Here at the museum, we are delighting in all that the warmer months bring our way, especially the constant transformation of the gardens, which change from week to week. The varieties of flowers and heirloom vegetables reflect the rich history of the Wylie House as a 19th-century Bloomington homestead. Sherry Wise, our Outdoor Interpreter, and her dedicated volunteers have invested countless hours planting, weeding, watering, and mulching, and it is paying off. The plants are thriving and will continue to put on a show throughout the summer, and we hope your Wylie House seeds are performing equally well for you, too!

Even though the academic year has wound down, many IU student interns and volunteers continue to work at the museum and education center throughout the summer. Students from Art History, Arts Administration, Information and Library Science, and English are working on accessioning new artifacts, updating the museum inventory, and researching the Wylie family collections to create blog posts and exhibits. Considering the IU courses that utilize the Wylie House Museum, the Jacobs School performances taking place here, and students seeking unique intern and volunteer experiences, Wylie House is a hub of learning and culture. I like to think Dr. Wylie would be proud to know that his home is being used to advance education and research at IU by serving as a rich resource for students and faculty from a variety of disciplines.

Donations

The Wylie House Museum is owned and maintained by Indiana University and is a part of the Indiana University Libraries. Private donations, essential to the work of the museum, pay for research, programs, acquisitions, and preservation.

Visit www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/support.html to donate to Wylie House Museum.
One of the special moments in the life of a house museum is when descendants of the original owners come to visit. In early spring one of Andrew Wylie’s great-great-great grandsons, Joe Rainey, and his daughter Anna Bixby visited Wylie House.

From Joe: “I was fortunate in that my great grandparents Newton and Mary Norris both wrote their memoirs. The museum has a copy of both. From this I learned that Mary’s grandfather was the first president of Indiana College. When I moved down to Arkansas, it put me closer to Indiana, so I decided to do a little research. That is when I found out about the Wylie House Museum. My daughter was visiting from New York where she is a doctoral student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, so we decided to visit the museum and learn more about Andrew Wylie. Thanks to the staff at the IU Libraries and the Lilly Library we were able to read a couple of Andrew Wylie’s speeches. This gave us a better understanding of him. Thank you for providing such a wonderful experience for us.”

Marjorie Clayton, volunteer quilter and dear friend of the Wylie House, passed away on Friday, March 21st. She was a longtime, dedicated volunteer and a talented quilter. Marj, as she is known to her friends, will be greatly missed, but her spirit lives on in the many quilts she had a hand in creating for the museum, including one she helped to piece over the winter, which will be dedicated to her upon its completion.

Indiana Public Media’s production crew recently Wylie House to record our Aeolian harp. Inspired by an historic photograph of the National Association of Piano Tuners, they were working on a video for their Memory Chain series about harmonics. The video also featured a segment about Aeolian harp harmonics and the Wylie House was the perfect period background for filming. An Aeolian harp was custom made to fit the Wylie windows and we all waited for the wind to play it!

You can enjoy the piece “Sound Lesson” on Memory Chain at: [http://indianapublicmedia.org/theweeklyspecial/video/memory-chain/](http://indianapublicmedia.org/theweeklyspecial/video/memory-chain/)
GIFTS
We are grateful to Bonnie Boulding and her father, Henry Gray, who recently donated two antique dolls, a Scottish paisley, and six coverlets to the museum. These family heirlooms will now have a special place in our museum collection. One of the 19th-century dolls came with its original trunk and accessories, quite a rarity. The coverlets add to the strength of our historic textile collection. They will adorn museum beds when coverlets come out in the fall and will also serve as a historic educational resource for textile studies for the Fine Arts Department as well as the Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design Department. The educational and research opportunities such materials create make us especially grateful to the Boulding and Gray family for their generous gifts.

COLLECTIONS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE
Our student volunteers have recently completed two major digital projects. The Wylie family letters are now listed through the IU Archives Online website and the Wylie family photographs are now available on IU Image Collections Online. This will allow researchers from around the world to access and utilize Wylie House collections, expanding their understanding of the materials we have to offer. These projects involved people from across the IU Libraries, and Wylie House extends our thanks to everyone involved!

Find the photographs here: http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/images/splash.htm?scope=Wylie%20House%20Museum

Find the letters here: http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/findingaids/view?brand=general&docId=InU-ArVAA2742.xml&doc.view=entire_text

Unlike most correspondence collections, the Theophilus Wylie Family Correspondence Collection includes envelopes that offer context: dates, postal information, and other details. After consulting with IU paper conservator Doug Sanders, we decided to store the letters flat rather than within those original envelopes. Doug and his assistant Arini Esarey have been working with us to preserve the collection of approximately 6,000 letters, systematically preparing the documents for flattening. After removing the documents from their envelopes, cleaning, and checking for needed repairs, the letters are humidified overnight to relax the folds in the paper. The letters are then pressed for a few days and rehoused in new folders and boxes alongside their envelopes. All of this will help preserve the letters for long-term accessibility and use, and we expect this process to be finished by the end of the summer.
Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Jo! Dedicated volunteer Jo Liska can oftentimes be found leaning out the front door of the museum, waving and smiling to those passing by on foot or in car. Like many of our volunteers, she was drawn to the museum because she has a love of history.

Jo also has a heartfelt admiration for the Wylie family. “These were progressive, educated people who were interested in new ideas, surrounded themselves with books, and believed in public education. I felt it the first time I walked into the house.” When Jo is not volunteering here or other places in town, she spends time with the loves of her life, her dogs Thistle and Bubbles.

If you would like to volunteer at the Wylie House in the museum or gardens, please contact us via email libwylie@indiana.edu or call (812) 855-6224.

HISTORIC TEXTILES CLASS

The museum enjoys engaging students from courses across the IU campus, but Wylie House offers Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design students an especially important opportunity. Students in the Collection Management for Historic Textiles course focus on curatorial methods specifically related to historic textiles and costumes. This spring, those students visited Wylie House for a hands-on experience studying period textiles that rarely come out of storage, learning how museum staff evaluate, catalog, and store textiles that are part of our collections.

MUSIC IN THE PARLOR

The Wylie House continues to host parlor concerts performed by Jacobs School of Music students during the academic year. This spring the Early Music Institute’s woodwind ensemble, under the direction of Michael McCraw, performed once again, but this time was a truly historical experience with musicians playing period instruments. This year also marks the retirement of Professor McCraw, but we look forward to a continued relationship with the Early Music Institute. Please visit the Wylie House Events web page this fall to learn more about upcoming concert dates.
Volunteers have been working hard in the gardens, preparing beds, weeding, and mulching. Spring crops did quite well. New varieties this year include Danvers Carrot, Gulley’s Favorite Lettuce, Hungarian Blue Breadseed Poppy and Halbhoher Gruner Krauser Kale to name a few. Warm season crops have been added to the beds. Pepper and tomato plants started from seed, pole bean, squash and gourd seeds of several species have been planted. Sunflowers, marigolds and Love Lies Bleeding are adding a splash of color.

Following the annual seed sale, the museum donated seeds to several local organizations. Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, the IU campus garden and the Bloomington Project School all received heirloom vegetable and herb seed. Wylie House participated in the “Spring Into Gardening” event at Hilltop where guests got to choose a free packet of our seeds. Recently Garden Corps members from the Department of Sustainability Campus Garden Initiative visited Wylie House to check out the heirloom gardens and learn more about seed saving. They had the opportunity to clean some seeds using a very efficient method called winnowing. The group agreed that growing open-pollinated plants and saving seed is of great value in living sustainably today.