



Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.



Annual Report for 2008-2009



April
Vintage Car show:
Traffic Jam on 6th Street



May
Scottish Society Community
Voices Reception



June
Civil War Encampment



July
Zachary P. May Blood Drive



August
Seward Portrait Restoration
by Margaret Contompasis



September
“Carburetors, Hubcaps &
Bloomington’s First Cars”
Exhibit



October
Tea Party Benefit & Vintage
Doll Sale



November
Tour of Turner Doll Factory



December
Volunteer Dinner—Awardees:
Jamee Wissink, Penelope
Mathiesen, Dave Musgrave,
and Lou Malcomb



January
Week of Chocolate:
Sundaes on Saturday



February
Gala at COOK World
Headquarters



March
Craftacular:
A Spectacular Craft Event



June 1, 2009

Dear Partner in History,

2008-09 has been another banner year for the Monroe County History Center. We have offered wonderfully educational exhibits, presented excellent community lectures during our Third Thursday series, continued our fundraising campaign, and benefited from many volunteer hours in all parts of the organization.

The museum and genealogy library collections continue to grow, and we continue to develop new ways of making the collections accessible to the public. Over 4700 of our historic photos are now searchable on the website, <http://monroehistory.org>.

Jamee Wissink, the Collections & Exhibits Committee, staff, and interns all contributed to the fun and informative exhibits in the galleries and cases. Our popular Community Voices Gallery was launched with the Scottish Society's exhibit in April, 2008. We were able to have the portraits of early settlers Austin and Jennett Seward professionally restored, and we unveiled the restored portraits at our April 2, 2009 annual meeting.

We continued the Third Thursday lecture series each month except December. The presentations are taped by Community Access Television, with more than 20 programs now available for viewing by request.

Even in these challenging times we continued our fundraising efforts on a variety of fronts. We have grown to over 580 members. We launched the next phase of our endowment campaign, which we kicked off with our second annual gala, held at COOK World Headquarters and featured Bill Cook as our keynote speaker. We were honored to receive estate gifts from Henry Wahl and Sylvan Tackett, both long-time friends and members of the Historical Society.

We thank our outgoing board members: Deeanna Bassett, Allison Lendman, Julian Livingston, Susan Lyons, David Musgrave, and Janice Partenheimer.

The board, staff, and volunteers all encourage you to come see our new exhibits and participate in our lectures and special events. The Monroe County History Center helps connect you to our county's past.

Glenda Murray
President, 2008-2009

Jill Lesh
Managing Director

Exhibits

Bill & Pat Brown Gallery (East)

“Life in 1908”

- Everyday items common to 1908 homes. Created by Allison Lendman.

“The Dog Made Me Buy It”

- Images & icons that influence our purchases. Created by Jamee Wissink.

“Hello Ma Baby: A View of Us in Infancy”

- Baby related artifacts and photos of well-known Monroe county citizens. Created by Rachel Mitchell, Jenny Mack, and Lisa Simmons.

Richard P. & Marilyn Rechter Gallery (West)

“Monroe County Courthouse: 100 Years Under the Fish”

- Construction and restoration of the 1908 courthouse. Created by Allison Lendman.

“Natural History Photos:

Focus on Southern Indiana”

- Sixty spectacular photos. Created by the Bloomington Photography Club and the Sassafras Audubon Society.

“Red & Green Study Quilts”

- Twenty-five small quilts interpreting historic patterns. Loaned by the American Quilt Study Group. Created by Jamee Wissink.

Community Voices Gallery

Created by community organizations with help by exhibit designer Jamee Wissink.

“Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington”

- Scottish history, kilts, tartans, and bagpipes.

“Sycamore Land Trust”

- Documenting efforts to preserve Southern Indiana’s disappearing landscape.

“Tea Time Doll Club”

- Vintage dolls from members of the Tea Time Doll & Bear Club

“Wildcare Inc.”

- Volunteer work caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in South Central Indiana.

“Monroe County Courthouse: 100 Years Under the Fish”

Sculptor Albert Jacob Molnar c1908 standing next to the figures he carved for the south side of the Courthouse.

Photo from the permanent collection.

1st Floor Exhibits

“Best Wishes: Pre-WWI Holiday Postcards”

- Vintage postcards celebrating seasonal holidays. Created by Lisa Simmons.

“Sororities at Indiana University: The Formative Years 1870-1920”

- The early history of IU sororities. Created by Gennifer Stanley.

“Carburetors, Hubcaps & Bloomington’s First Cars”

- Early automotive history of Bloomington, featuring artifacts from Norm Deckard. Created by Bobi Cross.

“Preserve Your Future: Archival Storage Materials Within a Museum’s Collection”

- Examples of archival supplies used at the History Center. Created by Erica Kendall.

“The Faces of Lincoln”

- Images that influenced public opinion. Loaned exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society.

“Memory Lane”

- 1950-60s artifacts and trivia quizzes. Created by Jamee Wissink.



Memberships as of May 15, 2009

Corporate/Service Memberships

Monroe County

History Maker (\$1,000)

CFC, Inc.
Cook Group Inc.

History Patron (\$500)

Ivy Tech Community College -Blmngt
Monroe County Farm Bureau, Inc.
Smithville
X Printwear & Promotions

Gallery Benefactor (\$250)

Monroe Bank
Regions Bank
Stephen L. Ferguson, Attorney-at-Law
United Commerce Bank

Exhibit Supporter (\$100)

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Meadowood Retirement Community
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Jane Warner
Herbert White

Stats and Figures

Memberships — 582

We exceeded our membership goal of 525.

Attendance — 14,093

We missed our attendance goal of 14,400 by 338. Included are 1013 (an increase of 312) participants in tours; 3,277 (an increase of 341) in programs; and 1,687 (a decrease of 313) in off-site programs. We are pleased that many of our off-site school groups were able to travel to the History Center this year—note the decrease in off-site programming and the great increase of on-site tours and programming.

Volunteer Hours — 10,464

528 of these hours were given by interns, and 2,537 volunteer hours occurred in the Genealogy Library.

Collection Items Accessioned — 591

Highlights: John Jay's navy uniforms, plaques, certificates, shell casings, and ship images from when he was stationed on the USS Washington in WW II; a collection of 1960s Boy Scout uniforms, sweatshirts, and t-shirts, all purchased at Schmalz's Department Store; Bloomington High School brick, newspaper clippings & sheet music taken from the building after it burned; Monroe County Courthouse dome copper anthemion.

Grants — \$8,500

Bloomington Township

- for education and cemetery documentation

Perry Township

- for education and cemetery documentation

Psi Iota Xi, Zeta Chapter

- exhibit gallery supplies

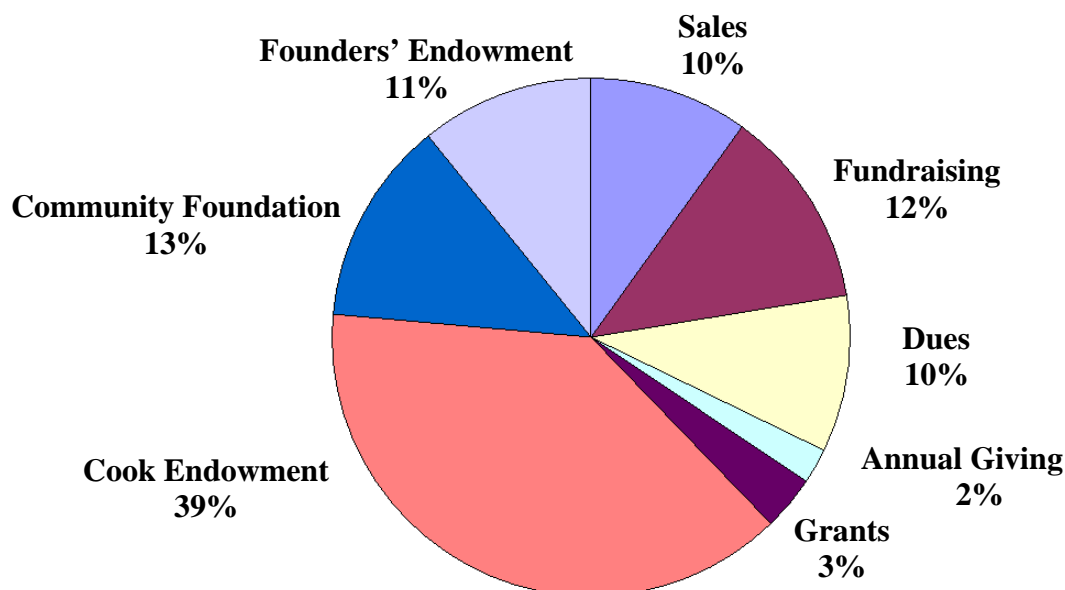
Monroe County

- for government document preservation

Events Sponsors

- Cook Group Incorporated
- Classic Catering
- Oliver Winery
- Pinnacle Properties
- PIP Printing

2008-2009 Sources of Operating Income — \$264,742



Giving

Founders' Endowment — \$273,539

At the Gala on February 6, we launched a 3-year campaign to raise \$50,000 for the Founders' Endowment with the goal of hiring a curator of exhibits and providing a budget to make our exhibits more interactive and meaningful for school-age children.

Lead Gift Donors:

Smithville
Kevin & Debbie Leffel

Curry Auto Center
Glenda & Patrick Murray

Darby McCarty
Cullen & Rachel Peden McCarty

2008-2009 Donors:

Jerry & Cathy Arthur
BEDC
Martin & Deanna Bassett
Margery Belisle
Fleurette Benckart
Jack & Sue Bowman
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Commercial Service of
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Henry Wahl Estate
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Annual Giving & Cash Donations — \$5,806

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Sue Bowman
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Richard & Kathy Burkhardt
David & Margery Byrne
Marcia Cannon
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Bert Thompson
Hans & Sarah Thorelli
The Womans Club
of Bloomington
Robert & Nancy Wylie
Alicia Zadrozna-Fizman
Paul & Charlotte Zietlow

The following memorial or honoring gifts are included in the Founders' Endowment and Annual Giving financial totals.

In Honor of Glenda Murray:

John & Alberta Comer

In Memory of Mary Jeffers Bowman:

Richard & Cathy Beard
Alex & Donna Cartwright
Charles Kelly
Kenneth & Marietta Self
Deborah Sibbitt

In Memory of Henry Wahl:

Judy Elkins
Ronald & Carolyn Kovener
Cullen & Rachel Peden McCarty

In Memory of Sara Tener:

Malcolm Black
Ruzha Cleaveland
Kermit & Lynn Johnson
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Landon & Janice Risteen
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In memory of Dave Rowland:

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

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***Monroe County
Historical Society***

Annual Report

2008-2009



For information about the
Society, contact the
Monroe County
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812-332-2517, or
www.monroehistory.org

Monroe County Historical Society, Inc.

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Associate Secretary—Jackie Gilkey

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Dara May—Office Manager
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