

Oct. 2008

Vol. 2008 Issue 5

Museum

Museum Store

Genealogy Library

Educational Facility

202 East Sixth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-332-2517
www.monroehistory.org

Hours

Tuesday—Saturday
10:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

Museum Admission

\$2/adult
\$1/child (6-18 yrs)
5 yrs. & under free

Members are always free.

**Highlighted Articles
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Monroe County Historian

Editor: Jill Lesh

Design/Layout: Lisa Simmons

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. presents

Monroe County Historian

See Stories... Touch Time... Make Memories...

Seward Portrait Restorations

The 150 year old portraits of Austin and Jennett Seward are being restored by blacksmith believed that to have made the Margaret Contompasis, painting fish weathervane that is atop the conservator at the Indiana University Art courthouse. Museum.

The oil portraits of Austin and Jennett are part of the History Center's permanent Seward Exhibit in the Cook Gallery. The portraits were painted in the early 1860s by Bloomingtonian Marion Blair. Now that the paintings have been cleaned, Blair's tiny

signature is visible. Austin Seward was the blacksmith believed that to have made the Margaret Contompasis, painting fish weathervane that is atop the conservator at the Indiana University Art courthouse.

Thank you to the Seward family members, tea party benefit participants, and the United Commerce Bank for the donations that made the restoration possible. We expect to see the restored portraits back in the Cook Gallery by December 1.



Margaret Contompasis (left) shows the restored portrait of Jennett Seward to Nancy Seward Taylor, great, great granddaughter of Jennett & Austin Seward.

Monroe County History Center

MCHS Purpose Statement

The purpose of MCHS shall be to collect, preserve, research, interpret and exhibit the genealogy, history and artifacts of Monroe County, Indiana, as well as research and interpret the relation of that county's genealogy, history, and artifacts to the State of Indiana and the United States, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Monroe County's history, culture, and natural environment by all.



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Events Schedule

All meetings and programs will be held at the History Center unless otherwise stated.

General Board Meeting

2nd Thursday of the month, 4 pm

Civil War Roundtable Meetings

2nd Tuesday of each month from Sep.-Jun. from 7-8:30pm. For more information, please contact Steve Rolfe at 336-0757.

3rd Thursday Series

3rd Thursday of the month from Jan.-Nov. a free program is held, usually at 7pm.

Genealogy Group

Every 1st Wednesday of odd months.

October

- FRI 10 Triple Exhibit Opening, 5-7:30pm
TUE 14 Civil War Roundtable: "The US Navy in the Civil War," w/ Dick Worsena
THR 16 3rd Thursday: "Do's & Don'ts of the Graveyard," see page 4
THR 23 Tea Party Benefit, 1-3:30pm
FRI-SAT 24-25 Doll Sale Benefit, 10-4pm
SAT 25 Hands-on Cemetery Workshop, Mulkey Cemetery, 9am-12pm, page 4

November

- MON 3 "Arguing about History: Battlefields, Museums, and Other Memorial Sites," IU Continuing Studies Course, Three Mondays, Nov. 3-17, 7-8:30pm, call 855-9335; meets at the History Center
WED 5 Genealogy Group: Leaving No Stone Unturned w/ Deborah Engelking, 7pm
FRI-SAT 8-9 Holiday Decorations Sale, 10am-4pm
TUE 11 Civil War Roundtable: Virginia Military Institute in the War, w/ Dave Sutherland, 7pm
SAT 15 Native American Tools ID Benefit, 1-4pm, see page 4
THR 20 3rd Thursday: "Indiana's Native Americans," w/ IU Anthropology Department, 7pm
FRI 28 Canopy of Lights Open House, 7pm

December

- MON 8 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 5:30pm
TUE 9 Civil War Roundtable Holiday Dinner, 5:30pm
SAT 13 Historic Showers-Graham House Tour, 12-3pm

Exhibit Schedule

Community Voices Gallery "Tea Time Doll & Bear Club"

Opens: October 1

Closes: January 10

Members of the Tea Time Doll & Bear Club are displaying dozens of vintage dolls from their private collections. Also on display are six large Wizard of Oz character dolls in a colorful Land of Oz setting.

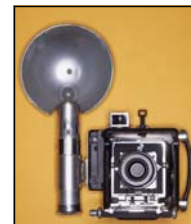


"Natural History Photos: Focus on Southern Indiana"

Opens: September 30

Closes: January 24

The Bloomington Photography Club and the Sassafras Audubon Society have pooled their talent to create a juried exhibit of 60 color photos providing a spectacular look at nature in Southern Indiana.



"The Dog Made Me Buy It"

Opens: October 10

Closes: February 21

This exhibit features images and icons that have influenced our purchases during the past century, including the well-recognized and beloved RCA dog, Nipper, who has been "selling" RCA products since 1929. This fascinating exhibit was created by our volunteer Exhibits Designer Jamee Wissink.



- Upcoming Exhibits -

"Red & Green Study Quilts"

Opens: January 30

Closes: May 2

A national traveling exhibit will feature more than 50 "study quilts" from the American Quilt Study Group. One of the original antique quilts used as a study pattern and belonging to Mary Lee & Norman Deckard, will also be on display.

"WildCare Inc." - January 2009

"O! Baby!" - March 2009

Programs Not To Miss

“Indiana Native Americans ”
with IU Anthropology Department
Thursday, Nov. 20, 7pm

Join the History Center in welcoming members of the Indiana University Anthropology Department for an informative and fascinating talk about the first “Hoosiers” - Indiana’s Native Americans. This talk will be a follow-up to the Stone Tool ID Benefit.

“Stone Tool ID Benefit”
Saturday, Nov. 15, 1-4pm
\$6 for 1 item, \$10 for two items

Did you ever want to know more about your Native American stone tools—similar to the point at right? Bring them by the History Center to have them identified.



Chert Meadowood point from the Woodland Tradition, c. 1300BC—300AD. 1982.095.0014.

Tea Party Benefit
with Carol Darling
Thursday, Oct. 23
1:00 – 3:30pm

Delight in a progression of savories, scones, sweets and teas, plus “Raggedy Ann’s Birthday Surprise” by Loretta Neidigh. Also enjoy an early purchase opportunity at our Vintage Doll Sale.



The Montgomery Ward Company Catalogue, Spring & Summer 1895 children’s tea set sold for anywhere from \$0.09 to \$0.85, depending upon the number of pieces.

Reservations required. Seating is limited. Send \$25 per person, \$20 for members, to the History Center, or call 812-332-2517 to use a credit card.

Proceeds will be used for vitally important archival materials, textile boxes, and acid free paper.

“Do’s & Don’ts of the Graveyard”
with Lou Malcomb and Lisa Simmons
Thursday, Oct. 16, 7pm

Learn about the proper methods to record cemetery data, what visitors can do to help preserve our history, and what common practices can actually cause damage. Also, learn about what hidden information is available for visitors by uncovering the language of mortuary motifs. This talk will be a lead-up to the Saturday workshop.



The Waldron grave plot marker located in Rosehill Cemetery. This single carved limestone piece incorporates a multitude of commonly used mourning motifs.

“Hands-on Cemetery Workshop: Learn about GPS, Graveyard Maintenance, and Digital Photography”
Mulkey Cemetery
Saturday, October 25, 9am-12pm

This free program is part of the Monroe County History Center’s 3rd Thursday program series.

“Arguing about History: Battlefields, Museums, and Other Memorial Sites”
with Edward Linenthal

3 Mondays, Nov. 3-17, 7-8:30pm
Classes meet the History Center
Fee: registered by Oct 27 - \$50, after Oct. 27 - \$55

Historic sites, like individuals, have revealing and interesting histories. The class will examine the contested histories of battlefields (Gettysburg, the Little Bighorn, and Pearl Harbor), the making of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the complexities of memorial building after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.



Edward Linenthal is a professor of history at IU and editor of the *Journal of American History*.

To register: 812-855-9335, www.continue.indiana.edu

The Swards and Bloomington Bands

By Penelope Mathiesen

Austin Seward, who arrived in Monroe County in 1817 and built up a thriving business as a blacksmith and toolmaker, organized Bloomington's first band about 1838. Among its members were four of his sons: John, James, Bryce, and William B.¹

The Seward Band, with John as leader, played at the Tippecanoe Battle Ground celebration during William Henry Harrison's 1840 presidential campaign and performed on other patriotic and collegiate occasions, usually without compensation. When invited to play at Indiana University's 1842 commencement, band members sent a letter stating that they could no longer perform for free, due to the expense and time required to prepare themselves. In 1843, the band "was used in marshalling troops for the Mexican war and the last thing that some of the soldiers ever heard of Bloomington was the thump of [Jesse] Kersaw's drum and the squeak of [John] Seward's clarinet. This band also helped to elect Polk in 1844."²

James Seward (leader and E-flat bugle) and his younger brothers Irvin and Albert were part of Bloomington's Silver Band, organized in 1850. Several members entered the army as musicians. Irvin Seward, the eighth child of Austin Seward and Jannett "Jane" Irvin,³ served as a pri-

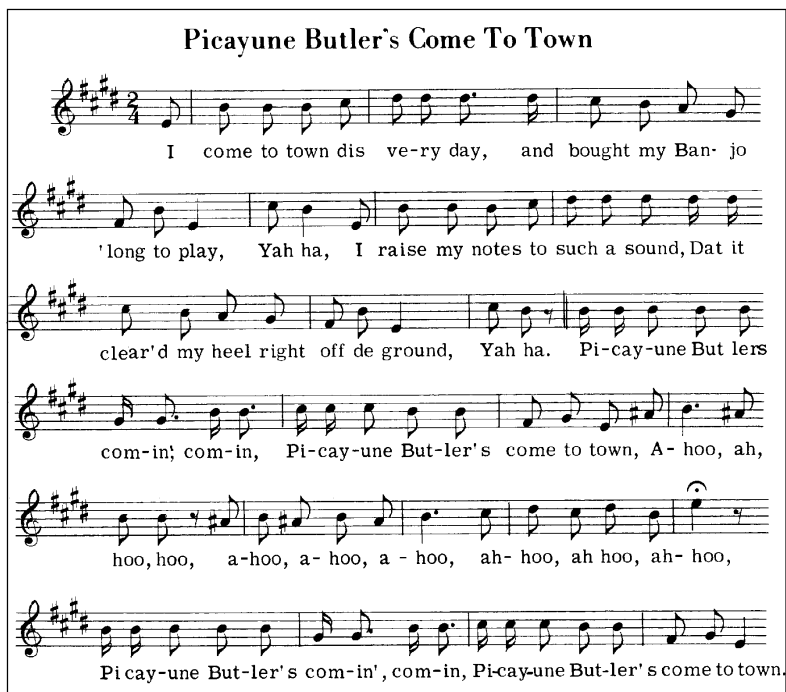
vate in the 21st Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.⁴ He directed a band attached to a military unit commanded by General Benjamin Butler, who asked Seward "to write the music for a tune to be called 'Picaune [sic] Butler Comes to Town' as that is what the officer was nicknamed. Mr. Seward complied with the request, and as the General led his men into New Orleans in the capture of that city, the band blared out the tune that had been composed by Mr. Seward."⁵

General Butler, "known as Picayune Butler for his size," entered New Orleans with his troops on 1 May 1862.⁶ If Seward's composition was original, it has not been found, but the music may have been a parody of a popular minstrel tune with a similar title, "Picayune Butler's Come to Town," which appeared in songbooks as early as 1847⁷ and evokes the excitement of a performance by John "Picayune" Butler, a black banjo virtuoso of the antebellum era (see example).⁸ If Seward based his arrangement on this tune, he probably harmonized it and wrote out parts for each of his band members.

Several generations of Swards continued to populate Bloomington bands. William H. ("Billy") Seward became the director of the Mechanics' Band, first organized in 1872. This group received a small donation from local merchants for its weekly concerts. When there were not enough parts for all the players, Billy "would write out the score for those who had not been taken care of, and this saved money for the band members." When the Mechanics' Band reorganized in 1886, Seward members included William H. (director and clarinet), Charles (cornet), Mike and Albert (tenor horn), and Paul (tuba). The Mechanics' Band "remained intact as a popular local musical unit until 1898, when most of its players became a part of the 1st Indiana regimental which saw service in the Spanish-American war." Several Mechanics' members formed the nucleus of the Bloomington Band, which "came into existence in 1902." William H. Seward was one of the directors. New personnel included Fred Seward.⁹

There were enough Seward musicians to form a band of their own at one time: William B., William H., George, Mike, and Paul, along with Mrs. Edward (Seward) Hall and Mrs. A. H. (Seward) Beldon. "They were in demand to play at college dances which were then held in various upstairs

Picayune Butler's Come To Town



I come to town dis ve-ry day, and bought my Ban-jo
'long to play, Yah ha, I raise my notes to such a sound, Dat it
clear'd my heel right off de ground, Yah ha. Pi-cay-une But lers
com-in; com-in, Pi-cay-une But-ler's come to town, A- hoo, ah,
hoo, hoo, a-hoo, a- hoo, a - hoo, ah- hoo, ah hoo, ah- hoo,
Pi cay-une But-ler's com-in', com-in, Pi-cay-une But-ler's come to town.

Minstrel tune, ca. 1847, from *The Ragtime Songbook*, ed. Ann Charters (New York: Oak Publications, 1965). In 1862, Irvin Seward arranged for military band a tune with a similar title: "Picayune Butler Comes to Town."

Seward continued on page 6

Memories of Dolan to Appear in Book

By Randi Richardson

Once upon a time Dolan, Indiana, located a few miles north of Bloomington in Washington Township, was a thriving village. Although it is now much quieter, the members of this small community do not want its past to be forgotten. Consequently, the Dolan Historical Society, in association with Dolan's New Prospect Baptist Church, has undertaken several projects intended to keep the memories of Dolan's people and places alive for future generations.

First and foremost is a book being compiled from information provided by individuals who have ties to Dolan and its past. The information pertains to family histories, events, and/or places of interest. Additionally, the book will include items relevant to Dolan that appeared in early Bloomington newspapers.

More than just a dream, the book already consists of more than 100 pages and 200 photographs. The target date for completion is November 1 with the hope that copies will be available for purchase in time for Christmas giving. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go toward the construction, spearheaded by the New Prospect Church, of

a new community building.

A second way in which Dolan's history is being preserved is the transcription of the New Prospect Church records that range from 1876 to the present excepting those records from 1892 to 1921 that were, unfortunately, destroyed in a fire. While some of the information pertaining to the church's management will be kept confidential, membership lists including dates of active membership and deaths are of certain interest to genealogists. The church board is considering making the latter information publicly available.

If you have stories or other information that you believe would be appropriate for inclusion in the upcoming history book, contact Thelma Richardson at (812) 334-1886 or Ann Chafin at (812) 339-4607. Upon completion of the book, an announcement will be made as to where it can be purchased along with the purchase price. Likewise, our readers will be kept up to date about the availability of membership records for the New Prospect Church.

Seward — Con't from page 5

halls in the downtown business district of Bloomington, at a time when the Greek letter societies owned no property of their own.”¹⁰

On three historic occasions, Seward musicians performed for Wylie family members. In 1838, Dr. Theophilus Wylie (a younger cousin of Andrew Wylie) and his wife, Rebecca, were serenaded by the Seward Band when they arrived in Bloomington after their bridal journey. In 1888, the couple was serenaded at their residence, Wylie House, on their 50th anniversary. James Seward, clarinetist and sole surviving member of the earlier group, played selections with which the couple had been serenaded in 1838, followed by the Mechanics' Band, which “charmed the company with sweet strains of harmony.”¹¹ In 1912, Rebecca Wylie was serenaded by the Seward Band at Wylie House on her 100th birthday.¹²

Notes

1. “Something about the Tooters of Long Ago,” *Bloomington Evening World*, 14 June 1896, retrieved 08-16-2008 from cwcfamily.org/sewband1.htm
2. “Tooters”; scrapbook items related to the Seward family

- bands, retrieved 08-16-2008 from cwcfamily.org/sewband1.htm
3. “Tooters”; family information retrieved 08-16-2008 from cwcfamily.org/seward.htm
4. Art Westneat, *Veterans' Records Enrollments: Monroe County, Indiana, 1886* (Bloomington: Monroe County Historical Society, 1994), p. 167; www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.cfm, accessed 08-23-2008. The 21st Indiana Infantry became the 1st Heavy Artillery in 1863; “Irevin Seward” was discharged with the rank of “musician.”
5. D. C. Miller, “Bloomington's Mechanics' Band in 1886,” *Bloomington World Telephone* (14 August 1947).
6. John V. Denson, ed., *The Costs of War* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1997), p. 152; James M. McPherson, *The Battle Cry of Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988), p. 420.
7. Hans Nathan, *Dan Emmett and the Rise of Early Negro Minstrelsy* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962), p. 154.
8. Ann Charters, ed., *The Ragtime Songbook* (New York: Oak Publications, 1965), p. 10.
9. “Tooters”; Miller.
10. Miller.
11. “Golden Wedding of Prof. and Mrs. Wylie,” *Bloomington Telephone* (9 November 1888).
12. Miller.

Presidential Candidates in Bloomington 1840-1920

By Penelope Mathiesen

Presidential candidates who came to Bloomington in its early years (along with a few office-holders who visited but did not campaign here) are listed in the following newspaper article. For more on the Seward Band, mentioned in paragraph 3, see page 5 of this issue.

Bloomington Daily Telephone, 8 September 1938

BLOOMINGTON HAS BEEN IN POLITICAL SWIM FROM INFANCY, RECORDS SHOW

Bloomington has been in the political swim from its infancy, according to records beginning in 1840 with William Henry Harrison's campaigning for president and covering William Howard Taft's race for the presidency in 1909.

It is claimed that 40,000 people from all over the middle west camped out at the Battle Ground at Tippecanoe when Harrison came there for a rally at the scene of one of the most famous of his Indian battles. The Seward band, which has for 100 years been composed principally of Searwards, went to that rally and two years later, when the rally was at Bloomington, the Lafayette band made a return visit. Henry Clay was the orator.

Stephen A. Douglas did his campaigning a bit differently in 1860. Arriving at Bloomington in September on the Monon train, a platform was improvised, the Seward band rallied 'round, and Douglas spoke to a throng—at 12:30 a.m.

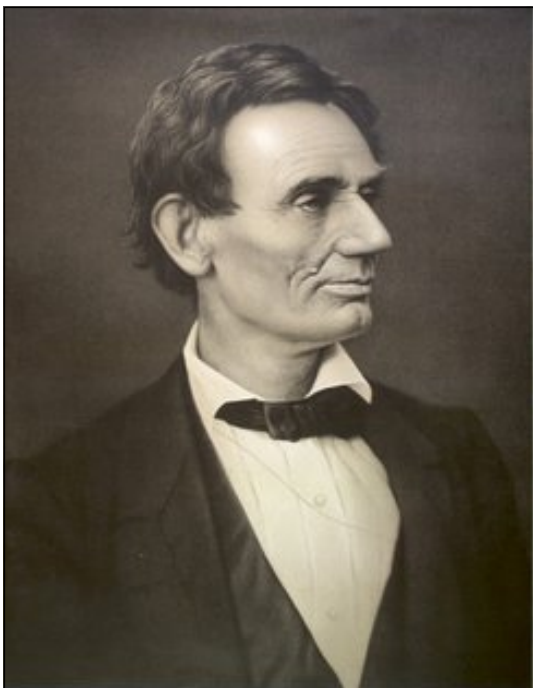
Samuel H. Buskirk, then Democratic chairman, was master-of-ceremonies and introduced Douglas, the first presidential candidate to make an extensive tour of the country for campaigning purposes.

James M. Blair, still a resident of this city, heard the speech Andrew Johnson made in 1864 when he was a candidate for vice-president as Abraham Lincoln was running for president. The handsomest man ever to be master of the White House visited the county seat of Monroe county not long thereafter during his incumbency [sic] in office—Chester A. Arthur.

In 1884 James G. Blaine was here for a few minutes and Benjamin Harrison made frequent visits to the local courthouse on legal business. "Teddy" Roosevelt lectured at the University long before he became famous as a politician or statesman—and delivered an Indiana university commencement address after retiring from the presidency.

Then came William Howard Taft who spoke in the year of his election and curtains [?] with Judge Charles E. Hughes and James M. Cox, both of whom spoke in this city before oversized rallies when they were candidates for the presidency—and both of whom were defeated.

Note on dates: Stephen A. Douglas (paragraph 3) lost to Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Chester A. Arthur (paragraph 4) held office from 1881 to 1885. Paragraph 5: James G. Blaine lost to Grover Cleveland in 1884, Benjamin Harrison won in 1888, and Teddy Roosevelt held office from 1900 to 1909. Paragraph 6: William Howard Taft was elected in 1908, Judge Charles E. Hughes lost to Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and James M. Cox was defeated by Warren G. Harding in the 1920 election.



When Stephen A. Douglas was campaigning in Bloomington, his opponent, Abraham Lincoln, was working on promotional materials including this close-up of a framed portrait. It was one of four photographs taken by Alexander Hesler on June 3, 1860, in Springfield, Illinois during the United States presidential campaign.

The original negative is shattered, but is housed by the Smithsonian Institution. This portrait is one of 100,000, and was graciously donated by Lyle V. Beck to the Monroe County Historical Society. Permanent collection, 1988.038.0001.

The photograph is printed on matte paper. The history and date of the oak frame and glass are unknown, but the frame is older than the time of its reframing in 1988.

Hitch Racks: Parking on the Square a Hot Topic in 1908 Election

By Penelope Mathiesen

Parking on Bloomington's downtown square was an issue during the election season a century ago, as shown in the following newspaper clipping (dated 1908, found in *Stories from Old Bloomington and Surrounding Area*, on the shelves in the Genealogy Library).

HITCH RACK WON IN ELECTION

In the November election of 1908 there was a referendum on the hitch-rack question. After completion of the new court house, the rack was removed from the square and hitching lots were about to be provided for farmers. The people voted in favor of putting the rack back, even if Dr. J. N. Hurty, secretary of the State Board of Health, had condemned it as most unsanitary as well as unsightly.

As the ground belongs to the city where the rack was located, it is not likely that it will be put back. Members of the city council say they will no longer consent to use of city land for a hitch rack about the public square and the city health officer will likely enjoin the county from replacing the rack in case it should be tried.

Several weeks ago the city council went before the county board of commissioners and suggested that the city and

county go together, each paying half, and buy hitching lots in different parts of town and fix them up in the best of shape for the farmers. This the commissioners refused to do.

The 1908 election was not the end of the hitch rack controversy, which continued to be hotly debated in the local newspapers. At some point, the hitch rack was apparently replaced, as can be seen in photographs of the courthouse square dated approximately 1910–1920.¹

Automobiles were also in use by this time, but “if any of the merchants or other citizens had some hauling they wanted done a dray horse could be hired at the south west corner of the hitch rack. This location was dray headquarters for many years. Draymen plied their trade with horse and wagon tenaciously, but finally gave way in favor of gasolene powered trucks.”²

During this period, automobiles and horse-drawn conveyances had their own parking areas around the square. One photograph shows rigs tied up at the hitch rack on the west side of the courthouse. Automobiles are parked across the street and also on the south side of the courthouse.³



Postcard c. 1908 depicting a horse and carriage with hitching racks on the south side of the Monroe County Courthouse square. Part of the collection of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc. 1983.008.0001. Graciously donated by Frances Barrow.

The hitch rack probably went out of use sometime during the 1920s. A photograph dating from the 1930s shows cars parked on the west side of the courthouse where the hitch rack previously stood.⁴

Notes

1. For example, a photograph dated ca. 1910–1915, showing the hitch rack on the west side of the courthouse, appears in the *Bloomington Herald-Telephone* (19 May 1983); the same photograph, dated 1920, appears in the *Bloomington Tribune* (6 October 1970). See also note 3.
2. “Our Bloomington of Yesteryear: The Old and New Share Alike,” by Bennett Reed (*Bloomington Daily Herald*, 30 June 1949).
3. Undated photograph, appearing with Reed (1949). A similar photograph, dated 1920, showing the same arrangement appears with “Bloomington Yesterday” in the *Bloomington Courier-Tribune* (6 October 1970).
4. *Herald-Times* (14 August 2003).

News from the Library

genealogy@monroehistory.org

New Volunteers, New Library Associate

The Genealogy Library welcomes the following new volunteers: Debra Lawson, Sarah Morrison, Judy Holy, Maribeth McKaig, John Harper, and Marilyn Bourke. The new library associate is Kristin Emery.

Genealogy Group: "Leaving No Stone Unturned"

The Genealogy Group will meet Wednesday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. Deborah Engelking will speak on the topic "Leaving No Stone Unturned." Mrs. Engelking has been doing her own family history for over 30 years. She is the Indianapolis, Indiana LDS Stake Family History Center's Staff Training Coordinator. She was born and raised in Marion County, Indiana, and is married to her high school sweetheart, Don. He works for the CACI company in Bloomington. They are the parents of two children and grandparents of three boys.

Anyone interested is invited to attend this meeting in the Education Room of the Monroe County History Center. If you have questions, please call the History Center.

Genealogy and Local History Resources

The following resources are available in the Library:

"Businesses around the Courthouse Square in Bloomington," compiled by library associate Jenny

Gowan, identifies what was located at a particular address approximately every ten years from 1907 to 2000. The information was taken from Bloomington city directories in the collections of the Monroe County History Center's Genealogy Library.

The library's Family Files have been reorganized and relabeled in a single alphabet by library volunteer Gary Wiggins. This valuable resource is now much easier for visitors and volunteers to use.

"Monroe County Timeline and Book of Facts," created by Dennis E. Matthews, is a compilation of historical information organized in a large binder with an alphabetical index of names.

Issues of the *Optimist* (Bloomington High School's newspaper) from 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935 have been photocopied and made available. In addition to news stories, the issues contain advertisements from local businesses of the day.

"Will Book No. 5, Monroe County, 1890-1904," a binder containing photocopies of the complete original wills, was prepared by library intern Stephanie Custer.

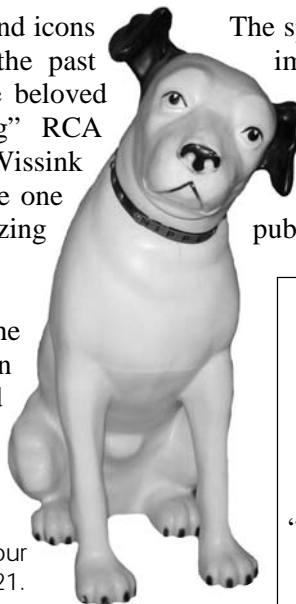
Special Exhibit "The Dog Made Me Buy It"

By Jill Lesh

"The Dog Made Me Buy It" features images and icons that have influenced our purchases during the past century. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the beloved RCA dog, Nipper, who has been "selling" RCA products since 1929. Exhibit Designer Jamee Wissink highlights the story of how Nipper came to be one of the most recognized icons in advertizing history.

Jamee comments, "I hope to show the distinction between anonymous images used in advertizing, such as a baby in a tire ad, and icons, like Nipper and the Energizer Bunny who take on a life of their own. There are so many fascinating examples."

The RCA Nipper, a three-foot tall figure of from our collection. The exhibit runs Oc.10 through Feb. 21.



The special exhibit is organized by the type icons and images used to *make me buy it*: the cat, the dog, the baby, the pretty lady, and other animals & oddities. Visitors will be treated to a video of early TV commercials, including an early Jolly Green Giant ad that was pulled because the public found it too scary.

<p>Join us</p> <p>Triple Exhibit Opening Reception</p> <p>Friday, October 10, 5:00-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Let's celebrate with the creators of</p> <p>"The Dog Made Me Buy It"</p> <p>"Natural History Photos: Focus on Southern Ind"</p> <p>and "Tea Time Doll & Bear Club"</p>

Our Volunteer: Lou Malcomb

By Devin Blankenship

It's not often that you say "see you in the cemetery," to someone. However, it was the precursor to a pleasant opportunity for me to meet with Lou Malcomb, a volunteer at Monroe County History Center and chair of the Cemetery Committee. When I officially met Lou, I realized that I had actually seen her countless times before at the History Center. Lou and I discussed how she became involved with volunteering.

Her initial goal in volunteering was to meet "non-IU people." Lou interacts with plenty of IU employees and students as she serves as a librarian at both the Wells and Geography Libraries. A Jennings County native, she came to IU to pursue a bachelors degree and ended up working in the library. She later pursued a Master's in Library Science at IU. She is currently Head of Government Information, Microforms and Statistical Services at the Wells Library. There are natural connections between her career and her volunteer duties with the History Center, (which happens to be in the



Lou Malcomb at the History Center greeter desk. Volunteers are needed for 3-hour morning and afternoon shifts at the greeter desk, Tue. - Sat., 10am - 4pm.

old....you guessed it: library).

Lou initially began volunteering when she felt "invited" by Liz Knapp. More recently, she agreed to chair the Cemetery Committee to have the opportunity to drive around the county to see cemeteries, which she views as "historical museums or archives of our past." She utilizes her experience and interest with government documents and maps in ways that benefit the History Center. In addition, she finds that her work acquiring and preserving maps in her career will benefit historians and genealogists. I am certain that 100 years from now, Monroe County historians will be as grateful as we are now, for Lou's contributions.

We have read the Indiana folklore books, seen chains on tombstones, and fingers pointing away from the heavens. Why would a nice woman like Lou want to spend time in a place like a cemetery? She eloquently answered, "I think they are

Malcomb continued on page 11

Association of Indiana Museums — Annual Conference



(left to right)

Board president Glenda Murray, collection assistant Erica Kendall, managing director Jill Lesh, office manager Dara May, and education/membership/volunteer coordinator Lisa Simmons attended the Association of Indiana Museums (AIM) annual conference on Sunday and Monday, August 24 & 25 at Connor Prairie in Fishers.

We were pleased to have the largest delegation at the conference.

New & Renewed Members

July 10—Sept. 10

Exhibit Supporter

Oliver Winery Co., Inc.

Patron

Bob Ralston

Sustaining

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Student/Teacher

Susan DeMoss*

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*** Denotes
New
Members**

In Memory of Sylvan W. Tackitt (1909-2008)

Sylvan Tackitt died July 17 at age 99. He was a distinguished attorney in Bloomington since 1933. An extensive traveler and a generous man, Sylvan contributed to the quality of life in Monroe County through his profession and through many community organizations for more than 70 years. He was a member of the Monroe County Historical Society, and many times over the years, provided historical and legal information to the Society.

Malcomb — Con't from page 10

peaceful and respectful places. They indicate that we appreciate our predecessors. Maybe my most interesting exploration of Monroe County has been the development of an appreciation of cemeteries as art museums. The sculpture and stone carving work at many of the historic cemeteries in the county is simply fascinating. I am also interested in how we can use technology to further access to the historical information recorded on the stones, through digital photos, database development, and use of GPS.”

Besides being chair of the Cemetery Committee, Lou enjoys serving as a greeter and meeting people who visit the museum. She is also a trustee on the Historical Society Board and chairs the 3rd Thursday Program Committee. I enjoyed meeting with Lou on a windy day in Mulkey Cemetery. I look forward to having her greet me at the History Center, or passing her on a country road as she explores cemeteries, or having a discussion with her at a 3rd Thursday. Lou’s example inspires me to participate in more volunteer opportunities at the Monroe County History Center. I hope you see her example as your invitation.

Monroe County History Center
 202 East Sixth Street
 Bloomington, IN 47408

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 Thur., Oct. 23
 1-3:30pm

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 Historical Society

Society established 1905
Museum established 1980



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