By summer’s end, we should have new window treatments on all upstairs windows in the museum! Beverly Hafemeister of Vintage Valances in Cincinnati is once again working with us, helping to locate period reproduction fabrics and then constructing the window coverings in period fashion. There will be a nice variation in the style from room to room, and the fabrics we selected will enliven the rooms.

Rather than try to describe them, we’d like to invite you all to come see for yourselves what a difference they will make to the appearance of the house. We also plan to start painting the walls and woodwork upstairs. That work takes much longer, so don’t expect to see a finished upstairs just yet!

Window Treatments for Upstairs

Outreach

From the Director….

I have immersed myself in the history of the Wylie families, the house and grounds, Indiana University, and the development of Bloomington and Seminary Square since my arrival last summer so that I could begin my outreach efforts to Bloomington’s educational community on a sure footing.

Last fall, I started meeting with my counterparts at Indiana University and in Bloomington. These include the curators of education at the Mathers Museum, the Art Museum, the Monroe County History Center, and with current and former program development staff at Honey Creek School. My goal was to learn about the history of each program, what works or hasn’t worked, and how we might overlap with these other organizations while also developing programs that are unique to Wylie House.

During the winter I contacted Lynn Black, Director of Strategic Development, at the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC). I felt it was important to start discussions “at the top” about the resources we can offer our school system and to learn more about the interests and limitations currently facing MCCSC. Mr. Black was very enthusiastic about our ideas and our site. As a result, I will be meeting with two MCCSC curriculum content staff to pursue how we can best integrate our resources with the State’s academic standards, and perhaps, develop a multi-day seminar for interested history teachers.

In addition, I have also made initial forays into the network of private elementary schools and local home-school organizations to discuss both in-class

(Continued on page 2)
From the Director......

The magnolia and daffodil blossoms have come and gone, the trees are leafed out, and by the time you receive this newsletter, another crop of IU students will have graduated. I spent part of spring semester working with Professor Paul Brown’s graphic design class to re-design our newsletter. I had hoped to unveil a new look with this issue, but it will have to wait until Fall.

Good progress has been made on our furniture restoration project, and visitors can now see some of the beautiful Wylie family antiques that were given to us as part of the Bradley bequest. We’ve also finished cataloging the textiles and glassware.

We bid good-bye to a wonderful student employee when Julie Smith graduated in May. Julie had been with us for over two years, first as a student intern and then as a student hourly employee. We will miss her dedication and hard work as well as her happy smile. We then welcomed Andrea Truitt, who has been a volunteer for the past two semesters, as Julie’s replacement. Suzanne Godby-Ingalsbe, another School of Library and Information Science intern, has joined us for the summer months. We are very pleased to have such great students involved with the museum.

Visitor statistics are up for the months of March, April, and May, which is a good indication that we’re making progress in raising community awareness of the museum. Please remember us when your summer guests come to town and you’re looking for an outing!

—Jo Burgess

From the Garden......

Look for some changes in the Wylie House gardens this season. In an effort to grow more heirloom varieties in our limited space, we will change the garden layout. The center paths will remain the same, while all other paths will become planting beds running north and south. We plan to grow several types of pumpkins and squash for the Fall Family Harvest Fest on October 7th. With luck and great weather, pumpkin “big Max” can grow to 100 pounds or more. We hope to raise many “Connecticut Field” pumpkins to be used for kids’ activities during the fest.

When existing gardens are planted, we will begin work on a new bed to be located on the slop just above the section of wall that was rebuilt along Lincoln Street. That bed will feature oak-leaf hydrangeas and many groupings of colorful heirloom perennials and annuals.

The Wylie House staff would like to thank all the garden volunteers for their hard work and dedication as we continue to make progress in the heirloom gardens and seed saving program. Your help is very much appreciated.

—Sherry Brunoehler

(Continued from page 1)

outreach visits by myself and student visits to our site. Finally, I’ve also made contacts with other local groups such as the Sycamore Land Trust and Girls Inc. to explore possible educational collaborations in the future. The Wylie House heirloom gardens and seed saving projects have been of particular interest to many of these entities; therefore, I wish to give a special thanks to Sherry, our Outdoor Interpreter, for her assistance and her efforts to extend the gardens and the programs that center around them.

Music has long been a part of Wylie House, and so I also talked with two former IU Early Music Institute students who’ve had a connection to Wylie House in the past. I wanted to learn more about the

(Continued on page 3)
Looking Back…

Religion played a vital role in the lives of both Andrew and Theophilus Wylie and their families. Andrew and Theophilus were both ordained Presbyterian ministers, though they served different sects of that church. Andrew’s professional and personal writings frequently refer to religious philosophy, practice, and faith. He received his D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) in 1825 from Union College in New York, but left the Presbyterian Church in bitter disappointment and was ordained an Episcopal minister in 1841. He never returned to the Presbyterian Church. A letter to Judge Banta (a former law professor and early historian of IU) from E. N. Elliott (a professor at IU during the 1830s) describes Andrew Wylie’s characterization of one event leading up to his defection, and provides a glimpse of Dr. Wylie’s wit. The letter is undated, but Judge Banta’s effort to seek the memories of early IU professors and students dates to a ten year period between 1880-90.

“We must, however, go back to the year 1832 when I [Elliott] came to Bloomington. At that time Dr. Wylie was preaching to the Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, and for two successive meetings of the General Assembly, was the Delegate from the Indiana Presbytery. This was the era of the great disruption in the Presbyterian Church, by which it was broken into two parties, the “New School” and the “Old School.” From the first, Dr. Wylie strenuously opposed the division. He said that both parties were going to extremes. This view induced him, subsequently, to write his Brochure, ‘Sectarianism is Heresy’ [1840]. Upon his return from the first of these two meetings, he came into my room in the College and gave me a full history of the quarrel in the Assembly. To my inquiry, ‘And Dr., where are you?’ He replied, ‘I am sitting on the fence.’

“Upon his return from the meeting the next year, I asked him, ‘Dr., what has been done now?’ He replied, ‘They have burned the fence and I am sitting in the ashes.’ The liberality of his views was what alienated him from both parties. …He was no Arminian nor immersionist, and so he died as he had lived, a Presbyterian, though not in their communion.”

From the IU Archives comes the following story that presents a more humorous side to a serious subject, that of religion, this one attributed to “Mrs. Bradley” but undated. She was the granddaughter of Theophilus and Rebecca Wylie, and the mother of Morton C. Bradley Jr., the man who graciously left a sizable bequest to IU upon his death in the fall of 2004.

“When Theophilus Wylie was ordained, his father [Samuel Brown Wylie, a Presbyterian minister from Philadelphia], who had been so desirous of his son’s study to lead to a career in the ministry, delivered a long and tedious admonition. Theophilus then turned to his mother [Margaret Watson Wylie] and asked her if she had any advice for him. She replied, ‘Be brief, Theophilus, be brief.’

We know that life in early Bloomington was often difficult for these two men. It’s nice to know, through stories like these, that humor and wit helped them through the difficult patches.

(Continued from page 2)

history of Wylie House as a venue for Music School recitals and concerts. Afterwards, I wrote to the current Director of the Early Music Institute, invited him to tour the museum, and asked that he remind music students of the availability of the house for concerts and recitals. Our first response was fantastic! A wonderful noon-time concert featuring an eight-piece wind ensemble (Otteto Bläserata) performing several pieces by Mozart. Nearly 40 people joined us on a beautiful spring day for this performance. We have had additional inquiries since, so stay tuned for more news, and more music!

—Bridget Edwards
Mark your calendar!

Wylie House Museum will host a Family Fall Festival on Saturday, October 7, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in growing a pumpkin to enter in the contests, please contact Sherry Brunoehler at 855-6224. Besides the pumpkin judging, there will be games and quizzes for the whole family, a fall harvest display, demonstrations, live music and refreshments. Tours of the house and the heirloom garden will also be on offer.

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.

DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Jane Clay, Mary Emison, Jane Harnett, Rachel Kosmitis, Naomi Lawlis, Sarah Noggle, Cindy Smith, Julie Smith, Andrea Truitt, Carla Williams

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS:


QUILTERS:

Marj Clayton, Diamond Mather, Virginia Miller, Ellen Pittman