James Whitcomb Riley Bus Trip
September 16, 2017

Before reaching national fame, Indiana's own James Whitcomb Riley had lead a colorful life as a sign painter, a medicine show performer, and even a snake oil salesman. Join the Monroe County History Center as we trace the life and legacy of The Hoosier Poet by visiting his boyhood home, the James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home in Indianapolis' historic Lockerbie Square neighborhood, and visit his final resting place at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Schedule:
8:00am - Travel from MCHC to Riley's Boyhood Home
10:00am - Guided tour of Riley's Boyhood Home
12:30pm - Lunch at The Rathskeller
1:30pm - Walk to Lockerbie Square (0.3 mi)
1:40pm - Guided tour of Riley's Lockerbie Square Home
3:30pm - Heritage Tour at Crown Hill Cemetery
6:15pm - Arrive back at MCHC (Arrival time dependent upon traffic.)

Tickets are $85 and include all admission fees and transportation. Lunch is not included in ticket price. Seating is limited. Purchase tickets online at http://bit.ly/RileyBusTrip or in person at the History Center by August 31st, 2017. Contact Erin Anderson 812-332-2517 x 3 or mchceducation@gmail.com with any questions.

Members will be sent a promo code for $10 off ticket purchase price for online use. If paying at the History Center, member tickets are $75.
Rechter Gallery:

**Nature, Wildlife, and Underwater: The Photography of Dr. Robert Wrenn**

Showcasing the work of local photographer Dr. Robert Wrenn, this exhibit highlights Dr. Wrenn’s love of nature and wildlife photography. From local subjects to acclaimed national parks, Dr. Wrenn’s photographs capture the beauty and wonder of our natural world.

Experience nature yourself in this exhibit on display June 2nd through October 16th.

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Hill Gallery:

**Bloomington Best Buddies**

Showcasing local animal care, this exhibit will feature Monroe County Human Association, Lil Bub, and Wildcare. Each organization has created their own exhibit highlighting their cause.

Exhibit open Aug 8th - Sept 30th

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Brown Gallery:

**Saving Grandma’s Attic: For Ourselves and Our Posterity**

Do you want to know more about museum conservation? Do you have questions about family heirlooms and how to take care of them? Visit the Saving Grandma’s Attic exhibit to learn more and to find resources to help you take care of your priceless family treasures.

Exhibit opened May 23rd.

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Community Voices Showcase:

**Lakota Language Consortium**

Lakota Language Consortium (LLC) is working to save and grow one of the largest remaining Native American language groups, Lakota, for generations to come. LLC’s vision is to help tribal leaders and teachers build a lasting foundation — in linguistic understanding and diligent practice — for speaking, reading and writing vibrant Lakota. Visit the History Center this summer to learn more about the Lakota Language Consortium and how you can support this wonderful organization.

Exhibit on display in the Deckard Education Room through August.

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Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra promotes a lifelong appreciation of music through the performance of the orchestral repertoire and outreach to the community in Bloomington and south-central Indiana.

Celebrating their 48th Season this year.

Exhibit open:

Sept. 5th - Dec. 30th
From the President

There is so much good news to share with you as the Monroe County History Center staff and volunteers have been working very hard to deliver quality programs, exhibits, and events this summer!

The annual Gayle Cook Junior Historian camps were a big hit with the campers ages 6 – 12 who participated in the one week Indiana History Camp and the weeklong Hoosier Art Camp held during June 2017. MCHC Education Manager Erin Anderson did a terrific job of planning the activities, recruiting the participants, and providing the instruction and oversight for the camps.

There are wonderful exhibits in our galleries and if you haven’t seen them yet, please plan to come in soon! In the Rechter Gallery is the stunning exhibit: “Nature, Wildlife, and Underwater: The Photography of Dr. Robert Wrenn.” This beautiful exhibit runs through October 16, 2017. In the Brown Gallery a tutorial exhibit is available on how to take care of your priceless family keepsakes and heirlooms. “Saving Grandma’s Attic” is an excellent presentation on preservation and conservation — and has a takeaway brochure to provide additional resources for your questions.

The Garage Sale was a tremendous success and broke all previous records by raising over $98,000!!! What a wonderful fundraiser and friend-maker for the MCHC! The Garage Sale Committee led by Sue Ellen Bowman works all year long to collect items, arrange and price them, and of course works non-stop all through the sale. Many thanks to Sue Ellen and to all of the committee members, all of the additional volunteers who helped in May and June, all of the many donors who brought wonderful items to the sale, and to the many customers who made the grand total possible! A special thank you to Rose Merrick (Operations Manager) and Martha Wainscott (Membership and Volunteer Coordinator) and to the entire team at Cook Pharmica who provide such valuable assistance with good humor and tireless effort!

I want to extend a warm welcome to Megan MacDonald — Megan is our newest staff member and serves as Research Library Manager. Also, congratulations to our Collections Manager Hilary Fleck and her husband Ross on the birth of their son Ian Michael!

Please include a visit to the Monroe County History Center in your summer plans!

Linda Williamson, President
MCHC Board of Trustees

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Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
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<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 11th, 6pm, Cemetery Workshop</td>
<td>♦ 9th, 11am, WFHB Saturday's Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 12th, 9am, Cemetery Hands On Workshop at Rose Hill Cemetery</td>
<td>♦ 16th, 8am, James Whitcomb Riley Bus Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 12th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
<td>♦ 21th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
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<td>♦ 17th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
<td>♦ 30th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club</td>
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<td>♦ 26th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club</td>
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Collections’ Corner

We are happy to announce a new addition to the Monroe County History Center!

Ian Michael Fleck was born June 20, 2017 at 7lbs 7oz and 20 inches.

Congratulations to Hilary and Ross Fleck!

Hilary is the Collections Manager.

Monroe County History Center
Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Workshop

Friday, August 11th at 6pm
History Center Education Room (Free and open to the Public)
Classroom Workshop on Cemetery Laws and Invasive Weeds

Saturday, August 12th at 9am
Rose Hill Cemetery (W. 4th and S. Elm St.)
Hands On Workshop  (Free more members, $10 for nonmembers)

Monroe County Historical Society is pleased to acknowledge our platinum level members.

Smithville Communications, Inc.

and

Rick and Carrie Snapp
Monroe County Historian

Aug/Sept 2017

From the Membership & Volunteer Coordinator’s Desk

Our awesome Garage Sale Committee can add the 2017 sale to their long list of Garage Sale successes! There are still a few items posted on e-Bay so we don’t have a final total yet, but, so far the sale has brought in over $98,000! These funds will go a long way to support our work of preserving and sharing Monroe County’s rich history with our community and with the world.

As always, this sale couldn’t happen without the many hours volunteered by the Garage Sale Committee members: Gayle Cook, Sue Ellen Bowman, Mary Lee Deckard, Kathy McFall, Linda Forshee, Sue Shelden, Linda Stafford, Mary Ellen Kerber and Nancy Kryway.

The sale also has the devoted assistance of Cletus Cook, Rick Naftzger and Larry Newell, recently named the “Fix-it Men” in an H-T article about the sale because they assist the Garage Sale Committee all year with pickups and preparations for each year’s sale.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the sale. Thanks also to the more than 60 people who donated their time preparing for and staffing the 2017 sale. We are grateful to everyone who shopped this year’s sale as well. Preparations have already begun for the 2018 Garage Sale.

Donation from Ulmet Family Lemonade Stand

Big thank you to Justice and Autumn Ulmet for their donation of 16% of this year’s Lemonade Stand income. Bloomington Lemonade Day 2017 was rainy but this brother and sister braved the weather to participate in the event. They were kind enough to donate a portion of their earnings to help support the History Center. Justice and Autumn also joined other campers to learn about Indiana History in this year’s Gayle Cook Junior Historian summer camp.
Remembering

Jeffrey Ketterer, beloved son-in-law of Marilyn Skirvin, passed away Sunday, May 7, 2017 at his home in Noblesville, Indiana. Jeff was 52 years old and leaves behind his wife, Brandy and a son, Eli who is 13 years old. After graduating from Purdue Jeff worked at Q-Services as an Industrial Engineer for more than 12 years. He was a lifelong fan of the Boilermakers, the Cincinnati Reds, the Colts, and the Pacers. Jeff especially loved coaching youth sports and mentoring kids to help them develop their talents and character. He will be dearly missed.

Contributors

May and June 2017

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who provided financial gifts to support our operations in May and June 2017:

Supporter Membership

Diann and Ted Lock

Contributor Memberships

Martin and DeAnna Bassett
Jim and Cathy Murphy
Ron Pennington
Patricia Pizzo
Steve and Debby Reed

Donations

Ted and Kathy Frick
Janet Hessert
Donna Lafferty
Alan and Kitch Somers
Natalie Schau
Justice and Autumn Ulmet
IU Eskenazi Museum of Art Docents
Darrell Bault and Kevin Buckles
(Donated Cook pre-Garage Sale Income)
John and Joyce Poling Fund
(A Component Fund of the Bloomington and Monroe County Community Foundation)
Chris Schoettle, Ziebart
(Detailing car for Garage Sale)

Welcome to Our New Members

Diann and Ted Lock
Liz Mitchell
Rebecca Kershner
2017 Garage Sale News

A Great Garage Sale!

The 36th History Center garage sale was again a great success, earning over $98,000 at the annual June event. Huge thank-yous go to the many donors of merchandise — including a handsome car! — and to the approximately 60 volunteers who helped before, during and after in our 22,000 sq. ft. warehouse, for which we send a huge thank-you to Cook Pharmica.

Our reputation for quantity and quality merchandise has spread — many buyers were from out of town and were repeat customers. The History Center can be proud of the sponsored event that (1) raises money for operating expenses, (2) recycles good usable merchandise, and (3) promotes museum awareness and fellowship among so many volunteers, the staff, and the public. Next year’s garage sale dates will be June 15th and 16th.

Next: HOLIDAY SALE

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 any time. Gift-type donations could include jewelry, small antiques, decorator items, new and used items like gloves, scarves, games, and puzzles. The holiday boutique will open November 1, so we need donations before then if possible. Re-gifting of those never used or gently used items is encouraged!

June 2018: THINKING AHEAD

We can accept donations for next year’s big June sale anytime also, because we can store items at the warehouse year-round. Call the museum to make arrangements for bringing donations to the warehouse, or drop off smaller items at the History Center and we will transfer them to the warehouse.

AGAIN, OUR THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

We especially thank the garage sale crew for an outstanding year! Our faithful winter committee is augmented in the spring by an outstanding team of ladies and gentlemen who we hope come back for the fun next June.

Museum Store

Earth Drops Natural Handcrafted Soaps are handmade and produced in cooperation with Mother Nature.

Only wholesome ingredients are used in these handcrafted natural handmade soaps, made in Bloomington, Indiana.

Available in the Museum Store for $3.35 per bar plus tax.
News from the Library

mchlibrary@gmail.com
Compiled by Megan MacDonald and Penelope Mathiesen

New Library Manager

The Research Library welcomes Megan MacDonald as the new library manager. Megan joins us from the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University. In the summer of 2006, Megan interned at the History Center, working both in the library and with the collections.

Cemetery File List Now Online

The Monroe County Cemetery File List is now available on the Monroe County History Center’s web site (www.monroehistory.org) under Library—Research—Local Cemeteries. This searchable document lists all cemeteries for which the library holds a file. New files are created and added when information becomes available, and the file list is updated annually.

New in the Library

The following items have been recently accessioned:


A Slave in the Family
By Randi Richardson

In 1850, there were about thirty individuals of color living in Monroe County. Perhaps some had come as escaped slaves, but it is more likely that they were brought to Monroe County by sympathetic slave owners who freed them upon their arrival in Indiana.

Delila, age 60, a native of Virginia without any occupation, numbered among those people of color. Her name appears for the first time in 1850 census records, noted as Delilillila [sic] Walker, in the family of Gideon and Susannah—the latter incorrectly identified as Sarah—Walker, age 75 and 60, respectively, in Bean Blossom Township.1

Gideon Walker, a native of Maryland, came with his family to Monroe County from Spencer County, Kentucky, sometime between 1830 and 1832.2 Prior to his departure from Spencer County, he had owned eleven slaves and all except three were sold.3 The three he brought with him to Indiana were Deborrah [sic], 14, Andrew, 12, and Harry, 10. Their relationship to Delila, if any, is not known. It was, however, reported that all were members of the same family and, upon their arrival in Indiana, they were set free.

Whether or not the children remained in Gideon’s household after receiving their freedom is not known. It is a fact, however, that they were not living in Gideon’s household in 1840 when the household consisted of only four individuals, all of whom were white: one male, age 60–70; one female, age 50–60; one male, age 15–20; and one female, age 10–15. Harry reportedly returned to Kentucky as he got older in order to search for his family. While there he became ill and died. The Walkers sent money to care for and bury him.4

On 16 May 1851, Gideon, age 76, died without a will.5 His estate was small, valued at less than $300. He was survived by his wife, Susannah, and three children: Dr. Ware S. Walker, Em Farmer, and Liz Schell. After the loss of her husband, Susannah continued to live independently. In 1860, the enumerator found her sharing a home with Delila, and Ware, her son, was noted with his family in the property next door.6

Delila died on 7 August 1868, and was one of two “colored folks who had lived their lives with the [Walker] family” buried in the Walker Cemetery.7 The second person has never been identified. Susannah died on 30 May 1872, and joined her husband and companion in Walker Cemetery, located in Section 22, Bean Blossom Township, near Mt. Tabor. Although once well cared for, the cemetery is now overgrown and difficult to find.

Notes

1. In most other records, including Monroe County deeds, Sarah is identified as Susannah, to whom Gideon Walker was married on 14 February 1814, in Nelson County, Kentucky. In 1860, Delila’s surname is noted as Collins rather than Walker.
2. In 1830, Gideon Walker is noted in Spencer County, Kentucky, census records. By 1832, he was purchasing real estate in Monroe County, Indiana.
3. A biosketch of Gideon Walker was written by Mrs. Andrew MacMoran and published in the Bloomington (IN) Star Courier, May 27, 1955, p. 6B.
4. Ibid.
5. Findagrave.com has digital images of two tombstones for Gideon Walker in Walker Cemetery, Monroe County, Indiana. Each bears dates of birth and death that include month, day, and year.
6. In 1860, Delila’s surname was noted as Collins and her tombstone bears that name as well.
A photograph taken in Terrill Cemetery, located near the corner of eastern Polk Township where Monroe, Brown, and Jackson counties adjoin, shows an Axsom grave marker with the names of five young girls: Betty (1938–1939), Dora (1925–1931), Dartha (1923–1931), Dorval (1921–1931), and Delphia (1918–1931). Betty died in 1939, but the other four girls all died in 1931. Monroe County History Center volunteer Steve Rolfe, who provided the photograph, was curious to know the cause of death.

The Monroe County IN Death Index listed the following death dates:
Dora (age 5), 8 April 1931; Dartha (age 7), 8 April 1931; Dorval (age 9), 9 April 1931; and Delphia (age 12), 27 July 1931.¹ A search of Bloomington newspapers on microfilm in the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library turned up two newspaper articles that revealed the cause of death.² According to an article published on 9 April 1931: “An epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis, breaking out in Polk township, 15 miles southeast of Blooming- ton, near the Brown county line,” claimed the lives of Dora, Dorothy [Dartha], and Dorval, “daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Axsom.”³ The disease outbreak was reported to Dr. J. E. Luzadder, the Monroe County health officer, by Raleigh Deckard, teacher at the Axsom School in Brown County that all of the victims had attended. The disease had been diagnosed by Brown County physicians as typhoid fever or diphtheria until the final stages. A fourth Axsom child was reported to be suffering from the affliction.⁴

According to an article published on 10 April 1931, the family had consisted of seven children, a mother, and a tubercular father living in a one-room log cabin. “Lying in the wildest section of the hill country, the Axsom cabin is ‘almost inaccessible,’” reported Luzadder. He sent his son, the deputy health officer, to visit the cabin. “His son’s car could not traverse the narrow clay road … and an obsolete model Ford, its chassis [sic] high off the ground, driven by an inhabitant of the countryside, met him and took him to the cabin.” Back in his own vehicle for the return trip to Bloomington, the deputy’s car “stalled, its crank case broken by the high clay which protruded in the middle [sic] of the road.”⁵

Polk was the last of the Monroe County townships to be settled. The topography consisted of high ridges, steep slopes, and narrow valleys. Much of the land was unsuitable for agriculture, but the settlers practiced subsistence farming and carved out pastures from land unfavorable for crops. Thick forests provided income from selling bark to tanyards, “the felling and trimming of trees for railroad ties, and cutting hickory saplings for barrel hoops.” The wilderness terrain made access to and from the area difficult. The more isolated residents seldom ventured outside of Polk township and “rarely if ever visited Bloomington.”⁶

In the early 1930s, the Axsom family survived by traveling once a year to Bloomington in an old horse-drawn wagon loaded with buckets of sorghum molasses, “made from sugar cane, grown on their farm land.” It was “sold and food and clothing [were] bought in return.” Because this wasn’t enough to sustain them until the next year, they also received help “from beneficent persons.” When news of meningitis in the isolated cabin finally reached Bloomington, Red Cross officers stated they were “willing to give food to the family if someone will take it to them.” The Polk Township trustee “issued an order for serum injections for Dephne [Delphia] Axsom, in hopes of saving her life.” Dr. Luzadder said he would “go to the Axsom home and give medical aid if any other members of the family are afflicted, even though he may have to walk to the remote cabin.” A doctor in Brownstown, Jackson County, was “unable to reach the cabin as frequently as is necessary, because of the nearly impassable roads.”⁷ Dr. Luzadder had expressed concern that the meningitis serum was only about 20 percent effective, and in fact, Delphia succumbed three months later, in July 1931.
ISL Hosts Genealogy and Local History Fair in October

On Saturday, 28 October 2017, the Indiana State Library will host its annual Genealogy and Local History Fair from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the conference is open to the general public. The Indiana State Library is located at 315 West Ohio Street in downtown Indianapolis. For more information, call: 317-232-3675; toll free: 1-866-683-0008.

This year’s theme, “Sacrificing and Shaping the Future,” commemorates the 100th anniversary of the First World War by examining military history and resources. The program will include two highly regarded speakers. Kathleen Brandt has a background as both a professional genealogist and a licensed private investigator. The titles of her conference presentations are: “Finding Your Revolutionary War Soldier” and “Finding the Elusive Civil War Ancestor.” Katherine R. Willson is an Army Reserve wife of more than 20 years who supports military families as part of the Cadre of Speakers for the Department of Defense’s Yellow Ribbon Reintegration. She will speak on the topic of “Military Record Research,” addressing issues such as finding out which conflict your ancestor served in, what records may have been generated, and where these records might be held.

—From the Indiana State Library web site: www.indiana.gov/library
Monroe County Historical Society’s

Monroe County Historian

Aug/Sept 2017

Vol. 2017 Issue 4
Society established 1905
Museum established 1980

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

Blair Cemetery

This cemetery is located in Van Buren Township, Section 17 on land owned by the Pike Lumber Company. It is about a half mile hike, over some rough terrain, from the West end of Eller Rd. This cemetery is abbreviated BLA2 in the Monroe County Cemetery survey.

This cemetery has a single headstone for Carlyle Blair, aged 1 year, 10 months, son of Marion and Hester Blair. Captain Marion Blair led Company D, 110th Regiment Minutemen at the start of the Civil War, when it was feared that hostilities would spread immediately to Indiana.

On the USGS quadrangle map the area below this cemetery is referred to as Blair Hollow.

Pike Lumber Company has placed orange warning markers around the headstone for Carlyle, and they do not cut any trees within 150 feet to protect it.

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Do you want to help preserve history? If so, call 812-332-2517 ext. 7 to learn about volunteering in one of the many History Center departments.

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Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels

☐ Student/Teacher $10/20
☐ Individual $35
☐ Household $50
☐ Contributor $100
☐ Supporter $250
☐ Patron $500
☐ Sponsor $1000
☐ Underwriter $2000
☐ Benefactor $5000

Corporate - Service Organizations

☐ Bronze $250
☐ Silver $500
☐ Gold $1000
☐ Platinum $2500
☐ Double Platinum $5000
☐ Diamond $10000

Check if you are interested in:

☐ Volunteer Information

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

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Method of Payment

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ Check

Credit Card #

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Print Name

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