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

Monroe County Historical Society's

Monroe County Historian

June 2011
Vol. 2011 Issue 3

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

Annual Sale at Cook Pharmica is just around the corner!

Volunteers will be at the warehouse accepting donations of items (NO clothing, mattresses or non-working electronics– Please!) Monday thru Friday from 10am to 2pm now through June 7th. All donations are tax deductible.

The sale kicks off on Friday, June 10th from 8am to 4pm and Saturday, June 11th from 8am to 2:30pm.

This year we have some wonderful antiques, furniture, jewelry, art work and a number of other amazing items! You won't want to miss this sale! Call 812-332-2517 with questions

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

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□ History Patron	$500
□ Monroe County History Maker	$1000

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Bloomington, IN 47408

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June 2011
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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

Issue Highlights

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8 - Membership Form

Historian Staff
Editor: Diane Ballard
Design: Hillary Detty
Copywriter: Cory Burger

Monroe County Historian

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

Gayle Cook JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM

Join us in creating HISTORY!!!

The Monroe County History Center is launching a new summer program for kids ages 6-12! Join us in bringing history to life with arts, crafts, field trips each week, and more! Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm. 3 Camp Weeks Available, Week 1: Prehistoric Monroe County, June 13 — June 17, Venture to Blue Springs Caverns! Week 2: Historic Monroe County 1600-1780s, July 18 — July 22, Visit Hilltop Gardens! Week 3: Historic Monroe County 1780-1900s, Aug 8 — Aug 12, Embark to Wylie House!

Each individual session is $125/participant, which includes: Camp t-shirt, snacks, field trip fees, craft fees, a one year membership for your child to the history center, and a certificate of achievement! If you book for 2 sessions, receive a $10 discount on your final total. If you book for 3 sessions, receive a $20 discount on your final total. Museum members receive 10% off each week! Discounts available for households with two or more children enrolled.

Enroll your children, grandchildren or any child you know that has a love for amazing adventures, now! Spaces are limited and filling fast!
Contact Amanda Barron now at education@monroehistory.org or (812) 332-2517 to reserve your spot!

MONROE COUNTY CIVIL WAR DAYS
BRINGING THE BLUE AND GRAY TO LIFE

Step Back in Time 150 Years!

Visit the Monroe County History Center on Saturday, July 30th from 10am-4pm for exciting, hands on, activity-filled day that will take you back to life in the 1860's. This amazing day will include a soldier's day with cooking examples: try hardtack, roll call, firing drills, a working medical tent, an 1800's woodworker, spinning of wool, sock knitting. WildCare will be onsite with birds of prey and the superstitions soldiers put on these birds. Mark LaPointe, Civil War Era Musician, will be here performing his amazing music!

Activities will include: Make your own trail mix, try your hand at using a quill, plant an heirloom plant, make your own quilt sampler and so much more!

Admission will be $2 at the gate, kids 4 and under will be free!

Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

June
THUR 9—Board meeting, 4:00 PM
FRI 10—Garage Sale at Cook Pharmica 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.
SAT 11—Garage Sale at Cook Pharmica 8:00 AM-3:00 PM.
SAT 11—WFHB presents Saturday's Child TBA 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.
MON 13–FRI 17—First week of the Junior Historian Program: "Prehistoric Monroe County".
TUES 14—Civil War Roundtable 7:00 PM Donna Schmink, "The 27th Indiana Battle Flag."
THUR 16—3rd Thursday Series: 7:00 PM Mick Reneisssen, "A History of Local Parks".
SAT 18—Bloomington Garden Club Annual Garden Walk 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Advance tickets for sale at the History Center.
SUN 19—Bloomington Garden Club Annual Garden Walk 12:00 PM-4:00 PM. Advance tickets for sale at the History Center.

July
SAT 9—WFHB presents Saturday's Child, TBA 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.
MON 18—FRI 22 Second week of the Junior Historian Program, "Historic Monroe County 1600-1780's".
THUR 21—3rd Thursday Series: 7:00 PM IU Archives and what it does for Monroe County historians presented by Dina Kellams.
FRI 29—Friday Folk Series 8:00 AM-10:00 PM.
SAT 30—Monroe County Civil War Days: Bringing the Blue and Gray to Life Civil War Encampment, All Day, Programs, Food and Entertainment.

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Local Records: Past & Present
Opens: Apr. 16 Closes: Jul. 30
Local Records: Past and Present looks at the history of music in Monroe County.

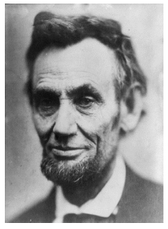
19th Century Star Quilts
Opens: Feb. 25 Closes: Jun. 5
The American Quilt Study Group's traveling exhibit, 19th Century Star Quilts, debuted at the History Center on Feb. 25. The collection expresses many interpretations on one of the oldest quilt block patterns—the star.

Indiana Celtic Community
IndianaCeltic.org

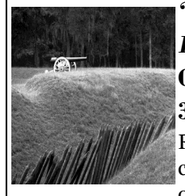
Irish American Heritage
Indiana Celtic Community
Opens: April 15th
Closes: July 23rd

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.

***"Illustrations by an Indiana Naturalist and Artist: Gillian Harris"* Opens: June 11th Closes: September 24th**
Gillian is affiliated with Sycamore Land Trust, Indiana Native Plant and Wildlife Society, The Bloomington Watercolor Society, and Bloomington Garden Club. Her illustrations highlight nature's beauty in detail with botanicals one finds in their own back yard.



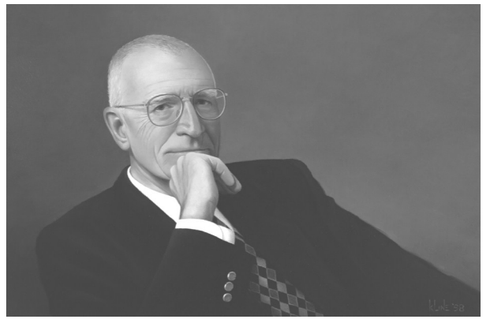
***"The Faces of Lincoln", exhibit on loan from the Indiana Historical Society* Opens: July 18th Closes: August 31st**
"The Faces of Lincoln" exhibit explores the image of Abraham Lincoln in three distinct sections, "Developing the Image", "Creating the Image", and



***"Reflections of the Civil War" Photographer Robert Morris* Opens: July 18th Closes October 30th**
Robert Morris has spent several years capturing emotionally evocative images of the historic battlefields of the Civil War. This exhibit features some of the most historically significant sites of the War as they are preserved today.

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Cook



Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Bill Cook
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Indiana University Auditorium
1211 East Seventh Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

Reception, Auditorium Lobby 5:30-6:15pm
Celebration, Auditorium 6:30pm

Parking will be available in Jordan Garage, located east of the Auditorium on Jordan Avenue between 3rd and 7th Street, as well as the Wells Library lot north of the Auditorium.

Captain W.M. Alexander, Monroe County Patriot continued...

Alexander's first marriage), did not. Hoover had married Josie Bowles on 29 June 1884, and their son, Allen P. (Philputt, Philpott, or Phillip), was born on 19 September 1890.[16] By 1900, Fred and Josie had moved to Alexander's farm. Their son, "the pride of old Capt. Alexander," lived with the family until his death from consumption on 25 April 1912, age 21.[17]

Documents sent on behalf of W. M. Alexander as part of his military pension file attest to many health problems between the time of his military service and his death at more than eighty years of age. A General Affidavit from Joseph E. Henley, attorney, dated 13 May 1912 states: "I have known Capt. Williamson Alexander for 40 years … during my entire acquaintance with him he has suffered from catarrh of head and complained of his heart. For many years at odd times he endured excruciating pain over his eyes …." A letter to the Commissioner of Pensions from John Q. Alexander, dated 19 June 1919, states: "My cousin Capt. Williamson M. Alexander … has been crippled with Rheumatism for twenty years or more and is getting worse every year and his heart is in such bad condition that he tells me that his physician has forbidden him from attempting to climb stairways … at the present time he is entirely blind and has to be waited on like a child …."

Fred and Josie Hoover cared for Captain W. M. Alexander until his death on 25 August 1921, age 83, at his home "of the infirmities of old age. He had been bedfast eighteen weeks. … He was a member of the Knights of Pythias [and] the Bloomington Post of the G.A.R. … . The funeral was held at his rural residence on East Tenth Street, with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery."[18] In his will, he left money for a monument to the Monroe County soldiers of all wars, which was eventually built on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

Josephine Hoover died on 17 August 1935, age 69. Fred P. Hoover died on 2 March 1943, age 86.[19] He had been an eight-year-old boy when the Civil War ended, cheering Monroe County's returning Union soldiers and was closely associated with the veterans as they died one by one. He was said to have helped his stepfather plan the monument "erected by reason of Capt. Alexander's will and money." Fred Hoover's death removed an important link with the Monroe County heroes of the Civil War years.[20]

Notes

1.The idea for this article and contributions to the preliminary research came from members of the Bloomington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
2. Brewster Family File, Genealogy Library, Monroe County History Center; Monroe County Marriage Book A, p. 100.
3. Weston A. Goodspeed, "History of Monroe County," in *Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown*, ed. Charles Blanchard (Chicago: F. A. Battey, 1884), p. 550; *Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries*, accessed at: bloomington.in.gov/burials.
4. M. F. Carter, *Dunn Cemetery, Indiana University Campus, Bloomington, Indiana* (IU Building and Grounds Department, 1955), p. 21; *Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries.*
5. Goodspeed, p. 550.
6. Company H Muster-in Roll, 18th Regiment Indiana Infantry, 16 August 1861; Special Orders, No. 234, Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, 12 October 1885 (corrected service record). Available in the Genealogy Library.
7. "Reunion Closes," unidentified newspaper item [ca. 1888]; untitled newspaper item, *Bloomington Telephone*, 9 March 1909.
8. Goodspeed, p. 550.
9. Monroe County Marriage Book 5, p. 77.
10. *Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries.*
11. Monroe County Marriage Book 7, p. 88.
12. Goodspeed, p. 550; *Monroe County Divorce Index, 1818–1960*, comp. Marilyn McCoy, Claude F. Rice, and Rachel Rice (2002), p. 49.
13. Nuptial notice, *Bloomington Telephone*, 13 January 1883.
14. *Monroe County Divorce Index*, p. 2; "A Second Suit for Divorce," *Bloomington Telephone*, 25 December 1894.
15. Certificate No. 122746, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C., sent to Williamson M. Alexander on 15 January 1898, his reply dated 4 May 1898. Available in the Genealogy Library.
16. Monroe County Marriage Book 7, p. 208; Index to Monroe County Birth Records, 1882–1920, p. 173.
17. Monroe County censuses for 1900, 1910, 1920; "Death of Fred Hoover Removes Link with Civil War Folks," *Bloomington Daily Telephone*, 4 March 1943; *Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries.*
18. "Captain W. M. Alexander, Soldier-Citizen, Answers Final 'Taps,'" *Bloomington Telephone*, 26 July 1921.
19. *Rose Hill & White Oak Cemeteries.*
20. "Death of Fred Hoover."

Grand Army of the Republic Celebrates Memorial Day in Washington Township

By Penelope Mathiesen

According to the following newspaper clipping, rousing celebrations took place on Memorial Day, 1888, in Monroe County's Washington Township, north of Bloomington. The community of Hindostan (shown on today's maps as Hindustan) is still in existence, as is Simpson Chapel, off SR 37 across from Oliver Winery.

HINDOSTAN

Bloomington Telephone, Friday, 1 June 1888

The G.A.R. Alexander Post No. 248 and the citizens of Washington township almost universally observed Memorial day at Hindostan and Simpson Chapel. Large crowds at both places aided the boys in blue, and the exercises at both points were beautiful and impressive, with the exception of some little want of familiarity on the part of some of the officials of the Post with their respective parts. At the chapel the crowd was unusually large, —the largest by far ever seen in the township. The church, a large new edifice, recently beautified and adorned by the Methodist church there, was crowded with a multitude surrounding it on the north and east and west. The music of the chapel choir was especially appropriate and affecting, as were the speeches of comrades D. O. Spencer, J. T. Langley, Joseph Rawlins, brother Tom Gaskins and Rev. Wenn ... . But the chief attraction was the thrilling recitation, interwoven with song, of Miss Elsie Mason, in her most excellent and touching rendition of the "Dying Heroes of Shiloh," during which as at Hindostan, also, many eyes unused to weeping were suffused with tears. Commander E. A. Knight was assisted by comrades Joseph Rawlins and Capt. W. H. Buskirk and Chaplain J. E. Bastin to whom was also assigned the duty of reading the roll of honor containing the names of our fallen heroes.

See What's Been Happening At The Monroe County History Center

To See More Pictures From These Events Please Go To: www.monroehistory.org

Pinewood Derby April 30th

The History Center sponsored the annual Boy Scout Pinewood Derby this year! The event took place at the Monroe County Fairgrounds and was open to the general public for the first time. The History Center donated 100 pinewood derby car kits and was onsite all day. All 100 car kits were turned into great racing cars and all of the guests had a great time.

CPR Class

The History Center staff became certified in CPR and First Aid in preparation for the Jr. Historian Summer Camp and to be better prepared for any emergency that may arise. Krystal Mackey, Community Training Center Coordinator, with IU Health Bloomington (formerly Bloomington Hospital), volunteered her time and the resources needed to provide this certification to our staff. Additionally we were trained in using an AED in conjunction with CPR. Hopefully the Center will be able to obtain a grant for a portable AED in the coming year.

Message from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

Change and growth seem to be the norm at the Monroe County History Center. We hope you've been by and noticed our new awnings, landscaping additions, artifact signage outdoors and a new bench. We are most grateful to the BloomingtonGarden Club for their contribution to enable these changes.

At our April Annual Meeting, Ric Snodgrass of Museumcroft, shared the work to date on our forthcoming Interactive Exhibits. We welcomed Bob Dodd, Liesl Loudermilk and Linda Stines as new Board of Trustees members. Lee Ehman's board term expired, but we are fortunate to have Lee still involved with our technology, grants and library committees. Dan Fierst and Susan Ferentinos are moving over to our Advisory Committee.

We lost a great friend in April. As we reflect on the life of Bill Cook, we have a smile on our hearts for his kindness to the History Center. His personal vintage record player is on display in the Vinyl exhibit in the Brown Gallery. Community services are planned for June 1 at the Indiana University Auditorium. I know that every day at the Monroe County Historical Society will be a day to be thankful to Bill and Gayle for their gifts of time, care and support for our mission.

We hope to see you soon at the History Center and at our Annual Garage Sale at Cook Pharmica warehouse on June 10 and 11th.

Connie Cady

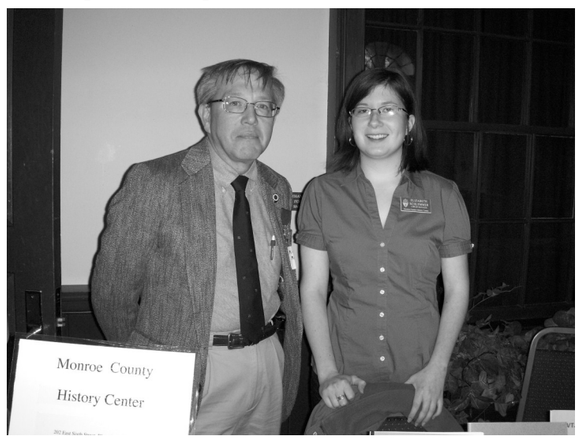
News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

News from the Library

Genealogy Library Represented at 2011 IGS Conference

Elizabeth Schlemmer, Genealogy Library Manager, and Penny Mathiesen, volunteer, staffed an exhibit table displaying Monroe County Historical Society publications at the Indiana Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in Indianapolis on 16 April 2011. Michael Maben, MCHS member, was elected IGS president. Next year's conference will be held on 28 April 2012 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Michael Maben, MCHS member and incoming president of IGS, with Elizabeth Schlemmer, Genealogy Library Manager, at IGS 2011 Conference.

New Items in the Library

The following items are now available in the Genealogy Library:

Carter, M. F., comp. *Dunn Cemetery, Indiana University Campus, Bloomington, Indiana*. IU Building and Grounds Department, 1955. Available in the Cemetery Files.

Perkins, B. Dottie McCormick. *Peterson Genealogy, 1641–1985*. Gift from Dick Peterson. Available on the Family History shelves.

Ross, V. A. and Hadley, A. R. *Indiana Post Offices*, vols. 1 and 2. Indiana Postal History Society, 2011. Available on the shelves. Gift from V. A. Ross.

Wiley, Lois M., comp. *History of the Monroe County Home Demonstration Association*. 1971. Available on the shelves.

Young, Glenn. *Young Genealogy*, with additions by Dick Peterson. 2011. Gift from Dick Peterson. Available on the Family History shelves.

Captain W. M. Alexander, Monroe County Patriot[1]

By Penelope Mathiesen

The Alexander Memorial on the southeast corner of the Monroe County Courthouse lawn. Photograph by Charles Gilbert Shaw, ca. 1934–36. From the collection of the Monroe County History Center. 1934.1.1.

Williamson Martin Alexander was born in Bloomington, Indiana, on 19 December 1838, the youngest of four children of John H. and Margaret J. Clark Alexander, who married in Monroe County on 26 March 1833. John, a son of Agnes Brewster and William James Alexander, also had three children from his first marriage to Catherine (Kitty) Bryant.[2] John was a farmer and ran a tannery. After Margaret died on 18 February 1848,[3] the family unit seems to have broken up. The 1850 Monroe County census lists Jno. (John) Alexander, 52, laborer, in the household of Washington Woodall, farmer; and Martin Alexander, 11, in the household of Samuel Dunn, farmer. John died in 1855 and was buried in Dunn Cemetery near his first wife, Kitty, and a son from his second marriage. Margaret and eventually other members of the family were buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.[4]

W. M. Alexander (also known as Williamson, Will, and Martin) lived in Bloomington until the death of his mother. After that, he went to work assisting local farmers and doing odd jobs. When he was twenty years old, he became a cattle herder in Iowa and Minnesota for two years. Upon his return to Bloomington, he studied the blacksmith's trade at Seward and Sons.[5]

On 16 August 1861, W. M. Alexander enlisted in Company H, 18th Indiana Volunteers, and entered the Union army as a sergeant. He was promoted through the ranks to captain before mustering out on 28 August 1865.[6] He took part in at least two dozen battles, including Blackwater, Cotton Plant, and Pea Ridge. After the war, Bloomington newspapers mentioned his attendance at the 23rd reunion of the "Old Brigade" (ca. 1888) and the 47th anniversary celebration of the Union victory at the battle of Pea Ridge (1909).[7]

After the Civil War, W. M. Alexander returned to Bloomington, resumed the blacksmith trade for several years, operated a meat market, and was appointed Deputy Sheriff. In the fall of 1876, he was elected Monroe County Sheriff. Two years later, he was re-elected to a second term by a sizeable majority. After this, he farmed until 1882, when he was elected Monroe County Auditor.[8]

W. M. Alexander experienced both joy and sorrow in his personal life. On 9 September 1868, he married Mickey J. (Jennie) Burch.[9] She died on 26 December 1869, age 26. Their daughter, Maggie, died on 3 December 1880, age 11.[10] On 6 January 1883, he married Eliza Jane (Jennie) Hoover.[11] She was the daughter of Captain John Sluss of Monroe County and had been divorced from Samuel Hoover on 28 April 1880.[12] A local newspaper printed a notice of the marriage of "Captain Williamson M. Alexander to Mrs. Jennie Hoover ... They were immediately driven to the depot and took the evening train for Louisville, then to Jacksonville, Fla. ... [We] wish the Auditor-elect and his happy bride a pleasant visit."[13] The marriage did not last. On 9 January 1893, Alexander filed for divorce. According to a local newspaper article, the judge granted a divorce to both parties with a settlement of property. A higher court overruled the decision. A second complaint was filed in Monroe County on 27 December 1894. The lengthy list of charges against Mrs. Alexander included "cruelty, failure to attend to household duties, and also insincierity [sic]."[14] The divorce became final on 5 September 1895 after Mrs. Alexander requested a change of venue to Lawrence County Circuit Court.[15]

Although the marriage ended, W. M. Alexander's relationship with his stepson, Fred P. Hoover (son of Mrs.

Continued on Page 7

The Alexander Memorial

By Penelope Mathiesen

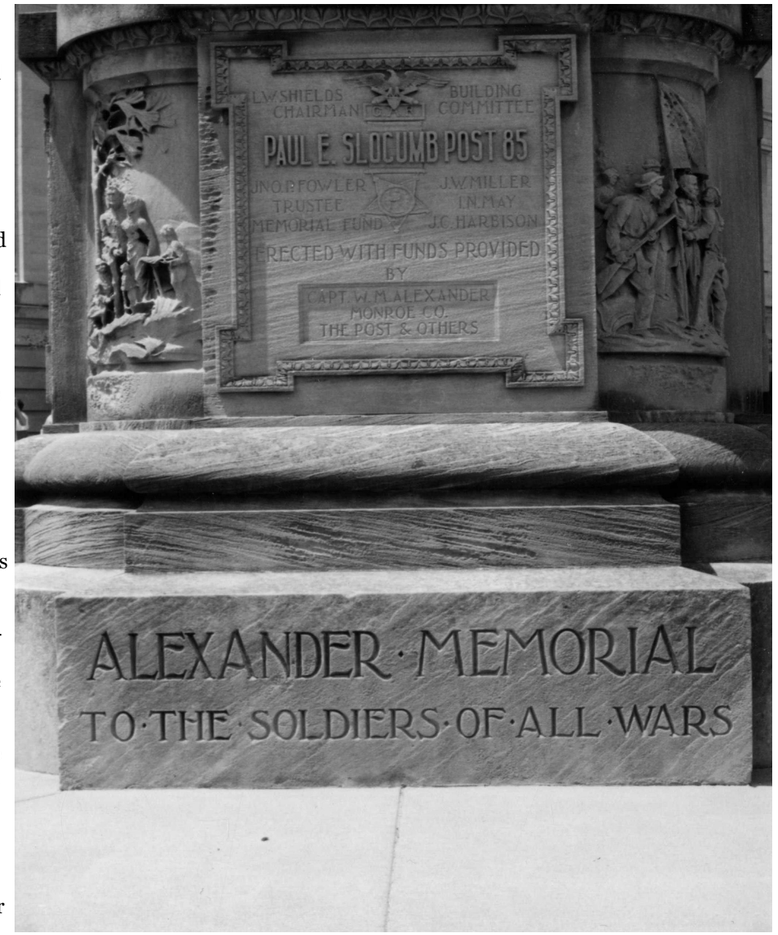
On the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn stands an imposing monument, often taken for granted by visitors to Bloomington's downtown square. The Alexander Memorial, honoring soldiers of all wars, was the idea of Civil War veteran Captain W. M. Alexander (see article elsewhere in this issue), who provided the initial funds in his will. Additional support came from Paul E. Slocumb Post 85 (Sons of the American Revolution) and others. George W. Bunting was the architect; Steer Construction Company served as contractor.

The Alexander Memorial was dedicated on 9 June 1928. A copper box placed in the cornerstone included a Bible, a group picture of all living Monroe County Civil War veterans, an American flag, and copies of local newspapers. A speech by Judge J. B. Wilson noted that the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, who fought to save the Union, had dwindled to just a few; "their noble phalanx has chiefly crossed the covered bridge, and they are upon the other shore."

The Alexander Memorial, carved from limestone, is 35 feet in height. The 12-foot-high base supports a tall shaft topped with an 8-foot-high figure of a Civil War soldier. A frieze directly below the soldier is decorated with leaves and shields. A frieze encircling the center of the shaft is decorated with eagles and dates of wars honored in the four commemorative panels on the four sides of the base of the monument. The east panel honors the Spanish American War; the north panel, World War I; the west panel, the Mexican War; and the south panel, the Civil War. At each corner of the base, curved relief panels depict military scenes. Two of the relief panels feature the work of local stone carvers. Joseph Graf was responsible for the charging infantry scene. Graf and Albert V. McIlveen created the cavalry charge scene.

The condition of the Alexander Memorial has deteriorated over the years; some inscriptions and images are faint or no longer visible. It was deemed in need of urgent treatment at the time it was surveyed for the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Inventories of American Painting and Sculpture database in 1993. The Bloomington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has collected information on the monument and hopes that it can one day be restored.

Sources: "Ceremonies Are Held for Monument Corner Stone," *Bloomington Daily Telephone*, 9 June 1928; Smithsonian American Art Museum's Inventories of American Painting and Sculpture database, accessed at: siris-artinventories.si.edu/ (for a description of the monument, enter "Bloomington, Indiana" as General Keyword, "Alexander Memorial" as Title, and "sculpture" as Subject).



The base of the Alexander Memorial, showing panel with dedication to the soldiers of all wars (bottom). Capt. W. M. Alexander is listed first among those who contributed funds (inset, above). From the collection of the Monroe County History Center. 1998.083.0265.