Monroe County History Center

Where the past and present meet.

812.332.2517

202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47408

monroehistory.org

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Monroe County Historical Society's

Monroe County Historian

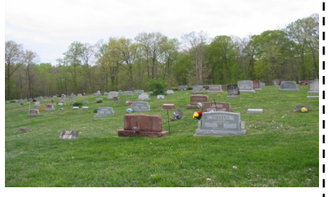
December 2011

Vol. 2011 Issue 6

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

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

Mt. Carmel Cemetery– Stinesville, Cemetery of the month for November and December



Unionville is home to three cemeteries: Unionville Community Cemetery, two parts and Little Union Cemetery. January Cemetery of the Month.

Cover painting by Dorothy Bain, courtesy of the Arthur Clark Estate, from the MCHC Collection

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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December, 2011
Vol. 2011 Issue 6

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

2 - Events Calendar
4 - Civil War Letter
5 - Bloomington Bicycle Craze
6 - What's Happening
7 - Grants
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.

SAVE the DATE

Annual Gala– Friday, February 24, at 6:00pm.
RSVP by Friday, February 17.

Making Clothes, Making Do: Carol Wise and the Art of Daily Life

Opening Reception: Saturday, December 10th, 5:30 to 8pm Monroe County History Center, Deckard Education Room

Carol has made clothing, much of it by hand, most of her adult life. Over the years, Carol has made clothing as a mother, a working woman and a living historian. Each ensemble, whether fashionable or historic, testifies to Carol's sense of personal and familial identity. Join us to celebrate this special collection.

The History Center and the Buskirk-Chumley Theater remember 90 years of the Indiana Theater

The History Center and the Buskirk-Chumley Theater seek the community's help in recording and documenting the tremendous impact of entertainment in our town's history.

A community-wide effort is being launched to bring together stories of Bloomington's various circus, theater and music venues. Memorabilia, anecdotes, picture or film/video that relate to the Indiana Theater (now the Buskirk-Chumley Theater) or Bloomington's entertainment history in general are welcome.

We don't need to keep the items if you're not ready to part with them, but we'd like your permission to record them. Images and documents can be digitized for the Faces and Places Collection.

Please contact Cory Burger with the History Center, 812.332.2517 or Danielle McClelland with the Buskirk-Chumley, 812.323.3022.

Happy Holidays from the Staff of the History Center; may the peace and joy of the season be with you throughout the New Year.

Diane, Hillary, Amanda, Cory, Diane, Jenny, Elizabeth and Martha

Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

December

- MON 5th– Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, dinner will be provided, feel free to bring a dessert, 5:00pm
- THUR 8th– Board Meeting, 4:30pm
- SAT 10th– "Making Clothes Making Do: Carol Wise and the Art of Daily Living" Exhibit Reception, 5:30pm-8:00pm
- TUES 13th - Civil War Roundtable Holiday Dinner 7:00pm
- FRI 16th —Community Voices Gallery opening reception, The Bloomington Old Time Music and Dance Group, 7:00pm-9:00pm
- SAT 17th—WFHB presents Saturday's Child, 10:00am-1:00pm
- Please note the History Center will be closed Dec 24th and Dec 31 for the Holidays

January

- WED 4th- Genealogy Group, 2:00pm
- TUES 10th– Civil War Roundtable , Ray Beeker presents The Fire Eaters, 7:00pm
- THUR 12th– Board Meeting, 4:30pm
- SAT 14th—WFHB presents Saturday's Child, 10:00am-1:00pm
- THUR 19th—3rd Thursday Series: 7:00pm

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Also available at www.monroehistory.org

"Sarkes Tarzian Radios"
Opens October 14th Closes January 28th, 2012 In 1945 engineer Sarkes Tarzian embarked on a remarkable experiment to establish a successful local broadcast radio station in Bloomington. A number of Sarkes Tarzian radios will be on display.

Community Voices Gallery presents: "The Bloomington Old Time Music and Dance Group"
Opens: December 16th Closes: March 24, 2012 The Bloomington Old Time Music and Dance Group is dedicated to the enjoyment of music and dance, BOTMDG is a local nonprofit community organization. The music is like "fiddle tunes from Appalachia," and the dances are contra-dances and square dances. BOTMDG first began having dances in the basement of the Monroe County History Center. Opening Reception December 16th,7pm-9pm. Enjoy a night of food, drink, and dancing to live music!

***"Making Clothes Making Do: Carol Wise and the Art of Daily Living"* Opens: October 11th Closes: February 4th, 2012**
Carol has made clothing, much of it by hand, for most of her adult life. For Carol, clothes-making offers a sense of self-sufficiency and continuity with the past. She can do for herself as did her ancestors.

COMING SOON! What is your quilting story?

The theme for the annual quilt show is "The Quilter's Story". We want to know why you quilt? Has quilting been a family tradition? Do you make quilts for other people? We want to know about you. Along with your story, we would like to exhibit a quilt of your own. Space is limited so please contact us soon. Submission deadline is January 16th, 2012. The exhibit will run from March 2nd, 2012-July, 2012.

"Toys through the Ages"
Opens: September 27th Closes: February 3rd, 2012 This exhibition looks at the development of toys, games, and childhood memorabilia from the early 1900s to today. Many toys we used to play with have evolved or fallen out of fashion, but there are many that continue to be entertaining for all.

Awarded Grants

Our thanks and appreciation

Smithville Charitable Foundation – $15,000 grant award and sponsorship of the Sports Heroes Interactive Exhibit.

Estate of Lola Burkhart – Designated gift of $45,475 to the Genealogy and Research Library.

CFC Properties - History Maker
corporate membership.

Curry Auto Center – Exhibit Supporter
corporate membership.

Meet our Interns

Administrative:
Adrian Hepfer

Collections:
Maddie Quigley
Liz Pitman
Holly Abshire
Meredith Hylton
Elizabeth Lefevers
Emily Taylor

Education:
Madeline Bornstein

Exhibits:
Zhaleh Breen
Lauren Baker
Elyse Werling

Genealogy:
Matthew Cesnik
Christopher Scott
Shannon Silva
Emily Winters
Ted Brackemyre

him as a farmer and the head of a household that included his mother, then 64; his 13-year-old brother, James; and non-family members William and Harriet Bunger, ages 33 and 21, and Margaret Housely, age 11. His father had died in 1868. At the time of this census the farm was valued at $12,000, much more valuable than surrounding farms in the township.

He married Sarah Julia Borland (she was called Julia) on 31 August 1871. They had two children: a son, Edward B., and a daughter, Pearl. In 1883 Neeld opened the Baker & Neeld furniture store in partnership with William B. Baker, also of Van Buren Township. In 1895 he opened his own hardware store just off the Bloomington town square, which he ran until his death in 1915; it passed to his daughter, Pearl, who operated it until 1928. It was located at 120 West Sixth Street. By 1900, Simpson and Julia had moved from the farm into Bloomington at 402 South College Avenue.

Interior of Neeld's hardware store, 120 West Sixth Street, with C.N.S. Neeld (middle), his son, E.B. Neeld (left), and unidentified man (right). From the collection of Shirley Cohee-Cline, 2011.014.0031-001.

Simpson Neeld was a First Methodist Church member and served for 20 years on the church board. He was a G.A.R. member in the Paul Slocumb Post No. 85 and a founding member of the Cecelia Lodge of the Odd Fellows. He filled all the various offices of this lodge over the years and was known by other members as "the Watch Dog of the Treasury." After walking home from an Odd Fellows meeting, he died suddenly at age 70 of heart failure, on the front steps of his home, on 28 January 1915. His wife and children survived him, as did two of his brothers, John and Isaac. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Continued from Page 4

Holiday Gift Ideas

Don't forget to visit the History Center for holiday shopping. The Museum Store and gently-used holiday shop offer many unique items and bargains. The Museum Store has some great new books, from the IU Press, and members receive a 10% discount in the store.
A Home of Her Own, by Nancy Hiller with photographs by Kendall Reeves, photos and descriptions of unique homes created by women.
David Baker, A Legacy in Music, by Monika Herzig with foreward by Quincy Jones, Biography of IU's jazz legend.
Speak to the Earth, by Rachel Peden with foreward by Scott Sanders, re-issue of Peden's beloved account of Monroe County farm life.

The gently used holiday shop has jewelry, decorations, ornaments and small gifts. This year we even have several good quality fireplace mantels with log inserts. There will be even more bargains the week after December 25th.

See What's Happening At The Monroe County History Center

to see more pictures from these events, please visit www.monroehistory.org

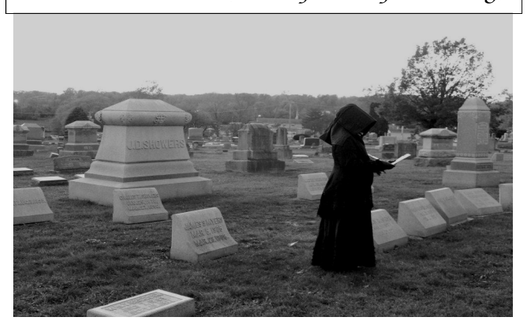
Haunted Hoosier History

Photo: Marian Sinclair, volunteer, at Rose Hill Cemetery

The History Center's first Haunted Hoosier History Event took place this October and was received very well. Over 80 attendees of all ages, from as far away as the north side of Indianapolis, spent an evening learning about the haunted history of a few of the county's spookiest locations. After touring locations, the group returned to the History Center for a paranormal investigation led by Sci-Pro and a dinner provided by our sponsor, Championship Catering. The evening was a great success, and plans are already rolling for next year's haunted night in Monroe County!

SCI-PRO .NET
Our Promise:
Listen. Observe. Document. Educate. Preserve.
"We Believe you."
South Central Indiana - Paranormal Research Organization
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Championship Catering
iuhoosiers.cstv.com/championship-catering/



Thank you to CFC for our new Holiday Lights

Rick Mitchner and Rick Frye, with CFC Properties, spent a day at the History Center taking down all of the old holiday lights surrounding the exterior of the building and installing new ones.

Jim Murphy, President of CFC, donated the lights, the man hours and the machinery required to install the new lights.

We hope you have a chance to come by for a look at the lights before the end of December.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear Members, Friends, and Volunteers,

At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have supported the History Center and made its progress possible this past year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Managing Director, there is no time more fitting to say – Thank You – and to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity.

Anne Cady

News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

News from the Library

Compiled by Penelope Mathiesen and Elizabeth Schlemmer

Recent Acquisitions

* *Arbutus*, 1947. Indiana University yearbook.

* Barnhart, John C. *The Impact of the Civil War on Indiana*. Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, 1962. Gift from Hillary Detty.

* Carmichael, Hoagy. *The Stardust Road*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983.

* Hasenmueller, Walter A., Estell, Carolyn M., Keith, Brian D., and Thompson, Todd A. *Bedrock Geologic Map of Monroe County, Indiana*. U.S. Geological Survey, 2008. Gift from Bob and Joann Dodd.

* McConnell, Lloyd Mosier. *My Memories*. Undated. Gift from Mobie McCammon.

* Mitchell, Mary Lou, and Richart, Jeannette. *History of Bryan Park Neighborhood*. 2010. Gift from Mary Lou Mitchell.

* Richardson, Randi. *Alphabetical Listing of Monroe County (IN) Land Entries: Vincennes District*. 2011. Gift from Randi Richardson.

* Thomas, Jerry A. *Soil Survey of Monroe County Indiana*. 1981. Gift from Bob and Joann Dodd.

New in the Library

After years of work by many dedicated volunteers, we are proud to present a revised index to Monroe County Court Records. Thanks to all who helped with the preservation and re-indexing of our county's earliest court records! All original legal documents in this index (1818–1875) are available for viewing and photocopying in the Genealogy Library. An electronic version of the index is also available on our website.

We recently received a new cabinet for flat storage of our map collection. Thanks to the Herman B Wells Library and Lou Malcomb for this new addition to the Genealogy Library!

New finding aids on the shelf include an index to Monroe County land entries from the Vincennes District, compiled by Randi Richardson, and an update to the index of Monroe County probate files. Nearly 300 names were added to the probate index. Both indices are available in print and on the History Center's website.

Recent projects by library volunteers include the digitization and indexing of audio interviews from the Veteran's History Project and the initiation of a church records project to compile genealogical information, such as membership records, from local churches.

Simpson Neeld Letter: An Echo from the Civil War

By Lee Ehman and Elizabeth Schlemmer

Cyrus Nutt Simpson Neeld. From the collection of Shirley Cohee-Cline, 2011.014.0010-001?

The Monroe County History Center's doors are closed to visitors every Monday, but inside, the building is bustling with staff and volunteers who seize the opportunity to get extra work done. Monday regulars include the ladies of the Collections and Exhibits Committee who meet to review and vote on the acceptance of items donated the previous week. One Monday morning, committee member Mary Lee Deckard was handling a family bible donated by Shirley Cohee-Cline, of the Neeld family, when out slipped an old document. Mary Lee had discovered a letter from local Civil War soldier Simpson Neeld. This echo from the Civil War, 150 years ago, caused excitement to ripple through the committee and the History Center staff.

The letter contains details of army duty late in the Civil War. Typical of soldiers' letters, Neeld shares thoughts on the mundane subjects that occupy his life—work detail, food, and the hot Georgia sun. His writing offers one snapshot of his life. With research into county documents and a look at the photographs donated by his great-granddaughter, we can reconstruct a more complete picture of Neeld. The letter is addressed to Alie Bunger. A large Bunger family lived next to the Neelds in Van Buren Township, and one of the daughters, five years younger than Simpson, was named Alice. Perhaps she was "Alie," and a close friend or sweetheart of the author.

Here is a transcript of the letter:

[Handwritten in pencil at top at a later date: "Written by Simpson Neeld to Alie Bunger March 14, '65 from Dalton Georgia while S.N. was in the Civil War"]

Dalton Georgia
March 14, 1865
Dear Friend
I for the first time atempt to write you a few lines in anser to your leter which I was hopg to receive it does me good to [hear] from the old neborhood. Well Alie I comest to write last night and it rained so in through our tent that I could not write. Well Alie we had A [illegible] breakfast this morning we had flapjacks and we took our sugar and made molasses and dont you believe it was good I thought So Alick McDermont has gone a fishing and I think we will have some fish for dinner wont that bee nice Alie we have every thing nice down here and we will have it as it is to bee had. Well I must quit fore I have to go and help to hale some wood. The Negoes hale wood with there mules if us boys will help them the Nigs are a hard race of people there is a half a dozen here driving goverment teames to build a Block House They hale the timbers and there is a squad of men detailed to hue them and build the house I think they will get it done against our time is out but they ought to build it in about a month. We boys get lazey down here the sun comes out as hot as you would want it to and that don't agree with us yankies so soon it is as hot as corn planting in Hooserdoom the peach trees will be in bloom in about a week if we get to stay here til peach harvest we will get fat on peach pies. Well Alie I guess we are getting along as well as we could expect for raugh troops our boys got to se the Rebs once but they run so fast they could not get to shoot at them but they have caught one or two of the Scoundrels up at Dalton we are not there understand we are about three miles from there garding the railroad to kep the Rebs from taring it up the place we are at is caled Block House n. 15 it is at the foot of the Mountain called Buzzard Roost it is wher Will Farmer was woonded and Slocum to Well Haner Wards case does beet all the things that Ever I herd of but Eli Worleys death shocked me very much but we all must all die some time I recond Well my sheet of paper full and I am not half done but every thing has to have an end Sam Cury told me to tell you to write to him and he would answer your leter with pleasure Well Alie I want you to take good care of the girles and when you go down to Johns kis the Children for me espeshily Mamy no mor at present I remain your Friend Direct your leter before Simp Neeld.

Sarah Julia Borland Neeld, wife of C.N.S. Neeld. From the collection of Shirley Cohee-Cline, 2011.014.0011-001

"Simp Neeld" was Cyrus Nutt Simpson Neeld, born in Monroe County on 6 July 1844 to Benjamin and Elizabeth Neeld, both born in Kentucky. The 1850 census lists seven children in the household where they resided in Van Buren Township on Kirby Road, west of Bloomington. Benjamin and Elizabeth owned a large and prosperous farm.

In 1864, when Simpson Neeld was 20 years old, he mustered into the army. The 145th Indiana Infantry Regiment was a "One-Year Regiment," part of the call for 11 regiments in December 1864. Neeld served in Company F with his brother William who by this year was 30 years old. Their brother Nathan, two years older than Simpson, had volunteered in 1861 and served as a Sergeant in Company K of the 14th Indiana Infantry. The recruits were mustered into service in Indianapolis in February 1865 and proceeded via Nashville and Chattanooga to Dalton, Georgia, where they served on railroad guard duty. Later, they moved to Marietta, Georgia, and stayed until fall, then went to Cuthbert, Georgia, where they were mustered out of duty on 21 January 1866. Of the original 1,023 soldiers in the regiment, 68 died and 55 deserted. There is no record of their having seen combat. Both of Simpson's siblings survived the war, with William remaining in Monroe County and Nathan moving to Indianapolis.

Simpson returned to the family farm. The 1870 census shows

Continued on Page 7

Musical Instruments Advertised in 1861

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following advertisement for musical instruments appeared in a local newspaper in the fall of 1861, shortly after the start of the Civil War. The instruments were those used in military bands of the day. The saxhorn was a valved brass instrument that came in various sizes and was played in an upright position, similar to a tuba or euphonium. Saxhorns, developed by Adophe Sax in Paris during the 1840s and 1850s, were durable and relatively easy to play. Their availability coincided with the development of the amateur brass band movement in England and America. Local groups from the 1840s through the 1860s included the Seward (Sax-Horn) Band, the Bloomington Silver Band, and the Pinafore Band. These groups played for public events and patriotic occasions and helped marshal enthusiasm for military service. Some of their members entered the army and served as musicians during the Civil War.

Bloomington Republican, Saturday, 9 November 1861

MUSIC

CAVALRY HORNS, SAX HORNS, Base [sic] and Tenor Drums, Drum Heads, Fifes, &c, &c.

ORDERS RECEIVED FOR ANYTHING appertainins [sic] to the military in a musical way, will be promptly executed at the lowest cash rates. Below we give the prices of Drums, we have an inferior article at from five to ten per cent. cheaper.

TENOR DRUMS.
No. 1, $5.00; No. 2, $6.00; No. 3, $6.50; No. 4, $7.00; No. 5, highly finished, $11.50.

BASE [SIC] DRUMS.
No. 1, $10.00; No. 2, $11.00; No. 3, $13.00; No. 4, $15.00; No. 6, $18.00; No. 7, $20.00.

Send your orders to:
A. C. Peters & Bro., 94 West Fourth St., opp the Post Office, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Manufacturers and Importers of Music and Musical Instruments.
September 7, 1861

Bloomington Bicycle Craze Has Historic Roots

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following item appeared in an unknown Bloomington newspaper (ca. 1951) with an editor's note stating that the information was taken "from a copy of the Bloomington Morning World, issued February 15, 1896."

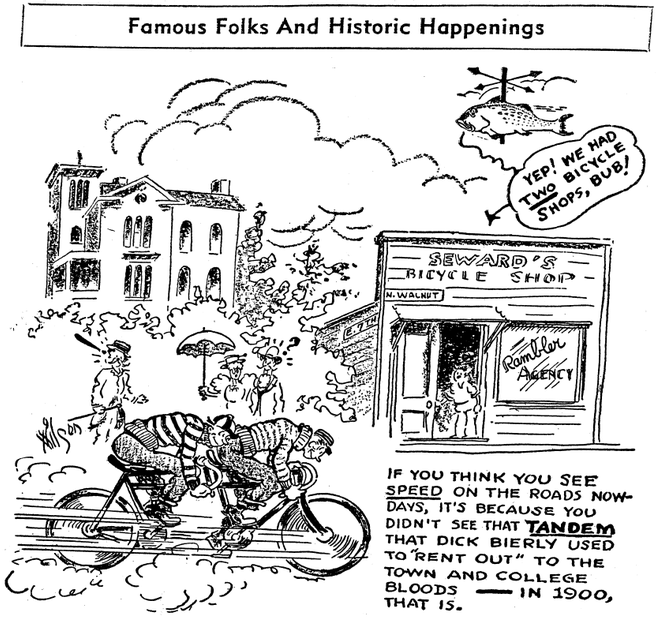
BICYCLE CLUB

Taking up news of a lighter vein, we see that Bloomington had an up-to-date bicycle club in the year 1896. History relates the bicycle craze of the Gay Nineties was sweeping the nation.

In connection with Bloomington's club of bicycle enthusiasts, the Morning World told about traffic laws of that time. These laws related to passing vehicles on streets and highways and the bicycle's status as a conveyance. Seems that the Indiana Supreme Court had much to say in an opinion handed down on the subject of bicycle riding. That high tribunal said a bicycle is a vehicle and that its rider is entitled to half the roadway, in spite of protests made by the horse and buggy folks. It was also decreed that riding a bicycle on sidewalks was contrary to a Bloomington City ordinance and prosecution of offenders should be followed, as the law provided.

Members of the Bloomington Bicycle Club thereupon voted to see that their rights were respected on public streets and highways. The Club agreed to press prosecution of the bicycle rider who used city sidewalks instead of streets. The club existed for some time and was said to be in a flourishing condition.

... John Sears had a general repair shop at 211 West Seventh Street. He repaired bicycles, guns, locks and said he could make a duplicate of any key brought in. He did saw filing and sharpened scissors. John Sears was also agent for the Waverly bicycle.



Composite sketch showing tandem cyclists and several Bloomington landmarks in 1900. From unidentified Bloomington newspaper, 25 March 1948.