Monroe County Historian

Preserving the Past for Future Generations
Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

Feb. 2011
Vol. 2011 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
10am — 4pm

Museum Admission
Adult — $2
Child (6-17 yrs.) — $1
5 yrs. & Under — Free
Members — Free

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Historian Staff
Editor: Diane Ballard
Design: Lisa M. Simmons

4th Annual Gala — February 11

Who was kissed by Sophia Loren?

A special evening with friends, a gourmet meal, and an opportunity to hear author Michael Shelden; don't miss the fourth Annual History Center Gala on Friday, February 11.

Guest speaker, Michael Shelden, will present *Kissed by Sophia Loren: Adventures of a Hoosier Biographer and Globetrotting Journalist.* Wine will be provided by Oliver Winery and dinner prepared by Classic Catering. The Social Hour, Cash Bar and Silent Auction will take place from 6pm-7pm followed by dinner at 7pm and then a talk you won't soon forget.

To reserve seats or table for the event, please contact the Monroe County History Center at 332-2517. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program and provide tuition scholarships for children in need.

If you cannot join us for the evening, please consider a gift to the Junior Historian Program. A gift envelope is enclosed with this newsletter.

Gayle Cook JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM

Gayle Cook
Junior Historian Program

The History Center is proud to present The Gayle Cook Junior Historian Summer Program for youth of Monroe and surrounding counties. The Junior Historian Program is designed to immerse children, in two groups, ages 6-8 and 9-12, in a living history experience. During three separate themed weeks throughout the summer, children will be able to touch history in ways they never have. By using historically accurate activities, food and field trips, the campers will experience the rich history of Monroe County and Indiana, in a lasting, meaningful way. Instructors will be trained and experienced working with children.

The program to serve the youth in the area was named in honor of Gayle Cook in recognition of her commitment to preservation of history and unfailing support given the Monroe County Historical Society and its History Center.

Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

The Center will not be open on days when the MCCSC closes for snow.

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

February
FRI 4—Indiana Barn Paintings Exhibit Reception, Refreshments Served, 5-8pm

TUE 8—Civil War Roundtable
Steve Rolfe presents "Montgomery Cunningham Meigs: The Man Who Won the Civil War," 7pm

FRI 11—Annual Benefit Gala
Cook World Headquarters, 6pm
Social Hour, 7pm Dinner, 8pm talk by Author Michael Shelden

SAT 12—WFHB's Saturday's Child Free concert featuring Indiana Old-Time Ambassadors, 11am-Noon

THR 17—3rd Thursday Series
Restoring Quilts, w/ Heirloom Quilt Restoration's Mindy Fletcher, 7pm

March
TUE 8—Civil War Roundtable
John Crosby presents "Brother vs Brother," 7pm

SAT 12—WFHB's Saturday's Child Free concert featuring "Bamboo Steve" Pollitt, flute, 11am-Noon

April
TUE 12—Civil War Roundtable
SAT 16—Record Store Day

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

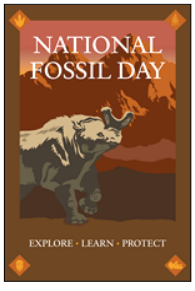
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Indiana Barn Paintings

A returning exhibit by Gwen Gutwein
Closes: Feb. 26

On loan from the Ft. Wayne Art Museum, the exhibit includes historical profiles of Indiana barns, along with two Monroe County barns on the Hinkle Garton and Stevens Family farms.

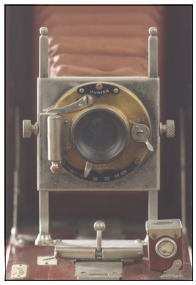
Exhibit Reception: Feb. 4, 5-8pm



From Trilobites to Terabytes

National Fossil Day Exhibit
Closes: Mar. 19

In collaboration with the Indiana Geological Survey, learn about Monroe County's prehistoric past through fossilized plants and animals. Don't miss our hands-on fossil dig table.



Developed: Local 1800s Photography

Closes: Feb. 19

Discover the roots of photography including the methods and people involved in the local 1800s photography scene. Much of the exhibit is comprised of items from the History Center's historic photo collection.

Local Records: Past & Present

Opens: Apr. 16 Closes: Jul. 30

Record Store Day, a national event, will once again take place on April 16. The History Center will host a special event boasting activities and live music. The feature of the day will be the local-music focused, *Local Records: Past and Present*.

Record Store Day: Apr. 16

Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat

Community Voices Gallery Closes: Feb. 12

The exhibit features programs and activities that Mt. Gilead offers, including the sanctuary, rooted in Quaker tradition, for all who seek renewal drawing upon the inspiration of nature.

19th Century Star Quilts

Opens: Feb. 25 Closes: Jun. 5

The American Quilt Study Group's traveling exhibit, 19th Century Star Quilts, will debut at the History Center on Feb. 25. The collection expresses many interpretations on one of the oldest quilt block patterns—the star.

Message from the Board President

On a sunny October day, the Cemetery Committee spent the day at Keller Cemetery near Stanford in western Monroe County. We assisted in repairing and cleaning gravestones, cleared out underbrush and, most importantly, honored those who have come before us. As I cleaned the gravestone of a boy who died shortly after he was born in the mid-1850s, I was reminded of the legacy left us by our pioneer ancestors. Whether we were born in Monroe County or have moved here, it is our home and a place worthy of preserving the history and stories for our children and those who come to this place after us.

We are working in many ways to do just that. Our new Gayle Cook Junior Historian Program will begin this summer to help children learn more about Monroe County and our history. Our collaboration with Indiana University to train area teachers in the Teaching American History project is another example of our commitment to the education of our history. We recently received the Henry and Cecelia Wahl grant to assist with transporting Monroe County school students on field trips (which had been cut from local school budgets).

Our Fourth Annual Gala will be held February 11 at Cook World Headquarters. Local author and Indiana State University professor, Mike Shelden, will share stories of his travels and interviews with newsmakers of our time. James Madison, Indiana University's Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History, will be our Master of Ceremonies. We will again have a Silent Auction which will include some special antiques from our Garage Sale donations. Please join us for an evening to remember.

Anne Cady

-Board President

Who We Are

Preserving the Past for Future Generations

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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.

THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Proud Member Of

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
Better Business. Better Community.

AASLH
American Association for State and Local History

AIM
THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA MUSEUMS

Think Local. Buy Local. Local First Be Local.

BEAD
Bloomington Entertainment & Arts District

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

News from Other Places

Working to Keep You Updated

Mark Your Calendar: IGS April 2011 Conference

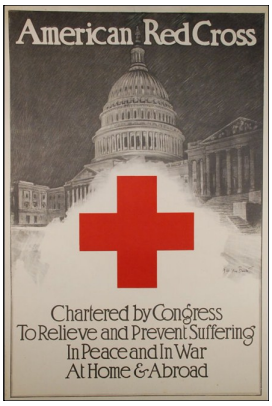
The Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference will be held on Saturday, 16 April 2011, in the Sterrett Center at Fort Harrison in northeastern Indianapolis. The featured speaker will be Diane VanSkiver Gagel, past president of the Ohio Genealogical Society and author of several books, including *Windows on the Past: Identifying, Dating, and Preserving Photographs*. For more information, go to: www.indgensoc.org

DeKalb County Museums

Many people are familiar with the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automotive Museum in Auburn, Indiana, but DeKalb County offers nine other museums in Auburn and environs. Continuing the transportation theme are the National Automotive and Truck Museum, Kruse Automotive & Carriage Museum, Early Ford V-8 Museum, Hoosier Air Museum, and Garrett Historical Railroad Museum. For family history researchers, the DeKalb County History Museum and Willennar Genealogy Center (in Auburn's Eckhart Public Library) are worth a visit. Other interests are served by the National Military History Center and the Garrett Museum of Art. The DeKalb Alliance of Museums offers a Passport Ticket: by paying regular admission at one of the museums, the purchaser receives discounts at all of the others. For more information on any of these museums, contact: DeKalb County Visitors Bureau, telephone: (260) 927-1499; or go to: www.dekalbcvb.org (From DeKalb Alliance of Museums brochure.)

WWI Posters at Indiana Historical Society

The Indiana Historical Society's World War I Poster Collection, which includes American propaganda posters from around 1918, is now available to researchers. The posters reflect the varying missions of the organizations that produced them. French Relief Fund posters were produced by the Indianapolis branch of the American Fund for French Wounded, organized in 1915 to support French hospitals. Many of these posters feature soldiers and girls; each includes a humorous poem. Posters promoting Liberty Loan Campaigns and Bonds urge the purchase of bonds as a patriotic duty. Red Cross posters focus on fundraising for humanitarian and medical aid to Europe. The U.S. Food Administration posters advocate conserving food (to make more available for overseas allies) as well as raising and canning homegrown produce. Posters of ships under construction, produced by the U.S. Shipping Board Emergency Fleet, emphasize the need to expand the Merchant Marine and move people and supplies to Europe. Indiana artists represented in the collection include Franklin Booth, Kin Hubbard, John T. McCutcheon, and Gaar Williams. For more information, go to: www.indianahistory.org/library or telephone: (317) 234-0321. (From *INPerspective*, November/ December 2010, and the web site.)



Your Donations at Work

Donations Make A Difference

Every year the History Center raises operating funds by selling donated gently-used merchandise. What makes this increasingly profitable is the warehousing we have available for storage throughout the year. This means that we accept individually donated items and also large estates whenever they become available.

After removing any artifacts appropriate for the Museum's collection we then sell merchandise at several events resulting in a major addition to our budget.

2010 February Auction	$ 3,700
2010 June Garage Sale	$36,000
2010 Holiday Sale	$ 2,560
Total	$42,260

You can see how much your donated items have helped the History Center. In addition to the above, all year long we sell used books in the museum store. Thanks go to all of you who donated items, worked at the sales, or purchased merchandise.

The Racial Divide in 1915 Bloomington

By Lee Ehman

While indexing obituaries from the *Bloomington Telephone*, I ran across a 1915 event that reveals a Bloomington different than it is today. The episode exemplifies the psychological divide between blacks and whites that can be traced in the history of the state. Before the Civil War, anti-black feelings in Indiana were typified by the 1851 Constitutional Convention's Article XIII, later overwhelmingly confirmed by a state-wide vote: "No negro or mulatto shall come into or settle in the State…."[1] The article, however, was not generally enforced. Indiana had a history of lynching in the 1800s; 20 blacks were lynched between 1865 and 1903. Anti-lynch laws were finally enforced by Governor Winfield Durbin in the early 1900s.[2]

In 1915, Bloomington was segregated. Blacks lived separately from whites, and one area was given the derogatory label "Bucktown" by the *Telephone*. The paper segregated social news about blacks into the column "Among Colored People," almost always carried on page four, a small section set apart from the main "One Day of Local Doings." Occasionally deaths of prominent black citizens were announced outside this section, but nearly all their news was carried in it. There was a separate "colored school," which previously occupied the Carnegie Library site, now part of the History Center. In December 1915, a new "colored school," now the Banneker Center, opened on West Seventh with 93 students.[3] As the new school was being planned, a nearby church protested its location so close to their house of worship.

From 11 to 14 August 1915, a series of front-page articles in the *Telephone* reported on the showing of *The Nigger* at the Princess Theatre. On August 11th, the *Telephone* described a petition to the city council, "signed by practically every colored person in Bloomington," to prohibit showing the picture. The document was presented by Reverend Henderson, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) church, who explained "… the picture might cause a race feeling here and it was best to prohibit it. He explained that the picture was a southern film, contains a scene where a negro attempts to criminally assault a white woman and is afterwards taken by a mob. [He] held that the picture portrayed a degraded scene and was unfair to the colored race."[4]

The Nigger is nearly forgotten today, partly because four weeks earlier, Epoch Film released its infamous *The Birth of a Nation*, which was for that time a blockbuster. *The Nigger*, produced by Fox, was based on a 1912 play of the same name, in which the title character, the governor of Georgia, was discovered to have black ancestors. He resigned and "gave up" his white fiancée, even though in the final scene she was willing to "overlook his black blood" and marry him.[5] Despite its inflammatory title, the play was viewed by some as "a prominent defense of miscegenation." In the end the hero, rather than denying his black ancestry, decided to devote his life to the betterment of blacks.[6] The film (but presumably not the play) contained scenes showing a "Negro hiding behind a tree waiting to assault [a] little white girl, the dead child, the manhunt, the flames indicating the lynching and burning at the stake, and a 'race war' during which whites were killed by Negroes."[7] A more sanguine view is that "Despite its title the movie was an indictment of intemperance and intolerance even to the point of putting responsibility for racism squarely on bigoted whites."[8]

On 12 August 1915, the *Telephone* carried a short article announcing that the film would be screened privately for the mayor, city council, and city attorney. "They will consider the question if the showing of the picture is likely to cause any race feeling in Bloomington."[9] The following day, the *Telephone* reported that the city administrators "could see nothing in it to excite race feeling" and decided it would be shown that night as advertised. "About 15 people made up the audience for the private show, including a number of ladies—A.C. Coyle, representing the city council, said of the film: 'I see nothing in the picture that might cause unusual unrest among the negroes, and if anything it teaches a good moral lesson that would prove uplifting to the colored race.'"[10]

Juxtaposing Reverend Henderson's and A. C. Coyle's statements shows mutual fear of the "other." Henderson's concern about "race feeling" reflected the history of brutal intimidation of blacks by whites from the days of slavery up to the present. Coyle was worried about unrest among blacks, not about the white lynch mobs that Henderson feared. Coyle's statement is also remarkable for its assertion that "the colored race" needed moral lessons. We don't know directly what he or she had in mind, but the "lesson" might well have been that blacks needed to keep their place or be "taken by a mob."

Continued as 'Racial Divide' on page 8.

First Birdman in Bloomington

By Lee Ehman

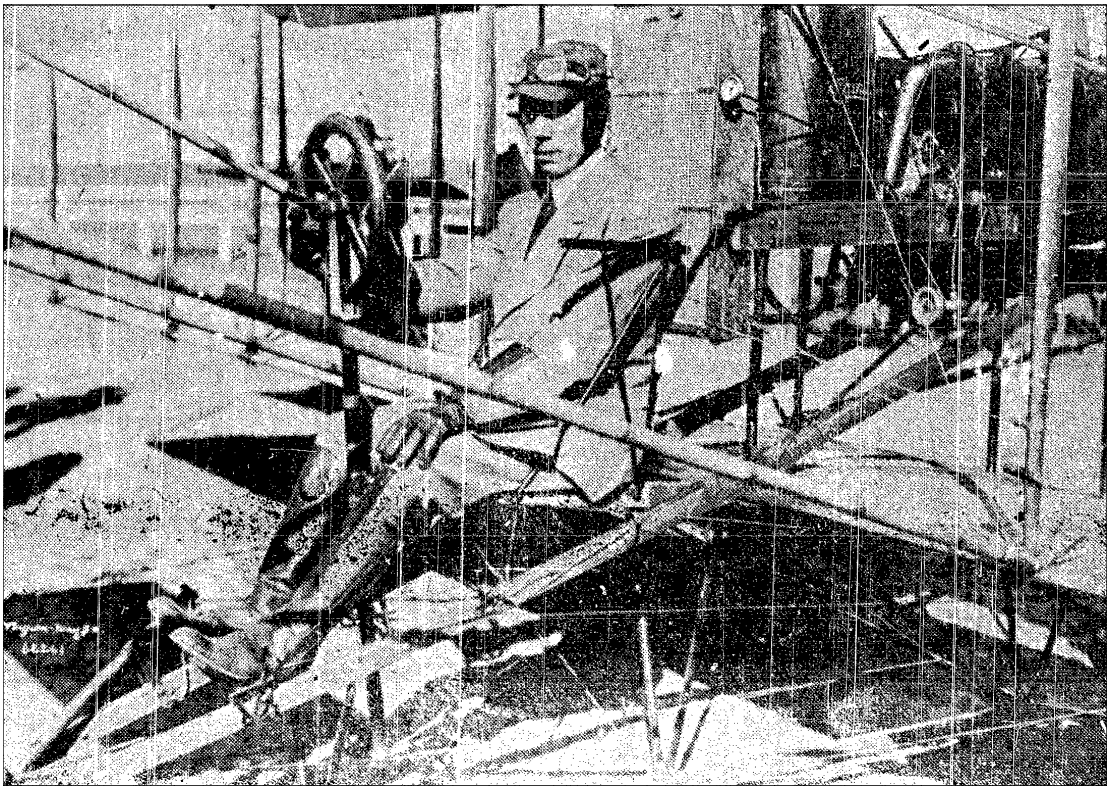
In the aviation display case in the museum on the Monroe County History Center's second floor, near the Schmaltz Bear, visitors see a small piece of round wood, labeled "From the first airplane that came to Bloomington. Fell near Dunn Meadow." Donated by the Wylie House Museum, the artifact has no other identifying information.

A series of October 1911 *Bloomington Daily Telephone* articles reveal the story behind that bit of bamboo. Town merchants of the Commercial Club had formed the Booster Day committee to promote business.[1] They contracted for $700 with the Curtiss Aviation Company to perform two airplane flights for the large crowd they hoped to draw into Bloomington. The first newspaper headline was "'Birdman' with Machine Coming." It included an invitation to mayors and other officials from the surrounding area: "Take a ride in the air ship, and listen to the band play. Welcome to our city. There will be a hot time… stand on the hub of the wheel of the center of population and feel the world go around."[2] The next day's paper published a long, rather ghoulish, article on aviation deaths.[3] Perhaps this was also part of the attempt to draw a large gathering for the event.

Three days before the planned flights in Bloomington, a Curtiss pilot was killed in Seattle, and the company indicated it might not be able to fly. But the Booster Day committee threatened a lawsuit for breach of contract. A substitute flier, Horace F. Kearney, arrived on 10 October with his airplane and mechanics. Kearney had been injured in August, staying in a hospital for six weeks. According to a history of early aviation, "Horace F. Kearney [was] known among his fellow aviators as 'Sure Shot Kearney' because of his claim that he could take his Curtiss biplane off a nickel and land it on a postage stamp…."[4]

The crew had to assemble the airplane, shipped in pieces via railroad, and wanted a quiet place to work. But the Booster Day committee insisted the crew put it together on the town square, to keep the people near their businesses.

On 11 October, the crew made their way to Dunn Meadow and made ready for the first of two scheduled flights in front of what the newspaper describes as a crowd of thousands. Apparently Kearney decided to take off toward the east, starting in the west end of what was then a rutted former farmer's field. While Kearney did spot a post at the far end, he neglected to see the barbed wire fence the post supported. The uneven ground prevented him from gaining as much speed as he expected, and, suddenly, he saw the fence close at hand. He hauled back on the controls to raise the nose and clear the fence, but stalled, pivoted to one side, and crashed, the right wing catching a tree. This was lucky, because he was thrown clear to the



"Horace Kearney in the Aeroplane just as it leaves the ground." Original caption and photograph from the *Bloomington Daily Telephone* (11 October 1910).

Continued...

First Birdman in Bloomington

Spauling's plane being paraded on Sixth Street opposite the Monroe County Court House. From the collection of the Monroe County History Center, 1996.004.0397.

side, and the engine, placed immediately behind him, didn't crush him. He lay dazed in the meadow next to the ruined machine. So much for taking off from nickels!

Newspaper accounts report that the large crowd surged forward to the crash and began frantically tearing the airplane apart to secure souvenirs. Thus the piece of bamboo in our museum's collection. The crowd was unruly, fistfights broke out, and one citizen was arrested. One of the airplane's crew members, wishing to rescue what was left so that they could rebuild it, drew a revolver and threatened to shoot if the people didn't stop completely ruining the plane. Eventually, the crew did haul off the remainder of the aircraft and reconstruct it in St. Louis.

Horace Kearney, who owned the airplane himself, stated that repairs would cost $1,000. The plane was too expensive to insure. The Booster Day committee felt sorry for him, and, although he didn't fulfill the two-flight contract, they paid him half his fee, $350.

A few days after Kearney's flight in Bloomington, he flew the rebuilt machine in St. Louis. In December, he flew at Atchison, Kansas, with crutches lashed to his plane.[5] A year later, in what was to be his last flight, he attempted to fly a "hydro-aeroplane" from Los Angeles to San Francisco on 15 December 1912. Sadly, he crashed in the ocean off Redondo Beach and was never found.[6]

In Bloomington, the Commercial Club tried again. On 7 June 1912, they held another Booster Day with an airplane flight from Dunn Meadow. This time, the plane actually flew for a crowd of 7,000, although "… tricky air currents compelled Spauling [the pilot] to bring his machine to the ground." During his landing, Spauling crashed into a fence while avoiding power and telephone lines.[7]

One hundred years later, we salute these brave pioneer pilots who added their colorful chapters to Monroe County's rich history.

Notes

1. "Bloomington business leaders promoted their city through the Burford booklet and the 1912 'Souvenir of Bloomington' published by the Commercial Club, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce." Bloomington Restorations, Inc., *Images of America: Bloomington and Indiana University* (Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 28.
2. *Bloomington Daily Telephone,* 9 October 1911.
3. "The Aeroplane Not So Fatal," *Bloomington Daily Telephone,* 10 October 1911.
4. Howard Lee Scamehorn, *Balloons to Jets: A Century of Aeronautics in Illinois, 1855–1955* (Chicago: H. Regnery Co., 1957), 97.
5. "Kearney Still in Aviation Game," *Bloomington Daily Telephone*, 12 December 1911.
6. "Search for Kearney Ends," *New York Times*, 16 December 1912.
7. "Thousands Turned Out to See Plane Flight Here in 1912," *Herald Telephone & Sunday Herald-Times*, 24 September 1968, Section 13, pp. 10, 12.

News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

Revised Probate Records Index Available

The Genealogy Library's finding aid for probate records has been recently re-indexed, eliminating errors and omissions in the old version, and is available in a new printout prepared by Elizabeth Schlemmer, Randi Richardson, and Lee Ehman. *Monroe County Probate Records, 1818–1872* lists the parties alphabetically by last name, includes the box and folder number, and provides a description telling whether the documents deal with heirs, a guardianship, or an estate.

Cemetery Iconography Case Exhibit

A new exhibit, "Tombstone Art and Iconography," is on display near the entrance to the Genealogy Library. Volunteers Sarah Rosencrans and Lauren Baker assisted in the design of the exhibit, and Lauren also contributed photographs. Volunteer Laura McIntosh loaned the top of a grave marker found in a Monroe County barn. The exhibit explores the variety and meaning of the symbols and images that appear on tombstones. For example, wheat sheaves symbolize a call to heaven (at harvest time in the autumn of life), an obelisk indicates an important person, and a column stands for the death of a patriarch. Other examples include flowers and their meanings; religious, fraternal, and military symbols; and various shapes and design elements, such as angels, cherubs, and hands.

Racial Divide — Continued

From page 5

On August 14, the day after the film's showing, two articles appeared. One stated that "The film was generally pronounced one of the best ever shown here. Many colored people attended the show."[11] The other article reproduced a letter to the editor from Reverend R. M. H. Henderson elaborating his objection to the film. His passionate argument tied the film to the "degredation [sic] and damning blight of slavery." He stated that "The half-nude slave gang, the shackles, the overseers, whip, lynch law in the rarest and most improbable form portrayed, deduct a conclusion that disfranchisement is justified on negro identity…." He concluded by warning of the destruction of democracy.[12]

The film generated determined opposition from the NAACP and elsewhere, forcing Fox to rename it *The New Governor* and delete some of its most degrading and violent scenes.[13] Several cities banned screening of the film, including Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Toledo. It is unclear whether Bloomington saw the original or a censored version.

The incident shows the very different views held by whites and blacks. It also highlights the unique role of the A.M.E. church in articulating the black viewpoint. Bloomington had no other voice in 1915 that could advocate for the benefit of the black community.[14] Reverend Henderson, like other black ministers of his time, spoke for that community; otherwise, *The Nigger* would have been another of the many unremarked-upon expressions of black inferiority and white supremacy.

Notes

1. James H. Madison, *The Indiana Way: A State History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986), 169.
2. James H. Madison, *A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America* (New York: Palgrave for St. Martin's Press, 2001), 18–19.
3. "Colored School is Occupied," *Bloomington Telephone*, 7 December 1915, p. 4 col. 4.
4. "'The Nigger' is Protested!" *Bloomington Telephone*, 11 August 1915, p. 1 col. 7.
5. Daniel J. Leab, "The Gamut from A to B: The Image of the Black in Pre-1915 Movies," *Political Science Quarterly* 88 (1973): 68.
6. Anthony Slide, *American Racist: The Life and Films of Thomas Dixon* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004), 65.
7. William W. Giffin, *African Americans and the Color Line in Ohio, 1915–1930* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2005), 72.
8. Thomas Cripps, "The Birth of a Race Company: An Early Stride Toward a Black Cinema," *Journal of Negro History* 59 (1974): 30–31.
9. "Private Exhibit of 'The Nigger,'" *Bloomington Telephone*, 12 August 1915, p. 1 col. 6.
10. "Council OK's 'The Nigger'!" *Bloomington Telephone*, 13 August 1915, p. 1 col. 6.
11. "Great Crowd Sees 'The Nigger,'" *Bloomington Telephone*, 14 August 1915, p. 1 col. 6.
12. "Colored Pastor on 'The Nigger,'" *Bloomington Telephone*, 14 August 1915, p. 1 col. 3.
13. For a detailed account of offensive scenes and censorship in Ohio, see Giffin, *African Americans*, 71–73.
14. The Indianapolis chapter of the NAACP was founded in 1912, but it is unknown if that chapter was active in opposition to showing the film. The Monroe County chapter did not exist until 1977.

Update: Michael's 1830 Emancipation

By Lee Ehman

In the February 2004 *Monroe County Historian*, I reported on the 1830 emancipation of a slave, Michael, by Richard McCorkle. I asked readers to add information they might have. James Matthew Richmond has provided additional details that offer interesting insights.

Michael (also referred to as Micah), then a young boy, was willed to Richard McCorkle by his father in a 26 December 1816 will recorded in Rutherford County, Tennessee. The will specified that "I will my son Richard B. my negro boy Micah till he is twenty eight years of age, then to be set free if prudent and safe, otherwise to remain his property."

According to Mr. Richmond, it is possible that Michael's mother was Dinah, or Dine, enumerated in the 1820 Sumner County, Tennessee, U.S. Census, and who was freed by Richard McCorkle in his will ("I will my negro woman Dine to be considered as free, only under care and direction and government of my heirs"). Presumably this happened in 1818 when the will was probated.

Mr. Richmond also cited family records indicating that Richard McCorkle, a minister, at one time came from Tennessee to live in New Harmony, Indiana, during its early utopian years, but became disenchanted there. It is unclear when he came to Monroe County. At some point, he moved on to Washington, Illinois, in Tazewell County, where he started the Christian Church in 1831. Michael, now freed, accompanied them to Illinois, working on establishing their home and farm there. It is not known how long he stayed with the family.

Note

1. Rutherford County, Tennessee, Will Book 4, p. 180. The will was probated in March 1818.

Update: Hitchrack "Down" around the Square

By Penelope Mathiesen

When did the hitchrack around Bloomington's courthouse square finally come down? In an earlier issue of the *Monroe County Historian* (October 2008), I reported that the hitchrack probably went out of use during the 1920s, and that it disappeared from contemporary photographs sometime during the 1930s. More precise information has now come to light in the form of the following newspaper article.

Indianapolis Star, 8 January 1937

WHOA, DOBBIN! YOU'RE DONE AT BLOOMINGTON

City employes [sic] with acetylene torches, heavy wrenches and crowbars started the task this afternoon of removing Monroe county's public relic of the horse and buggy days—the hitchrack around the public square. Mayor A. H. Berndt received permission yesterday from the county commissioners to have the iron railings and water troughs, standbys of old Dobbin, removed. The city wrecking crew expects the task to consume another day.

Undated photograph of the Monroe County Courthouse showing hitchrack. From the collection of the Monroe County History Center, 1985.014.0001.

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* Denotes New Members

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Hylant Group
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Jeanne Walters Real Estate
Malibu Grill
Meadowood Retirement Community
Morrow Realtors
Oliver Winery

New & Renewed Members — November 15 to January 14

Monroe County History Maker
CFC, Inc.
Cook Group Incorporated

Patron
Willa "Dee" Keller
Bob Ralston

Sustaining
Philip & Bonnie Anderson
Fleurette M. Benckart
William & Patricia Cron
James & Martha Dawson
Robert & Joann Dodd
Susan Ferentinos & Danielle McClelland
Richard S. Forkner
Henry & Alice Gray
Bob & Julie Hammel
Lois Heiser
Marion & Lucy Jacobs
Ross S. Jennings
Bob & Allison Lendman
Richard & Jill Lesh
Jim & Jeanne Madison
Charles & Judy (Julia) McClary
Lee Ann Merry
David & Martha Nord
Patricia & Anthony Pizzo
Carol Seaman
Curt & Judy Simic
Frank & Carol Zeller
Paul & Charlotte Zietlow

Family
Jack & Sue Ellen Bowman
Randy & Vivien Bridges
Dan Deckard & Maria Bucur-Deckard
James & Margarete Faber
Susan Hingle
Mary (Kate) Kroll
Bob & Sara LeBien
Dick & Kathy McFall
Tom & Emilie Schwen*
Phyllis C. Schwitzer
Judith Skirvin
Dan & Joyce Turpen
Don & Virginia Tyte
David P. & Carol Walter
Wayne Warden, Jr.
Bill Warner*
John & Linda Whikehart

Basic
Jean L. Anderson
Dale E. & Carolyn Anderson
John G. Baker
Myra G. Baker
Jane E. Billyeald
John & Mary Bohenkamp
Marilyn K. Bourke
Stephanie D. Bowman*
John & Marie Boyd
James & Becky Buher
Sandy Burke
Kitty Burkhart
Jane W. Burris
Anne Kinsey Call
John & Amber Challifour
Ruel & Shirley Cheatham
Wanda Clegg
Judy Crandall
Vicky A. Crowe
Kate Cruikshank
Richard & Carol Darling
John D. & Sara J. Davenport
Justin & Hillary Detty*
James M. & Roberta L. Diehl
Scott & Rebecca Eberle
Bridget L. Edwards
FamilySearch - Library Rights
Al & Liz Feitl
Roger & Ann Fierst
Jerry & Linda Forshee
Philip L. Fowler, USMC
Melanie Graves
Elizabeth Hanson
Jane W. Hatchel
Susan Hathaway
Dorothy Heiser
Rex Hinkle
Michael Hoff & Susan Fernandes
Diana Hoffman
Bill & LuAnne Holladay*
R. Kent & Anne Honeycutt
Herb Hoover*
Laurie D. Hoover
Tina M. Jernigan
G. Bruce Johnson
Benjamin O. Keutzer & Marion Incollingo Keutzer
Iris F. Kiesling
Connie Young Kitchen
David & Margaret Lemon
Janett B. Lowes
Max & Jane Marsh
Edris Mathiesen
Tom & Susan McGlasson
Rose H. McIlveen
Ida Giotto Medlyn
Ben & Christine Mitchell
Ann W. Moore
Tim Morrison & Linda Hunt
Anton & Victoria Neff
Gloria Noone
Pat & Peggy Page
James Pershing & Patricia Lorena Pershing
Patricia Powell
Tom Rea
Kay H. Reglein
Randi Richardson
Louise Arnett Selden
John H. & Lorna R. Seward
Constance T. Shotts
Darrel & Jane Smith
Phil & Linda Stafford
Amy F. Thompson
Suzanne Trisler
Alvin & Bonita Trisler
Armen Vartian & Candice Foss
Richard & Wilma Worsena
Robert E. & B. Ann Wrenn
Dick & Betty Yoder
Julia Tatum Yonkers

Student/Teacher
Sarah Clevenger
Susan DeMoss

February Auction Thank You

To Brett & Barb Haley and Tod & Lisa Weseman

We sincerely thank professional auctioneers Brett and Barb Haley and Tod and Lisa Weseman for years of help at the February auction. Please note that we are discontinuing the February auction in order to concentrate on the June sale. So much merchandise arrives throughout the year that our committee is kept busy moving, receiving, processing and promoting for the June sale. The Haleys and Wesemans have made a tremendous donation of service though the years, and furnished lots of enjoyment, and we are grateful.

Volunteers of the Year

Special thanks to all of the History Center's amazing volunteers.

The History Center celebrated its amazing volunteers on December 13. Special recognition was given to a few of the many dedicated volunteers that were in attendance.

Pictured left to right: Kevin Leffel, Outstanding Service; Lou Malcomb, Outstanding Service; Liz Knapp, namesake of the Liz Knapp Genealogy Library Volunteer of the Year, Sunny Aldrich, Youngest Volunteer and first recipient of a scholarship to the Gayle Cook Jr. Historian Camp; John and Joyce Holmes, Gayle Cook Volunteer of the Year.

Teacher of the Year Working with MCHC

Teaching American History Grant Participant

Rebecah (Becky) Boyle received the Caleb Mills Indiana History Teacher of the Year Award in December 2010 from the Indiana Historical Society. Becky is currently one of 24 teachers participating in a Teaching American History grant in participation with multiple organizations including the Monroe County History Center. The focus of the grant is to help teachers teach American history using examples of Monroe County and Indiana history.

Pictured: Jim Madison, Becky Boyle, and Bill Bartelt

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

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Monroe County Historical Society's

Monroe County Historian

Feb. 2011
Vol. 2011 Issue 1

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

- Register Now -
4th Annual Benefit Gala
Friday, February 11

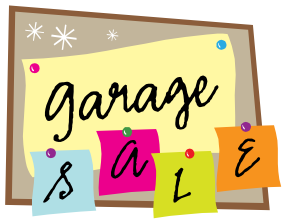
THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

Plan for June Garage Sale

Our June garage sale is known not only as the largest in Monroe County (at 22,000 sq. ft.) but as a source of high quality merchandise.

Have an extra car? For several years we have even sold a donated car at the sale. Keep us in mind! Donations are eligible for tax-deduction. Sorry we cannot use clothing, outdated computers or TVs, broken furniture or non-working appliances. We can sell almost everything else.



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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202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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