Richland Cemetery

This cemetery is located behind Richland Church of Christ on State Highway 48, about a mile and a half east of Whitehall. The church is one of the oldest in the county, founded in 1837. The history of this frontier pioneer and the church he founded. 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. 2 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Teacher</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
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<td>Sustaining</td>
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<td>Patron</td>
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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

The History Center will be closed December 23, 24, and 25 for the Christmas holiday, as well as December 30 and 31 and January 1 for the New Year’s Holiday. Also, the History Center is closed on any days that Monroe County Community Schools (MCCSC) closes for snow.

Looking for a unique Holiday gift?

Give the gift of history! A membership to the Monroe County History Center is a present that lasts all year long, and it is tax deductible. This is a perfect gift for a relative, friend, or colleague.

Bring history to life for a special person on your gift list this holiday season. An acknowledgement card will be sent along with membership information. A Membership form is included on the last page of the newsletter.

It’s easy to give!
Calendar of Events
All events held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

December
- 5th, 4:00pm—Cemetery Committee Fundraiser
- 8th, 6:30pm-8:30pm—Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard
- 10th, 6-9pm—Civil War Roundtable Holiday Dinner
- 12th, 4:30pm—Board Meeting
- 14th, 11am—Saturday’s Child
- 23rd, 24th, 25th—Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 30th and 31st—Closed for New Year’s Holiday

January
- 1st—Closed for New Year’s Day
- 3rd, 5:00pm—Friday Folk Series
- 9th, 4:30pm—Board Meeting
- 11th, 11am—Saturday’s Child
- 11th, 12-4pm—Cemetery Committee Winter Workday
- 14th, 7pm—Civil War Roundtable
- 16th, 10:30am—HiStory Time

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

“Old-Fashioned Christmas”
November 29, 2013 to February 15, 2014
Come view holidays from the past in the History Center’s “Old-Fashioned Christmas” on exhibit in the Brown Gallery. Opening the same day as the downtown Canopy of Lights, this festive display will offer a sense of past holiday celebrations.

Watercolor Society: “Cemetery Paintings”
October 18, 2013 to January 18, 2014
Every year, the History Center’s Cemetery Committee designs and sells a unique calendar as a fundraiser, featuring a different local cemetery each month. This year the Bloomington Watercolor Society has graciously painted a number of local cemeteries and headstones to be considered for the calendar. This exhibit will feature all of the submissions.

“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, Texas. This exhibit will feature community members’ written memories about where they were and how they reacted on this fateful day.

Community Voices Gallery: “Alliance of Bloomington Museums”
August 16, 2013 to November 30, 2013
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.

“The 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

The following items have been accessioned recently:
- Stinesville Quarrian Yearbook. 1955. Gift from Sue Bow-
- Topographical Map of Polk Township. 1943. Includes names and locations of historic communities that are now underwater.
A Picture of Bloomington, Indiana, in 1849
By Penelope Mathiesen

The newspaper item reprinted below describes Bloomington in 1849. In those days, the vast majority of Monroe County residents lived outside of Bloomington, the impact of Indiana University on the town was much smaller, and the limestone industry did not yet exist. There was no railroad serving Bloomington, and area industries focused on products that met local needs.

BLOOMINGTON DAILY TELEPHONE
8 September 1938

“Indiana Gazetteer” Tells of Bloomington of 1849

Bloomington, a beautifully-situated town consisting of 350 houses, about half of which are brick, and with a population of 1,643—this is the seat of justice of Monroe county as described in 1849 in “The Indiana Gazetteer, or Topographical Dictionary of the State of Indiana. There are in the town thirteen stores, one grocery, two drug stores, three excellent taverns, nine lawyers and ten physicians,” the compiler finds. “The Methodists, Baptists, Christians, Presbyterians, Reformed Presbyterians, Seceders, Covenanters and Lutherans each have their house of worship and preacher.”

“Location of the State University at Bloomington and the continued prosperity of that institution, has contributed very much to the growth and prosperity of the town.” However since the school’s enrollment at that time was only 200, the writer could scarcely foresee the increasing importance which was to come. He did feel that the opening of new avenues would increase its enrollment. The college was then some distance from the heart of the town, being on South College Avenue at the site of the brick seminary structure now standing.

There was also a “well-conducted Female Academy in town, at which there are usually between 70 and 80 scholars in attendance.” This school was housed where the Masonic temple now stands on the corner of Seventh and College Streets. …

“There are three printing offices in the town, one of which publishes the Herald, another the Christian Record and the other doing principally job work.” With absolutely no mention of the yet unborn local stone industry “The Gazette” lists only two extensive business endeavors: those of the large Seward and Sons foundry and the spinning, weaving and fulling establishment of Heaps and Jones. …

Monroe county, of which Bloomington was the flourishing county seat, was organized in 1818, and at the time of writing had a population of about 13,000. “The face of the county is mostly hilly, though about Bloomington and many other places, is it gently rolling,” the writer finds. “The timber is generally of a good quality and such as denotes a good soil, viz: walnut, sugar, ash, oak, poplar, cherry, hickory, beech, etc. Most of the county, except where it is too hilly, is as well adapted to the usual farming products and to raising cattle, hogs and horses as any part of the State.”

“There are in the county eleven grist mills, twelve saw mills, four oil mills, nine carding machines…” The author, once stating that the quality of the religious and intellectual instruction is somewhat in disrepute, here becomes exasperated and simply declares that “the county has preachers too tedious to mention.” Among forgotten county industries are listed the salt spring worked in the eastern part of the county and the iron ore deposit in the southwest.

Gala Benefit
Save the Date

The Monroe County History Center’s Annual Gala will be held on February 21, 2014, at Cook World Headquarters. The silent auction and Wine Wall will be a main attraction at the event. If you are willing to donate, please contact Linda Stines at linda.stines@cfcproperties.com. Some items on our wish list include:

- American Girl Dolls
- American Girl Doll clothes
- A trip of your choice—do you have timeshare points you are willing to donate?
- Bottles of wine for the Wine Wall

Thank you for your contributions.

Gala Committee

Look for the new Civil War Exhibit, coming December 17

Giants in the Cornfield
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL
Exhibition Opens: December 17, 2013 & Closes: April 12, 2014
Bargain shoppers take note! The History Center’s popular holiday sale is open all of December and January. It features great donated bargains in holiday decorations, books, gifts, and jewelry. Many items will be half-price after Christmas.

In addition to the donated treasures for sale in the holiday shop, the Museum Store offers new and unusual books, cards and gifts for you to see too. Many items available in the Museum Store will make great gifts: Clay City pottery, books about local history, and old-fashioned toys like chalk slates, McGuffey Readers, and kits to assemble, including cabins and stagecoaches.

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

Every year our holiday sales bring in thousands of dollars to help with programs and events, thanks to all of you.

Staff Spotlight
Julie McMath

This issue, we honor our own Julie McMath, Membership Coordinator here at the Monroe County History Center. Julie is a Colts and Cubs fan, rides a unicycle, has skied the Swiss Alps, has visited 44 of the 50 United States, and enjoys old classic cars. But a special skill Julie possesses is her talent for sharing and helping those around her. For all she does for others, she was recently nominated for the Everyday Hero Award given by the Herald Times. Everyday Heroes honors the selfless efforts of Bloomington area residents who give of their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of others.

Julie provides blankets (which she crochets), hats, gloves, scarves, raincoats, and tarps to people without shelter. For five years, Julie volunteered as financial advisor and budget manager for an IU sorority of 91 women. She helps with Vacation Bible School at her church, has volunteered for the IU Bloomington Hospital Foundation, and donates to the Alzheimer’s Association every year. Before being hired as our Membership Coordinator, Julie also volunteered at the History Center.

In true hero fashion, Julie doesn’t feel heroic but admires school teachers as her heroes. “They’re the ones that are there every day directing kids, and they wear more hats than ever before. They do more with less.”

In her spare time, Julie prepares and sends goodie bags to her daughter for the fifth grade students her daughter teaches in Georgia and also cares for her six Chihuahua dogs, four of whom were rescue dogs. In Julie’s words, “I know I have a lot and I need to share and help.”
One of the saddest days our family ever experienced was December 25, 1943. Our brother, James Levi Hill, who was just 18 years old on October 22 that year, left for the United States Navy. We thought our closely knit family had come to the end of the world. We were all crying, even Daddy, whom we had seen cry only once and that was ten or twelve years earlier during the Depression when he had to sell a prize fox hound to feed our family.

Of course, we were not the only family going through this terrible time in our lives. Young boys in our town and every other small town, big city, or in the countryside were leaving every day to go into the service to help the United States win a war. There were boys and girls from Smithville in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Our family had celebrated our Christmas the week before, and we wanted to spend every minute we could with Jim. He had received his “orders” just a few days before to be at the Great Lakes Naval Base on that date.

The Hill family—Grandma Hill, her five sons, Zekie, Freddie, Roy, Frankie, and Merle, and their wives and children—had their annual Christmas Eve party as usual. Our cousin, Raymond and John Hill and Dick and Bill Hill and, of course, Jim, by this time were in the service, so our happy family gatherings were not so happy. Still, in the back of our minds we worried Lew Hill might also have to leave, and in May 1945 he was drafted or he enlisted. I can’t remember. Our uncle, Frank Hill, was also drafted soon after. We got through Christmas Day with only the great anticipation we would get to see Jim in six weeks after he had finished boot camp.

The day of Jim’s furlough in February, we were expecting a very big celebration Christmas Eve party as usual. Our cousin, Raymond and John Hill and Dick and Bill Hill and, of course, Jim, by this time were in the service, so our happy family gatherings were not so happy. Still, in the back of our minds we worried Lew Hill might also have to leave, and in May 1945 he was drafted or he enlisted. I can’t remember. Our uncle, Frank Hill, was also drafted soon after. We got through Christmas Day with only the great anticipation we would get to see Jim in six weeks after he had finished boot camp.

At the end of Jim’s furlough, he was sent to the U.S. naval base in San Diego where he was stationed on the U.S. Lenawee, a Navy transport ship. The ship roamed up and down the Pacific and was at Okinawa and Iwo Jima and all other severe Pacific battles. Jim was an expert radio operator; he could receive and transmit Morse code quicker and more perfectly than the other operators. So during severe battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, Jim’s captain placed him, at times, on duty three days and three nights without rest. Once Jim collapsed and was placed in sick bay only long enough to get stronger, they needed him so desperately. Then they noticed from all the stress and his youth that he was experiencing partial deafness. Jim was on the ocean eighteen months, scarcely having time or allowed to write home. He must have had a barrel of letters from home, because Mother, like all other moms, wrote a letter to Jim every day. He brought them home, too.

As Jim was going through all the processes of being discharged from service, a dentist was checking his teeth, and he could not find one cavity, which was unusual being out on the sea so many months. So he asked his dentist buddy to check for cavities. Of course, the delay was disturbing Jim and wasting his time to get back to Smithville, Indiana. The dentist said to Jim, “Your mother must have laid out a good diet for you.”

Jim answered, “Yes, sir. Beans and potatoes.” Needless to say, Jim did not mention his deafness, and to this day he has had a hearing problem.

After the war, our family picked up where we left off. Christmas traditions remained the same—meeting at Mother and Daddy’s on Christmas Eve with new in-laws, new grandchildren, and in and out on Christmas day.

It seems our Hill uncles, aunts, and cousins were not meeting on Christmas Eve any longer with all the cousins getting married, living elsewhere, and having their own families and the death of Uncle Zekie on Christmas Eve 1950 when he was in his early fifties. After Mother’s death, February 1980, we still spent Christmas Eve at Daddy’s until he was not able to keep his home anymore. Now, without our home any longer, we four kids of Grace and Roy Hill, and eight grandchildren, share each other’s homes on Christmas Eve. Just like you and your families who have changed, we are trying to keep our heritage as intact as we can.

* The above article, submitted by Randi Richardson, was written by Imogene “Jean” (Hill) McCallmon Glass, a Smithville historian, for the Smithville Newsletter in 1996. It was shared in 2013 with the permission of her husband, Ken Glass.

Ron Burkhart—A Special Kind of Volunteer

Ron Burkhart is what is commonly referred to as a “Marine’s Marine.” He is a retired Sergeant Major, USMC, and was recently recognized at the Area 10 Agency on Aging Senior Salute luncheon for exceptional volunteerism in the community.

Ron took over the veteran’s oral history project from Bud Lynch, who passed away in June of this year, and who had started the veterans’ oral history project here at the History Center. Together the two of them completed almost 300 oral histories, which are now archived in the National Archives in Washington DC and here at the Monroe County History Center. Ron’s dedication and service to this nation speaks for itself; his continued dedication to veterans through the project he leads adds greater luster to his character and selflessness. Thank you, Ron!
Message from the President

Dear Members, Friends, and Volunteers,

Tis the season to give thanks and on behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has supported the History Center over the past year. The History Center would not be the success it is without your generous donations, volunteer hours, and service as ambassadors for our organization.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year!

New Parking App

Parkmobile is a new free app that lets you add extra time to your meter from your smartphone. After you enter your vehicle information, plate number, and charge card number, you can add time to your license plate while you shop or enjoy lunch.

For your convenience, here is a reprint of parking options in the downtown area: Parking is $1 per hour, payable in 15 minute increments, with no limit on the number of hours. The street meters are monitored Monday through Saturday from 8am to 10pm. The meters cover a large portion of downtown, including Rogers Street between 3rd and 11th, Walnut Street between 2nd and 11th, 3rd/Kirkwood between Rogers Street and Indiana, and a few outlying areas.

The parking lots and parking garages still have lower rates and in some cases parking is free for the first three hours. Lots/garages with an initial three free hours are marked with an *.

- 4th St. garage is $0.50 an hour M–F 8am to 6pm, free after 6pm 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 an hour, 2 hour limit, M–F 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.
- Washington & 4th lot is $0.50 an hour, M–F 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.*
- Lincoln & 6th lot is $0.50 an hour, M–F 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 8am to 5pm, free after 5pm and on weekends.*
- Parking permits are available for the garages at rates of $40-76 per month.

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

Collections’ Corner

By Rebecca Vaughn

Featured Interns:

The History Center has been very fortunate to host interns Jeneva Sumner and Abigail Billings this Fall Semester. Jeneva has worked with the Center’s archival and library collections while Abigail has worked with our artifacts and backlog.

A sampling of the many photographs Jeneva has cataloged include the Bloomington Limestone Company (c. 1940s), First National Bank (1910s–1950s) and Indiana University sports teams (c.1930s). Additional materials cataloged include Monroe County Library advertisements (c. 1970s) and The Indiana Student newspaper (1872, 1891). Originally from a small town near Lafayette, Indiana, Jeneva is a senior at IU; Abigail is majoring in American History and Political Science. After graduation, Abigail hopes to move to New York City or Washington DC in order to work in a museum setting or with a government agency.

HiStory Time

HiStory Time is a history-themed story time for children ages 3 to 6, which includes stories, music, crafts, and occasional artifact encounters. Free with entry to museum. Museum Admission – Children under 6: Free; Children ages 6–17: $1.00; Adults: $2.00; Members: Free.

No hiStory Time is scheduled in December. Join us again the third Thursday in January at 10:30 a.m. when hiStory Time resumes.

New Items in the Collection

Compiled by Rebecca Vaughn

- 2013 Monroe County license plate. Gift from Vera Nicholson.
- Vietnam War era Navy uniforms (navy blue wool shirt and pants; white shirt, pants and belt; blue jean work pants). Gift from Sharon Otto.
- Three photos of Indiana University campus, c. 1920. Gift from Beatrice Lemon.
- Senior corduroy skirt with cartoon images and student signatures, 1960. Gift from Judy Roberts.
- 1950s) and Indiana University football materials (1948), and Bloomington High School items (1940s). A senior at IU, Abigail is majoring in American History and Political Science. After graduation, Abigail hopes to move to New York City or Washington DC in order to work in a museum setting or with a government agency.

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