Presbyterian Cemetery

In 1840, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, also known as Pleasant Hill Church, organized near Ellettsville. The church property, near the western edge of Ellettsville, was said to have an adjoining cemetery. A current marker at the site reads: “Established 1930.” However, at least two-thirds of the stones in this cemetery bear dates earlier than 1930, many date to the 1800s.

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

Do you want to make history? If so, call 812-332-2517, ext. 3 to find out more about volunteering in one of the many departments at the History Center. We have positions available for ongoing activities, monthly, quarterly, annually or as needed. We will meet your schedule.

Membership Form

Method of Payment

- Visa
- MasterCard
- Check

Credit Card #
Expiration Date
CVV Number
Signature
Print Name

Annual Membership Levels
- Student/Teacher $40
- Basic $80
- 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

Museum Admission
Adult – $2
Child (6-17 yrs.) – $1
5 yrs. & Under – Free
Members – Free

Haunted History Tours

Join the History Center for a hauntingly good time, October 11th and 25th, from 5pm to 9pm. There will be guided tours every 30 minutes, taking you through the haunted museum where you can meet Monroe County residents of the distant past. While you are waiting for your tour to start enjoy classic monster movies, cider, and popcorn. Tickets are $5 apiece at the door. Experience even more thrills and chills with Mystery and Mayhem, a paranormal luxury bus tour brought to you by Misguided Tours and the History Center. Discover the scarier side of Bloomington’s history. Trips depart at 5:15 and 6:15, the 11th and 25th, and will include a free ticket to the Haunted History Tour as well. Make reservations soon at 812-322-2211 or by email misguided-bustours@gmail.com.

JFK: Monroe County Remembers

The 1960s were a time of immense social and political change. The most unsettling and frightening moment of the 1960s was the assassination of John F. Kennedy, our 35th President, on a sunny day in Dallas, Texas. November 22, 2013 will be the 50th anniversary of this event and the History Center will sponsor a special month-long exhibit commemorating it. Do you remember that day? We ask you to help us in this endeavor by sharing the story of your reactions when you heard the news: where you were, what you were doing, and your thoughts and feelings. By participating in this exhibit, you will be making history. All recollections will be assembled and kept for future historians to know exactly what Monroe County was experiencing at this time. Please see the form inside this newsletter for more details. We are waiting to hear from you.

Annual Canopy of Lights Open House

While you are downtown watching the square light up for the holiday season don’t forget to take a stroll over to the History Center for our Canopy of Lights Open House tradition! Admission is free, there will be hot cider, pastries, holiday music, and our ever-popular holiday sale where you are sure to find that perfect gift for all of your favorite people! The doors will open on Friday the 29th of November at 5pm and will stay open until 9pm. Drop by, bring the whole family, meet friends, and enjoy our charming museum and gift shop.
Calendar of Events

All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

October
- 4th—Open Late, until 7pm, for First Friday events
- 5th, 9am—3pm—Workday at White Oak Cemetery
- 8th, 7pm—Civil War Roundtable
- 16th, 4:30pm—Board Meeting
- 11th, 5pm—Haunted History Tours
- 17th, 10:30am—HiStory Time
- 18th, 6pm—8pm—Watercolor Painting exhibit opening reception
- 19th, 6:30–8:30—Local Author, Jeff Rosenplot, book reading

November
- 25th from 5pm–8pm—Haunted History Tours

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Also available at www.monroehistory.org

“JFK: Monroe County Remembers” November 5, 2013 to November 30, 2013
This November marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, in Dallas TX. This exhibit will feature community members written memories about where they were and how they reacted on this fateful day.

The Alliance of Bloomington Museums (ABM) promotes the diverse range of cultural and educational resources that member museums offer to visitors. Twelve different museums/cultural institutions are members of ABM.

“Attic of Oddities” September 3, 2013 to February 1, 2014
Come learn about Victorian mourning practices and encounter odd treasures from the History Center’s attic—some never before seen! Don’t miss this display of Bloomington’s secrets of yesterday.

News and New Items from the Library
genealogy@monroehistory.org
Compiled by Penelope Mathiesen and Nicole Bieganski

Library News

The Research Library has hired two hourly workers to undertake the scanning and indexing of its collection of Monroe County deed books for the State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) grant.

The Research Library began a refurbishment process on September 8 including the installation of new carpet, shelving, paint, and window screens. The library thanks the volunteers who assisted with the process.

The following items are a selection of the library’s recently-accessioned resources:
* Greene County, Indiana Cemeteries, Prairies Chapel and Bloomfield. N.D. Gift from Karen Sims Foster.
The following excerpt from an article by Bennett P. Reed* depicts a time in 1863 when maintaining the fuel supply for the Monroe County Courthouse involved keeping the woodpile in order. The courthouse is the one completed in 1826 and expanded with the addition of two wings in 1856–57. It preceded the 1907–8 building we see today.

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**BLOOMINGTON DAILY HERALD**
March 25, 1950

In the early days, modern methods of heating homes, businesses and other places were only dreams of prophets. Principal fuel of old times was wood. Monroe County was lush with timber. Wood for heating, therefore, was plentiful. It is recalled that the old Court House at one time was provided with different types of stoves for space heating. County owned buildings of other official nature, such as the jail and Clerk-Library, also contained huge fireplaces.

Firewood was purchased by the County at a low price. Storage was made in the Court House yard. Sometimes wood was stacked and other times thrown in disorderly fashion upon the ground. In any case, wood was exposed to bad weather, as most of it was bought in the fall and winter. The years and the elements joined forces in causing an unsightly woodlot appearance around the Court House. Adverse criticism of County authorities pointed to poor housekeeping.

Aquilla W. Rogers was Monroe County sheriff in 1863. Among his extemporaneous duties of office, he was instructed to see that the county wood pile and surroundings were kept in better order. But in winter, when fuel was most needed, Sheriff Rogers found Court House incumbents digging deeply into snowbound [wood] for choicer pieces. The unwanted was tossed in all directions without compunction. This caught the eyes of board members.

What Monroe County sorely needed, suggested one, was a shed for its supply of wood. The idea bore fruit at a later Board meeting. Appointed were Sheriff Rogers and James Small to supervise building of a county woodshed. This important adjunct, as agreed upon, was to be a frame building, Location decided upon was east of the Court House.

The Board, citizens and taxpayers showed evidences of pride in the new County woodshed that was to act as a shield against bad weather. The Court House yard was cleaned up and once again took on an air of respectability.

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**The Monroe County Courthouse Woodshed**
By Penelope Mathiesen

Sanborn Fire Insurance City Map of Bloomington, IN, 1883, showing the location of the Monroe County Courthouse woodshed (marked “Wood Ho.”) along the eastern edge of the grounds.

Charles H. Patterson, editor and publisher of the Monroe County Democrat, a weekly, proclaimed news of the Board decision in his paper. About $200.00 was voted out for the woodshed’s construction. Isaac Hooper and Jesse Payne took the contract and began work. Overseers James Small and Sheriff Aquilla Rogers decided upon a few changes for better strength. When it was completed, the building’s total cost amounted to $215.00.

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**Message from the President**

Dear Members,

As summer activities wind down, there has been much sprucing up at the History Center. New carpeting throughout the first floor and fresh paint has brightened up our interior. We could not have accomplished this without the valiant efforts of the staff and many volunteers who have carted, scooted, lifted, and painted for weeks on end. A huge thank you to all! A big change on the exterior is the parking meters that have been installed by the City. Please see the article on page 6 to help you understand the where, when, and how of convenient parking. We will be monitoring this situation to see how it may affect our visitors and members.

Exciting programs and events over the next couple months are the Haunted History Tour and the Bloomington Watercolor Society cemetery painting exhibit opening in October.

In November, the Holiday Shop will again offer you the chance to find that perfect gift, and the annual Canopy of Lights Open House on the Friday after Thanksgiving is always a festive time! I invite you to come in to explore, shop, and be sure to check out the fresh, new look at your History Center!

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**Civil War Exhibit**

Monroe County History Center Needs Your Help!

The Monroe County History Center is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in December, 2013. The exhibit will focus on the services and sacrifices made by citizens of Monroe County. We are asking for loans of any authentic or reproduction Civil War items to include in the exhibit.

For more information and loan donations, please contact
Jenny Mack, Exhibits Manager
exhibitsdesign@monroehistory.org
512-332-2617 ext. 5
Volunteer Spotlight
Caitlyn Smallwood

Caitlyn Smallwood is a greeter here at the Monroe County History Center. Caitlyn started volunteering with us in the spring of 2013.

Caitlyn came to Bloomington three years ago to study at Indiana University, where she is a senior majoring in History and minoring in Medieval studies. She would like to continue her education, perhaps by studying in Italy.

Caitlyn’s favorite time periods in history include the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. She participates in a re-enactment group that focuses on these time periods, the Society for Creative Anachronism. Caitlyn is also interested in dance and bowling.

Caitlyn is excited about her senior year. In her future, besides going to college, she wants to attend school for museum studies and then work in museums.

Holiday Sale & Gift Store

We are now accepting donated items for the annual Holiday Shop at the History Center. Please bring good-quality holiday decorations and like-new gift items to the History Center any time we are open. Gift-type donations could include jewelry, small antiques, decorative items, and such new/unused items as gloves, scarves, games, and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 1, so we need donations before then if possible: however, we will take donations year-round.

Not only will we have special donated items in the holiday shop, but the Museum Store has new and unusual books, cards, and gifts for you to see, too. The popular children’s book, The Fish on the Domp, by Christopher Shaw is the newest addition to our store’s bookshelves. This book takes children on a fabulous adventure through Monroe County with the Fish on the Courthouse Dome as their guide. We have the entertaining Bloomington Then & Now, by Derek and Jen Richey, offering an insightful look at the Bloomington of yesterday and what it has become.

Both stores are open during all normal History Center hours, Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am—4:00pm.

Notes
3. From “The Old Settlers of Monroe County, Indiana,” Monroe County History Center, Research Library, Vertical Files: “Monroe County Settlements.”
7. Untitled item, [Bloomington Telephone], 31 May 1887. Henry Eller’s property was about 5 miles west of Bloomington in Van Buren Township.
8. “Old Settlers’ Meeting,” Bloomington Telephone, 2 August 1887.
Meetings of Monroe County’s “Old Settlers”  
By Penelope Mathiesen

A little over thirty years after its inception in 1818, Monroe County began to celebrate its past. The first attempt to organize an old settlers’ association in Monroe County was made in 1852, but nothing came of it. In April 1857, a group of pioneer residents met at the Monroe County Courthouse in Bloomington to organize the Old Settlers’ Society, and a committee was appointed to plan a meeting for the following July 4th. The intention was to provide a gathering at which the “old gray-haired fathers” could entertain and educate “the rising generation” by recalling the perils and hardships they had endured during the settlement of Monroe County.1

On 4 July 1857, the first meeting took place as planned, with reportedly 1,500 people in town for the event. The old settlers enjoyed a fine dinner and afterwards related their experiences in establishing the county. The second meeting was held at the courthouse on 17 September 1858. A sumptuous dinner was served, and stories of the past, including many hunting exploits, were shared by the old settlers with the other citizens present. The next meeting was scheduled for 17 September 1859. Members were encouraged to bring their wives, and “those that have none are requested to get one, or bring a widow.”2

To qualify for the list of Old Settlers of Monroe County, applicants had to be fifty years of age and a resident of the county for thirty years as of 17 September 1858. The rules underwent various modifications over the years. The first 111 members of the society were all male, as were 17 honorary members. Admitted at the next meeting, on 17 September 1859, were 47 members, including 30 women. The third group of 62 included both men and women, for a total list of 237 Old Settlers.3

Annual meetings were held until the start of the Civil War. The society reorganized about 1866 and held regular meetings until 1870, when it briefly joined a district society in Gosport, then reverted to its original organization. A separate society was started in Ellettsville in 1878. Its first meeting was held at Worley’s Grove on 26 September, the 97th birthday of James Parks, whose name led the honor roll of 46 men and women.4

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Monroe County History Center’s Cemetery Committee has selected White Oak Cemetery for its Fall Workday. The Committee invites members to come participate in restoration work between 9am and 3pm on October 5, or just stop by to visit and see the restoration efforts. Email a member of the committee (see our webpage) or the MCHC email for more information about what participation means (it is dirty work) and other ways you can help. MCHC members know that we have an extraordinary group of people on the cemetery committee. During 2013, they’ve organized a Restoration Workshop, five cemetery workdays, and hosted the Indiana Historical Society’s annual tour. Many people would have laughed at what they considered their “mixer” meeting—mixing stack, slot, and void mixes so every committee member could have their own supply of repair mix.

The Kelly-Ellis-Smith Workday (pictures below) extends that cemetery role as a “model” historical project. We first visited the cemetery, located at the junction of 46E and 446, with the Perry Township Trustee in June 2009. The cemetery was discussed at an area planning meeting in 2011, when a housing development was proposed for the area surrounding the cemetery.

September 15th we worked at Rose Hill Cemetery, resetting/leveling several stones and restacking three large pedestal-type stones. It is a remarkable experience to see a three- or four-part stone that was laying on or sunken into the ground again raise to great heights. Who were these people?

Although the small Langton and VanZandt tablet stones at first appeared to need only straightening, resetting them turned into a real challenge when all were discovered to be at least 12–18 inches beneath a hard layer of clay! Trying to locate the base of one led to the discovery of a totally different stone, not listed in the “Rose Hill Cemetery 1821–1976” volume. The name on the stone: E. VanZandt. Turns out that it was Elizabeth VanZandt, wife of Cashier VanZandt, an undertaker. There was also a small, hand-craded stone for Maud Davis. The 1880 Census indicates that the VanZandts had a daughter, Maud, making it totally logical that she would be buried in the same family plot. Now to figure out how the Langtons and John F. Rogers were related!

Business Members of the History Center

The Monroe County History Center would like to thank our business members for their support.

~Curry Auto Center ~United Commerce Bank
~The Irish Lion ~Psi Iota Xi, Bloomington Thrift Shop
~John Bethell Title Company, Inc. ~Pritchett Brothers, Inc.
~Monroe County Public Library ~ISU The May Agency
~Nick’s English Hut

A New Way to Park

August 12, 2013 saw yet another installation of parking meters in the downtown area. The new meters are solar powered and take both change (nickels, dimes, quarters, and golden dollars) and credit cards. There is a $0.30 convenience fee for each credit card transaction. Parking is $1.00 an hour, paid in 15 minute increments, and there is no limit on the number of hours. The meters, on the streets, are monitored Monday through Saturday from 8am to 10pm. The meters cover a large portion of downtown, including Rogers St. between 3rd and 11th, Walnut St. between 2nd and 11th, 3rd/Washington & 3rd lot is $0.50 an hour, M-F from 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.*

- Morton St. garage is $0.50 an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*
- Walnut St. garage is $0.50 an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*
- Dunn & 4th lot is $1.00 an hour, 2 hour limit, M-F from 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.
- Washington & 4th lot is $0.50 an hour, M-F from 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.*
- Lincoln & 6th lot is $0.50 an hour, M-F from 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends. (This lot is directly behind the History Center.)*
- Washington & 3rd lot is $0.50 an hour, M-F from 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.*
- There are also parking permits for the garages available at rates of $40-$76 a month.

For more information you can visit the City of Bloomington’s parking page on their website: bloomington.in.gov/parking or call the parking office at (812) 349-3400.

Collections’ Corner

By Rebecca Vaughn

General collections intern Kelsey Bawel has been a wonderful asset to the History Center. Kelsey focused her efforts on cataloging recent donations and backlog materials. Some of the items processed include RCA newsletters (1940s-1960s), Indiana School Journal articles (1867), Monroe Dam and Reservoir pamphlets (1965), as well as photographs of area churches and schools.

Kelsey attended Taylor University in Upland, Indiana for her undergraduate studies. She was a double major in History and International studies with a concentration in European Studies. As a student-athlete she was an All-American three years and an Academic All-American. Kelsey will begin the IUPUI Masters in Public History program this fall and will be interning at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis.

Beginning her volunteer work in collections in early June, Ashley Jenkins graciously continues to support the Center by volunteering this Fall Semester. Ashley has processed a number of archival materials including Civil War era documents, transcriptions of letters from Dr. Robert O. Hamill of Bloomington (1840-1841), letters from Wallace’s Farmer Journal to T. C. Oscar Schacht concerning city population and farm production (1928), and Monon Railroad photographs. Ashley has also updated numerous catalog records for items in the general artifact collection.

Ashley is a senior at IU where she studies Fine Arts and Journalism. She is an arts reporter for the Indiana Daily Student and uses her writing skills to research materials in the History Center’s collections. She plans to participate in a Museum Education practicum through the Mathers Museum in the Spring Semester. After graduation Ashley hopes to find work at either a museum or a daily newspaper.

HiStory Time

Join us the third Thursday of every month at 10:30am for HiStory Time. HiStory Time is a history-themed story time for children ages 3-6. HiStory Time includes stories, music, crafts, and occasional artifact encounters. Free with entry to museum. Museum Admission – Children under 6: Free; Children, 6–17: $1.00; Adults: $2.00; Members: Free.

New Items in the Collection

collection@monroehistory.org

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughn

~ 3 photographs (reprints) of the Monon Railroad. Photos depict McDoel Gardens, Smithville Depot, and Monon roundhouse. Gift from Ron Marquardt.
~ Photograph of nine Showers Brothers employees, 1927, 1929, 1932, 1937, 1940. Gift from Marion Jacobs.
~ Photograph of nine Showers Brothers employees, 1948. Gift from Melba Aynes.
~ Photograph of Roy and Marie Schmalz, 1950. Gift from Marion Jacobs.
~ Photograph of Roy and Marie Schmalz, 1950. Gift from Sarah Schmalz Templin.
~ WWII ration booklet; Bloomington High School handbook, 1941; Martinville postcard, 1900; and IU football material, 1948. Gift from Melba Aynes.
~ Land deed, 1876; family letters, 1908–1920; and campaign materials, 1908. Gift from Jenny Woodward.