Save The Date

Monroe County History Center
Eleventh Annual Gala
200 Years of Monroe County History, A Bicentennial Celebration

February 16th, 2018
Monroe County Convention Center

Be a part of Monroe County history! Tickets are $75.00

Mark your calendar now for our Eleventh Annual Gala on Friday, February 16th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center.

The evening will offer the opportunity to meet and mingle with local business people, community leaders, and fellow history enthusiasts during the cocktail hour. The evening will also include dinner, a bicentennial presentation by James Madison, and bidding on one-of-a-kind items in our silent auction.

The Monroe County History Center’s annual gala has been one of the most popular fundraising events in Monroe County. We invite you to join us for the 2018 celebration of local history on Friday, February 16th, 2018.

Exciting new designs and features!

As the History Center prepares for the gala, our auction wish list includes:

* Timeshare or condo getaway—if you have points or certificates to share
* Tickets to shows or events in Bloomington, Indianapolis or nearby locations
* Art objects, jewelry, paintings
* Unique and interesting items

You can support the History Center by becoming an event sponsor. Please contact the History Center at 812-332-2517 or e-mail mchcoperations@gmail.com for more details.

Holiday Sale

Shop a holiday favorite!

The Holiday Shop features donated jewelry, small antiques, decorator items, and new and unused items such as gloves, scarves, and puzzles. And there will be a great half-price sale the week after Christmas!

Located on the first floor of the Monroe County History Center.
Rechter Gallery:

Holiday Tradition: Toy Trains

During the 1950s and 1960s businesses employed toy trains to grab the attention of shoppers strolling by their store front windows. Subsequently, trains produced by popular toy companies such as Lionel and Marx became holiday staples. Come see several of these sets on display and learn about their roles in your favorite holiday movies and songs.

Open: through December 30th

Brown Gallery: Closed, will reopen summer 2018

Community Voices Showcase:
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. The BSO is celebrating their 47th Season this year!

Open through Dec. 30th

Hill Gallery:

Aftermath: The Devastation of Hiroshima

After the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima the work to end the war wasn’t over. Robert Clegg, Jr., a former Bloomington business owner and city councilman, was in the division of Army Corps of Engineers responsible for building airstrips that allowed the Allies access to Japan. Photographs from his personal scrapbook depicting the devastation are on exhibit.

Open: through March 5th

A photo from Robert Clegg Jr.’s collection

Meet our new Education Manager Dana Duffy

I am pleased to be working in the town I’ve called home for the last 16 years. I love this city and beautiful surrounding Monroe County. For the past 2 and a half years I was the librarian at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, and before that I taught classes at Indiana University’s School of Library and Information Science (now SoIC.) In my hometown of Cincinnati I was the program coordinator and a children’s librarian for the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. In 1992 my husband and I moved to Bloomington to go to library school. We left for a few years after graduating, but as is often the case with many graduates, we came back to stay. I am looking forward to continuing the great programming offered through the History Center, and excited for the new things to come.
From the Director

Hello there!

I have now been with the History Center as the new director for all of two months, and I have to say, joining the team during the holiday season has been an exciting experience. I’ve had the opportunity to meet so many of our volunteers and members as you’ve come in to check out the Holiday Sale or our new exhibitions. If you haven’t been by lately, be sure to bring the kids to see The Magic of Toy Trains, which opened on November 1 and runs through December 30. A.J., our Exhibit Manager, was very creative in his telling of the story of how toy trains came to be paired with the Christmas tree tradition. I do love toy trains! So if you haven’t had a chance to check that out, be sure you do that soon, and by all means, shop, shop, shop while you’re here! 100% of proceeds from the holiday and gift shop sales go to support the History Center.

It’s been a year of change for us. Megan MacDonald took over the Research Library in June, A.J. Gianopoulos started as the Exhibits Manager in August, I began as Director in October and Dana Duffy joined us in November as the Education Manager. Our Board President, Linda Williamson, did an amazing job as the interim director for six months and kept the History Center moving forward and on track with all that was happening. All of our thanks go out to her for her continuing leadership and guidance.

As you’ll see throughout the newsletter, we have so much planned for the upcoming bicentennial year for Bloomington and Monroe County. Now that Dana is here, we’ll be planning more interesting things to see and do. Keep an eye out for those announcements. Make sure to “like” the Monroe County History Center on Facebook for all the latest info.

It’s going to be an exciting and interesting year and I’m so happy I get to be a part of all that’s happening. I do hope you’ll have an opportunity to stop in and say hi. I’m looking forward to meeting all of you in person.

Susan Dyar
Director

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♦ 9th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
<td>♦ 1st, CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 9th, 1:30pm, Mrs. Claus</td>
<td>♦ 9th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 12th, 6pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>♦ 13th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>holiday dinner, RSVP</td>
<td>♦ 14th, Bicentennial Party 1pm to 4pm</td>
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<td>♦ 21st, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
<td>♦ 15th, CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 26th, CLOSED</td>
<td>♦ 18th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>♦ 30th, CLOSED</td>
<td>♦ 27th, 10am, Puzzle Fest</td>
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We are happy to announce that the Monroe County History Center received a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services in the amount of $23,718! The grant will go towards rehousing a significant portion of our collections artifacts in storage. The project has already started – large artifacts have been moved into the Brown Gallery to make space in the third floor hallway for the new shelves, which will arrive in mid-December. Over the winter and spring, Collections Manager Hilary and a student intern will work on moving artifacts from East Storage into the new shelves, and then move the large artifacts from the Brown Gallery back into storage. The new shelves will provide a safer, more stable environment for our artifacts and make them more easily accessible for staff. A great big thank you to the Grants Committee and to the Institute for Museum and Library Services for making this project a reality!

The first school for African American children in Bloomington, Indiana was on this location, at 6th and Washington Streets. The Colored School was torn down to make room for the current structure, which was built as a Carnegie Library. The Monroe County History Center now occupies this beautiful limestone building.

The Marker was first installed and dedicated in February 2005. It was damaged in 2016. The Indiana Historical Bureau worked with the Monroe County Branch of the NAACP, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, the Monroe County History Center, and several other members of the community to see the marker repaired and reinstalled.

The Rededication Ceremony was held on Oct 7, 2017 and was attended by over 60 people. The program included Elizabeth Mitchell, Monroe County History Center Board Member, as our Mistress of Ceremonies, Rev. Scott McNeill, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, lead the invocation, Audrey McCluskey was our Keynote Speaker, Chandler Lighty, Director of the Indiana Historical Bureau, presented the marker, Joyce Poling, Monroe County Historian and Monroe County History Center Advisory Board Member, accepted the marker, Jim Sims, President of the NAACP Monroe County Branch, conducted the rededication, and Rev. Dr. Bruce Rose, from Second Baptist Church, gave the Benediction.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this ceremony a success.
**Volunteer Spotlight**

Carol Darling

Our own Carol Darling received the Maurice Endwright Award for outstanding community contributions at the Area 10 Senior Salute September 22nd. Carol is not only a devoted History Center volunteer, she is also a community volunteer, sharing her special brand of kindness with everyone she meets.

Carol arranges and prices the toys for the Garage Sale. In December she stands in for Santa’s wife at our annual “Afternoon with Mrs. Claus.” She assists the Collections and Exhibits Committee with many other events like the tea socials which are always enjoyed by a large group of attendees.

There is a lot to admire about Carol. A few highlights include her mission as an advocate of education, which led her to her position as Honey Creek “schoolmarm” for many years. She also visited schools and worked with and guided children at her church and through other local organizations. She’s also been a tireless volunteer in many community organizations over the years, yet she still finds time to assist friends and neighbors who can’t drive or need assistance with appointments or errands. Carol Darling is an inspiration!

**Odds and Ends Info**

**Members—Remember to ask for your 10% discount in the Museum Store!** (Sorry, does not apply to used items and Holiday Sale items.)

**Tell us your NARM stories:** If you have the $100 level membership which includes access to the North American Reciprocal Museum facilities (NARM) we’d be interested in hearing about your experiences if you’ve visited any of these facilities.

**Outside the Bloomington area?** Tell us the story of your connection to the Monroe County History Center and/or Bloomington, Indiana.

**Kroger Rewards:** Our latest quarterly Kroger Rewards check was for $356.66. Check the bottom of your Kroger receipt to be sure Monroe County History Center is still listed there.

**Historical Decks of Cards are on sale for $6 per deck!** And they make great gifts. (Free poster displaying all the cards with any purchase in the Museum Store.)

**mchcvolunteers@gmail.com** or call 812-332-2517, Ext. 7 with any questions.
The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who provided financial gifts to support our operations in September and October 2017:

**Sponsor Membership**
Richard P. Rechter

**Patron Membership**
Robert & Maryellen Bieder

**Supporter Membership**
Jennifer Moore
Tom and Sue Childes

**Contributor Memberships**
Phil & Linda Stafford
Linda & Mike Stines
Scott & Pam Faris
David & Elizabeth McCrea
Kris Yoho
Cullen & Rachel Peden McCarty
Thomas A. Breyer

**Welcome to Our New Members**
Nancy Ferguson
John Eckberg

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The celebrations start at the Monroe County Court House at 1:30pm then move to the Monroe County History Center at 2:30pm. The Monroe County History Center will be open on January 14th from 1pm to 4pm.

An afternoon of entertainment, refreshments, and history!
Free and open to the public
An Afternoon with Mrs. Claus

December 9, 2017
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas fun with Mrs. Claus! There will be crafts to make, snacks, and story time with Mrs. Claus and her elves!

The story will be read within our magical exhibit on toy trains. Located at the Monroe County History Center.

Free and open to the public.

A kid’s favorite!

Monroe County: Everyday Life in Indiana

Written by the Monroe County Historical Society.

Monroe County: Everyday Life in Indiana showcases the transformations time has delivered to Monroe County, nestled amidst the wooded rolling hills of south-central Indiana. Since it was established in 1818, Monroe County has seen tremendous changes in transportation, education, modes of entertainment, foodways, and approaches to childhood. This book stages this gradual yet astonishing transformation through depictions of the everyday life of Monroe County’s residents in more than 300 never-before-published photographs.

Featuring forewords by Monroe County Historical Society Museum founder Gayle Cook and Monroe County History Center former Director Dana Beth Evans and an afterword by Bloomington mayor John Hamilton. “Monroe County: Everyday Life in Indiana” is a bicentennial celebration of the people and places that have made Monroe County unique—but nonetheless universal in its gradual but inexorable transformation by time.

Museum Store

Available in the Museum Store

A wonderful gift idea for anyone with a connection to Monroe County, Indiana.
**News from the Library**

mchlibrary@gmail.com

Compiled by Megan MacDonald and Penelope Mathiesen

The following items have been recently accessioned:


**Court Records Index**

Library volunteers Lee Ehman, Lucy Jacobs, and Maribeth McKaig have updated the index of Monroe County Court Records 1818—Early 1900s. The new version adds more than 20,000 items, and includes civil and criminal cases. (Probate records are indexed separately.) It is available on our website (under Library—Research—Indexes & Resources).

**Correction**

In the October/November 2017 issue of the Monroe County Historian, the article on the “Monroe County Female Seminary” incorrectly spelled Professor Daniel Read’s name as “Reed.” Read Hall, a dormitory on the Indiana University campus, is indeed named after him. Also, his sister’s name is alternatively spelled “McPherson” in some accounts.

**Presbyterian Church Records**

Ancestry.com has added a database, U.S. Presbyterian Church Records, 1701–1970, which contains records from 14 Indiana counties, including Monroe County. This database was created from the records of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia and can be accessed using Ancestry.com in our Research Library. The database provides a useful complement to the Monroe County Church Records Index (1818–1900) available on our website (under Library—Research—Indexes and Resources). Researchers should use both of these tools when looking for information on Monroe County Presbyterian ancestors.
On Saturday night, 9 August 1895, Judge Ambrose Cunning traveled from Blooming- to Hindostan (spelled “Hindustan” on modern maps) in Monroe County’s Wash- ington Township to deliver “his famous lecture, ‘Rambles in Europe.’” He arrived on a horse hired from May’s livery stable in Bloomington. The horse was “a fine appear- ing sorrel named John,” highly valued by his master, ‘Uncle Johnny’ May.” Judge Cun- ning hitched the horse near the place of the lecture along with a number of other horses. 1

Despite the title of Cunning’s lecture, “Rambles in Europe,” he was probably not speaking from personal experience. In the 1890s, “magic lantern shows were … a common form of American entertainment.” 2 Travel was a popular topic, and images enhanced the presentation of the professional lecturer. 3 Sets of lantern slides and scripts could be rented or purchased from various companies. All that was needed was an engaging narrator, and Cunning, noted for his public speaking ability, filled the bill. (See article on the life of Ambrose Cunning elsewhere in this issue.) Judge Cunning gave the same lecture to an appreciative audience in Oakland, California, the following year. 4

Unfortunately, the evening in Hindostan did not end well. According to one newspaper report:

“After the lecture was concluded and the judge had dismissed the audience he went forth to get his steed. But lo! the Judge could hardly recognize the steed he had previously hitched to a post. He was minus a tail. The Judge was at a loss to account for the transformation scene until examination proved that some miscreant had maliciously, feloniosly [sic] cut or caused to be cut the aforesaid horse’s tail. Said tail had disappeared also much harness had been dispoiled [sic], by knives in the hands of parties unknown.” 5

The judge and members of the audience discovered that “a number of outrages had been perpetrated, the tails of all the horses, including that of the one he was driving, had been bobbed off, their manes badly hackled and the buggy inside and out badly besmirched in a nameless way. Knives had been freely used in cutting the harness, and much trouble, delay and injury had been occasiond [sic] by the guilty cowards.” 6

Another newspaper opined: “Whoever were guilty of the act did their work well and if caught ought to be given a free pass to ‘Jeff’ good only returning ten years hence.” 7 “Jeff” was a reference to the Indiana State Prison at Jeffersonville, built in 1822. 8

Cunning had hired his horse from a livery stable owned by John F. May, located on the west side of Walnut Street, north of Bloomington’s downtown square, between Sixth and Seventh streets. 9 One newspaper account stated: “Uncle Johnny May is inconsolable over the loss of his favorite horse’s tail, and said he would not have had it happen for a fifty dollar bill. He is at a loss who to proceed against for damages and is now receiving advice from his friends in that line, no one method being presented by any two persons.” 10 Another newspaper remarked: “Mr. May feels no little mental anguish, as the horse was quite a pet, besides being damaged at least one-half its value.” 11 John May, a beloved and respected local citizen, died less than two years later, on 14 December 1897, at the age of 69. 12

Notes
5. “Bobbed Their Tails.”
7. “Bobbed Their Tails.”
10. “Bobbed Their Tails.”
11. “Dastardly Act at Hindostan.”
12. “John F May Dead.”
The Ambrose Cunning Diary, available in the Monroe County History Center’s Research Library, provides details of the author’s early life in South Central Indiana during the latter half of the 19th century. Ambrose M. Cunning was born in Bloomington on 6 September 1844. In the fall of 1851, his family moved to Brown County, where he grew up on a farm in Jackson Township, north of Nashville. As a boy, Cunning developed a love of reading, partly because it got him out of farm chores.1

Indiana University records list Ambrose Cunning as a preparatory student (1861–63) and as a member of the freshman through senior classes (1864–68).2 While enrolled at IU, he went home to Brown County on some weekends to help his older brother, Frank, with the family farm, either making the journey on foot or catching a ride with a passing wagon. Sometimes Frank met him part way with horses.

Ambrose Cunning left IU for periods of time devoted to teaching or other employment, which offset a chronic shortage of funds. On 24 November 1862, he began teaching school at the McDonald Academy in Martinsville. On 9 February 1863, he left McDonald’s to teach for a “Mr. Spire.”3 On 22 November 1863, after another stretch at IU, he left college to make money selling subscriptions to Indiana’s Roll of Honor,4 a history of Indiana’s participation in the Civil War that was already in preparation, even though the conflict had not yet ended.

In February 1864, Cunning volunteered for military service. He went to Columbus, Indiana, where he “was inspected, accepted, and uniformed.” He “tried several times to get [an] appointment to West Point but failed each time.”5 He then received an appointment from his Congressional District to the Naval Academy, which he accepted on the advice of his uncle, A. D. Cunning.7 Diary entries for 18–27 July 1864 describe a train trip to the east coast, where he reported to the Naval Academy, passed his examinations, and received a furlough to go home. He writes that although he was aware at the time he was appointed to the Naval Academy that he “was past the age prescribed for admission,” he wouldn’t have accepted had he “known how particular they were about it.”8 It appears that Cunning never saw active service.

Cunning returned to a life of teaching, attending IU, and going home to help with farming. On Christmas Day in 1865, while once again teaching at McDonald’s, he writes: “Kept school but not much order. We had a treat on candy—all put our dinners together and set the writing table—altogether we had a nice time.”9 By the end of the year, he had obtained a better situation at “a select school”: on 2 January 1866, he began teaching at Martinsville High School.10 Besides teaching, he also read law, including Blackstone and Hume.11 His connection with the school ended in June; they seemed anxious to keep him but could not meet his terms for an increase in salary. He writes: “It makes little difference to me. I would rather return to school.”12

The diary entry for 19 September 1866 notes: “College commenced. About 100 students in attendance.”13 (This figure would have represented the entire IU student body at that time.)14 Cunning’s classes included Trigonometry, Latin, Moral Science, and German.15 He also attended Sunday school and church, participated in a debating society, and was a member of the Athenians,16 a literary society founded in 1830. “For the unsophisticated country students, the literary societies filled a social and intellectual void … These organizations were important training grounds for future Hoosier politicians, ministers, and barristers.”17

In March 1867, Cunning’s diary reports that friends expected him to become a preacher, but he intends to study law.18 He “commenced the study of law” in July 1867 with an attorney whose name is illegible.19 He returned to IU for the school year 1867–68, but the diary reveals his financial strain: “Run out of money. One day had nothing to eat but apples. Received five dollars and fifty cents from [brother] Frank.”20

Ambrose Cunning graduated from the Collegiate Department of Indiana University in June of 1868.21 He “commenced reading law in Mr. McNutt’s office” in Martinsville in July 1868, and in August, confides to his diary that “I want to go to law school this winter.”22 Cunning’s brother, Frank, a source of support, left for California in September.23 This may be part of the reason that Cunning did not attend law school, but instead continued to read law with various attorneys. The diary mentions reading Blackstone, Parsons on Contracts, Edwards on Bailments, Story’s Equity Jurisprudence, Greenleaf’s Evidence, and Stephens on Pleading. Cunning was also given opportunities to serve as a clerk or handle court matters for his mentors. In January 1870, Cunning entered into the first of several law partnerships and began taking cases.24 On 31 January 1870, Cunning wrote to IU President Cyrus Nutt, requesting his diploma now that he could afford the fee:
“The first thing you clapt your eyes on when you opened this letter was a post-office order for five dollars. It is for the diploma which I never received. … I send you the money not that I care for the proof of graduating but to meet the just expectations of a worthy professor. I am sorry the money has been so long forth coming for we are told … that ‘hope deferred maketh the heart sick.’ I would allow you some interest in consideration of the hope deferred were it not that you make such a wide margin of profit on your stereotype bogus sheepskin diplomas.”

Over the next few years, Cunning traveled between Brown, Greene, Morgan, and Owen counties for court appearances, earning enough money to pay off back bills for boarding and other debts. In April 1871, the diary states: “Now I am out of debt.” From 1873 onward, Cunning served as an attorney, prosecutor, and judge in Morgan, Greene, and Monroe counties. He lived in Bloomington in the early 1890s. After that, he moved to San Benito County, California, where his brother, Frank, had worked in the fruit and vegetable business since 1875. On 26 August 1896, an Oakland, California newspaper reported: “Judge A. M. Cunning of Indianapolis, Ind. … delivered a lecture on ‘Rambles in Europe’ last evening at the First Christian Church.” Cunning, a well-received public speaker throughout his life, had delivered the same lecture at Hindostan, Indiana, in August of the previous year. (See article elsewhere in this issue.) Ambrose M. Cunning died on 24 December 1924 in Hollister, California.

Notes

1. Ambrose Cunning Diary, [i–iii]; 1860 U.S. Census, accessed at: Ancestry.com on 3 August 2017. (Some sources spell the name “Cumming” or “Cuning.”)
3. Diary, 12 November 1862, 1, and 9 February 1863, 29. (The location of the McDonald Academy in Martinsville is mentioned in a letter from Allen Wood to Myra Baker, 15 May 1995, MCHC Research Library, Family Files: “Cunning.”)
5. Diary, 12 February 1864, 82, and 17 February 1864, 82.
6. Diary, letter from Cunning to Hon. C. S. Blake, Com. and Supt. Naval Academy, 4 August 1864, 92.
7. Diary, [iv].
10. Diary, 16 December 1865, 115, and 2 January 1866, 117.
11. Diary, 24 February 1866, 123, and 12 May 1866, 129.
12. Diary, 29 June 1866, 132–33.
13. Diary, 19 September 1866, 144.
15. Diary, 21 September 1866, 144.
16. Diary, September 1866, 145.
17. Clark, 169.
18. Diary, 10 March 1867, 159.
19. Diary, 8 July 1867, 166.
20. Diary, 20 October to 1 November 1867, 171.
22. Diary, 8 July 1868, 181, and 31 August 1868, 183.
23. Diary, 20 September 1868, 184.
26. Diary, 15 April 1871, 213.
Membership Form

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.

Payne Cemetery

This cemetery is located in the southwest corner of Section 26 of Washington Township. GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 39.26924, Longitude: -86.49815. Payne Cemetery is located in the backyard of 3101 East Anderson Road.

This small cemetery is mostly under a tree, which has pushed some of the monuments over. Most of the monuments are tablet style, but there is one stacked monument, on the left edge of the picture below. There are 11 markers here: two Cox infants; four Huffs; and five Paynes. The first burial that is recorded here is for William Payne, 1843. And the last is Lucinda Payne, 1901.

Annual Membership Levels

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

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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Expiration Date CVC Number

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Print Name

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