April 2012
Vol. 2012 Issue 2
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
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31st Annual Garage Sale Extravaganza!

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.

We are currently accepting donations for the sale, and we accept them year round!

If you are donating items for this year’s sale we will need them by June 3th. If you want to deliver them, you have two choices: from May 14 - June 5, you can deliver items to the site of the sale between 10am and 2pm, or you can bring items to the History Center from 10am-4pm, Tuesday-Saturday. You can’t deliver them? We will pick them up from you at your convenience.

Donations are eligible for tax deduction. Sorry, we cannot use clothing, outdated computers or TVs, broken furniture, mattresses or non-working appliances. We can sell almost everything else, even cars!

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.

The sale kicks off on Friday, June 8, from 8am to 4pm and continues Saturday, June 9, from 8am to 2:30pm.

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

Last year’s first Gayle Cook Junior Historian Summer Camp was received so positively by the community and the attendees that we are holding it again this summer.

The first week (June 4th - 8th) is titled Monroe County Nature Quest. We will explore how pioneers and Native Americans used nature to their advantage, as well as how we presently use nature on a regular basis. Some of the activities for this week will include gardening, plant dissection, fossil cookies, and nature dioramas.

The second week (July 23rd - 27th) is titled Archaeology Adventures. We will learn about the entire process of archaeology, beginning with choosing a site, doing excavation, putting the pieces together, and adding the items to a museum’s collection. The crafts and activities this week will include excavating, puzzle piecing, drying fruit, and a special tour of our collections department.

The third week (August 6th - 10th) is titled Family History Mysteries. Attendees can research the past of either the camper’s own family (if native to Monroe County) or an assigned family. We will learn about how to research, records and methods that are available, how to create family trees, and how these histories and stories were passed down. To better experience these lessons, some of the activities we have planned include family tree creations, story quilts, recipe book arrangements, and cemetery exploration.

During each camp week, the entire group will take a field trip to a specified location to better expand upon the week’s topics. This camp is a one of a kind opportunity for children to learn about their own backyards.

Registration begins 4/2/12; call 812-332-2517, ext. 3, or visit www.monroehistory.org for more information or to register.

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 $250

Credit Card #
Expiration Date
CVV Number

Signature
Print Name
Address
Phone
E-mail

Method of Payment
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Check

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Bloomington, IN Permit No. 177

Monroe County Historian
Preserving the Past for Future Generations
Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.
Calendar of Events
All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

April
- SAT 14th–WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, 10:00am-1:00pm
- THUR 16th–Bloomington Classic Guitar Concert, 7:30pm

May
- WED 2nd–Genealogy Group, 2:00pm
- SUN 6th–Historic Preservation Association Reception, 3:00pm-5:00pm
- TUE 8th–Civil War Roundtable, 7:00pm
- THUR 10th–Board Meeting, 4:30pm
- SAT 12th–WFHB presents Saturday’s Child, 10:00am-1:00pm
- THUR 17th–3rd Thursday Series, 7:00pm
- SAT 19th–Bloomington Classic Guitar Concert, 5:30pm

“Titanic: 100 Years Later”
Opens: March 8 Closes: May 26
This exhibit looks at Monroe County’s past by overlaying Bloomington’s current infrastructure through photography.

“Bloomington: Then and Now”
Opens: May 6 Closes: July 21
The Community Voices Gallery celebrates May as National Preservation Month by featuring Monroe County’s community dedicated to Bloomington’s past by overlaying Bloomington’s current infrastructure through photography.

“The Quilter’s Story”
Opens: March 2 Closes: July 31
We have gathered stories about the quilts come from, why they were made, who were they made for and many other fascinating details. Please come see this amazing show of color and memories.

“Garden Glamour: A Floral Fashion Frenzy”
Opens: April 6 Closes: August 25
This exhibit explores the flower motif in functional and decorative accessories such as hats, gloves, purses, neck ties, scarves, shoes, combs and jewelry. This exhibit will feature pieces that are from both the Sage Collection at Indiana University and the Monroe County History Center. This exhibit will delight visitors of all ages with its beauty and charm.

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

Monroe County Preservation Board in the Community Voices Gallery
Opens: May 6 Closes: July 21
The Community Voices Gallery celebrates the Monroe County Preservation Board for National Preservation Month. The Preservation Board of Review was established in 2001 to promote educational, cultural, economic, aesthetic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of historic or architecturally worthy buildings, structures, sites, and neighborhoods that are significant at the local level.

Sources Consulted

Blue Spring Community Talk at Lawrence County Museum
Submitted by Randi Richardson
The Lawrence County Museum of History and Edward L. Hutton Research Library holds a meeting at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker program at 7:00 p.m., on the second Monday of each month at 929 15th Street, Bedford, Indiana. All meetings are free and open to the public. On 9 April 2012, Dawn Bakken, Associate Editor of the Indiana Magazine of History, will give a talk on “The Oweinite Community of Blue Spring,” which was located in Monroe County.
Thank you New and Renewing Members

- Raed & Stanley Cheatham
- Phyllis Schweitzer
- Mike & Marylee Kanne
- Vern & Judith Peterson
- Justin & Hillary Doty
- Herbert Hoover
- Mary Spilfogenous
- Marjorie Cannon
- Elizabeth Kehoe
- Matt & Sara Wiesn
- Michael Biase & Lynne Boyle
- Tom Coleman & Pat Williams
- Rex & April Legler
- Kom & Mary Hawkins
- Eleanor Baker
- The May Agency
- Nancy Schmidt
- Phil & Margaret Hathaway
- Denny & Lois Moir
- Gary & Miss Wiggins
- Robert & Ann Wrenn
- Tony Taylor
- Connie Kitchener
- Kimberly Orthenschilder
- Audrey Schmalz
- David & Loma Estes
- James & Margaret Faber
- Marion Sinclair
- John & Linda Wildaker
- Sandy Burke
- John & Ann Warden
- Larry & Mary Lou Brown
- Jeanette Marchant
- Nat & Patty Hill
- John & Polly Tildford
- Al & Kit Sor
- Bill & Helen Assom
- Ruth Single
- Bill & Jackie Gilkey
- Linda Snow
- Diane Matarale
- Norman & Mary Lee Deckard
- Mary Beth McCormick

Week of Chocolate

Sundaes on Saturday

The History Center once again held Sundaes on Saturday and it was a wonderful event for all parties involved, the staff, volunteers and attendees.

For a mere $2.00 attendees had the opportunity to create their own sundaes covered with a variety of chocolate toppings. Those present enjoyed live music supplied by the Double Dip String Band, the opportunity to try spinning, both on a wheel and with a drop spindle, and the chance to read about the history of all things chocolate and ice cream related.

The event attracted over 300 attendees and will take place again next January. We hope to see you then.

Fifth Annual Fundraiser Gala

BEATLEMANIA
“The Long and Winding Road”

This event provided a evening of wining and dining, and an entertaining program about the Beatles presented by Professor Glenn Goss, Provost Professor of Music at Indiana University.

The evening was a huge success, and was the first ever SOLD OUT. We presented a new event, “The Wall of Wine,” which provided guests the opportunity to pay a nominal fee and get the opportunity to draw a bottle of wine from wine racks, some bottles being valued at over $120.00. The Silent Auction provided a large variety of wonderful items.

The proceeds from the evening went towards the Experience History Campus for installation of interactive exhibits in the Cook Permanent Gallery. Thank you to all who supported this remarkable evening.

Sanctuary of the President

On April 12 at our Annual Meeting we will welcome new Board of Trustee members, elect officers for 2012-2013 and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. Please join us at 5:30 p.m. at our Annual Meeting.

We will be passing the gavel and am pleased that Laura Newton has agreed to serve as your President. Laura has served as co-chair of the Personnel Committee for the past few years and has been an active Board member. I look forward to working with Laura, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees as Immediate Past President.

We should all be proud of the accomplishments and advancements made in the past few years at the Monroe County History Center. We have a vibrant staff and our volunteers have enriched our endeavors. Our financial health is strong; we will soon be opening our first interactive exhibits, and our second summer Gayle Cook Junior Historian sessions will commence in June.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President during this time of growth. I hope you’ll join us April 12 for our Annual Meeting!

Message from the President

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

News from the Library

 Compiled by Penelope Mathiesen and Elizabeth Schlemmer

New in the Library

A number of audio cassettes have been added to the Genealogy Library’s holdings. The majority of these tapes include interviews from a project completed in the 1970s by Monroe County Community Schools Corporation (MCCSC) volunteers featuring a variety of local residents and a recent oral history project interviewing people who attended the segregated Bankeker school in their childhood.

The library’s maps have now been accessioned. The collection has been reorganized and placed in a new map cabinet for easier storage and access. Thanks to library volunteers Leah Bowman and Bob Dodd for their help with this project!

New Items on the Shelves


* Martin, E. Wainwright. Memoir of Elizabeth Koop Buck. (Contains interviews conducted from 2008 to 2011.)


Vigilante Justice: Whitecapping in Monroe County

By Lee Elman

After the Civil War, Southern Indiana spawned a vigilante justice known as “whitecapping.” Sources vary as to the precise beginning date. A Monroe County juror, Abram Alexy, recalled convicting a white cap named John Rogers in 1857 (Bloomington Evening World, 1 November 1912). Another account points to the 1868 lynching of the Reno Gang, train robbers and terrorists of Jackson and nearby counties (“Indiana White Caps”; see Sources Concluded). After being captured they were lynched by the Jackson County Committee of Vigilance, the first recognized white cap group in Indiana and perhaps all of the United States. Long before them, the South Carolina Regulators of 1767–69 foreshadowed the later extra-legal moral regulation of poor white towns in Indiana and elsewhere. An 1852 Indiana statute authorized formation of vigilante justice groups. An 1857 election occurred in Monroe County for the primary election tomorrow: Bean Blossom Township.

No. 1—Charlottesville Residence.
No. 2—Roy Taylor Barber Shop

Washington Township.
No. 1—Jack Robinson Store Building.
No. 2—Lawrence Jones Residence.

Marion Township.
No. 1—Honey Creek School House.
No. 2—Benton Township.
No. 1—Unionville School House.

Bloomington Township.
No. 1—City Hall.
No. 2—Votes at 203 south Rogers.
No. 3—Assessor’s office, east side, Court House.
No. 4—Surveyor’s office, west side, Court House.
No. 5—Poolistan Garage, Tenth and Walnut streets.
No. 6—Carpenter’s Barber Shop, corner, Eighth and Rogers streets.
No. 7—Earl Murray residence, 723 east Eleventh street.
No. 8—John Pool’s residence, dest [sic] Eleventh street.
No. 9—Elza Robinson residence, 615 east Thirteenth street.
No. 10—Arlington School House.
No. 11—Headley School House.
No. 12—Benson residence, 1001 north Madison street.
No. 13—Hershall Black, 309 north Sluss avenue.

Richland Township.