



Bringing History Home

Wylie House Museum

Part of Indiana University Libraries

From the Director

Jo Burgess

In This Issue

- 2 Student projects
- 2 Exhibits
- 3 Garden

Wylie House

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Guided Tours

March through November
Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Spring Semester at Wylie House was filled with activity. We had so many IU students working with us that I had to turn away others who were interested in being involved simply because we didn't have enough desks and computers to accommodate any more! It was wonderful to have so much behind-the-scenes help. You can read more about their work on page two.

Elementary school students have also been much in evidence this spring. Harmony School, Binford Elementary and the Lighthouse Christian Academy have all brought fourth graders to visit (a total of 121 students). I have to say these are some of my favorite tours to give as the children are so observant, ask good questions, and make interesting observations.

IU classes continue to visit as well. Three classes came this spring and one student from the Early Music Institute gave his recital here in April. We were also approached by two undergraduate film studies students asking if they could do some filming in the house, which we approved. Their film, "A Mother's Anthem," (available for viewing on YouTube) was set during the Civil War and one scene takes place in our parlor.

It's true that we never know who might walk in the door on any given day. In March we were surprised and delighted to greet a descendant of Dr. Amos Hershey the third owner of Wylie House. We were able to provide him with some information and photos that he had not been aware of before his visit. And soon, we will welcome a descendant of Andrew Wylie who will be visiting from California. I recently received an email from another Wylie descendant who had found our website and was happy to learn more about her ancestors there.

Our quilters are nearly finished with another beautiful hand-stitched quilt for the museum. They are already piecing the blocks for the next quilt which will be a Dresden Plate design. I'm sure it will be as beautiful as all the others they have made for us!

Click "Give Now" to donate to Wylie House Museum





This chubby female squirrel lives on the grounds of Wylie House and has become quite brave. She begs for seed or apple slices at the basement window, knowing that if Sherry is around, she will respond and put something tasty outside for her.

Now if we could only persuade her to chase away the rabbits that eat the new seedlings in the garden, we'd be all set!



Exhibits

May through June: **Anton Boisen and the Country Church: 1911 - 1916**

Anton Boisen, a grandson of Theophilus Wylie who grew up here, graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1911 and was involved with the Country Church movement for about 5 years. This exhibit was developed by Eric Heim, at student intern at Wylie House.

July through August: **Strawberries, Smilax, and Sage, Traditional Horticulture: Preserving gardening methods and heirloom varieties of the late 19th century**

This exhibit, developed by Riley Manion, a Wylie House student intern, honors the tradition of growing edibles and ornamentals on the Wylie House property.

On-going exhibits:

A Slice of Life: Artifacts Found on the Grounds at Wylie House

Miscellaneous Photos Depicting Early 20th Century Rural Life, taken by Anton Boisen

Barn Dismantling and Reassembly Photos

Student projects

Seven IU students worked at Wylie House during Spring Semester 2012, and much was accomplished thanks to their efforts! Following are some highlights:

Two of them worked on our files that deal with properties owned by the two Wylie families. They located and inventoried them all and noted where they are housed so that they can be easily found.

Others scanned Wylie family letters and photographs so that we can make those accessible online, and added to our in-house finding aids that we use to locate letters and newspaper clippings on particular topics.

One student, who has long had an interest in photography, took some great photographs that can be used in publications or PowerPoint presentations. She also developed a new exhibit for the barn about heirloom gardening.

Another became interested in Anton Boisen's work with the Country Church Movement in the second decade of the 20th c. and created a special exhibit about that and the lantern slide show that Anton developed as part of his work.

And finally, one student sorted through files and summarized what we currently know for sure about Elizabeth Breckinridge, domestic servant to the second Wylie family, which was a very big help.

Student involvement is very important to us and we are grateful for the work they do here. They're terrific!



Students at Wylie House

- Carey Beam
- Rachel Edgren
- Eric Heim
- Meredith Hylton
- Riley Manion
- Rachel Santose
- Nicole Tay

News from the Garden

So far 2012 has been a very peculiar weather year here in Southern Indiana, and elsewhere. Spring arrived a month early after a mild winter, then well after things started growing and blooming, some areas had a heavy frost. The Wylie House garden escaped with only minor frost bite thankfully, and the early crops of cool weather crops like lettuce, spinach and kale are thriving. We've had plenty of moisture and if it doesn't turn blistering hot and dry through June, July and August, we should have a bountiful seed crop.

The 2012 seed sale held in March was not as well attended as in years past, so we decided to leave the seeds on display in the barn through the month of April and gardeners kept stopping in to purchase them. So when all was said and done, we probably sold nearly as much seed as usual, just not all in one day. Seeds are still on sale in the museum gift shop for anyone who is interested.

New and returning garden volunteers are being an immense help, and we thank them heartily for their labor in the garden and also cleaning and packing seeds.

The IU Office of Sustainability last year initiated an Edible Campus project. (<http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/Garden/edible.html>) Wylie House Outdoor Interpreter, Sherry Wise served on the steering committee and helped develop plans for the Bryan House and Hilltop gardens. We also donated some 50 packets of Wylie House heirloom seed for the project.



This Cincinnati Market Radish is an interesting heirloom radish that grows partially above ground as you can see in the photo above. We harvested one recently that measured ten inches long! Not your usual radish! The flavor was sweet and it wasn't at all woody.

Volunteering

☞ Do you like history, antiques and a pleasant, tranquil setting? Learn to be a docent at the Wylie House.

☞ Have limited time? Help with special events at the museum.

☞ Do you prefer to spend your time in the garden? Lend a hand in our heirloom garden.

If you live in the Bloomington area and would like to become more actively involved with the museum, please call and chat with us about the opportunities.

Thanks to current volunteers!!!

Susan Baker, docent

Molly Biehn, volunteer

Jane Clay, docent

Marjorie Clayton, quilter

Kay Conklin, garden volunteer

Roseann Dodds, docent

Anthony Eller, docent

Ann Fierst, docent

Catherine Haralovich, docent

Jane Harnett, docent

Ross Hill, garden volunteer

Linda Kelsey, quilter

Erica Kendall, garden volunteer

Barbara Lechner, garden volunteer

Terry McCall, docent

Diamond Mather, quilter

Mary Anne Miller, docent

Kylene Parobek, docent

Ellen Pittman, quilter

Lee Ridge, garden volunteer

Sabine Rodatz, garden volunteer

Eve Schultes-Ridge, garden volunteer

Barbara Seal, garden volunteer

Cindy Smith, docent

Martha Tarbah, garden volunteer

Sara Vargas, garden volunteer

Kathie Wallskog, garden volunteer

Carla Williams, docent