Feb/March 2018
Vol. 2018 Issue 1

Monroe County History Center

Museum
Research Library
Museum Store

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

Hours
Tuesday — Saturday
10am — 4pm

Museum Admission
Adult — $2
Child (6-17 yrs.) — $1
5 yrs. & Under — Free
Member — Free

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Historian Staff
Copy: Dana Duffy, Susan Dyar, Hilary Fleck, A.J. Gianopoulos, Rose Hessert, Megan MacDonald, Penelope Mathiesen, Martha Wainscott, & Linda Williamson

Monroe County Historian
Preserving the Past for Future Generations
Newsletter of the Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

February 16, 2018 6:00 PM

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center
302 S College Ave, Bloomington, IN 47403

Special Guest Speaker Jim Madison

James H. Madison is the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University. An award-winning teacher, Jim is the author of several books, including Eli Lilly: A Life; A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America; and Slinging Doughnuts for the boys: An American Woman in World War II. Jim’s most recent book is Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana, the basis for an Emmy-award-winning documentary produced by WFYI.

February 16, 2018 6:00 PM

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

You can still support the History Center by becoming a table sponsor for $550. Event and underwriting sponsorships are also available. Contact us for more details. Call and reserve your seats today. Tickets are $75.00 and the evening will include dinner, a silent auction, and the IU a cappella musical group Another Round. Thank you in advance for supporting the Monroe County History Center’s Annual Gala. Contact us at 812.332.2517 or email office@monroehistory.org with any questions.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 22nd at 5:00 PM
following the regular board meeting at 4:30 PM
Location: Monroe County History Center
The foundation of Monroe County was not built solely by those living in Bloomington, but by those who dared to venture into the rural parts of the county and build their lives. Within the towns of Ellettsville, Stinesville, Unionville, Kirksville, Smithville, and Harrodsburg, are traditions and memories built by unbelievable victories and devastating losses. This exhibition serves to tell the stories of these six towns and how they shaped the identity of Monroe County over the past 200 years.

Open through May 5

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 5

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 March 26

Start your celebration of the Monroe County Bicentennial with Images of America: Bloomington and Indiana University.

Bloomington and Indiana University were linked from the start, grew up together, and still share joys and sorrows 180 years after their founding. The many vintage photographs in this pictorial history bring to life both historical ambiance and transformation in town and gown from the late 1800s to the present. When Monroe County was organized in southern Indiana in 1818, hilly, thickly-wooded Bloomington became the county seat. The first courthouse was a log cabin, and 30 families made up the town.

Hello Members and Friends of the Monroe County History Center!

I am so pleased to “talk” with you via this Newsletter about the very exciting people, exhibits, and times at the Monroe County History Center in 2018! I must begin with kudos to our fantastic staff! The MCHC Board of Directors celebrates the leadership of our Director Susan Dyar and the outstanding team of Martha Wainscott, Rose Hessert, Hilary Fleck, Megan MacDonald, AJ Gianopoulos, and Dana Duffy.

The generosity of our volunteers, members, and friends is amazing and never more so than in the closing days of 2017 when two individuals (who choose to remain anonymous) stepped forward with gifts to allow us to install solar panels in 2018 and replace the oldest part of the roof. In addition, the Annual Appeal was very successful, with a 110% increase over 2016. We’ve also had a magnificent gift of art, furnishings and other items to be sold from one of our members who is a great friend of the MCHC!

On behalf of the MCHC Gala Committee, we hope you will join us at the “Bicentennial Gala” on February 16. You won’t want to miss this terrific evening as we celebrate the milestone anniversary of 200 years and look forward to 200 more!

The Gala will feature a reception, silent auction, dinner, entertainment and our wonderful speaker Jim Madison! Please make a reservation and bring your family and friends - this will be a fun evening to benefit the MCHC.

A big thank you to all of you who have volunteered with the MCHC in 2017!! I hope you are rested and ready for an exciting and busy year! Your time and talent is very much appreciated!

On your “things to do list” please include a visit to the MCHC. The Exhibits are fresh and informative, the Research Library is most helpful for your search for information on family, property, etc., the Museum Store has lots of interesting items and books, and there are many upcoming events that you’ll find on the www.monroehistory.org site.

On behalf of all of us at the MCHC, we wish you a very Happy and Healthy 2018 and we look forward to seeing you soon!!

Linda Williamson, President
MCHC Board of Directors

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
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<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
<td>1-3, IN Heritage Quilt Show</td>
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<td>13th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
<td>10th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
<td>13th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table</td>
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<td>16th, 6pm, Annual Gala, Monroe County Convention Center</td>
<td>22nd, 4:30pm, Board Meeting</td>
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<td>24th, HiStory Book Club</td>
<td>22nd, 5pm, Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>24th, 1pm HiStory Book Club</td>
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Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

We have now received and installed the IMLS grant shelves in collections storage! The grant also allows for a paid intern during the spring and summer semesters of 2018 to rehouse our artifacts into the new shelving units. Jaycee Chapman, a senior at Indiana University, will be working on this project with a target completion date of July 31, 2018. Thank you again to the Grants Committee, Shelvingguys, Inc., and the Institute of Museum and Library Services!

Holiday Sale Report—And on to the Big Sale

Many thanks to all of you who donated items, worked, or made purchases at our annual History Center Holiday Sale featuring Christmas decorations and gift items. We made over $4,000 this year!

Now it’s time to start preparing for our annual giant garage sale on June 15th-16th. The warehouse is already filling up. We collect all year for the big June sale, which last year brought in $98,000. We welcome donations of antiques, collectibles, office supplies, furniture, linens, musical instruments, jewelry, books, artwork, housewares, tools, sports equipment, appliances, toys, and bicycles. The sale offers good clean, usable merchandise—no clothing (unless collectible vintage), no computers, no old TVs, and no non-working appliances.

And, we especially would welcome the donation of a car or boat to sell!

The June sale will again be held in the warehouse at Catalent (Formerly Cook Pharmica) on South Rogers, and we sincerely thank Pharmica for all of their help throughout the years.

Monroe County History Center HiStory Book Club
2018 Reading List

February 24th: Life and Times of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), published 1881.

March 31st: The Kimberlins Go to War: A Union Family in Copperhead Country by Michael B. Murphy (about the Civil War: 1861-1865).


May: Off for Memorial Day (+ extra time to read Raintree County)

June 30th: Raintree County by Ross Lockridge, set in 1892.


August 25th: To the Stars Through Difficulties by Romalyn Tilghman. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Bloomington’s Carnegie Library which opened in 1918, currently home of the History Center.

September 29th: The Time and Place that Gave Me Life by Janet Cheatham Bell, a memoir focused on the 30s-60s.

October 27th: An American Tune by Barbara Shoup, set in part, in the 60s at Indiana University.

November 24th: The Accidental Mayor by Tomilea Allison and James Allison, set in 70s-90s Bloomington.
Volunteer Spotlight

Ellyn and Alexis Pruitt

Ellyn and Alexis are usually the first two people to volunteer for History Center events when we need extra hands. They are both active members of the MCHC Cemetery Committee, participating in the committee’s work days as well as helping create the yearly calendar and an upcoming bicentennial book.

Ellyn works in Indiana University’s Pervasive Technology Institute (UITS.) She is proud to be a lifelong learner, who then goes on to share her knowledge and inspiration with those around her. She believes in giving back for the support she has received in life. Ellyn is also a member of the MCHC Board of Trustees.

Alexis Pruitt is an Application Administrator in IU’s IT Department. She also believes in lifelong learning, because it is important in helping individuals find their passion and purpose in life. Alexis is equally at home trouble-shooting technical issues in front of a classroom of MBA students or volunteering at the craft table at our annual Canopy of Lights open house. Thank you Ellyn and Alexis!

Odds and Ends Info

History Center Research Library: Staff and volunteers are usually always available the same hours as the History Center, but if you have a sizeable research project to do, it’s a good idea to call ahead because occasionally the Research Library will be closed due to an emergency.

We welcomed our first NARM visitors from Colorado in December 2017! This reciprocal program, a benefit of our Contributor memberships and above, gets our name out to other NARM institutions in North America so we may see visitors from many other North American locations.

Smile.Amazon.com offers rewards: so if you’re ordering from Amazon.com, go on over to Smile.Amazon.com instead and select the Monroe County Historical Society to receive the reward.

South Central Indiana REMC Grant: Thanks to this REMC roundup grant, the History Center now has new folding chairs with padding on the seat and back and new round tables with a cart for easy handling.

Kroger Rewards: Tell your family, friends, and neighbors, that they can direct their Kroger Plus card rewards to the History Center too, even if they aren’t one of our members. Call the History Center for directions.

Historical Decks of Cards reduced again — to $5 per deck!

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

Correction from the December/January newsletter.

In the December/January issue of the Historian, we published that the Monroe County History Center would follow the Monroe County School closings. We will no longer be following MCCSC school closing. During inclement weather please check our web-site and Facebook page for closing updates. www.monroehistory.org
**Contributors**

**November and December 2017**

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

**Patron Memberships**
- Charles & Judy McClary
- City of Bloomington Mayor’s Office

**Supporter Memberships**
- Joe and Joyce Peden
- Tom and Susan Dyar

**Contributor Memberships**
- Saundra Taylor
- Marion & Lucy Jacobs
- Penny Mathiesen
- Judith Skirvin
- Michael & Sarah Dunn
- Randy & Linda Williamson
- Linda Hunt & Tim Morrison
- Anton & Victoria Neff
- David Nord
- Julie Faris
- Ronald & Carolyn Kovener
- Sally Jones & Frank Young
- Marilyn Skirvin

**Thank you to our Annual Appeal 2017 Donors:**

Scott Agnew, Day & Deremiah-Frye Funeral Home  
Nick and Brenda Aschliman  
Jack and Sue Bowman **For The Founders Endowment**  
Nancy L. Brinegar  
Bill C. and Patricia Brown Charitable Foundation  
Ronald E. and Kathy Burkhart  
Mark Case  
Jim Murphy, CFC Properties, Inc.  
Ted and Loretta Condra  
Richard and Carol Darling  
David DePierre, Heflin Industries, Inc.  
Vivian Dillman  
Lee and Eleanor Dodge  
Carolyn Doty

**Continued on Page 7**
Annual Appeal 2017 Donors, Continued

K. Luke Eades
Frank J. Eberle
David and Tyler Kate Ferguson
Bill and Jackie Gilkey For The Research Library
Henry and Alice Gray
Iris Kiesling
Bill and Liz Knapp
Debbie Lemon In Honor of David & Margaret Lemon
Julian and Mary Pat Livingston
James W. Shearr & Scott S. Loman
Peter and Carol Lorenzen
Diamond Mather
Doug McCoy, Grant Properties
Dick and Kathy McFall
Michael McRobbie and Laurie Burns McRobbie
Lou Moir
Michael Molenda & Janet Stavropoulos
Laura Newton
Ralph Nowak
Robert Parry, Jr. and Jane Parry
Ron Pennington
Patricia Murphy Pizzo
Pritchett Brothers
Alexis and Ellyn Pruitt
James and Barbara Randall
Ron Remak, Bill C. Brown Associates
Gary Scott, JPF Properties
Phil and Linda Stafford
Mark A. Stoops
Eugenie Sullivan
Phillip and Marjorie Sutton
Saundra Taylor
Susie Thompson
David and Marci Volz
Randy and Linda Williamson
Robert E. and B. Ann Wrenn
Kris Yoho

Welcome to Our New Members

Betty Cleveland
Eric and Katherine Brown
Susan and Tom Dyar
Paige Michaelis
Ron Hamilton
News from the Library

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

Monroe County Genealogist Appointed

The Monroe County History Center's library manager, Megan MacDonald, was appointed as the Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) for Monroe County by the Indiana Genealogical Society at the IGS board meeting last November.

New in the Library

The following items have been recently accessioned:


* Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame: Class of 2014. Contains information on the inductees, including pictures, articles, and interviews. Gift from David Lemon.

* Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame: Class of 2015. Contains information on the inductees, including pictures, articles, and interviews. Gift from David Lemon.

* Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame: Class of 2016. Contains information on the inductees, including pictures, articles, and interviews. Gift from David Lemon.

* Peterson, Roger A. African Americans Found in Owen County, Indiana Records 1819–1880. 1996. Includes census material; marriages; free papers; obituaries; land transactions; county commissioner’s books; and probate, cemetery, tax, court, church, and other records. Gift from Michael Maben.


Indiana State Archives Catalog Now Available Online

Researchers can now connect to the records housed within the collections of the Indiana State Archives through the use of a new online resource. The Research Indiana Catalog aims to simplify the process of searching the Archives’ collections by providing listings of more than a quarter of a million holdings. The catalog is the result of a multi-year inventory project, and will continue to be updated and refined. Users who notice errors in the data are encouraged to email the Archives at: arc@iara.in.gov. (From the web site: https://www.in.gov/iara/3197.htm)
Ross Family Father and Daughter Appointed to Smithville Post Office Positions

By Randi Richardson

William Wilson Ross, a Monroe County native, married with three children, was a prominent merchant in Smithville during the 1860s. In July 1869, he was appointed to be the Smithville postmaster and served in that capacity through February of 1870.

William’s wife, Elizabeth, passed away in July 1874, leaving William alone to care for the children. The oldest child, Catherine, was a particular challenge because she could neither hear nor speak. Undoubtedly eager to have someone to mother his children and be a helpmate, William remarried in June 1875.

His second wife was Ellen Eliza Payne, considerably younger than himself, and she and William soon added another child, Claudia, to the family. Claudia was born on 20 June in 1875 or 1876. She grew up in Smithville and completed one year of high school before becoming a typesetter in a newsroom, quite probably that of Ralph B. Carter, editor and owner of the Name It and Take It, later known as the Smithville News. Ralph was about the same age as Claudia. His father, like Claudia’s, was a Smithville merchant, and the two young people grew up together. In 1904, Ralph married Claudia’s younger sister, Alma.

Claudia remained single and continued to live at home and care for her aging parents. In 1910, well into her thirties, it was announced that Washington, D.C. officials had appointed her as the Smithville postmistress, paying a dollar a day, which would make her the only female government employee in Monroe County. She briefly accepted the position but then resigned for unknown reasons. Ultimately, the position went to George M. Deckard, who remained in the position as postmaster until March 1923.

Late in September 1911, Claudia’s mother died and was buried along with other family members in the Mt. Salem Cemetery in Perry Township, not far from Smithville. Barely a year later, on 30 December 1912, her father died in Smithville at the age of 84 and was buried in the same cemetery. According to his obituary, he had spent nearly his entire life in Clear Creek Township.

Freed from her parental responsibilities and perhaps in need of some relief from the heat and humidity of the Midwest, in the early summer of 1915 Claudia went to Greeley, Colorado, where she stayed for a matter of months with the family of her mother’s sister, Mrs. John Moore.

On 27 June 1916, at the age of 40, well beyond the age that most women marry, Claudia returned to Greeley where she was joined in holy matrimony with a widower, Samuel Keys, a school teacher in a rural part of Weld County. She became stepmother to Samuel’s two boys, Edwin and Albert, but never had any children of her own.

Samuel died sometime between 1920 and 1930. Claudia then went to live with the Pliny C. Mann family. Pliny was married, the father of two children, and the fairly well-to-do proprietor of a sporting goods store in Greeley. Claudia was their housekeeper.

The living conditions in Greeley must have been well suited to Claudia’s taste, because she remained in the area until the time of her death, living with one family or another. She died during the early morning hours of 15 August 1950, at the age of 74, after her dress caught fire while she was burning a pile of trash. The cause of her death was severe burns.

Thus ended the life of a Smithville daughter, part of the only known father and daughter pair who once, if only briefly, were postmaster and postmistress of the Smithville Post Office.

Notes
1. 1860 Federal Population Census, Monroe County, Indiana.
2. Marge Faber, Monroe County Postal History (N.p.: Indiana Postal History Society, 2014), 125.
3. According to the 1880 census record, she was born in June 1876; according to her obituary, she was born on 20 June 1875.
4. 1940 Federal Population Census, Weld County, Colorado. (Entry for Claudia Keys.)
5. Indianapolis Sun, April 2, 1910, p. 3; Bedford Daily Mail, April 25, 1910, p. 1.
6. Faber, 125.
Sarah Hafford, known in Bloomington as “Aunt Granny,” was born into slavery on the James River near Richmond, Virginia, in a year sometime before 1800, variously reported as 1788 and 1793. The exact birth year is in question, but Sarah was sure of the day—July 4. Her first owner was Col. Archer Fletcher, living near Macon, Georgia. She remembered another of her early owners, William Wilson, as the butler of George Washington when he was president, and she had seen Washington when she was young. Wilson was “a bad master and did much whipping, producing scars which she still carries [in 1900].”

At age eleven, she was sold to William Hicks for $600 and taken to Georgia, separating her from her mother and father and siblings, whom she never saw or heard from again. Hicks sold her to Daniel Bushem, “a good master.” After a year she was again sold to Joe Adkins of South Carolina for $770 (“only a moderately good master”), and then after two years to James Martin of North Carolina for $600 “and a drove of hogs.” Martin sold her to Tom Teague for $700. She related this of Teague: “This master never undertook to whip [me] but once, and failed. [I] whipped him.”

Teague sold Sarah sometime before 1850 to her final owner, George Hafford, for $777. At one time Hafford travelled to Missouri for three months, and Sarah remembered going through Bloomington, then a town of 23 houses, according to her story. She was with him until freed in 1863, and took his surname. Although Sarah claimed that Hafford lived near Monticello, Kentucky, the U.S. Census Slave Schedules have him living in Tennessee, in Haywood County in 1850 and Lauderdale County (adjacent to Haywood) in 1860. Sarah is shown in the 1850 record, but not in 1860.

Sarah married one of Hafford’s slaves, unnamed, and bore 17 children, five dying in childhood. But at least one was forcibly taken from her: “One day she was fondling one of her little girls in her arms, about two years old, when a stranger appeared and snatched the babe from her arms, saying ‘I want that little nigger, I have bought her.’” She never saw her again. Ten of her children were sold after objecing to being whipped, and she never saw him again, either, although she heard from him after the Civil War, when he was living in Georgia with a wife and two children.

One of her many stories is worth quoting in full:

“At one time, discovering that her master intended to sell her, Sally fled into the woods with her baby in her arms and remained in hiding three days and nights. When she was seven miles from the plantation the bloodhounds found her, but as they knew her well they did her no harm, and she, knowing that further resistance would be in vain, returned home. Her master was so glad to recover his lost property that he not only did not sell her, but did not even strike her for several months. When her old “missus” died, the master, who was also quite old and feeble, made Sally overseer of his 1,300 acre plantation. She was thoroughly trusted by her owner, and often had in her care two or three thousand dollars in money belonging to the old man. When he died he gave her five acres of land, a horse and a cow, with the understanding that she should take care of his five-year-old son. This charge she kept faithfully even after all the slaves were freed. When the boy became of age, he rewarded her kindness to him by selling her little possessions and appropriating the proceeds to himself.”
As a result, she said that she came to Bloomington in 1874 to live with her daughter, Mrs. Aaron Gahn, and her son, Robert Moses Hafford, a black Union soldier, who lived in Perry Township. (Washington Hafford, one of Sarah’s last owner’s sons, fought on the Confederate side.) In 1896, at about age 103, she lived in a “tiny log cabin” where she tended a little peach orchard surrounding her home. The 1896 newspaper account reported that “Her form is bent, and her hair quite thin and gray, but her eyesight and hearing are still good, and her movements quick and decided. The old lady’s memory is perfectly clear and she recounts with accuracy and vividness the interesting events of her long life.”

The 1900 census shows that she lived with her daughter Elizabeth (Betsy) Caldwell and three grandchildren in Bloomington Township. By 1910 Sarah resided at the Monroe County Poor Farm, along with her daughter Betsy and two of her children, Henry and Sallie. The census lists her age then as 115 years. Sarah (named “Sally” in the death record), died at age about 117 on 18 February 1912, in the home of one of her daughters, Josephine Wilson, with a funeral at her Eighth Street Baptist Church. She was buried in an unmarked pauper’s grave in Rose Hill Cemetery. One obituary told that she kept a sack containing 116 peach pits, one for each year of her life.

Notes

1. This narrative of her life has been pieced together from several newspaper articles, containing some conflicting details about her: “104 Years Old: Aunt Sallie Hafford, an Old Colored Slave,” Bloomington Telephone, May 15, 1896; “106 years Old: History of an Aged Colored Woman’s Life,” Bloomington Morning World, April 27, 1900; “Remarkable Story of ‘Aunt Granny’ Hafford’s Life,” Bloomington Daily Telephone, February 16, 1912; “Negress of Slave Days Died at Very Old Age,” Bloomington Courier, February 20, 1912; “‘Granny’ Hafford Dead; Age Near 120,” Bloomington Telephone, February 20, 1912.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. The U.S. Census Slave Schedules were accessed online at ancestry.com.
7. “106 Years Old: History of an Aged Colored Woman’s Life.”
8. “104 Years Old: Aunt Sallie Hafford, an Old Colored Slave.” Although not stated in the article, it is assumed that the master in the story was George Hafford.
9. Ibid.
A Tale of Three Cemeteries

If you search for Allen’s Creek Cemetery you may become confused because three cemeteries near this small Polk Township community of Allen’s Creek go by that name. There is the Old Allen’s Creek Cemetery, the New Allen’s Creek Cemetery, and the Allen’s Creek Cemetery (neither old or new but actually the newest of the three). So the old, Old Allen’s Creek Cemetery is located just a few feet from the south side of Allen’s Creek Road, about 50 yards west of the intersection of Allen’s Creek and Roberts roads.

Allen’s Creek Old Cemetery is now almost completely overgrown by trees and other vegetation. “County Cemeteries of Monroe” lists 27 burials in the cemetery. The oldest death date is 1843 and the newest is 1920. Most of the death dates are from the latter half of the 1800s.