The Best Is Yet to Come:

Monroe County & Indiana University

*A Gala Fundraiser for the Monroe County History Center*

Friday, February 15th, 2019

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

at the Monroe Convention Center

On the eve of Indiana University’s Bicentennial, the History Center is excited to honor the special relationship and shared history between Monroe County and Indiana University and, with an eye toward the future, we will celebrate that the best is yet to come!

This year’s program features speaker Laurie Burns McRobbie, the First Lady of Indiana University and the founder of the Women’s Philanthropy Leadership Council at the IU Foundation. In 2012, she was named Woman of the Year by the City of Bloomington’s Commission on the Status of Women. In 2018 she was honored by the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce with the Women Excel Bloomington Award. Laurie also holds an adjunct faculty position in Indiana University’s School of Informatics and Computing.

Sylvia McNair will also be joining us this year for a special musical tribute to Bloomington and Indiana University. Sylvia is a two-time Grammy award-winning singer and has released more than 70 albums featuring her vocal performances. She received her Master of Music degree from Indiana University in 1983 and served on IU’s Jacobs School of Music faculty from 2006 until her retirement in 2017.

There will be an amazing silent auction that you won’t want to miss, and the evening will also feature an opportunity to sample the brand-new bicentennial wines that the Indiana University Foundation has commissioned.

Individual tickets are on sale now for $75 and formal invitations will be coming just after the start of the new year. Official sponsorship of a table (including tickets for 8 people and a $100 donation to the Monroe County History Center) is available for $700. Additional sponsorships and donations are also welcome. Please contact the History Center to buy your tickets or donate today!

**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.
Current Exhibits
Also available at www.monroehistory.org

Rechter Gallery:

“Who Stole the Canopy Lights?!?!” Holiday Exhibit
Somebody stole the canopy lights from the courthouse! We need your help in catching the thieves and returning the lights before the lighting of the canopy of lights! This scavenger hunt will lead visitors throughout different time periods and Monroe County landscapes in a fun and engaging quest! All ages are welcome.

Open through December 29th

Hill Gallery:

The Photography of Charles Gilbert Shaw
Born in 1888, Bloomington native Charles Gilbert Shaw quickly became a prominent photographer. His panoramic views of Bloomington and the IU campus will take you back to a much simpler time in Monroe County. These photographs are from the Monroe County History Center permanent collection and many have rarely been seen before.

Open through February 15th

Brown Gallery:

Opening at the end of November, the Brown Gallery will have on display the history of transportation in Monroe County. From wagons, to trains, to cars, moving people and goods has always been vital to the growth and prosperity of the region. Come see just how Monroe County overcame the difficulties of transportation.

Women and RCA

The world was at war and the new tenant in town, the Radio Corporation of America, had just set up shop. Radios bustling down the assembly line quickly turned to proximity fuses and other technological equipment used by the military. The women of Monroe County and the surrounding region powered these RCA assembly lines, providing an avenue of economical and sociological independence. This exhibition will tell the story of how women were instrumental in the growth of RCA not only during World War II, but well into the 1980s and 1990s.

January 18, 2019-April 19th, 2019

Community Voices

Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County’s mission is to eliminate poverty housing by building decent, affordable homes in partnership with qualifying families. The only thing Habitat gives away is an opportunity. Because homes are funded through financial support from individuals like you and principally built with volunteer labor, mortgage payments are affordable for low-income partners.

Now until February 1st
From the President

The holidays are here, and the Monroe County History Center is a wonderful place to spend time with your family and friends during this “most wonderful time” of the year!

You won’t want to miss “Who Stole the Canopy of Lights?!?” I hope you’ll take the time to solve this delightful and educational mystery while enjoying the beautiful display that is part of the exhibit (of the same name) now through December 30 in The Rechter Gallery.

While at the History Center, be sure and view the permanent collection, visit the Research Library, and shop in the Museum Store. You will also find gifts at the Holiday Sale of gently used items (decorations, books, jewelry, music, etc.) which will be open on the first floor of the Center until January. This sale is made possible by our generous donors and our phenomenal Garage Sale Committee.

On behalf of the members of the MCHC and indeed the citizens of Monroe County, I want to extend a BIG thank you to Joyce Poling for serving as the Monroe County Historian for several years. The Historian position is an appointment through the Indiana Historical Society, and the person works to improve the historical communication network in the state. Each county in Indiana has one county historian, and Joyce has served Monroe County well!

A BIG congratulations to Liz Mitchell for her many accomplishments and awards this year. (See Page 6.) Liz is an amazing lady with energy and passion for sharing history, and we are so grateful to Liz for sharing her gifts and her service with the MCHC.

The 2019 Gala will be a “do not miss” event on February 15, 2019, and I hope to see you there! It’s a perfect time to come together and celebrate the wonderful community that we all share.

Thank you for your love of history, your gifts of time and treasure, and your support of the MCHC!

Happy Holidays!

Linda Williamson, President
MCHC Board of Directors

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Calendar of Events

**December**
- 1st, 10am, History Harvest, Community Scanning Event at MCHC
- 8th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child at MCHC
- 8th, 4pm Log Cabin Christmas at MCHC
- 11th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table
- 16th, 2pm, Cemetery Committee Bicentennial Calendar Talk at MCHC
- 20th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting at MCHC
- 25th, CLOSED

**January**
- 1st, CLOSED
- 8th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table at MCHC
- 12th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child at MCHC
- 17th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting at MCHC
- 22nd, 9am, Members’ Preview, Women of RCA at MCHC
- 25th, 6pm, Women of RCA opening reception at MCHC
- 26th, 10am, Puzzle Fest
Our Community Digitization Project is well underway, and we are gearing up for our next scanning day on December 1, 10 am to 2 pm, at the History Center. In October, we were graciously hosted by Denise Catalano-Dyche for our Ellettsville scanning day. We had a great turnout of volunteers and donors and began work on scanning the treasure trove of photographs owned by the Ellettsville Main Street organization. If you’re interested in volunteering, please reach out to Martha Wainscott at volunteers@monroehistory.org.

For the December scanning day, we are especially looking for photographs of the Alexander Memorial to help with the restoration project. Because of time constraints, we ask that if you have more than 12 photos or documents, you contact us so we can make other scanning arrangements. We’re looking forward to seeing you there and scanning the great images of our community!

Education Desk

By Andrea Hadsell

October and November were quite busy here at the History Center and all around Bloomington! Our public book fair, “Black Authors Speak!” was well attended and included a fascinating panel discussion where community members could learn more about the authors’ life experiences. Many families also joined us on the B-Line trail for one of the final events for the Bloomington and Monroe County bicentennials. Shortly after was our first-ever “Dearly Departed Cemetery Tours” of Rose Hill Cemetery in partnership with the City of Bloomington’s Parks & Recreation department. Many thank-yous to Cardinal Stage Company for lending ghost costumes and to our volunteers who acted as tour guides and ghosts on the tour and who braved the light rain that evening. We sure had fun and are already looking forward to next year’s tours!

This December, we have a new holiday program! In conjunction with Indiana University’s Wylie House, we will host “A Log Cabin Christmas” as part of our combined program on December 8. This will be an evening of old-fashioned celebrations at both locations. Music, refreshments, carolers, period crafts, and storytelling are offered in Bloomington’s historic 1830 log cabin and 1835 brick home.

Mark your calendars! January 26 is the date for the much anticipated PuzzleFest 2019! Keep your eye out for registration information on the History Center website. Twelve teams of four may compete for awesome swag bags and the chance to win our grand prize!
Volunteer Spotlight
Steve Rolfe

It would take a book to list all the maintenance work that Steve Rolfe has volunteered to do for the History Center over the years. He has the tools and the know-how to accomplish anything we ask of him.

Steve also loves to welcome people to the History Center, and you’ll find him at the greeter desk on the second Saturday mornings—unless he is traveling to visit family and friends or Civil War museums and landmarks. Since Steve retired from IU, he has generously increased the number of hours he spends at the Center: fixing things that are broken, installing shelving, or moving heavy objects to their new location.

On the second Tuesday evening of the month, Steve opens the History Center doors to welcome other Civil War history buffs to the monthly roundtable meeting. In his spare time, he enjoys reading and exercising. Fun Fact: Steve has hiked 15 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Announcements

• Our Kroger Community Rewards quarterly check for July through September was $288.57. The Kroger Company Family of Stores organization is committed to supporting non-profits in our community, and we certainly appreciate their support. Remind your family, friends, and neighbors they are welcome to link their Kroger Rewards Card to the History Center too!

• Remember that it’s easier than ever to renew your History Center membership. Simply go online to this link http://monroehistory.org/money/ and follow the prompts. And remember, members receive a 10% discount on most purchases in the Museum Store – a great place to do your holiday or special occasion shopping.

• If you have a Family/Grandparent level membership and have plans for some extended travel in North America, we can upgrade your membership at a pro-rated amount so you can use the NARM benefit at any of the over 1,000 North American Reciprocal Museums around the country.

Email volunteers@monroehistory.org or membership@monroehistory.org or call 812-332-2517, Ext. 7 with questions or comments.

News from the Museum Store

During this holiday season, don’t forget to shop at the Monroe County History Center’s Museum Store for your gifts. We have a lovely children’s section with books, toys, marbles, candy sticks, bonnets, and paper dolls. For adults we have local history books, genealogy books, Dillman jams, Clay City Pottery, Earth Drop Soaps, and much more.

Stop in and see what we have for you today
Happy Shopping!
Elizabeth Mitchell Honored with the Hubert Hawkins Award

MCHC Board Member and African American committee chair Elizabeth Mitchell received the Indiana Historical Society’s Hubert Hawkins Award during HIS’s annual Founders Day dinner on Monday, Nov. 5, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in downtown Indianapolis. First awarded in 2002, the Hubert Hawkins Local History Award is made annually to a local historian for his or her distinguished service or career in local history.

Liz has been active in her passion for preserving and sharing African-American history for more than 40 years. In addition to her work with Resilience Productions on this year’s community play, “Stories of Monroe” and with the History Center on the Bloomington's Firsts exhibit, she has worked in the community to identify important historical sites, advocate for historical markers, create documentaries, and amass the largest private collection of African-American memorabilia in Monroe County.

Congratulations to Liz on these wonderful achievements. The recognition is well earned and deserved.

Contributors

September and October 2018

**Sponsor Membership**
Richard Rechter

**Benefactor Membership**
Jennifer Moore

**Supporter Memberships**

- Thomas A. Breyer
- Scott and Pam Faris
- Diana Lambdin and Frank Lester
- Cullen and Rachel Peden McCarty

- Barbara Hawkins and Robert Poortinga
- Linda and Phil Stafford
- Linda and Mike Stines

**Sustaining Membership**
Martha Dawson

**New Members**

- Mary Damm
- Ron Walker, Sr.
- Erin and Daniel Halsey
- Sue Zabriskie
- Vic, Shirley, and Jason Kinney
Remembering:

David and Debbie Lemon’s mother, **LaDonna Lemon**, passed away in September at the age of 95. LaDonna was married to her high school sweetheart, Forest Lemon, for 66 years. She worked at RCA during WWII and later assisted Tom Lemon’s administration. By all accounts, LaDonna was a wonderful wife, mother, aunt, sister and friend to many.

Member and volunteer Beth Lau’s father **Milford Harry (Mick) Lau**, passed away in October at the age of 98. Mr. Lau had served in the Navy during WWII. After the war he earned a mechanical engineering degree at Purdue. When he wasn’t traveling, he enjoyed creating gifts from wood such as letter openers, jewelry boxes, and blanket chests for his family and friends.

**Stephanie Bowman**, daughter of MCHC Board Member Sue Ellen Bowman and her husband, Jack Bowman, passed away on November 12 at the age of 56. Stephanie loved people as exemplified by her nursing career. She also enjoyed traveling to the national parks and especially Oregon.

**Max Marsh** served in the U.S. Army during WWII and served overseas in India for 2 1/2 years. He and his wife Jane, joined the History Center in 2002. Max was a chemist at Lilly and retired as a Research Advisor.

**Susan Bartlett** passed away September 22, 2018 at the age of 91. Susan freelanced in the New York area. Her career in the field of radio and TV brought her several awards including “Ad Woman of the Year” in 1968, and later she was named “Outstanding Woman for Contribution to the Arts.”

**Maryellen Bieder** passed away in January 2018. She spent almost four decades as a professor of Spanish and Portuguese at IU. She published many book chapters and journal articles and remained an active scholar all her life. Summers were spent at the 115-year-old family enclave in Michigan.

**Carolyn Kovener** enjoyed a career in food, including applicant screening for the Pillsbury Bake-Off and freelance work for General Mills and other food companies. She was always very involved in women’s philanthropic organizations and once wrote a fundraising cookbook for her sorority, Pi Beta Phi.

**George Taliaferro** was an All-American football player and humanitarian. Mr. Taliaferro and his wife, Viola, championed youth, helped develop affirmative action plans for IU campuses, and worked with Herman Wells to desegregate IU’s Bloomington campus.

**Alice L. Manifold** joined the History Center in 2002. She was very active in the Bloomington community and had served on many boards and foundations including the Psi Iota Xi philanthropic sorority. Alice also had supported Indiana University in many capacities and received special recognition from Alpha Phi, Beta Tau chapter which designated a day in her honor. She passed away in November at the age of 96.
News from the Library

Library@monroehistory.org
Compiled by Megan MacDonald and Penelope Mathiesen

Monroe County Historian Index
A new index to the newsletter, the Monroe County Historian Index, covering the period from July 1973 to August/September 2018, has been compiled by Research Library volunteer Beth Lau. The articles are listed chronologically by month and year of publication, and the entries include the title of the article, the name of the author (if any), and the subject (if not apparent from the title). The index offers an overview of the activities of our organization, the history of its building, and the historical subjects of interest to the readership. The new index is available in the library’s Binder Cabinet.

New in the Library


* The Graphic. Unionville High School yearbook, 1927. The first yearbook for Unionville High School. Gift from Pat Salmon in memory of Estella and Court Young.


Celebrating Monroe County History with Cartoons

By Penelope Mathiesen

During the year 2018, Monroe County and the City of Bloomington have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of their founding in 1818. Fifty years ago, the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary was highlighted in a special edition of the Bloomington Daily Herald-Telephone, published on Tuesday, 24 September 1968.

Copies of the H-T’s sesquicentennial edition are preserved at the Monroe County History Center. In looking through the issue, I discovered that the first page of Section 8 was entirely devoted to single-panel cartoons from popular comic strips of the day—each one specifically acknowledging the 150th anniversary of Bloomington and Monroe County! The featured cartoons included: “Beetle Bailey,” “Blondie,” “Henry,” “Li’l Abner,” “Nancy,” and “Peanuts.” While all of them have stood the test of time, “Peanuts” has remained a particular favorite.

The sesquicentennial “Peanuts” cartoon features all of the strip’s main characters: Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Schroeder, Lucy, and Linus. It mentions not only Bloomington and Monroe County but also the Daily Herald-Telephone, the newspaper that published the cartoon. I was curious to know how there came to be a personalized version of a nationally syndicated strip in a local newspaper. I also hoped to obtain permission to reprint the “Peanuts” cartoon in the Monroe County Historian in celebration of the 200th anniversary.

I contacted Rachel Fellman, assistant archivist at the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. She was intrigued by the personalized art, especially since she hadn’t seen this cartoon before. Rachel consulted with Lex Fajardo, senior editor at the Schulz company, who concluded that the cartoon was probably “promotional art that was either made specifically for that event or was repurposed for it … I feel like it’s been repurposed because the art is more like Peanuts circa 1958 not ’68.” Rachel agreed “with Lex about the age of the art—Charlie Brown has his oval-shaped 1950s head, and the only time Schulz drew Snoopy with that long, almost bottle-like nose was the late 1950s.”

My thanks go to Rachel for her assistance and for putting me in touch with Raegan Carmona, Permissions Manager at Andrews McMeel Syndication, who granted permission to reproduce the “Peanuts” cartoon in honor of Monroe County’s 200th anniversary.

Notes

1. Lex Fajardo, senior editor at the Schulz company, quoted in email communication from Rachel Fellman, 2 July 2018.
2. Rachel Fellman, email communication, 2 July 2018.
A Deadly Battle on Cedar Bluff
By Randi Richardson

The story noted below comes primarily from an article titled “Historic Clear Creek: Indian Battle Fought on Its Banks in 1811,” published in the Bloomington (IN) Courier, October 19, 1900, p. 4. (It is my understanding that an item with the same title but a different publication date appeared in another newspaper, and copies are available in the Vertical Files at the Monroe County History Center Research Library.) A few details of the story were also taken from Weston Goodspeed, “History of Monroe County,” in Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown, Indiana, ed. Charles Blanchard (1884).

The newspaper story in the Courier was based on research completed by John Brogan, who lived on the Sharpless farm in 1900 and located details of the battle among historic records and the narrative of Frisbee. Several families of the Kentucky Rangers eventually settled in Monroe County. McHolland lived off and on in Monroe County for much of his adult life.

Cedar Cliffs as noted in the story is known today as Cedar Bluffs, a 23-acre property owned by the Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve at 8484 S. Ketcham Road in southern Monroe County. Visit the site online at: https://www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve/files/np-Cedar_Bluffs.pdf.

David McHolland, a giant of a man and a great hunter, is believed to be the first white settler in Monroe County. He arrived in 1811 or earlier, initially squatted on an acre or two that he cultivated, and supported his family with the use of his rifle.

In the late summer of 1811, McHolland and a friendly Delaware Indian named John Ros Neagy travelled to Ft. Ritner in Lawrence County, Indiana, to advise Major George Croghan and his Kentucky Rangers that Indian savages were holding a powwow at Hickory Mound on Clear Creek in southern Monroe County. This was of particular concern because the Indians wanted to renege on the treaty they made in 1809 with the Indiana territorial governor, William Henry Harrison, to grant him more than 3,000,000 acres of land including much in southern Indiana. In an effort to maintain what they contended yet to be their home, they continued to attack and murder all whites who had the audacity to come within their reach.

Croghan dispatched a scout to Clear Creek to evaluate the situation where it was observed that there were some 98 Indian lodges located high up along the creek. Most of the lodges had squaws and papooses in them, and corn had been planted on the creek bottoms showing it was their permanent home.

On August 28, Croghan ordered the following Rangers to report to Capt. James Montgomery for special duty: Sgt. Thomas Frisbee, Corporal P. Lowther, Pvt. T. Grimes, Pvt. Ephraim Noel, Pvt. C. Mallott, Pvt. T. Buskirk, Pvt. Asa Thornton, Pvt. B. Woodward, and Pvt. R. Taylor. The men were to come equipped with powder horns and bullet pouches filled to utmost capacity with three spare flints and cornmeal and bacon to last for five days. McHolland and Neagy were assigned as guides.

Upon arrival, the men climbed the divide between little and big Clear Creek. They halted at a small cave from which flowed a strong spring of ice cold water. There McHolland told Montgomery to wait while he and the Indian scouted out the Indian grounds. Montgomery, however, wanted to see for himself. Hardly had the trio moved ahead 300 yards when Montgomery was struck with an arrow through his heart and instantly fell dead. McHolland caught the Indian by his scalp lock, flung him face downward across his left knee, and struck him across the neck with the edge of his powerful hand, breaking it like a rotten gunstock.
The noise of the assault prompted the Rangers to appear from their hiding places. In the ensuing battle, seven braves lost their lives and Noel was killed. McHolland assumed command. He hid the bodies of Montgomery and Noel in one of the many sinkholes in the area. Afterwards he said to his Indian comrade, “Roshy, old partner, give me your spare powder and lead, strike out for the major as fast as your moccasins will carry you. Tell him we are on the Cedar Cliffs and will hold out as long as our powder lasts against all the red skins between here and hell.” With that the men shook hands and the loyal Delaware disappeared in the underbrush.

Meanwhile McHolland led his men to a bluff on the east bank of Clear Creek, property that in 1900 (the year the newspaper item was published) was known as the Robert Sharpless farm. The bluff was grey limestone extending some five or six hundred yards in length and from 75 to 100 feet in height. A dense growth of dwarf cedars and a few loose boulders covered the bluff and offered shelter from rifle bullets and Indian bows. The only drawback was water. It would have to be carried from the creek at the foot of the rock.

Daylight found the Rangers looking down on the enemy. There was no truce or parley, for as soon as there was light enough, the reds yelled loudly and opened fire with a few rifles, and the twang of the bow strings kept a shower of arrows flying at the cliff. McHolland advised his men “to let no one waste lead on the varmints except he is sure of a hawk’s feather (a badge of a tried warrior).”

As the day was intensely hot, firing was kept at a minimum. The Rangers never pulled a trigger until close to sundown when the woods suddenly seemed alive with the reds. Twice the reds were driven back by the stalwart whites. McHolland’s voice was heard amongst the din as Indian after Indian went over the bluff.

The red men, singly, were no match physically for the Kentuckians but numerically they were three to one on the ledge. Fortunately, the narrowness of the ledge prevented their numbers from being utilized. No white man on the rock was unwounded; two were unable to fight. The suffering of the wounded for water was terrible, as none could be had except at night.

Early the next morning, about an hour before daylight, a whole volley of shots rang out west and south. Croghan and his troops had come down on the reds and hemmed them in. Not a brave escaped.

Afterward Croghan got the men off the cliff, improvised couches for the wounded, and sent them to Ft. Ritner. McHolland led a detachment to where the bodies of Montgomery and Noel were hidden and found them undisturbed. They were buried, side by side, almost on the spot they fell. Their graves were visible as late as 1892 on the Mitch Finley place, but no one seemed to know who was buried there.

A few years after the battle, when the land in Clear Creek became available for purchase, McHolland settled with his wife and children in Section 3 in what is now Smithville.
Monroe County Historical Society’s
Monroe County Historian
December/January 2018/2019
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Society established 1905
Museum established 1980
For subscription information contact the Monroe County History Center at 812-332-2517, or www.monroehistory.org

Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels
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Rogers 3 Cemetery

Rogers 3 Cemetery is located in Bloomington Township of Monroe County off Range Line Road on the far north side of Fountain Park Apartments. It is currently in disrepair, but as a small cemetery, it could be restored. Four graves were identified at Rogers 3 Cemetery plus unmarked or fieldstone graves. The one marker currently visible is for Nancy Rogers Iseminger. The other three are for Aquilla Wayne Jr., Benjamin A., and Milford Rogers, all for the pioneer period 1800-1850s.