What could be more romantic than a special night of dining and celebrating the 200-year relationship between Monroe County and Indiana University? We’ve been hard-pressed to come up with any answers to that question and, therefore, want to make sure you know that you are cordially invited to join us for our annual Monroe County History Center Gala: “The Best is Yet to Come.” Tickets to the gala make a great Valentine's Day gift, and it is sure to be an evening to remember! This year’s event will feature delectable appetizers, wine commemorating the IU Bicentennial, dinner, and remarks by Laurie Burns McRobbie, the First Lady of Indiana University, and a performance by renowned singer Sylvia McNair.

If you aren’t yet enticed by all the details of the event itself, be assured that your attendance at this year’s gala is also an opportunity to do good. This event is an important part of helping to fund the History Center, its amazing staff, and all of the wonderful programs it offers throughout the year. This year’s Gala Committee has assembled a wonderful selection of silent auction items to bid on at the event, and we also welcome donations of any size, whether or not you are able to join us on February 15th. Please contact the History Center at 812-332-2517 or visit www.monroehistory.org to buy your tickets today. Table sponsorship opportunities are also available.
Rechter Gallery:

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 tells 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.

Open through May 18th, 2019

Hill Gallery:

Fashion in the Factory: Women at Work During World War II

While women worked in factories during World War II, uniforms and fashion symbolize their progression and restrictions in mid-20th century America. On loan from Indiana University’s Sage Collection will be a jumpsuit worn by a woman who worked at a wartime factory in Evansville. Fashion typically worn by female RCA workers will also be on display.

February 22nd-April 29th

Brown Gallery:

The import and export of raw materials, finished goods, and even people has been a challenge here for the past two hundred years. From horse-drawn wagons to the Monon Railroad to automobiles and airplanes, the Brown Gallery tells the story of how Monroe County continued to grow despite obstacles presented by hilly terrain and a region without a major water source. The theme of the Brown Gallery will permanently be transportation in Monroe County with changing artifacts throughout the year.

Community Voices

Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington

This is an organization dedicated to serving the youth in our local community. They provide camps and programs during after school hours, holiday breaks, and summer time.

Open through April 1st

News from the Museum Store

A Summary of the Cemeteries in Monroe County, Indiana

Presented by the Monroe County History Center, Cemetery Committee

Our own Cemetery Committee created a book of descriptive essays with photographs on the cemeteries of Monroe County. The essays highlight the important individual burials, unique features, history, and location of each cemetery. Only available at the Monroe County History Center’s Museum Store for $18.00 plus tax. Stop by the museum today to learn more about our local cemeteries.
From the Director

Winter can be a difficult season for some to get through (okay, maybe that’s just me). The sky is often gray and the weather doesn’t encourage much in the way of outdoor activity. On the other hand, that’s a great time for members to come indoors and visit the museum and research library. Fewer people make it easier to peruse the exhibits at your leisure, do some genealogy research in the library, and shop in the museum store. If you haven’t had a chance yet, check out our new website and Facebook page. Andrea is doing a great job updating our information on both so you can see what’s coming at the History Center.

I’m also really excited to share the news of our Community Impact grant award of $30,000 from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, Inc. With this funding we plan to develop a variety of dementia friendly programming based on the artifacts and archives of the History Center. By May we will have several Memory Boxes, filled with items chosen to spark memories and conversations about a specific theme, available to be checked out or used by staff or volunteers to encourage conversations at our Memory Cafes. We are developing dementia-friendly guided tours and self-guided tour brochures and we will offer training, resources, and support for Care Partners. All of this will be done in collaboration with Alzheimer’s Resource Service of IU Health. Because of the grant, we will be able to offer these programs and Memory Boxes at no cost to the community. This is a very exciting opportunity for us and our hope is that the History Center will be able to use our archives and collection to have an impact on a group of people who easily become isolated due to the disease. If you think this sounds interesting, we will be looking for volunteers who would like to help and we’ll be setting up several training sessions for volunteers and staff as we develop each component. I’d love to hear from you so please stop by or drop me a note. As usual, great things are happening at your History Center.

Susan Dyar
Director

Susan Dyar, Linda Williamson, Andrea Hadsell, and Amanda Mosier accepting the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County grant on behalf of the Monroe County History Center.

Calendar of Events

**February**
- 3rd, 1pm, Rev. Marvin Chandler Reception at MCHC
- 9th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child at MCHC
- 12th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table at MCHC
- 15th, 6pm, MCHC Annual Gala at the Monroe County Convention Center
- 21st, 4:30pm, Board Meeting at MCHC
- 23rd, 1pm, HiStory Book Club at MCHC
- 28th, 5:30pm, Woman’s Fashion at Work, a talk by Sage Collection at MCHC

**March**
- 9th, 11am, WFHB Saturday’s Child at MCHC
- 12th, 7pm, Civil War Round Table at MCHC
- 12th, 7pm, What We Know About Hannah McCaw, at MCPL, a collaboration between MCPL and MCHC
- 21st, 4:30pm, Board Meeting at MCHC
- 21st, 5pm, Annual Meeting at MCHC
- 30th, 1pm, HiStory Book Club, at MCHC
Collections’ Corner
by Hilary Fleck

There’s some exciting news in the Collections Department—our 1830's log cabin in the Cook Gallery has a new floor! With help from Connie Furguson who recommended Teresa Walters of TC Design and Bounds Flooring, the cabin now has new linoleum flooring that looks like reclaimed wood in order to more accurately resemble the historic beams of the cabin walls. We hope you will come by and have a look! It’s quite a change!

Also in regards to the cabin, we are still searching for a hand pump or dry sink for the cabin exhibit. We would like to tell the story of how families procured water before modern utilities were installed. If you have one you would like to loan or donate, please contact Hilary Fleck, Collection Manager, at collection@monroehistory.org or 812-332-2517 ext.6. Thank you!

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Education Desk
By Andrea Hadsell

The holiday season is no quiet time at the History Center! We welcomed hundreds of people in from the cold and rain during our Annual Canopy of Lights Open House. And with our new holiday open house in partnership with Indiana University’s Wylie House, even more visitors stepped into a pioneer family’s Christmas celebration during our Log Cabin Christmas. With live music, hands-on activities, games, and warm refreshments, each open house was bustling with activity for all.

As the city and county bicentennial came to a close, the MCHC Cemetery Committee held a fascinating talk about their research, work days, and new projects. Visit the Museum Store to purchase their new book.

In February, Kelly Richardson from the IU Elizabeth Sage Collection will give a presentation on women’s fashion at work. From riveter’s jumpsuits to dressing for success, it is sure to be an interesting discussion! Shortly after in March, the History Center, Lilly Archives, Wylie House and the Monroe County Public Library have partnered to present a discussion on the presence of the Underground Railroad in Monroe County. “Who is Hannah McCaw?” examines one woman’s connection to the abolitionist movement and prominent families in the county.

Local Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to earn their Playing with History badge on March 16. By learning to churn butter and making candles, together we will step into the shoes of a pioneer girl. To reserve your spot and to earn your badge, call Kate Weidner with the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana at 317-924-6834.
Volunteer Spotlight

Beth Lau - Distinguished Scholar

Our Beth Lau received a Distinguished Scholar Award January 5th from the Keats-Shelley Association of America (K-SAA.) This award recognizes her career-long excellence in scholarship devoted to the writers of that period and the culture in which they lived. Presentation of the award was at the K-SAA annual dinner during the Modern Language Association’s conference in Chicago.

Beth is retired from her career as an English professor at California State University, Long Beach, where she taught and studied 18th- and 19th-century British literature and culture. She continues to write books and articles and present papers at academic conferences in the U.S. and the U.K.; her books can be found on Amazon.com and in the IU library. She also serves on the Keats-Shelley Journal Editorial Board.

Announcements

- Glenda Murray was recently appointed Official Monroe County Historian by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau. Glenda succeeds Joyce Poling in the position. The County Historian Program was established in 1981 as an effort to improve the historical communication network across the state. The county historian acts as a liaison between statewide and local organizations. Special thanks to Joyce Poling for her 9 years of service as the County Historian.

- Kroger is currently sending emails to all Community Rewards program users stating that you’ve been re-enrolled in the rewards program. In years past each person was responsible for re-enrolling but now Kroger does it for us. It’s a good idea to check the bottom of your Kroger register receipt occasionally to be sure the Monroe County History Center is listed there. And if you haven’t linked your Kroger Plus Card to the History Center, it’s easy to do—either online at Krogercommunityrewards.com or call 800-576-4377.

- Signage for our designated parking spaces now includes wording indicating that it is Permit Parking and the fine is $50 for parking without the proper hang tag. We hope this will make the spaces more available for our greeters and other volunteers. If you are volunteering in the Center and are using one of these spaces, be sure to get a hang tag from the office—and then return it before you leave.

- If you know someone who has some extra time on Saturdays and would like to volunteer for a three-hour shift morning or afternoon as a History Center greeter, please let them know they can apply by email to volunteers@monroehistory.org or call 812-332-2517, ext. 7. They can also complete an application online at https://monroehistory.org/volunteer-form/.

Cemetery Committee Work Day

The Cemetery Committee held a work day at the Burch Cemetery this past fall. The cemetery managers are doing a very good job of maintaining the cemetery, and the Cemetery Committee worked with them to do a few repairs. Two table style monuments were broken and needed to be repaired with epoxy. One is for a Revolutionary Soldier. Two other stacked stone monuments were leveled and restacked. Plans were made to return and complete repairs.

In the picture, from left to right, Scott Emery, Kathy Metzger, and Bob Dodd. They are holding up and cleaning a tablet style monument that is broken into three pieces.

Photo by Brian Garvey.
Contributors
November and December 2018

The History Center wishes to acknowledge and recognize those who provided financial gifts to support our operations in November and December 2018:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor Membership ($1000)</th>
<th>Patron Membership ($500)</th>
<th>Benefactor Memberships ($250)</th>
<th>Sustaining Memberships ($120+)</th>
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<td>Charles and Julia McClary</td>
<td>John and Karla Kamstra</td>
<td>Martha Dawson</td>
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Donations In Memory of Stephanie Bowman

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Nanette Vasconcells
David and Judy Whaley

Donation in Honor of David Lemon
Debbie Lemon

Donation in Memory of Mary Emison
Wednesday Club

Honorarium for a Speaker
Nineteenth Century Club
Remembering:

Mary Emison enjoyed being an active member of the Bloomington community, a History Center greeter, and a member of several local women's clubs including the Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni Club, the Tri Kappa Sorority, and the University Women's Club. Mary was a lovely person.

Frank Bauer and his wife Beverly owned the first Monroe County Bed and Breakfast, the Bauer House, in their historic home. His love of adventure took him from riding in the Little 500 to hiking the Appalachian Trail to canoeing the Wabash River from Fort Wayne to Vincennes, tracing the travels of the French Canadian voyageurs.

Elizabeth Betty Applegate - One of the many things Betty Applegate accomplished during her decades of service to the Bloomington community was the creation of the Opportunity House, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. After raising her family, Betty studied interior design and established Gateway Interiors. In 2013 she received a Be More Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Mary Louise Mitchell had a passion for genealogy and was involved with the Monroe County History Center for a time. Mary Lou enjoyed being an involved member of her community and was a member of KDP sorority and chairperson of the Monroe County Fair food booth for many years.

Don Matson roller skated from the age of 6 to the age of 70 and was a member of the Skyline Roller Rink Figure and Dance Club. He loved his genealogy work and published two of the reports he compiled. Based on the information he found during his years of genie research, he often suggested that he was probably related to “almost everyone in Monroe County.”

For most of her life, Patsy Powell lived in the house in which she was born, at Breezy Point Farm, on land that had been in her family since the founding of Monroe County. She loved the history around her and felt it was important to collect and preserve it. After receiving her degree in music education, Patsy taught music in MCCSC schools and continued to give private piano lessons most of her life.

Donation of Tapestries

The History Center received a generous donation of two rare and beautiful tapestries from Deborah Barbour, M.D. The donation is in honor of Dr. Charles MacIntosh.

Both tapestries were created by Swedish textile artist Ulrika Leander. Leander works mostly on commission for public spaces, so it is rare for her pieces to become available to the public. Cook Regentec donated $15,000 to the History Center in exchange for one of the tapestries titled Ingrid and Gey which depicts strands of DNA, chromosomes, and cells. They plan to display the tapestry at their corporate headquarters in Indianapolis. The other tapestry, which is part of a four-part series titled Dream Metaphor, is currently being appraised by local appraiser Gabriel Colman.

Our thanks again to Dr. Barbour for her very generous donation

Ingrid and Gey

Dream Metaphor
News from the Library

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

New in the Library

Re-indexing for marriage records 1818-1960 has been completed and published in three volumes: 1818-1881, 1882-1906, and 1906-1960. The second and third volumes index the “marriage application” books. These provide detailed information on the bride and groom and their parents. Copies of original pages can be obtained in the research library for $1. The indexes are available on-line and for purchase in the bookstore.

The following items have been recently accessioned:

* Arbutus, Indiana University yearbook, 1908. Gift from Cecile Waldron.

* Cemetery Committee, Monroe County History Center. *A Summary of the Cemeteries in Monroe County, Indiana*. 2018. Arranged alphabetically by township. Entries include GPS coordinates and other location details; maps; photographs; and descriptive information.

* Bales, Charles F. *Twice a Boy*. 1976. Reflections on life in Indiana and Monroe County from a farmer and rural teacher; includes Bales genealogy. Gift from Honey Creek School.


New Limestone Resource

A collection of articles and personal recollections compiled by Albert Hoadley (1903–1998) is now available in the Research Library. Hoadley was a limestone mill owner and operator in Monroe County for 50 years. The collection includes material on a wide range of mills and quarries, most of them no longer in operation and some of them long forgotten, as well as biographical information on major figures in the local limestone industry. Albert Hoadley’s “Recollections of the Limestone Industry” is located in the Vertical Files under Limestone Resources.

IGS Conference in April

The Indiana Genealogical Society’s Annual Meeting and Conference will take place at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne on 13 April 2019. The featured speaker is genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger, who will offer sessions on the uses of DNA testing. Other speakers will include John Beatty (German resources and published genealogies) and Allison DePrey Singleton (free databases and the 1940 and 1950 censuses). The library is located at 900 Library Plaza in downtown Fort Wayne. Pre-registration is $40.00 for IGS members and $50.00 for non-members; the deadline is Tuesday, 9 April 2019. Registration at the door is $50.00 for everyone. For more information, go to: www.IndianaAncestors.org.
Field Glove Factory Hires Women in 1902
By Penelope Mathiesen

Leonard S. Field and his son, Leonard C. Field, opened the Field Glove Factory around the first of May in 1902. It was located on the second floor of the Smallwood building on West Fourth Street near the intersection with Walnut Street (where the Fourth Street parking garage stands today). Bloomington welcomed the glove factory, also known as the mitten factory, for its promise of “steady employment to many who will appreciate the work.”1 According to a newspaper announcement:

“… from 15 to 20 people will be employed, mostly women and girls. Twelve machines have been ordered and are expected here this week. The dyes and presses will soon follow. The factory will make cheap mittens and gloves, the mittens being made from tick, duck, and canton flannel. The gloves will be such as used for husking and in general work. The total capacity a week will be from 1,200 to 1,500 dozens.”2

The names of the employees who worked at the glove factory when it opened in 1902 appeared in a local newspaper.3 Comparing the list with the 1900 U.S. census provides insight into the lives of the factory workers and enables us to estimate their ages in 1902. Among the younger workers were: Fannie Alexander (16), Dessie Fleetwood (15), Josie Fleetwood (17), Josie Daniels (18), Iva May (12), Madia May (10), and Edith Mitchener (14). For young people at that time, working was often an economic necessity, and the glove factory provided opportunities. Some of the girls came from rural areas with few employment options: Fannie Alexander from Richland Township; Dessie Fleetwood, Josie Fleetwood, and Edith Mitchener from Polk Township; and Alpha Wise (15) and Cora Wise (12) from Brown County. The factory also provided a means of changing occupations for older women. Bella Martin (36) had been listed as a schoolteacher in the 1900 census, and Della Giles (42) had been listed as a washerwoman.

The Field Glove Co. “suffered a total fire loss in 1913.” The owners rebuilt, erecting “a modern factory building, with the best of heat and light and rest rooms for the employees. Nothing has been left undone that may add to the comfort and welfare of the girls who work there.”4

A 1925 history of the company noted that it shipped goods for laboring men and farmers “every state in the union.” The business had increased over the years, and “during the busy season, seventy-five or more girls and women [could] be used.”5 The article also stated that:

“… this company has been the largest employer of women [sic] labor in Monroe county. The work consists of sewing on electric power sewing machines. This requires a certain amount of skill, which is usually accomplished after three or four months’ effort. The finishing department consists of turning and forming and inspecting the gloves. The forming is done by a steam heated apparatus which insures every glove to have the correct size and shape. The fact that this company has operated for more than 23 years without labor troubles gives one an idea of the treatment accorded the employees, and the employees’ loyalty to the company.”6

Leonard S. Field died on 14 May 1919.7 His son and business partner, Leonard C. Field, continued the business. The Field Glove Co. last appears in the Bloomington city directory for 1938–39.

Notes
2. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
Bloomington Celebrates Armistice in 1918
By Penelope Mathiesen

News of the armistice that concluded the cataclysm then known as “the world war” reached Bloomington via telegraph in the early hours of 11 November 1918. Residents were awakened at 2 a.m. by “the blowing of locomotive whistles at McDoel yards, and the ringing of the fire alarm and the big whistles of the Showers factory … People began collecting about the square hurrying from every direction, and in an hour a great bonfire was burning.” Showers employees were given the day off and marched to the square, where General Manager Edward Showers gave a brief talk. The “Monon Shop Men,” the city band under the direction of Charles Stineburg, and townspeople also gravitated to the square. Classes were cancelled at Indiana University. The Students’ Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C., forerunner of R.O.T.C.) marched downtown and back. “A meeting was held on Jordan field and Dr. Woodburn presided. Several speeches were made.”

Fifteen months earlier, on 5 August 1917, the soldiers of Battery F, a unit formed at Indiana University, had “assembled at the armory and marched to the Monon station where a special train was in waiting. The boys were in training at Ft. Benjamin Harrison for some time and sailed from New York, October 17, for France. The Battery saw 18 months service in France and three months in Germany, returning to Bloomington in May 1919.”

Among those who did not return was Sergeant Burton D. Woolery—born in Bloomington on 20 November 1897 to stone mill operator Henry Woolery and his wife, Laura—Indiana University student who had joined Battery F “when the call to arms was sounded.” Woolery was killed in action in France on 29 July 1918 and buried in the American Cemetery, Seringes et Nesles, Aisne, France. In 1921, his body was returned to Bloomington and buried at Rose Hill Cemetery. A stone in the Woolery family plot honors him, along with a marker indicating his participation in the 42nd Rainbow Division, 1917–1919. Bloomington’s American Legion Post 18 bears his name.

Indiana University’s involvement in the war effort is reflected in its yearbooks. The 1918 Arbutus devoted 48 pages to “War Times at Indiana,” including a roster of Battery F and information on IU’s Ambulance Unit, Training Camp, and Red Cross workshop (staffed by women who made surgical dressings and bandages for use overseas). The 1919 Arbutus devoted 66 pages to military topics but took a much more somber tone. The volume is “dedicated to the Men and Women of I.U. who gave their lives” and contains a list of students dead in service.

Others from the community also went off to the world war. The History Center holds a photograph of Walter Vashon Eagleson in uniform. Eagleson was born in Mitchell, Indiana, on 1 February 1887 to Holstead V. and Elizabeth Eagleson. He graduated from Bloomington High School and attended IU for a year. He worked in the Panama Canal Zone as a teacher and Y.M.C.A. worker and later became “the secretary of the colored Y.M.C.A.” in Cincinnati, but he “always called Bloomington his home.”
During the war, Eagleson served as a regimental supply sergeant, Co. 801, Pioneer Infantry. (Black soldiers in Pioneer Regiments “served in units that supported the fighting soldiers”; the U.S. armed forces were not yet integrated.) Eagleson died on 5 February 1928. His wife, Dorothy, requested a military veterans’ headstone for him. He is buried at Rose Hill Cemetery.

The first Armistice Day—11 November 1919—was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson to honor veterans of the “war to end all wars.” The promise of lasting peace was not fulfilled. After World War II, the occasion became a tribute to veterans of both wars. In 1954, the name of the holiday in the United States was changed to Veterans Day, in honor of veterans of all wars fought by U.S. forces. British Commonwealth countries call it Remembrance Day.

Notes
Membership Form

Annual Membership Levels
☐ Student $10
☐ Teacher $20
☐ Individual $35
☐ Family/Grandparents $50
☐ Supporter $100
☐ Benefactor $250
☐ Patron $500
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Bloomington, IN 47408

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