lights on the Courthouse Square to turn on, swing by the History Center to warm up with some hot cider. Free.

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat Community Voices Gallery Opening Reception: Nov. 5, 6:30pm Closes: Feb. 12, 2011 The next Community Voices Gallery partner will be the Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat. The exhibit will focus on the Quaker nature retreat and how the practices of simple living and environmentally sound habitation interplay.

Bloomington in Bloom Photos By Bloomington Photo Club (BPC) Closes: Oct. 23 The BPC members have documented local sites participating in the America in Bloom competition (where cities across the US compete to win environmental distinctions), held on June 18-19.

From Trilobites to Terabytes National Fossil Day Exhibit Opens: Oct. 13th Closes: Mar. 19th, 2011 Celebrate National Fossil Day at the Monroe County History Center by exploring how paleontologists work and the methods and tools they use to understand ancient life. In collaboration with the Indiana Geological Survey, learn about Monroe County’s prehistoric past through fossilized plants and animals. National Fossil Day is a celebration organized to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value.

Developed: Local 1800s Photography Closes: Feb. 19, 2011 Discover the roots of photography including the methods and people involved in the local, 1800s photography scene. Much of the exhibit will be comprised of the History Center’s vast historic photo collection.

Who We Are

Staff
Diane Ballard: Managing Director director@monroehistory.org
Lisa M. Simmons: Outreach Coordinator education@monroehistory.org
Erica Kendall: Collections Manager collection@monroehistory.org
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Janice Partenheimer: Asst. Secretary jpartenheimer@gmail.com
Liz Knapp: Genealogy Library Director genealogy@monroehistory.org

Mission Statement
The mission of the MCHS is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Monroe County’s history, culture, and natural environment by all.
Update from the Board President

Celebrating 30 years in the Monroe County History Center!

On Wednesday, October 20 we will be gathering to honor our founders, volunteers, members and friends from 6-8pm. Looking at photos of the 1980 opening of the History Center, we can recall efforts that went into establishing the museum and notice the changes that have taken place. As we maintain history for the future, we honor those who have made this possible.

Our Interactive Exhibits Project has moved forward at a very fast pace. We will ask the Board of Trustees to approve funding from our Build History Fund to move ahead with working with Museumcroft to develop interactive exhibits in our Cook Gallery.

Take time to stop in the History Center. Visit the Gift Shop. Linger and recall the past.

Photo: Anne Cady, President of the Monroe County History Center’s Board of Trustees, has served for three years as a Board member and assumed the role of President in April.

Coming in November — Holiday Gifts
From Gayle Cook

The History Center will once again have its popular sale of gently used holiday decorations and gifts. We will have lots of garlands, wreaths, ornaments, holiday-themed tableware, candle holders, and small gifts and toys—all at bargain prices.

If you have holiday items to donate you may bring them to the History Center anytime from 10am-4pm, Tuesday-Saturday.

More in November
The Museum 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 26, though holiday items will be on the shelves in early November also.

New Museum Store Gift Book Suggestions
Mark Twain: Man in White—An acclaimed new biography by Bloomington’s own Michael Shelden, husband of volunteer Sue Shelden.
So Cold the River—An eerie tale about West Baden Springs, by Bloomington mystery writer Michael Koryta.
Baynard Rush Hall—Biography of Hall, a controversial 1820s instructor at “Indiana College,” by Hoosier writer Dixie Kline Richardson.
Rural Free and Speak to the Earth—Re-issues by IU Press of Rachel Peden’s beloved books about Monroe County farm life.
Indiana's deer population was on the rebound in 1939 after a steep decline, as described in the following newspaper article. “Deer sightings” were reported with some excitement, and the increase in numbers was viewed in a positive light by local and state residents—a stark contrast to today's concerns of safety risks posed by the rising deer population in Bloomington and Monroe County.

Bloomington Daily Telephone, 7 March 1939

MANY PERSONS REPORT SEEING WHITE-TAILED DEER IN STATE

Reports of white-tailed deer being seen in the wooded sections of Southern Indiana are becoming more and more frequent as the number of these graceful animals increases through natural reproduction.

While more than a hundred deer have been liberated in suitable areas during the past five years, it is estimated that there are more than two hundred running wild today. The deer have ranged over a wide territory, having been seen as far north as Greencastle and Muncie. Some deer have been seen in barnyards and pastures with farm stock and others have been seen along the highways by motorists.

Deer were once numerous in Indiana and one of the first conservation laws enacted by the General Assembly was the establishment of a closed season on deer and other game which had been hunted without restriction by the early settlers. This law was passed in 1857. Deer were practically extinct in Indiana when the Department of Conservation began its liberation of white-tailed deer in 1934.

In addition to the liberation of deer in suitable parts of the state, a number of these animals have been included in wildlife displays at state parks, game preserves and forests where they form one of the major attractions for the thousands of visitors.

Three young deer, taken from the wildlife exhibit at the Brown County state game preserve, have been a popular feature of the Department of Conservation display at the Indiana Sportsman’s Show, held at the state fairgrounds in Indianapolis this week.
Top 10 Endangered Monroe County Cemeteries

By Bob Dodd and Lou Malcomb of the Monroe County Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee has begun compiling two lists of cemeteries: “Neither Lost nor Forgotten” and the “Top Ten Endangered Cemeteries”. The Neither Lost nor Forgotten are cemeteries for which we know the location but there are no longer stones or other cemetery markers, often very little to indicate that there was ever a cemetery. We hope to use this list to muster support for placement of a sign designating the site as an historic cemetery site. We may not be able to restore the stones, but we can mark it as hallowed ground.

The Top Ten Endangered Cemeteries of Monroe County still exist, but many stones are broken or missing and the area needs cleaning and maintenance. We hope to prepare preliminary restoration plans, help organize interested citizens and descendents into long-term care organizations, help with workdays, partner with the township trustees to support appropriate activities, and determine legal status.

Current List
Parsons: Van Buren Township (Kirksville Road area), Indiana State Law restricts farming and animal husbandry in cemeteries, see IC 14-21-1-24.
Shields: Perry Township (Sherwood Green Condominium area), includes Seward Fence. One restoration specialist called this cemetery “threatened”.
Chitwood: Benton Township—Once had 35 tombstones, but now there is one.
Keller: Van Buren Township—More than 65% of the tombstones are broken or missing.
Mt. Salem: Perry Township—Almost every tombstone needs repair. Many are in multiple pieces. The township trustee is working with landowner(s) towards finalizing restoration plan. Many lime stone workers are buried at this cemetery.
Hall: Richland Township—Fenced off from horse pasture by landowner but only a few of the tombstones are standing, with many in piles no longer near their original sites.
Fullerton: Van Buren Township—In a forest preserve but not fenced, with overgrowth covering stones.
Gray: Bloomington Township—Off Russell Road, in forest, lacks fence and most stones have fallen, but most are not broken.
Mulkey: Washington Township—Fenced and cared for by landowner but tombstones need repair.
Brock: Benton Township—On Bloomington City property near Lake Lemon. Repaired by Historical Society several years ago, but needs additional repairs and a long-term maintenance plan.

This is a start. We hope to remove at least one cemetery from the list each year. Unfortunately this list does not include many other cemeteries in need of care.

Make a Difference at Keller Cemetery

Join us as we restore tombstones in this historic cemetery. Stone cleaning supplies will be furnished and professional restorer, John Walters will be on-site. Dress for a woodland environment (brushes and briars may be present) and bring gloves for yard clean-up and fence repair.

October 16 • 9:30am-3pm
Free Keller Cemetery Workday

Directions: Stanford is about 6 miles past Wal-Mart on S Rd 45 (2nd St); going West, Stanford will have a sign and immediately after the post office on right, and Old grocery/gas station on left, you'll see Stanford Rd. Turn right onto S Stanford Rd. Go to the top of the hill to Tes Dog Par! Turn left to Keller Cemetery. Park at tennis courts and walk down long gravel driveway. Follow signs to walk to the cemetery.
On 29 June 1934, an article in the Bloomington Daily Telephone described an extraordinary log cabin built west of town on Curry Pike:

“ABE LINCOLN LOG CABIN OPENED BY IT’S [SIC] OWNERS”

The official housewarming of the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin club, was held Thursday evening by the owners, Dr. J. E. Moser, Pavil Wilson, P. A. Madaris and Q. Austin East. The affair was held at the club cabin located on the Curry Pike west of Bloomington. A fried chicken dinner was served to approximately 30 guests. The club, which is the culmination of a dream of the four Bloomington men, is for the entertainment of the owners and their families. The idea of the club was conceived by the men in January at which time articles of incorporation were filed and the following officers elected: Dr. J. E. Moser, president; P. A. Madaris, vice-president; Q. Austin East, treasurer; and Pavil Wilson, secretary. … The cabin, which is one of the most elaborate in the state of Indiana, is situated on a spacious estate of ten acres of wooded land which is bounded on one side by Indian Creek. The cabin is built entirely of yellow poplar and has hardwood floors throughout. In it are a spacious living room, dining room, kitchen, four balcony bed rooms, a guest room and bath. It is completely furnished with rustic and old-fashioned furniture. Vanishing stairs and a large fireplace are features of the living room. The stairs can be raised, if the guests care to dance. The interior of the cabin also contains a large number of trophies from recent hunting trips of Dr. Moser and Mr. Wilson. The house is burglar proof with every window barred and screened. The large front porch also is screened. The cabin also is equipped with a basement. … A 74-foot well is located at one side of the house and a palasade [sic] four car garage is nearing completion at the back of the cabin. …

Property for the cabin was acquired from William R. Medaris and Amy Medaris on 10 January 1934 by Q. Austin East and Grayce Lowe East. The Easts conveyed the land to the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin Club on 16 May 1934. Both conveyances were made “in consideration of One dollar and other valuable considerations … Subject to the taxes of 1933, payable in 1934 [and] fifty dollars in taxes upon which ten year plan has been taken according to statute.” The land sale and cabin construction took place during the Great Depression, which affected Monroe County along with the rest of the country. The year after the cabin was built, a local newspaper published a series of articles assuring readers that Bloomington’s banks had survived the banking crisis and that during “the years of depression” the Chamber of Commerce had conducted “special and emergency work” to promote business recovery. Despite the worrisome economic climate, the four members of the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin Club, all prominent Bloomington figures, mustered the resources to pay the property’s back taxes and fund construction of a sizeable cabin that would function as clubhouse and hunting lodge.

According to Bloomington’s 1934 city directory, Pavil Wilson (702 East Tenth) and Joseph Moser (518 East Seventh) lived just a few blocks apart in a residential area between the campus and downtown. Wilson, a Spencer native, had come to Bloomington to attend Indiana University. From 1924 onward, he was a partner in the Wilson/Vermilya subdivision along South Walnut, built houses on East First Street, and superintended construction of the J. C. Penney building on the west side of the courthouse square. Wilson died on 27 April 1935, age 38, a few days after feeling ill while he and Dr. Moser were at the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin.

Dr. Joseph E. Moser was born a few miles east of Bloomington, attended Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana, taught at rural Percifield School, then entered IU’s School of Medicine. After graduation in 1907, he settled in Stanford, where his busy practice required two teams of horses and a saddle horse to keep him going on his medical calls. In 1917, Moser moved his office to the second floor of the Allen building on East Kirkwood in Bloomington. He was known as an outstanding surgeon and sportsman who made five major hunting trips and was planning one to the Yukon at the time of his death. Moser died on 1 February 1938, age 58. Towards the end of his life, he and his family spent many months of the year at the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin.

According to the 1934 city directory, Judge Q. Austin East and Pressie A. Madaris both lived on the east side of Walnut Street north of Nineteenth (opposite today’s Miller Showers Park; this area had no street addresses in 1934). East, born on an Indian Creek Township farm in 1886, moved to Bloomington when he was 17. He worked at Oaks Manufacturing Co. and as a hotel bellhop and
shoeshine boy before attending Central Normal College (also Moser’s alma mater). After graduation, East was a teacher and school principal before admittance to the Indiana State Bar in 1911. He was elected prosecuting attorney of Owen County in 1916, then moved to Bloomington in 1917. He served as Monroe County prosecutor and held other legal positions, including Monroe Circuit Court judge (1945–57). He died in 1959, age 72.6

The last surviving club member, Pressie A. Madaris, was born in Linton in 1901. Bloomington city directories show him working for Lincoln Oil Refining Co. in 1931 and rising to manager by 1934. (Perhaps the Lincoln name played some role in the club’s formation?) Madaris died on 11 December 1978, age 77. His death notice described him as “a retired district manager of Marathon Oil Company.”7

The Abe Lincoln Log Cabin was located on a ten-acre parcel in the northwest quarter of Section 12, Van Buren Township,8 halfway between Bloomfield Road and the Illinois Central Railroad Tracks, west of Curry Pike between Beasley Drive and Roll Avenue. The creek described in the 1934 newspaper article still runs through the rear of the property. Several log cabins are set back in the trees along this stretch of road, including one just south of Beasley, but none is substantial enough to match the newspaper description. The cabin is mentioned in the obituaries of Wilson (d. 1935) and Moser (d. 1938) but not East (d. 1959) or Madaris (d. 1977). How long the club and the cabin lasted remain unanswered questions.

Notes
1. Monroe County Deed Book 87, pp. 329–30. The last names of P. A. Madaris and William R. Medaris are spelled differently in county records; it is not known if they were related.
2. “Four Local Banks Have Unique Mark,” “Depression Fails to Stop Chamber,” and “Civic Bodies Aid Recovery,” Bloomington Evening World, 26 July 1935.
New Volunteers
The Genealogy Library welcomes several new and recent volunteers: Jim Darko, who started in September, Kim Mangus, and Laura McIntosh. Kim and Laura are working on special projects, and Laura is also helping with research.

New Items in the Library
*The Eagle*, vol. 6, no. 13, 1941. Published by the Senior Class of Ellettsville High School. Gift from Annie Baxter.
*Souvenir of Bloomington High School*. 1914.

Memorial and special occasion gifts are the perfect way to honor those who are important to you. As a memorial, they celebrate the life of those you remember. As a gift, they help share the link we all have to our past as we look to the future. Memorial and special occasion gifts mark milestones in our lives and help us remember those no longer here.

When you make a legacy gift, the History Center will send a customized card to your recipient or their family, letting them know about your kindness and expressing your sentiment. An acknowledgement letter is sent to you and serves as a receipt for your tax deductible gift.

You will be receiving a special mailing with a gift envelope. However, gifts may be made by telephone using a credit card. We hope that you will use it to honor someone.

Gifts to the History Center are not simply about preserving the past. They help build the future and benefit our community.
Eating Out “Back in the Day”
By Mary Lou Mitchell

This article is reprinted with permission from Neighborhood News, the newsletter of the Bryan Park Neighborhood Association. The hope of a new restaurant in the Hillside commercial buildings, mentioned at the end of the article, has now been realized.

In the 1940s, there were several restaurants in the area near Bryan Park, but only two within walking distance. Coleman’s Grill at 1025 S. Walnut specialized in fifty-cent T-bone steaks. The Friendly Café at 108 W. Grimes was more of a sandwich shop. The other restaurants were out on South Rogers and South Walnut. Many of them were located close to the RCA plant, at the southwest corner of Grimes and Patterson, to get the lunch trade. All of these were fairly small, mainly because most people did not “eat out” much then.

The South Rogers Street restaurants were Bob’s Grill (at 1313), Bruner’s Restaurant, later the Candle-Lite Inn (1205), Friendly Corner (901), Grandma’s Grill, also Bib’s (1313), Carl E. Jewell (1217), Midway Inn (2014), Purity-Café (1217), White’s Lunch (618), and the Wigwam (610).

On South Walnut there were Gib & Denzil’s Café (at 920), Leonard’s Café (918), Parkway Grill (525), the Penguin, now known as the Chocolate Moose (404), Raney’s Cafeteria (346), Dairy Bar (519), High School Sweet Shop (521), and the South Side Café (1500). Pictured in the photograph is the building housing the South Side Café.

The Parkway, Dairy Bar, Penguin, and High School Sweet Shop (later called Kutche’s) were close to Bloomington High School back in the day when it was located in what is now Seminary Park. Kutche’s was the boys’ hangout and the Parkway was the girls’ hangout. A girl stepped in the door once at Kutche’s, and she was run out. The Dean of Students used to stand in the window to see if the boys were going over to Kutche’s, which had pinball machines. When he saw them, he would use the intercom call them back.

We’re all hoping that when the Hillside commercial buildings are finished there will be a small restaurant or diner or deli that we can walk to for a lunch or an early dinner. These are usually very casual and a good place to meet friends and neighbors.

Note: If you have photographs of any of the restaurants mentioned, please contact Liz Knapp at the Monroe County History Center (telephone: 332-2517, or e-mail: genealogy@monroehistory.org).
Membership

Denotes New Members

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

Gallery Benefactor — $250
Sample Estate Services LLC
United Commerce Bank
X-Printwear & Promotions, Inc.

Corporate Members

Exhibit Supporter — $100
Bloomington Central Lions Club
Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
John Bethell Title Co., Inc.
John Byers Associates
Commercial Service of Bloomington
Curry Automotive Center
David L. Ferguson, Attorney at Law

New & Renewed Members — July 15 to September 14

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Wesley W. & Mary Burch Ratliff III
Fred & Pat Smith

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Margery Belisle
Paul & Sandra Kay Bender
Doris Brinemann
Larry & MaryLou Brown
Nancy W. Bryan

Ledford C. Carter
Janice Clinch
David & Karen Cline
Marjorie S. Counsilman
Ronald & Evelyn Crowe
Carol Curry
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Mary Emison
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William Gosser
Marion H. Gottfried
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Marjorie Hudgins
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Betty M. Jarboe
Burton & Eleanor Jones
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Peter & Debra Kloosterman
Jim & Nancy Kryway
Elizabeth Latimer
Catryna Loos
H. M. Bud & Cathie Lynch
Michael & Sheila Maben
J. Louise (Lou) Malcomb

Norma M. Martin
Carol May
Marilyn McCoy
Barbara E. McKinney
Charles Meiser
Vivian Miller
Lucile M. Moore
Patrick & Cheryl Munson
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Barbara Tichen
Alvin & Bonita Trisler
Jim & Judy Van Osdol
Frances M. Walden
Gloria D. Westfall
Anne M. Wilkerson
History Center Happenings
From August-September

Top Left: IU International Students visited the History Center in August. Some of the students are seen here with an exhibit highlight, the Schmalz Bear. The group enjoyed a picnic and games while getting to know their new community.

Top Right: The Hoadley Urn marking the main entrance of the History Center received a thorough cleaning by Helen Wentermuth and Mark Davis. Funds from the Koffee Klatch event and a grant award from the Bloomington Garden Club provided the funds for cleaning and restoration.

Bottom Left: World-wide Spin in Public Day was observed at the History Center during the Lotus Festival. Spinners and visitors enjoyed the courtyard area on a sunny Saturday.

Bottom Middle: In early October, we said a goodbye to Laura Pinhey, our Library Associate. Laura chose a new career direction in the health care field. Laura’s presence and influence will be missed in the Library and on the Grants Committee.

Bottom Right: We extend a welcome to Amanda Jo Barron, who began working part time at the History Center on the photograph digitalization project. Amanda is a recent graduate of Purdue University majoring in Anthropology and Psychology. In addition to the photo project work, Amanda brings experience in cataloging and organizing artifacts while working at the Tippecanoe County Historical Society and developing and conducting paleontology programs for children.
Interested in Exhibits?

The History Center is seeking volunteers to assist our Exhibit Designer, Jenny Mack. Exhibit volunteers will to work hands-on with the History Center’s collection and help shape the patron experience.

Desirable candidates should have availability to work a shift sometime between 10am-3pm Monday-Friday. Interested potential volunteers may contact Jenny, Exhibits Designer, at 812-332-2517.

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
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- Civil War History
- Planned Giving

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

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