Membership Form

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

Method of Payment

- Visa  - MasterCard  - Check

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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

Check here if you are interested in:

- Planned Giving
- Civil War History
- Genealogy
- Volunteering

Expiration Date  
Credit Card #  
CVV Number  

Signature  
Print Name  

Address

Phone

E-mail

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**December 2011 Vol. 2011 Issue 6 Monroe County History Center**

**Museum**

Genealogy Library

Gift Store

Educational Facility

**History Center**

202 East Sixth Street

Bloomington, IN 47408

812-332-2517

www.monroehistory.org

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Tuesdays:** Call 812.332.2517 or Danielle Chumley, 812.323.3022.

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**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

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**Monroe County Historian**

Preserving the Past for Future Generations

Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

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**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.

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**The History Center and the Buskirk-Chumley Theater**

**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, pictures or films/videos 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.

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

January
- WED 4th – Genealogy Group, 2:00 pm
- TUES 10th – Civil War Roundtable, Ray Becker presents The Fire Eaters, 7:00 pm
- THUR 12th – Board Meeting, 4:30 pm
- SAT 14th – WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- SAT 16th – WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- THUR 19th – 3rd Thursday Series: 7:00 pm

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

“Sarkes Tarzian Radios”
Opens October 11th 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.

“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.

“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.

Smithville Charitable Foundation – $15,000 grant and award 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

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Our thanks and appreciation

Administrative: Adrian Herper

Collections: Maddie Quigley Liz Pitman Holly Alshire Meredith Hylton Elizabeth Leifers Emily Taylor

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

Education: Madeline Bornstein

Enjoy a night of food, drink, and dancing to live music!
- 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!

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.

Continued from Page 4
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 forward 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.

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.

Gone Cady

News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

Recent Acquisitions

* Arbuthn, 1947. Indiana University yearbook.


News 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.
The The Monroe History Center’s doors are closed to visitors every Monday, but in the side, 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 day. One Monday morning, committee member Mary Lee Deckard was handling a family bible donated by Shirley Cohee of the Neighborhood History Center. 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 community and the History Center staff.

The letter contains details of army duty late in the Civil War. Typical of soldier’s letters, Neeld shares thoughts on the mundane subjects that occupy his life—work details, 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 their 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”]

Dear Alie,

I for the first time attempt to write you a few lines in answer to your letter which I was happy to receive it does me good [hour] from the old neighborhood. Well Alie I come to write last night and it rained so in through our tent that I could not write. Well Alie I want you to take good care of the girls and tell you to write to him and he would answer your letter with a special pleasure. Well Alie I want you to take good care of the girls and when you go down to Johns kis the children for me espeshily Manny no mo at present I remain your friend Direct your letter before Simp Neeld.

“Simp Neeld” was Cyrus Nutt Simpson Neeld, born in Monroe County on 6 July 1843 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 143rd Indiana Infantry Regiment was a “One-Year Regiment,” part of a call for 11 regiments in December 1864. Neeld served in Company F with his brother William who by this time was 30 years old. Their brother Nathan, two years older than Simpson, had volunteered in 1863 and served as a Sergeant in Company K of the 144th 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 Neeld’s brothers 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.

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The following advertising 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 Adolphe 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 appertaining [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.

TNOR 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, $13.00; No. 5, $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

Famous Folks And Historic Happenings

Simpson Neeld Letter: An Echo from the Civil War

By Lee Ehrman and Elizabeth Schlemer

The following item appeared in an unknown Bloomington newspaper (ca. 1952) with an editor’s note stating that the information was “taken from a copy of the Bloomington Morning World, issued February 15, 1866.”

BICYCLE CLUB

Taking up news of a lighter vein, we see that Bloomington had an up-to-date bicycle club in the year 1866. 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 protest made by the horse and buggy folks. It was also decreed that riding a bicycle on sidewalks was contrary to 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, 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.

Monroe County Bicycle Crazes Historic Roots

By Penelope Mathiesen

Monroe County Bicycle Craze Has Historic Roots

By Penelope Mathiesen

The following item appeared in an unknown Bloomington newspaper (ca. 1952) with an editor’s note stating that the information was “taken from a copy of the Bloomington Morning World, issued February 15, 1866.”