

# RIVER RAISIN NEWS & DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Museum Hours**  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., & Sun.  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Archives Hours**  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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## From the Director by John Gibney

The summer has been too short and too sweet for the museums. We have been involved with a myriad of programs and projects and hope the future is as exciting as the past eight months!

We had a great time working with the Monroe County Intermediate School District. We spent a week designing virtual tours with teachers from a number of local schools. With shrinking state funding, it is increasingly difficult to get students to the museum to see our exhibits. We believe that the virtual tours will allow them to see our collections from the comfort of their own school rooms.

Our MCISD partners also helped out with our second annual Archaeology Camp headed up by Dr. Laurel Heyman. The kids had a ball digging in the dirt and were rewarded with a chance to examine and classify artifacts just as real archaeologists do in the field. At the end of the week, John Destatte from Fort Meigs, bored out our King's Howitzer at the battlefield and gave a crowd-pleasing salute to the staff and students. We hope to expand the camp to two weeks next year.

August opened with a crazy flourish, as the float we entered in the Monroe County Fair took first place in our division. Once again super volunteers Dave Stahl and Bill Saul headed up a rowdy crew of volunteers to build an excellent display driven by a magnificent Ford truck loaned to us by our friends at, where else, Friendly Ford!



The motley crew assembled for the MCISD filming at the NATP

The ISD folks joined us at the Trading Post where we filmed a short trailer to help market our virtual tours. We also plan to do more filming at the Lantern Tours so polish off your best uniforms and get your make-up ready! By the way, the maestro, Ralph Naveaux, returns as the author for this year's event. We are already getting responses from reenactors and this year's event promises to be better than ever.

Most of the staff will be at Jackson on August 24-26, helping preserve battlefields for the Civil War Preservation Trust. We will be meeting with most of the prominent Civil War historians in the state and plan to market our Custer Week to the public. Speaking of which: the first week of October is Custer Week and this year we are bringing in nationally renowned guest speakers, exciting artifacts, and prominent reenactors from around the Great Lakes.

September is just around the corner and with it will be our next major exhibit at the museum: WWII! Designed to coincide with Ken Burns "The War", we will be showing some of the finest WWII artifacts in the country.

We can use all the help we can get and are always looking for volunteers. Come to the museums this fall and see why we say that Monroe is **where the past is present!**

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### **FROM THE ARCHIVES....**

by Chris Kull, Archivist

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Charles Verhoeven Collection officially became the property of the museum. This collection has a little bit of everything. There are artifacts, books, photographs, newspapers, business records, government records, and manuscripts. The volume of material will take a long time to go through and catalog.

The collection will be a great addition to our government records holdings. It contains city and county records predating Michigan statehood. Scholars can research parts of local history not found anywhere else. These early government records give a glimpse of the community through various petitions, voter registration lists, and poll tax lists.

One of my favorite parts of the collection are the many glass plate negatives from George Lang, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century Carleton resident, photographer, and mapmaker. These photographs will provide a forgotten look at that community. I can't wait until I have time to print some of these photographs. Although they have to be handled with extreme care, glass plates make beautiful photographic prints.

Some of the other noteworthy items include material related to the War of 1812, General Custer, Navarre Papers, and early letters from some prominent Frenchtown settlers.

The importance of this collection to Monroe County history cannot be emphasized enough. The museum is very fortunate to be the recipient of this material.



### **Senator Isaac P. Christiancy**

by David Ingall

Isaac Peckham Christiancy was born on March 12, 1812 in Bleecker, New York, being the second of eight children. His father, Thomas, was of Dutch descent and a blacksmith by trade. When Isaac was 12 years old his father was seriously injured while clearing land, breaking several ribs and his collarbone, leaving him unable to do even light work. Isaac became largely responsible for helping to support the family. He could attend school only in the winter. His mother, Zelpha, taught him to read and write by firelight. At the age of 18 he taught school in the winter, and in the summers he attended the Johnson, Kingsborough and Ovid Academies. In 1834 he began to study law in Ovid, New York.

In 1836 Isaac moved to Monroe, Michigan where he was employed as a clerk in the United States land office under registrar, Major Gershom T. Bulkley. He studied law under Robert McClelland, later governor of Michigan and U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and was admitted to the bar in 1838. He married Elizabeth Eleanor McCloskey on November 16, 1839. They had 10 children. He was the prosecuting attorney for Monroe County from 1841 to 1846. In 1844 he brought his entire family west, settling them on his Macon River farm in Dundee Township.

A strong anti-slavery advocate, Isaac joined the Free Soil Party and was elected state senator in 1850, serving until

1852. He was an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1852. Isaac was the leading organizer in the forming of the Republican Party in Jackson, Michigan in the summer of 1854, and was a delegate to the first Republican National Convention in 1856, helping to form its' platform. He purchased the Monroe Commercial in 1857, becoming its editor. Also in 1857 he was elected as an associate judge of the first permanent Michigan Supreme Court, serving until 1875. He was Chief Justice from 1872 to 1874, and considered one of the greatest justices in Michigan Supreme Court history. Judge Christiancy was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1874, serving until 1879. On December 13, 1874 his wife Elizabeth died in Lansing. In February 1876 he married 20 year old Lillie Lugenbeel, a clerk in the Treasury Department. They divorced in 1881.

President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed him to be U.S. Minister to Peru from 1879 to 1881. He returned to Lansing and resumed practicing law until his death at age 78 on September 8, 1890. He was an extremely well respected man of his times, and was originally buried on his farm in Dundee Township alongside his parents and siblings. Over time their graves became neglected and in 1906, his son, George A. Custer Christiancy had his remains removed to Woodland Cemetery in Monroe.

Senator Christiancy was a very close friend, confidant and mentor to General George Armstrong Custer, who was helped by the senator's influence and guidance throughout his army career. His son, James Isaac Christiancy was a First Lieutenant in Company D, 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry. On May 28, 1864, as aide-de-camp on General Custer's staff, he voluntarily led troops into the fight at Haw's Shop, Virginia, being wounded twice in the charge. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for this action and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

**Sources:**

Arlington National Cemetery:  
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/jichrist.htm>

*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, December 24, 1881

Monroe County Historical Museum Archives

Wing, Talcott E. *History of Monroe County Michigan*. New York: Munsell & Co Publishers, 1890

**WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT**

by Chris Kull, Archivist

The Monroe County Historical Museum opened a World War II exhibit September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It coincided with the PBS broadcast of Ken Berns' documentary, *The War*. Included are artifacts from the museum's collection of uniforms and archival holdings, along with items from local military collector, John Reaume, and local WWII veterans who lived and fought the

war. Some of their stories range from poignant to tragic to heroic. Their sacrifices were extraordinary.

Local connections to numerous WWII battles and tragedies are highlighted, along with a *Lest We Forget* wall of photographs and biographical information of the over 200 Monroe County men who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWII.

In gathering exhibit items, it is apparent that Monroe County was represented at key engagements throughout the war. From Pearl Harbor to the Japanese surrender, soldiers from Monroe County were part of history. It is only fitting that these individuals be remembered and their stories shared with the community.



Bronco McKart demonstrating his punch with a boxing counterpart mannequin at the Monroe County Historical Museum, part of the new exhibit on his professional career.

**Interview with Bronco McKart, June 3, 2007**

by Shawna Mazur

1) How did you get into boxing?

*-I got into boxing cause I hit the point in my life, 13, 14 years old, where I was running around with guys that were pretty bad getting into a lot of trouble and my dad he knew the situation and which road I was headed down and one day I came home from school and he was standing at the front door waiting for me and he said we need to talk. He sat me down and told me, 'I know the kind of people your running with, I know what they're doing I know what your doing and I'm stepping in and I am going to change your life Bronco. Every day when you get home from school your going to hang out with me. We can do what you want-baseball, basketball, fishing, , it doesn't matter, video games, I don't care, but your going to spend time with your Dad.' He got me away from those guys and I started going to the boxing gym cause my dad was training fighters and I'd go to the gym and I'd hang out. I didn't like it, I didn't like it, cause I felt like I'm 14 years old and I know everything you know. I started boxing and I figured I'm at the gym I mise well start training and I enjoyed*

*it and I was a natural at it, it was natural for me. Still I look back on it and I was just telling somebody this the other day every single person at that time of my life I was running around with has been in jail, or is in jail or prison, or some of them are dead. Some were shot. So boxing.. I didn't have to go to jail, I didn't have to go to prison, I didn't have to be shot- to wake up, boxing kinda got me on the right path through my dad, before I ever had to go through any of those real bad things, he was right, he was right in what he was saying and I got into boxing to basically get out and get away from the streets I guess.*

*The most important thing you can give a child is time more than anything else, is time, it doesn't matter if its just one hour out of the day, if you can just take some time to have with your child/children, just time.*

2) What are some of the things you like to do with your children?

*-Well like yesterday I was at a fund raiser (Relay for Life) and I had to sit in the dunk tank and I brought my son out there with me and I put him on my lap for about five or six different dunks and then I let him sit by himself a few times. We go out into the yard and play basketball, baseball, I play video games with him and my daughter. Whatever they want to do, I have an older daughter, she's 18 so she's doing her own thing.*

3) What are your children's names?

*-My oldest daughter, WhitLeigh, she's 18, my son he's nine his name is Banyon (cause that's my middle name) Preston, cause Preston is my dad's first name and then my daughter she's 7 and her name is Brooklyn. My children are my life, their what I live and breath for, they're a blessing and everyday, there's not a day that goes by that I don't thank the Lord for my children. We just do all kinds of stuff. I getting them out of school early next week, I'm going to let them play a half day of hooky. I'm taking them on a little fishing trip and were going to be out there with Senator Richardville, Tommy Hearn, who was one of the best fighters ever, he's a hall of famer and first six time world champion in 6 different divisions and my kids won't understand what this means yet but someday... 'oh man, wow man'.... Anything I don't care what it is, sometimes we just go out walking. Of course I've been through a divorce and I'm seeing a girl now she has a daughter who is 10 yrs old and her daughter and my children get along awesome, they play, its special.*

4) Are any of your kids interested in boxing?

*-No, if it was going to be any of them it would probably be my youngest daughter Brooklyn-she's a little animal. My son, boxing doesn't really interest him, and really I don't want him to box, I'd rather have him do singing-he's very gifted in singing, he has a wonderful voice, he's sang in church, plays, he does well. Brooklyn she's my athlete. My oldest daughter she's very athletic also. But Banyon he likes sports, and he's now getting to the age he's doing more & more, but he likes tennis, baseball, but boxing's not his thing and I don't push him. Whatever he wants to do he's got my support 100% and*

*that's with all my children.*

5) Who was the most inspirational person in your life?

*-Well, it would be my dad, my grandpa Smith, I was real tight with my grandpa Smith, he was like my 2<sup>nd</sup> dad. And I used to hang out with him, not to many kids, I wasn't a kid, I was a man, but not to many men hang out with their grandparents like I did with mine. I would just go up there to grandma and grandpas house and sit around, eat pasta, and we would go out and do silly things together. It was just a lot of fun. My dad, he's like, my dad he's my best friend, he's not just my dad. I often rely on him and count on him for anything. I always tell people, I guess the best way to sum it up is, if I was to call my dad today and say, 'hey dad, listen, I just came back from the doctor, he said I need 2 kidneys' and my dad would say, 'relax, what time do I need to be there?' And I know that, I know that. That's the kind of love that I have for my kids, the kind of love my dad has for me. You would do anything to better your children, family is the most important thing that you have.*

6) Who would be the boxer that you most admire that you have met/or haven't met?

*-I got to meet every boxer that I grew up admiring except one, I've gotten to meet so far. I've got to meet Muhammad Ali, (who) I grew up watching. I was young and he was getting towards the end of his career, but the guys that I guess I really got captured in was Tommy Hearn, Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler. That was really the era of boxing right there. That was the best era in boxing. Tommy Hearn, were buddies, I call Tommy we talk, we go fishing, its like I grew up watching these guys on TV, just admiring them thinking Oh my gosh some day I want to be like them and here I am. Were going to go fishing next week and here my kids are going to be with him. Sugar Ray Leonard, he was my manager for a year and I had him here in Monroe and we went out and played golf here at Carrington Golf Course so that was a neat experience. Marvin Hagler's the only one I haven't got to meet yet. But I've met all the moderns, Mike Tyson..I've met all of them. When I fought in New York my kids sat right with Mike Tyson and he told me after the fight, 'Man Bronco your kids were going crazy.' So its just neat, they won't quite understand it, these guys as far as boxing are going down in history so anytime you turn on classic boxing you'll see a Tommy Hearn, and a Leonard, and a Tyson, and a Hagler. And I tell my kids, 'you know you guys met all these guys, you've been fishing with these guys.' This is the stuff that to me is neat for them. I'm just a small town Monroe guy and in my sport I have blessed enough to excel and be able to meet all these neat people it's a very neat experience and its not over yet.*

7) Who was your toughest opponent?

*-I've had a few, well of course Winky Ronald Wright was my most frustrating opponent. That guy stopped me from being...I would be considered the best in my division if it wasn't for Winky Wright. I fought this guy Kelly Pavlik who is the number one middleweight in the world right now, that guy*

*was a real strong hard punching guy. Aaron Davis, he was another guy that I had a brutal fight with him, I got a broken ear drum, 11 stitches in my eye, I broke his eardrum. I won the fight, but it was just a brutal tough fight. There was a guy named Alain Bonnamie who was probably the most just rugged flat out tough, not maybe skilled, but tough guy that I have ever been in there with.*

8) What was your most memorable fight, good and bad?

*-They go back to back. My most memorable good fight would be when I won my first world title in Indio, California. I had a picture of my grandpa at ringside and a seat we paid for ringside seat and put his picture and his hat in it, and when I won the fight I held his picture up, my world title belt and brought the belt back and laid it on his headstone and told him 'I kept good on my promise,' cause I always told him 'if you weren't here to see me win it, I'd bring it out when I win it.' And then that was the most good memorable. Then the next one was when I lost that title to Winky Wright in a fight which I felt I won and I just couldn't believe it that they took it from me. For 2 months I'd wake up everyday thinking the joke is over, their going to call me and say 'Bronco you know your still champ,' I just couldn't believe it. But it was what it was and I just had to move on and deal with it.*

9) Do you think you're a lot stronger of a person after something like that?

*-Yes, because the saying if it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger. Its made me mentally stronger. I consider myself a very mentally tough strong person anyways, learn to deal with stuff, but that was a hard pill to swallow. But I guess when you look at the overall big picture of things you know you say hey that was just part of my life and you have to move on....*

10) So what are some of the positive and negative things about being a boxer?

*-Well, positive is...I guess the obvious, the physical conditioning that I have that's part of my job, training, being in shape, eat right, and try to do everything proper, I benefit from that physically. And another thing positive to me is that I get to go to schools, churches, different events, different organizations, because of who I am and what I've done in boxing, it opens a lot of doors for me that it normally wouldn't. When I say open doors for me I wouldn't mean like per say for my own benefit but to be able to send a message to reach young kids about taking the right paths in life and doing the right things. No matter what you do in life, what you decide to be- challenge yourself to be the best that you can be. You can't be what anybody else wants you to be but be what you yourself want to be. You can be anything you want to be its just a matter of being disciplined, learning to be able to deal with disappointments. We always say in boxing, 'its not what you do when you get knocked down its what you do after you get back up.' So I can use boxing and parlay it into a positive message and reach out into my local community and maybe someday my state, who knows where its going to take me, because I have ambitions of maybe getting into the political arena. I would be considered the people's politician,*

*I've been through everything, I've been divorced, I've been what's going on in America. I'm not the cardboard perfect,..I'm the people's politician they can relate to me because I've been where they've been. So there's a lot of positive's I can use out of boxing. As far as the negative's I'm going to have to relate it to the sport itself. The negative's of dealing with the not so straight forward honest people. People that are always trying to figure out a way to lie, deceive and steal from you basically in boxing-some of the promoters, some of the people like that. It's a very tough business. When I was an amateur you fought for the love of the sport, when I turned pro the sports gone its all business you gotta figure out everybody sit down with you 'ok what's this guy trying to take from me whys he offering me this kind of contract what's on the backside of it. It hardens you as a person to the point where you don't trust anybody, you think everybody has an ulterior motive.....Boxing will make you kinda put up a little guard up all the time....*

*People think they have to have a half million dollar house, they have to have a hundred thousand dollar car, well so what if you have all that and your not happy {you can't put a price on happiness}*

11) Would you choose the same career?

*-Yes, I would, but I would do things different. Anything you do in life if you could go back you would do it differently. I would've done so many things different I would've made so many different decisions. But yes, because overall I feel that God put me in this so he could use this talent he has given me. When I go to schools, when I go places, kids will look at me, they'll listen they want to hear what I have to say that's cause of boxing, they can relate to me so that I just feel like I would do it again. {Boxing has been more of a vehicle for Bronco not for himself but what he can do more for others}*

*Yesterday when I was at Relay for Life but I went to this particular tent, but this little girl had cancer... and the grandfather come up after I got out of the dunking booth and he gave me a hug and shook my hand and he got all choked up, his eyes started tearing up, and he said, 'I just want to say thank you.' I hugged him and I said, 'I'm glad I could be here, I'd be here every year.' ....That's what its all about, its not about money, its not about newspapers, its about a grandparent, or a dad, or a mom, hugging you from the heart and saying thank you, that- you can't put a price on that. Just to be able sometimes to go into a room, shake a person's hand, or a hug, or go up to the hospital or whatever, or at the funeral home, say 'hey sorry about your loss', they say, 'glad you made it you don't know what that means', sometimes they don't know what that means for me to see that smile on their face it fills just as good to me as it does to them.*

*Sometimes you can get caught up in yourself that's easy to happen because were human... but it makes me feel good to make other people feel good, whether their young, old, or whatever, it doesn't matter if I can make them feel good it makes me feel good.*

12) Do you have any major regrets?

*-Well I guess when I was younger and with the boxing when I was making the kind of money I was making, I wish I would've been wiser and not act like the money grew on trees. I wish I would've thought more about the future as far as investing and all those things. I was telling my kids being a boxer I just want one more good go around just to set you up for your college future that would be my goal. I wish I would've been a little wiser in some of my decisions inside and outside the ring and some maybe of my personal life decisions. There's some things we wish we could go back and change. I guess you when get to the point, I guess I'm not there yet or I still wouldn't dwell on it, where everything that happens for a purpose, its all in Gods plan.... So there are things I would change, but I think we all would.*

13) What are your plans for the future?

*-My immediate plans I'm working on a pretty nice fight for July. I'm hoping for another smaller title that will be in the line for a world title. Hopefully before this year is over I'd like to be in a world championship fight. My ultimate goal is to win the world title. My final fight, I've talked to... a few political figures about doing my final fight right down town in Loranger Square outside. That's where I want to end my career right here in Monroe. Because I feel like, though my first fight was at the Palace of Auburn Hills, my career started here my group support started right here and this city has backed me all the way. So I would like to do my final fight here in Monroe that's my goal....I'm happy at this point in my life, life is good, I'm blessed.... {Bronco was asked if he will always stay here in Monroe} Monroe's a great place to raise a family.*

*It's where my roots are, it's where all my family is, where my children are, I couldn't leave. The city as a whole has always treated me well. They make me feel welcome everywhere I go, any events I go to, whether it be just walking into a neighborhood grocery store, or anywhere, I always feel welcome, and greeted and comfortable. I'm proud to represent {Monroe}. I wear my varsity letter and my trunks and Monroe wherever I go. I love the city it's a good city. I feel safe with my children, etc....*

14) Do you ever think about when you might retire?

*-Yes, it's in the future, it's within the next few years. I just praying that I can get back and get that title. I would like to leave the game as a champion. Let you guys have one more belt and just move on and see where it takes me. I've thought very heavily about the political field. Then I've thought about maybe going to school and trying to get a degree counseling troubled youth.*

15) In a nutshell who would you say Bronco is as a boxer and as a person?

*-As a boxer I'm a very driven, hardworking, I don't consider myself exceptionally talented, I just consider myself a medium talent whose worked extremely hard to make it to the next level. I just feel like I always have to out work and out train the next guy. I'm a boxer, puncher, I'm a guy that loves to win,*

*hates to lose, I just consider myself an driven, dedicated, disciplined individual that has out done even some of my own expectations in the boxing field. When it's all said and done in my era and my weight class I think I'll be considered one of the best in my era and my weight class and that's an honor. And outside the ring I'm an imperfect person, I'm a person who fails all the time daily in life. I consider myself a very good father, a person who tries to help others, a person who looks out for others even more than my own sometimes. I just consider myself a good friend, a good family member, a brother, son, etc....I'm just a very imperfect person.*

16) What would you like to be most remembered for to your children and in your community?

*-To my children I just want to be most remembered as the dad who loved them, heck with the boxing. If my kids want to say dad you were a great fighter, that's ok, or dad you were a good fighter, or dad you weren't, I don't care. I just want them to look at me and say man dad our life's we knew that you loved us....I remind my kids on a daily basis how much I love them. Like I said to my daughter one day, 'whose the number one dad in the world?' She said, 'well dad your number two, Jesus is number one, your number two.' I want my kids to remember that I tried to set an example. I just want to be remembered as a dad who loved them and would be willing to give up everything for them, even his own life if it came down to it of course. In the community just as a person who when the opportunity was presented tried to reach out to the youth-actually reach out to anyone. But I always felt lead to the youth. Was able to reach out and try to give his time and to do the most that he could for his community and a guy that would be willing to help out in anyway shape or form to his community. Our community as a whole when something comes up they come together and they would definitely turn out for events for anybody who needs help. And I just want to be remembered as a person who was willing to help. I consider myself somewhat of a nice guy, I'm just a guy whose willing to help out at all times.*

17) Can you give us some ideas about the artifacts that you want to put up in the exhibit?

*-I'm going to give you guys some boxing trunks...a robe, a full outfit, shoes, trunks, the whole thing, posters, pictures of people that I have met along the way, some awards and proclamations I've received along the way, some world championship belts....*

Bronco Banyon McKart was born March 20, 1971 in Monroe, MI. He turned professional in 1992. Fought in super welterweight division (154 lb) also in the middleweight (160 lbs div). In 1996 he captured the WBO Light Middleweight Title by beating Santos Cardona by TKO. He lost the title in his first defense against Winky Ronald Wright in Monroe on May 17, 1996. To date he has won 50 fights, (31 ko's), lost 7, he has fought a total of 57 fights. He last bout was on March 15, 2007

*Sometimes you can get caught up in yourself that's easy to happen because were human... but it makes me feel good to*

*make other people feel good, whether their young, old, or whatever, it doesn't matter if I can make them feel good it makes me feel good.*



**Bronco McKart and some of his family members during the official unveiling of his exhibit.**

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## **EYE on EDUCATION**

by Lynn Reaume

In July the ISD Curriculum Resource Consultant Chuck Estep and the Director of Instructional Technology Rick Angelocci, Director John Gibney and acting Education Coordinator Lynn Reaume met for 5 days with 7 Monroe county teachers to establish the lesson plans for 2007-2008 VFTs (virtual field trip). Teachers giving their energy and ideas were Mike Petty, Pat Peterson and Ruth McPeck from Jefferson Middle school; Jeremy Potter from Ida Middle school; Jackie Pecora from Monroe Public school's Hollywood Elementary; Dawn Spears and Jennifer Head from Whiteford. Their enthusiasm, ideas and expertise kept the room energized! The VFT will incorporate ISD technology, school classrooms and teachers, and the Museum staff. VFT classes will broadcast live into the local IVN ("Ivan") technology room with its large screens and be real-time, so students can pose questions and answer questions from the presenter, who will be live-time at the Museum, and hopefully in the future, at the Battlefield. Artifacts- or hands-on items- will be at the classroom involved, and at the Museum under a document camera, which gives great detail.

Using Michigan Standards & Benchmarks as guides the first topics decided on are the 1813 River Raisin Battlefield, and Monroe native Norman Hall, unsung hero of the Civil War. Each presentation will be about 45 minutes long, and will have a VFT kit the teacher will use in the classroom before or during the presentation. The kit will include poster-sized photographs, maps, text, booklets, etc. Also part of the VFT will be post-assessment materials, such as review or essay questions, or tests.

The Museum's relationship with the ISD has been very fruitful, their staff professional, and we have high hopes for the future of the VFTs.

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Eby Cabin: Thanks to any of you who volunteered your time to help at the Eby Log Cabin! Without the volunteers' donation of each four-hour shift, *the cabin would not be able to be open*. This year's theme was Women's Hand-crafts, and featured an exhibit with lace examples, bobbin lace pillows, Museum collections, spinning wheels, quilts, embroidery, and more. Groups who helped were: Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield, Friends of Potter Cemetery, the Exeter Historical Society, MARSF, AAUW, the Sawyer Homestead, the Historical Society of Bedford, the D.A.R., the First Presbyterian church of Monroe, St. Michael's Altar Society, the Farm Studio Weavers, the Milan Historical Society, the Dundee Old Mill Museum, Grace and Russ Hudson and Family, the MEA Retired, the Monroe Quilt Guild, Altrusa, and Bill and Floreine Mentel, Yvonne Schlagheck, Jean Waybright, Pat Griem, Rachel Foshag, Madeline Lefere, John Reaume, Ruth Ann Knight, Marv and Dawn Hicks and family, Jim Ryland and Mike Jondro, Museum staff.

Attendance was up over last year, probably due to the new Expo building, despite the 90 degree weather, with almost 8,000 going through the cabin during Fair Week. Thanks again to those volunteers, and if you visited the cabin!

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Martha Barker Country Store: The store was manned by volunteers Monday through Friday of Fair Week, so a big thanks to: Nancy Hochradel, Phyllis Kurtz, Rachel Foshag, Laurel Heyman, Harold Aichler, Gerri Dvonch, Shawna Mazur. Visitors stopped in to enjoy the air conditioning and buy the nickel candy behind the glass candy counter! The Country Store has a new coating of stain on the porch and ramp, and has inside doors and jambs painted.

The Trading Post was also open during those days, and though visitation was light, I was able to weed, pick beans (and Japanese beetles!), rake up windfall apples, and do outside duties.

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### **Mark your calendars- Coming up:**

Reminder: River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center open hours go back to weekends for September and October, 10 – 5:00 p.m. No admission, free parking. Tours on request.

Civil War living history at the Trading Post site on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the start of Custer & the Civil War Week. Bring the family and your cameras! More information at the Museum.

**2007 Lantern Tours:** Our ever popular foray into Frenchtown's past will be Friday and Saturday, October 19-20 and 26-27. We are in need of volunteers for any or all of the evenings. Volunteers greet, serve refreshments and register visitors at the Country Store, are tour guides and tailgaters, be

in the many scenarios with speaking or non-speaking parts, or other positions. Limited clothing available. Please let us know as soon as possible via e-mail or phone. Scenario information available. It's a good time and everyone brings good food to share each night!

Cost is \$10.00 per person; tours begin every 20 minutes starting at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are held when payment is received at the Museum. Bookings will be taken starting October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the main Museum 734 240 7780.

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Past Event Photographs:

Archaeology Camp 2007: Led by ISD Staff Chuck Estep and Museum volunteer par excellence Laurel Heyman, with other great volunteers, the maximum number of students listened, handled, canoed, dug and sifted their way through another successful camp.



The student group and volunteers learn about their upcoming day at the Battlefield.



Students learn to identify possible artifacts by sifting dirt from the pit.

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## VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer at the Monroe County Historical Museum, please call:

John Gibney  
Lynn Reaume

Monroe County  
Historical Museum  
126 S. Monroe St  
Monroe, MI 48161  
(734) 240-7780 Phone

We need greeters, tour guides, interpreters, craftspeople, demonstrators, gardeners, and more.

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## ARTICLES

The Monroe County Historical Museum Staff would like to invite anyone who is interested in the history of the Monroe area to submit an article for possible publication in the RIVER RAISIN NEWS & DISPATCH.

Send articles to:

John Gibney  
Monroe County Historical Museum  
126 S. Monroe St  
Monroe, MI 48161  
(734) 240-7780 Phone



A sewing box with accoutrements, examples of homespun linens and cottons, and a bobbin lace pillow (on chair), as part of the Hand-crafts exhibit at the Eby Log Cabin this year.



Articles to be included in the Nov/Dec 2007 RIVER RAISIN NEWS & DISPATCH should be submitted to John Gibney for his review by Oct 1, 2007.

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### **FOR SALE**

Joe Buick has original 2 volume set of John M. Bulkley's 1913 History of Monroe County, Michigan for sale. Inquiries can be directed to him at 419-345-0507.

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### **2007 Calendar of Events**

#### **September**

- 1 River Raisin Battlefield Visitors Center Begins Fall Hours (Weekends Only, through Oct.) 10am-5pm
- 15 Battlefield Saturday at RRBVC 1:00pm
- 15-16 Dundee Living History Event at Old Mill Museum
- 22 Scout merit Badge Day at Trading Post 10am-5pm
- 29-30 Custer Week: Civil War Reenactment at Trading Post 10am-5pm

#### **October**

- 1-6 Custer Week throughout Monroe
- 19-20 Lantern Tours at Trading Post 7:00pm
- 26-27 Lantern Tours at Trading Post 7:00pm
- 27 Battlefield Saturday at RRBVC 1:00pm
- 27 **River Raisin Battlefield Visitors Center Closes For Winter**

#### **December**

- All Month Christmas Tree Festival at Historical Museum
  - 1 Christmas Tree Festival Open House at Historical Museum
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