Record Store Day Celebration April 16

Visiting Monroe County’s musical past and present

Don’t miss visiting the History Center on Saturday, April 16, when Monroe County’s rich musical past and present will be on exhibit with vinyl records. Over 175 records have been loaned for the special exhibit and day long events. Exhibits will range from a display of RCA record players, collections of vinyl records from the 1950’s to the present, live music, and hands-on activities for everyone.

Monroe County has played a significant role in bringing music to the masses, particularly through the many record players, hifi’s, and stereos manufactured here by RCA.

The range of vinyl records includes John Mellencamp, Hoagy Carmichael, Bill Monroe, and many more artists, representing a wonderful sampling of local talent. Record collections in the exhibition were loaned by Landlocked Music, Secretly Canadian, Bloomington Area Music, WFHB and many other community record collectors.

There is renewed interest in vinyl records among collectors and a quick look at the internet shows many sites now selling new vinyl, vintage vinyl, boxed sets and more.

Here is the schedule of events for this special day. Choose a favorite event and spend time at the History Center. First floor events are free. Entry to the exhibit galleries is $2.

Schedule of Events

1 pm—2:30 pm MAKING MUSIC: Instruments one-on-one with A-CHORD. Learn music basics BOX CAR BOOKS
1:30 pm—5:30 pm PHOTO BOOTH: Get your picture taken with your musical craft or favorite instrument $1 per photo
2:30 pm—3:30 pm BOBBI LANCASTER: Noted Children’s Singer-Songwriter Music4Kids!
4:00 pm-5:30 pm RECORD ART and MAKING MUSIC
4:30 pm PIZZA: $1 a slice (Until supplies run out)
5:30 pm—8:00 pm BLOOMINGTON STORY TELLERS BOOTH
7:00 pm—8:00 pm ATOMIC BOMBAY featuring Grammy Nominee FRANKIE CAMERO

• Event Free 1 pm—8 pm, first floor
• $2 Admission to Galleries, second floor
• Music All Day

Contact the MONROE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER for more information
Calendar of Events
All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

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

**April**

THUR 7—Annual Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm
FRI 8—Folk Music Series 8 pm
SAT 9—WFHB’s Saturday’s Child Free concert featuring TBA 11 am-Noon
TUE 12—Civil War Roundtable Justin Smith presents “The First Irish” 7 pm
FRI 15—Community Voices Gallery presents “Irish American Heritage” Reception, 5 pm
SAT 16—”Record Store Day” Live music, crafts, vinyl exhibit opening 1 pm
THUR 21—Visit us at the Convention Ctr for the Business Expo 10 am-8 pm
THUR 21—3rd Thursday Series Larry Cady and Steve Rolfe present “Monroe County’s Involvement in the Civil War” 7 pm
SAT 23—”Scout Day” Pinewood Derby Clinic 10 am

**May**

WED 4—Genealogy Group Bob Dodd presents Communities of Monroe County
TUE 10—Civil War Roundtable Mark LaPointe “Civil War Music,” 7 pm
SAT 14—WFHB’s Saturday’s Child Free concert featuring TBA 11 am-Noon
THUR 19—3rd Thursday Series Cory Burger Presents “At War, At Home Monroe County and the Civil War,” 7 pm

Current & Upcoming Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

**Visions of Industry**
IU Anthropology Students Closes: June 4th
A composition of photographs of industrial sites in and beyond Monroe County, taken by graduate students of Professor April Sievert.

**Local Records: Past & Present**
Opens: Apr. 16 Closes: Jul. 30
Record Store Day 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 local-music focused, Local Records: Past and Present.

**19th Century Star Quilts**
Opens: Feb. 25 Closes: Jun. 5
The American Quilt Study Group’s traveling exhibit, 19th Century Star Quilts, debuted at the History Center on Feb. 25. The collection expresses many interpretations on one of the oldest quilt block patterns—the star.

**Irish American Heritage**
Indiana Celtic Community
Opens: April 15th Closes: July 23rd
The Irish American Heritage exhibit strives to capture a broad range of representation of Monroe County community members with Irish-American connections. This is also a showcase of Irish-American history for visitors to learn more about the experiences of immigrants coming to the U.S.

**Pinewood Derby Workshops @ the History Center!**
April 23rd
The annual Pinewood Derby official race will be held at the Monroe County Fair Grounds April 30th. Before the big race, come to the History Center to calibrate your Derby Car. We will have stations to touch up your paint job and make minor repairs. You can also test your car on a miniature Pinewood Track! If you are not in the big race on the 30th, but have a car from years past, come to the History Center to recalibrate your car and compare yours to others.
Message from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

As we conclude our fiscal year on March 31, 2011, we are grateful to our members, volunteers and especially to our staff for making it a wonderful year.

As a member of the Monroe County Historical Society, I hope you and your guests will be able to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 7. This is always an important meeting for election of board and officers, adoption of the budget and new by-laws changes. We will host a reception at 6:30 p.m. at the History Center in the Education Room with the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Following the Annual Meeting, you will have an opportunity to hear about plans for interactive exhibit planning.

Ric Snodgrass has been working with the staff and Interactive Committee to plan how we can incorporate interactive experiences with our collections and exhibits. As we are concluding the planning process, it is important that our members have an opportunity to learn about the plans and provide you with the opportunity to give your input.

Looking forward to seeing you Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.!

Board President

News from the Library
genealogy@monroehistory.org

News from the Library

New Publication

Our new publication, *A Brief History of Monroe County* by Glenda Murray, is now available for purchase at the Museum Store or in the Genealogy Library for $2.00.

New Items on the Shelves

Thanks to the generosity of donors and the assistance of Jackie Gilkey with accessioning, the following items are now available in the Genealogy Library:


Newspaper Clippings Donated

A donation of three large boxes of cards and envelopes containing death notices, obituaries, and other news items from Bloomington newspapers has been received from longtime Genealogy Library volunteer Frances Wampler. The items were clipped from newspapers and placed either on 3 x 5 cards or in envelopes. These are being filed in the Genealogy Library’s newspaper clipping drawers. The items are useful to researchers in “filling out the picture” of an ancestor and placing people in Monroe County even if they are absent from censuses or other records. The library extends its thanks to Fran for all the time and effort she put into this project. (For an example of one of these items, see “The Old Gray Goose” on Page 7.)
Hunter House: A Lost Bloomington Mansion

By Penelope Mathiesen

Atop a hill north of downtown Bloomington, Eleventh Street crosses Walnut and dead-ends in the parking lot of the High Point commercial center. Upon this lofty site once stood a grand mansion, Hunter House, whose grounds covered an entire city block. Morton C. Hunter built the house at 644 North Walnut sometime before 1852, when it was depicted on an old county map and described as "one of the finest homes of the town." The grounds of Hunter House, a Greek Revival mansion with a stately porch, extended from Walnut to Washington and Cottage Grove to Twelfth Street. The property was beautifully landscaped with native North American species and English imports. Arbors, rose and flower gardens, orchards, stone statuary, a fish pond, and magnificent trees created an atmosphere of romantic beauty similar to old Southern gardens. A long drive entered the property from Walnut Street, wound around the house, and exited in the middle of Cottage Grove between Walnut and Washington. The interior decoration featured white-painted woodwork, 14-foot ceilings, large rooms, and beautifully designed fireplaces. Guests recalled rosewood antique furniture, delicate Haviland china, and gleaming silver. An informal sitting room, preferred by the family and used to entertain neighborhood children, had a bay window overlooking the vicinity of Cottage Grove and Walnut. The Hunters entertained both town and gown in their home, known for its culture and social distinction.

Morton C. Hunter was born in Versailles, Indiana, and received a law degree from Indiana University in 1847. On 26 September 1848, he married Martha Adaline Labertew. Her father, Asher Labertew, owned a large tract of farmland north of Eleventh Street, which then marked the edge of town. Hunter purchased land including the house property (more than 14 acres) from his wife's parents on 5 February 1861 for the sum of $2,190. Hunter practiced law in Bloomington, but his career was interrupted by Civil War service, during which he rose to the rank of Brigadier General. After returning to civilian life, he served as a congressman and a stone industry pioneer, lending his name to the Hunter Valley quarry district.

Morton and Martha Hunter had two daughters and six sons. (Estimated birth years are based on 1860, 1870, and 1880 Monroe County censuses.) Mary Lizzie (b. c1851) married Indiana University chemistry professor Thomas C. Van Nuys; they moved to Charlottesville, Virginia. Morton Craig, Jr. (b. c1854) became head of a general steamship and railroad agency. George D. (b. c1856) became secretary of the Hunter Bros. Stone Co. John Asher (b. c1859) farmed in Knox County, Indiana before returning to Bloomington in 1892 to live with General Hunter and look after the business interests of Hunter Bros. Joseph Holt (b. c1861) established an office in Washington, D.C., to assist veterans applying for government pensions and bounties. Frank T. (b. c1867) sold insurance and real estate in Seattle. Samuel M. (b. c1869) lived in Bloomington and Seattle, where he and Frank owned a ranch.

The fate of Hunter House fell to Minnie (b. c1872). On 29 December 1887, Morton C. and Martha A. Hunter conveyed to "Minnie Adaline Hunter their youngest daughter ... All that part or tract of land known as the Hunter homestead ... which Morton

Continued as 'Hunter House' on page 7.
Remote Monroe County Cemeteries in Deam Wilderness
By Bob Dodd

Most people probably think of cemeteries as neatly arranged rows of professionally carved stones with a manicured lawn. Many smaller, older cemeteries are far removed from this conception. In fact, many are now surrounded by forests and are difficult to locate. Indeed, some are lost.

Several Monroe County cemeteries are located in deep forest in the Deam Wilderness area of the Hoosier National Forest. A century or more ago this area was in private ownership and had been largely cleared of its original forest. The ridge tops and valleys were farmed for a few years until the thin soil lost its fertility and would no longer support viable crops or pastures. The federal government purchased most of the land in the first half of the twentieth century, and it has gradually reverted to its pre-settlement forested state. The Civilian Conservation Corps helped the process by planting trees, especially white pines, in some of the area. While it was inhabited, settlers established several small family cemeteries. Although some cemeteries for which we have records can no longer be found, a few can be located in the now forested area.

The most remote “located” cemetery in Monroe County is probably the Hays No. 2 Cemetery, which can be found at the end of a ridge in Polk Township south of Lake Monroe. The nearest road is State Highway 446, some 1.5 miles to the west (as the crow flies). If you want to see this cemetery, you must hike for three miles on one of the marked trails in the Deam Wilderness area. You will not see much when you arrive. The forest service has erected a sign identifying the cemetery, which is now surrounded by large trees. There are three crude, uncarved stones that mark the sites of graves.
Other cemeteries in the wilderness area, although closer to roads, are even more difficult to access. Hays No. 1, Hillenberg No. 2, and Houshower are not on formal trails but are somewhat better preserved than Hays No. 2. The easiest cemetery to visit (and the largest) in the Deam Wilderness is Todd Cemetery, which has a parking area adjacent to Tower Ridge Road. Terrill Cemetery is also easy to find (a two-mile hike north of the Tower Ridge Road fire tower), but it is in Brown County.

What would it have been like to visit this area in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries when these cemeteries were in use and there were many small farms in the area? It is fun to let your imagination run wild and develop a mental picture of horse-drawn buggies or Model T Fords on rutted, unpaved roads carrying the mourners past small cornfields and pastures to the last resting place of their beloved.

The Old Gray Goose

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following article is an example of the unusual items that can be found in the Genealogy Library’s drawers of newspaper clippings. It is part of a recent donation; see related story in “News from the Library” on page 3 of this issue.

Bloomington Telephone, 28 May 1901

A Goose Story

“The old gray goose is dead.” Grandma Spaulding, an aged colored lady on south Lincoln street, mourns the death of her old gray goose, which she has owned for the past 24 years. The foul [sic] died yesterday of old age, and the old lady feels its loss almost as deeply as if it had been a member of her family. Mrs. Spaulding states that the goose was hatched 24 years ago on the plantation of her old master in Kentucky, and when she came to Bloomington she brought it. It has hundreds of descendants [sic] in the vicinity of Bloomington and has furnished many pounds of feathers to its owner. Mrs. Spaulding has cared for it as tenderly as a mother, and her grief at its death is remarkable.
Robert J. Lendman died March 19th, 2011 in Florida. Before moving to Florida, Bob and his wife, Allison, were friends and active supporters of the History Center and have many connections in Bloomington. He was Past President of Sabin Corp (Now Cook Polymer) and a Member of the Board of the Star of Indiana.

Bob is also survived by his son, David, daughter, Joan and their families. We ask that you keep the family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Celebrations of Life will be scheduled later in Bloomington. If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the History Center in memory of Bob, we have enclosed an envelope for that purpose and will notify the family of your donation.

The new owner of the Hunter property subdivided an area of 32 lots into Lade’s Addition. He restored the house in the 1920s, replacing the original porch with a two-story portico and retaining enough of the grounds to give the aura of a wealthy estate. Later, the house went through alternating periods as a rental and a single-family home. By 1974, high maintenance costs and zoning controversies doomed efforts to sell the mansion. The announcement that Hunter House was to be demolished prompted a public outcry. Preservationists designated the building “one of the city’s most historic,” but a wrecking permit was obtained before a proposed demolition ordinance could take effect.18 A report on the “piece by piece” dismantling of Hunter House provides an epitaph: “Its columns, interior woodwork, and window casings, are being carried away to be used by antique buffs in other buildings.”19

Notes
5. “Dr. Van Nuys Dead,” Bloomington Courier, 2 August 1898.
8. Untitled items, Bloomington Telephone, 8 July 1892 and 17 September 1909.
10. Untitled item, Bloomington Republican Progress, 3 April 1894.
11. Untitled item, Bloomington Telephone, 11 March 1892.
13. Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries, accessed online at: Bloomington.in.gov/ burials/internments; Winslow, “Hunters Play Big Role.”
14. Untitled item, Bloomington Telephone, 2 September 1890.
17. Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries.

IN MEMORIAM
ROBERT J. LENDMAN

C. Hunter and Martha A. Hunter his wife deeded to their son Hunter House continued...

Morton C. Hunter Jr. and Rita Hunter his wife and which they deeded to said Martha A. Hunter containing [23 ½] acres ... . If Morton C. Hunter survived Martha, he would retain a life interest in the property.12 Martha died on 3 February 1888. General Morton C. Hunter died on 25 October 1896; his funeral was “the largest ever held in Bloomington up to that time.”13

Except for a brief period in 1890 when Minnie left Bloomington to attend St. Mary’s in Terre Haute,14 she lived at Hunter House for most of her life. After General Hunter died (and Minnie inherited the house), her brother John and his family continued to live there, and much of the time, so did brother George and his wife. After John’s death in 1916, Bloomington city directories show that his wife, Mary, remained in the home with her two sons (and eventually their wives), George, and her sister-in-law Minnie. Everything changed when “Aunt Minnie” received an offer from Max Lade, comptroller for Showers Bros. She sold the house for $4,600 on 25 July 1919, married, and took the “beautiful heirloom furnishings inherited from her mother”; by 1924, Minnie had sold Lade the balance of the estate and left town with her husband.15 In 1925, Bloomington newspapers reported a funeral for “James Smedley, husband of Minnie Hunter, who committed suicide at Gosport.” Smedley, a Gosport restaurant operator, “left no note as to his troubles.”16 Minnie Smedley died on 30 November 1930.17

Visit the Business Expo

April 21—Bloomington Convention Center from 11 am—7 pm Come and visit the History Center’s booth located on the First Floor, in booth 103.
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.

The sale will take place as usual in the former RCA warehouse behind Cook Pharmica, our generous host. Please come enjoy the sale as a donor, volunteer or buyer.

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

**Send to:**
Monroe County History Center
202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

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