

INDIANA ARCHIVES

Archival Holdings in Western Indiana

John M. Glen, David E. Vancil, Johanna Herring, and Audra Simel*

The Indiana Archives series completes its tour of local archives in the state with a survey of archival resources in western Indiana. As in previous articles, identifying the boundaries of the region is largely an impressionistic exercise, subject to a variety of viewpoints. Yet highways, geography, and history once again offer a useful working definition. Bounded on the north by state highway 52—which parallels Interstate 65 for more than sixty miles between Indianapolis and Lafayette before veering westward—and on the south by state highway 67, much of western Indiana is marked by sweeping prairie land. Bluffs bordering the Wabash River and other waterways and hills edging parts of the region give some variety to the terrain.

Also punctuating the flatness of this predominantly agricultural area are towering grain silos, coalfields, and huge industrial facilities turning out products ranging from automobiles to books, compact discs, and chickens. These large corporate operations and the presence of several universities and colleges are the basis of the region's relatively stable economy and population profile. Many residents can trace their ancestry to German and Irish families from the eastern United States, though numerous nineteenth-century migrants came from Illinois.

Geography and location help explain not only the economic and demographic makeup of western Indiana but also historical experiences that give the region its distinctive characteristics. Known to Native American tribes as the Famous Hunting Ground, or the best hunting land in Indiana territory, western Indiana was the setting for military campaigns, transportation development, and missionary endeavors. After a less-than-decisive clash with an Indian confederation at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, settlers rapidly platted the region, establishing towns at transportation crossroads that encompassed at first river and highway traffic, then later attracted

canals and railroads. The proliferation of ironworks, coal mines, brickyards, bottling plants, breweries, and various processing plants sparked the emergence of labor organizations in the late nineteenth century, and the combination of strong unions and conservative Chambers of Commerce eventually led to serious labor-management conflicts in the 1930s.

Meanwhile, cities in western Indiana offered a study in contrasts. On the one hand, Terre Haute, once known as the "Paris of Indiana," and Lafayette were long burdened with reputations as wide-open towns where vice, crime, and Prohibition-era liquor flourished. On the other hand, Crawfordsville has sometimes been called the "Athens of Indiana" because of its strong interest in the fine arts. These towns, and the region as a whole, underwent varying economic experiences in the decades after World War II: deteriorating downtowns and declining populations were partially offset by urban renewal, historic preservation projects, and the sustained expansion of universities in the area. Recent years have witnessed some stability even as the size of corporate farms increased, subdivisions proliferated, and franchise restaurants and strip malls lined major thoroughfares.

Western Indiana's identity also derives in part from those who have lived, worked, prayed, and played there. Caleb Mills, an important figure in the creation of Indiana's common school system, lived in Crawfordsville as the first president of Wabash College. Freedmen established the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1839; it subsequently became a stopping place on the Underground Railroad and the site of Terre Haute's first school for blacks. Major General Lew Wallace, soldier, author, artist, and statesman, lived in Covington and Crawfordsville. Songwriter Paul Dresser, who wrote *On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away*; his brother Theodore Dreiser, the acclaimed early twentieth-century novelist; African American teacher Jane Dabney Shackelford, who sought to illuminate black history for children through *The Child's Story of the Negro*; and lawyer-poet Max Ehrmann, author of the enormously popular poem *Desiderata*, were all natives of Terre Haute. That city has benefited in many ways from the philanthropy of Chauncey Rose and Anton "Tony" Hulman, Jr. Another resident became a national symbol of resistance to the impact of industrial capitalism: Eugene V. Debs, union organizer, editor, state legislator, and five-time Socialist party candidate for president. French Lick's Larry Bird led Terre Haute's Indiana State University to the national collegiate basketball finals in 1979. A long list of astronauts have graduated from Purdue University in West Lafayette.

The three essays that follow suggest a variety of ways to explore western Indiana's history. In addition to describing Indiana State University's rare book holdings, which include one of the largest collections of dictionaries in the country, David E. Vancil explains how primary materials in the archives are not only organized and micro-

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filmed but increasingly digitized as well. He also takes note of local history repositories in Vigo County. The manuscript collections Johanna Herring describes reflect the commitment of Wabash College faculty and alumni to the institution's particular educational mission; these materials also take a variety of forms, from letters to cartoons and film scripts. In her review of the Sisters of Providence archives, Audra Simel highlights the chronological and geographical scope of the resources to be found there and the relevance they have to the state's history. These representative examples of archival holdings in western Indiana, along with previous surveys of local and regional archives, underscore the complex nature of the Indiana past and the availability of materials to understand it.

**Rare Books & Special Collections,
Indiana State University Library, Terre Haute;
Indiana State University Archives, Terre Haute;
Vigo County Public Library Special Collections
and Community Archives;
Vigo County Historical Society Archives**

Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) in Cunningham Memorial Library and the University Archives of Indiana State University contain manuscript holdings with a broad array of emphases. RBSC's eleven major collections contain primary materials either in the original form or a second-generation format, such as photocopies or microfilm. In addition to the holdings in RBSC, some primary materials have been acquired in microfilm and placed in the Cunningham Library's Teaching Materials, Microforms, and Media (TMMM) department so that users can make use of them at their convenience.

A description of the RBSC's holdings is available via email at <librbsc@cml.indstate.edu>. RBSC also maintains a website at <<http://cml.indstate.edu/rare/index.html>>. An online and more frequently updated version of the RBSC guide can be located at the RBSC home page or at <<http://cml.indstate.edu/rare/rare.html>>.

In the late 1960s, Indiana State University purchased 18,500 volumes from the estate of Walter Ganz, a dealer in rare books who resided in Yonkers, New York. Approximately 4,400 volumes were set aside for addition to the existing rare books collection of about 500 volumes when the new Cunningham Memorial Library opened in 1973. Among the books were manuscripts from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including three indentures dated April 1639, May 1639, and September 1720; a disposition of annuity dated 1718; and a proclamation regarding butchers and furriers signed by Maria Theresa in 1750. An early, undated codex is "Septem Dollorum" (BVM #13). An interesting item found in the pre-Ganz holdings is Aegidius Rousel's 1670 codex manuscript, "Compendiosa in universam philosophi-

am Aristotelis introductio," which was for many years on extended loan to the Library of Congress. These and similar holdings have neither been fully cataloged nor mounted on the Internet, but a listing of available manuscripts will soon be undertaken, prepared in the PDF format in addition to HTML for easy download and printing.

Most other manuscripts, whether locally-held originals or copies in a second-generation format, have been acquired with a particular research purpose in mind. The Cordell Collection emphasizes lexicographical materials in English and related languages that have been published through 1901 (a large post-1901 component augments these earlier materials), and a number of primary materials have also been obtained. For example, a fifteenth-century manuscript of Nonius Marcellus's "De compendiosa doctrina" closely resembles a published version from the same period, allowing for both bibliographical and linguistic research. Other primary materials that support research in the Cordell Collection are several cartons and boxes of lexicological materials from the late American lexicographer Mitford Matthews, including a dissertation he wrote and then withdrew from consideration; a collection of definitions for a new dictionary of American regional English in the form of clippings, letters, notes, and unpublished essays; a codex manuscript of proper nouns, ca. 1830, from Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian, Dutch, and other sources; an annotated typescript, ca. 1961, eventually published as *A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary* by T. Burrow and M. B. Emereau; and, from the 1930s, Simon Carleton's partially typed and partially handwritten "A Dictionary of Criminal Terminology" (Carleton was a technical advisor on gangster movies).

A recent acquisition is a collection of sixty-one letters, fifty of them written by lexicographer Joseph Emerson Worcester from 1850 to 1865, mostly to his brother, Samuel G. Worcester. These letters discuss the politics of the time and Joseph Worcester's work on his dictionaries. A letter to his publisher, Jenks, Hicking, and Swan, provides a list of 150 people to whom to send Worcester's answer to an attack on him by the Merriam-Webster company comparing the authenticity of his work with that of Noah Webster. Other primary materials include working files for twentieth-century dictionaries that were never published.

Warren Cordell, who amassed much of the collection, kept extensive notes about collecting and about his dealings with antiquarian booksellers. There are more than four file cabinets of such materials that Cordell or his estate donated to Indiana State University. Very seldom do researchers have an opportunity to review extensive materials about the evolution of a bibliophile's interests and the growth of a collection.

The Eugene V. Debs Collection is largely made up of primary materials, though it includes over 1,500 volumes of mostly scarce

books and periodicals about Debs, his circle, socialism, and other "isms." There are also almost 2,500 pamphlets in the collection, many of them scarce or unique and often in deteriorating condition. The emphasis of the collection is correspondence, which includes more than 4,000 letters and similar communications to and from Debs, his brother Theodore, and family members. The collection also includes photocopies of reports held in the National Archives of spy activities against Debs beginning earlier than 1900; a photocopy of a survey of racial conditions in the United States, ca. 1950; and correspondence and related documents of Cecil J. Herribone, secretary of the state executive committee of the Socialist party of Maine.

Most sets of microfilm of primary materials purchased to enhance research in American socialism or labor history are kept in the Department of Teaching Materials, Microforms, and Media. These microfilm sets include *The Socialist Party of America Papers*; *Socialist Collections in the Tamiment Library*; *U.S. Military Intelligence Reports: Surveillance of Radicals in the United States, 1917-1941*; *The Strike Files of the U.S. Department of Justice*; *Terence Vincent Powderly Papers*; *John William Hayes Papers*; and *American Federation of Labor Records, Part 1: Strikes and Agreements File, 1898-1953*. *The Papers of Eugene V. Debs*, compiled from materials held in the Debs Collection and other repositories, includes not only letters to and from Debs, but speeches and scrapbooks as well. Family letters, family history documents, and later acquisitions to the Debs Collection number several hundred additional documents of materials not found in the *Papers*. A locally prepared index augments the one found in the published guide to the microfilm set and will soon be mounted on the internet.

Finally, the Debs Collection contains memorabilia, postcards, photographs, and records of railroad union activity in Terre Haute when Debs was a young man. Approximately three hundred photographs have been tentatively cataloged and are being selectively placed on the internet. Scrapbooks held locally, along with a clippings file, have been put on one-of-a-kind microfilm maintained in RBSC. The extremely rare records of a local railroadmen's union, of which Debs was a member, consist of membership lists and holograph minutes of union meetings bound in several official notebooks. These documents will be microfilmed to assure their preservation.

Another major collection of primary materials is the Indiana Writers Project/Program Collection. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration. Writers were employed in each state as part of the Federal Writers' Project to gather information for volumes in the American Guide Series or for local guides and histories. Administrative control of these projects was turned over to the states in 1939, and the Indiana Federal Writers' Project became the Indiana Federal Writers' Program. The result-

ing work, *Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State*, was published in 1941 and reprinted in 1973. The documents themselves are arranged in containers by county or general topic, resulting in approximately sixty thousand pages. A microfilm set on thirty-one reels of 16mm film was prepared in 1991. This set was subsequently indexed by topics, towns and cities, and personal names in a 1992 publication entitled *Indiana Federal Writers' Project/Program Papers: Guide to the Microfilm Edition at Indiana State University*. Two large boxes of materials and several cartons pertaining to the administration of the collection and other matters under Ross Lockridge and succeeding project directors and a collection of IWP/P photographs kept in two cartons have yet to be fully processed.

Civil War-era materials in the archives have contributed to scholarship in several published works about the history and development of Indiana. One significant segment of the collection is the numerous narratives of former slaves. There are two impressive groups of Civil War correspondence. One consists of photocopies of three hundred letters written by John Rippetoe (originals held by descendants). A smaller collection of Civil War correspondence is that of George Gegner, whose letters home to his loved ones in Alexandria, Indiana, are both poignant and revealing.

The newly-received Neff-Guttridge Collection of the Lincoln Era, named for donors Ray A. Neff and Leonard F. Guttridge, emphasizes primary materials and contains thousands of letters, hundreds of glass negatives and tintypes from the 1860s and 1870s, over five hundred *cartes des visites* accompanied by index materials prepared by Neff, modern photographs and negatives prepared by Neff from the John Wilkes Booth diary held by the National Parks Service, investigative files of interviews with descendants of individuals connected to the Lincoln assassination, and microfilm sets of primary materials in the public domain dealing with the assassination of Lincoln and other matters. Among the public domain primary materials available to researchers are the microfilmed *Turner-Baker Papers* and *Lincoln Assassination Files*, each with accompanying indexes. Additional unindexed microfilm sets include *Mosby's Partisan Rangers*; *Forrest's Scouts*; *Newsom's Cavalry, 18th Tennessee Cavalry*; *Carrington Papers*; and selected reels from 1864 and 1872 of *Letters Received by the Office of Adjutant General*. Available in transcription only and restricted in access until the publication of Neff and Guttridge's monograph on the assassination and related matters are interviews, depositions, and surviving photographs in the Potter Papers, acquired privately by Neff. The interviews and depositions were transcribed from original materials by Andrew G. Potter, a detective employed by General Lew Wallace, who had been appointed by Ulysses S. Grant to investigate suspicious deaths that occurred after the death of Abraham Lincoln. The original materials were stored in a carriage house on the Wallace estate and subsequently dam-

aged by bird droppings and fire. By the time Neff received the collection, the few remaining original documents had largely deteriorated. Consequently, authentication of the transcripts has been based largely on factual verification. After Neff and Guttridge publish their monograph on the assassination and related matters, all the documents in the Potter Collection, the investigative files, and similar one-of-a-kind documentation will be available to researchers.

The Rare Books Collection and Indiana Collection consist primarily of monographic materials. However, the Rare Books Collection contains one notable body of correspondence and related material donated by Gilbert Coble concerning his friend, the acclaimed regional writer Jesse Stuart (1907–1984), poet laureate of Kentucky. The correspondence and personal photographs provide a rare glimpse of a friendship over many years. Also included in the collection are books inscribed by Stuart to Coble.

In addition to a copy of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Manuscript Project, which contains 350 sets of materials of many types pertaining to the history of the state, the Indiana Collection holds several other groups of primary materials. For example, there is correspondence between businessman and benefactor Chauncey Rose and Charles R. Peddle, as well as a set of Peddle's letters. Although there is no great depth to these holdings, there is an occasional individual letter in the Indiana Collection and the Rare Books Collection of a literary figure, just as there are sometimes inscriptions of sentiments by notable persons in books contained in these two collections. More extensive is the John T. Myers Congressional Collection. Myers, who represented his congressional district from 1966 to 1996, has donated letters, photographs, memoranda, and campaign materials.

The RBSC is repository for a number of organizations. The department receives the official records or publications of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators; and *The Mystery Fancier*, a magazine published in Madison, Indiana. The RBSC will host the records of Organization Mondiale pour L'Education Prescolaire (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) when its records are transferred from the Indiana State University School of Education. The RBSC also houses photocopies of the musical compositions of Dr. Paul Hagan, an alumnus and supporter of the university.

As is the case with most university archives, the Indiana State University Archives emphasizes records pertaining to the institution. It also contains the papers of some its faculty and administrators, including all past presidents from W. W. Parsons onward, as well as the Martin Photographic Collection, spanning the years 1922–1972 with thirty thousand prints and negatives of events at Indiana State University. About eight thousand of these prints have been cataloged in a searchable database.

A few blocks from Indiana State University are two institutions that contain primary holdings with a local or regional emphasis. The Vigo County Public Library contains useful holdings in its Special Collections and Community Archives units. Special Collections focuses on local history and genealogy, with materials appearing in many formats. There are microfilmed versions of WPA indexes, census materials, courthouse records, early local newspapers, and similar materials. Individuals with internet access may get an overview of the Special Collections Department's emphases by accessing the following URL: <<http://vax1.vigo.lib.in.us/spc/spc1.htm>>. The Community Archives includes literary manuscripts by writers such as Jane Dabney Shackelford; African American materials, including the records of the Allen Chapel AME Church; Civil War letters and diaries, as well as similar materials from the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II; local business records; minutes of local organizations; many thousands of photographs of historical and social importance; oral history audiotapes and transcripts; and photographs and related materials about local luminaries such as Debs, Max Ehrmann, and Ida Husted Harper. Internet access to information about Community Archives materials is possible from the library home page: <<http://vax1.vigo.lib.in.us>> or from a link on the Special Collections Department home page.

The Vigo County Historical Society contains fewer materials than the Vigo County Public Library and is more concerned with artifact preservation, yet the society has both photograph and information files. The latter are concerned with selected prominent persons, businesses, and organizations, and are arranged by decade. Documents contained in the folders are a combination of factual information and original materials.

**Robert T. Ramsay, Jr., Archival Center,
Wabash College, Crawfordsville**

Letters in the archives of Wabash College record that, only ten years after the first white settler arrived in Montgomery County, plans were being made to build a classical and English high school that would become a college as soon as the "wants of the country demand." On November 21, 1832, the first handwritten entry was made in the Board of Trustees Minute Book, and the soon-to-be-named Wabash College entered Hoosier history. The first faculty meeting occurred in 1834, and both sets of minute books are complete, indexed, and have served as a nucleus for the college archives from that beginning. Administrative records; faculty, staff, and student records and papers; college publications; biographical material on students, faculty, and alumni; and nonprint archival materials are all now housed in the Robert T. Ramsay, Jr., Archival Center,

along with special collections, a small rare books collection, and nineteenth-century runs of periodicals.

Founded by Presbyterian ministers and laymen, Wabash is an independent small liberal arts college for men. Many of the founders came to the Wabash Valley as missionaries while still in their twenties. Most were from established and educated families in the north-eastern United States. Their mission was to educate teachers and preachers who would then "civilize" this newly settled area of the "Far West." Today the college's mission has been broadened to stress educating leaders for a changing world.

Materials in the college archives document early higher education in this region, among other subjects. Correspondence, diaries, publications, and even ephemera provide primary research sources for a wide range of issues confronting pioneers and the eastern establishment. Letters, sermons, speeches, and college records present a variety of viewpoints on economic, political, social, religious, cultural, and other topics of the day. Two extensive collections of correspondence, pictures, and artifacts are particularly significant because they begin with the two most important founders, E.O. Hovey and James Thomson, and because of their depth and range (from the founding through the early twentieth century).

Hovey Collection. Educated at Dartmouth and Andover, Edmund Otis Hovey was sent to Indiana from Vermont by the American Home Missionary Society in 1831 with his bride, Mary Carter (whose father had been principal of the Peacham Academy). E. O. was a founder, trustee, second faculty member, and mainstay at Wabash College from 1832 to 1877. His correspondence begins with his college days, Mary's with the brief period before their marriage, and both continue through the late nineteenth century. The collection includes letters to and from family mainly in New England, former classmates of E. O.'s who were serving as home missionaries, and members of the college community. Subjects range from a detailed "walk-through" of the Hoveys' first cabin in Fountain County to political and religious meetings in Vermont, weddings and funerals, descriptions of prairie flowers and "heathen" neighbors, routes and hazards of early travel west, reports on crops in the east and recession in Indiana, bonnet styles and the price of skilletts, health and disease, caving in Indiana and Kentucky, education of girls, social life, fundraising, and trips east. E. O. Hovey collected and kept intact the early college records. His son Horace (Wabash 1853) and grandson E. Otis, both geologists, later added archival material to this collection.

Thomson-Ristine Collection. The meeting to found the college was held in the home of James Thomson, minister of the local Presbyterian church in 1832 and trustee until 1856. His brother John Steele Thomson was also a founder, trustee, and faculty member; brother Alexander was trustee and treasurer; and brother Samuel Steele

Thomson graduated with the second class and joined the faculty. Henry Ristine settled in Crawfordsville in 1823, was a prominent citizen, served in the legislature, and owned the local tavern/hotel. His son, Ben T., read law and entered into practice with Alexander Thomson. Ben T. Ristine's sons began the long line of Ristine men who have attended Wabash. Family papers and memorabilia from this earlier period to the present have been given to the college by Richard O. Ristine, a descendant of the Thomsons and Ristines, former lieutenant governor of Indiana, and trustee emeritus of the college. Included are family letters, school papers, receipts, notes, and legal documents including deeds, land transactions, and routine business papers for the law firm, Civil War letters, speech drafts, household accounts, and other miscellaneous manuscript materials that describe a century of everyday and business life for two prominent Hoosier families, as well as for Montgomery County.

Elston-Mills-Beemer Collection. The first Isaac Compton Elston (of three) was an early prominent businessman in Crawfordsville. He established the first bank, and bought, platted, and sold the land to create Michigan City. His son and grandson were also successful bankers and businessmen, who generously supported the college. Their papers, including those for Michigan City transactions, came to the college through Gordon Beemer, who married the third I. C. Elston's widow after Beemer's first wife, Julia, died. The latter was the granddaughter of Caleb Mills, first principal and teacher of the college and known as the father of Indiana public school education. This collection also includes Mills family papers, pictures, and artifacts, including Caleb Mills's pocket diaries of his travels as superintendent of education for Indiana in the 1850s.

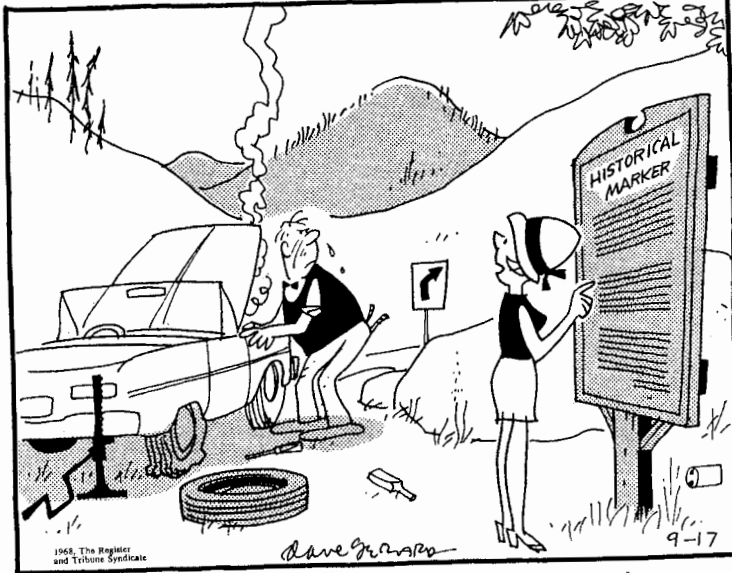
In addition to these larger collections, the archives holds several smaller collections of interest.

Horsethief Detective Association. Minute books, letters, artifacts, and other documents record the origins of this national organization during the mid-1800s in Montgomery County.

Oral History Project: Wabash College and the Black Experience; Crawfordsville and the Black Experience. Forty-eight interviews are recorded on 116 audio tapes and transcribed in over 1,700 pages of text to document the experiences of both the college and Crawfordsville as they passed through the turbulent years of integration in American higher education. Interviewees were asked for information on family origins, so the collection is also useful in tracing the rise of a black community, churches, schooling, work opportunities, and social life in the area.

Dave Gerard Cartoon Collection. Creator of the internationally syndicated cartoon strips "Citizen Smith" and "Willyum," Dave Gerard is a Crawfordsville native, Wabash graduate (1931), former mayor, and a distinguished member of the "Sugar Crick School of Art." First published in *Colliers*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and

CITIZEN SMITH By Dave Gerard



"Here's a coincidence, dear. George Washington had trouble here, too!"

Courtesy, Robert T. Ramsay, Jr., Archival Center, Lilly Library, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana

American, Gerard began a weekly color cartoon, "Viewpoint," for *Colliers* in 1946. "Willyum" ran from 1953 to 1966 and was followed by "Citizen Smith," whom Gerard "retired" in 1984. His archive includes artwork, proof sheets, printing blocks, and other material related to his fifty-plus-year career as a cartoonist.

Lawrence Sanders Collection. Author of *The Anderson Tapes* (1970), Lawrence Sanders was a 1940 Wabash alumnus. Described as "a master of suspense," Sanders was the creator of a series of popular novels featuring detective Arch McNally and also a "Deadly Sins" series with New York police captain, Edward X. Delany, as the hero.

Ted Steeg Productions Archive. A native of Indianapolis, Ted Steeg graduated from Wabash College in 1952. After working as a film and television writer/director, he set up Steeg Productions in 1964. Over the next thirty-five years his New York City firm wrote, directed, and produced over three hundred films, videos, and audiovisual programs. Among the firm's clients and venues were World's Fair Exhibit films for Kodak and United Technologies, IBM, Citicorp, Mobil, NCR, AT&T, General Electric, Business Week, Newsweek, and Xerox. Shows prepared for commercial and educational television include "Experiment in Allegheny" on civic reform; "Invitation to

Dance" for PBS; and "Consecration of the House" for the dedication of Pittsburgh's Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts. Steeg's firm produced a much-acclaimed documentary series, "Vision, U.S.A.," for the U.S. State Department. In 1997, the company had a major role in creating exhibits for the George Bush Presidential Library in Texas. The archive includes scripts, proposals, budgets, information on corporate clients, films, and videos.

The Wabash College archives is also a rich source for letters and diaries written during the Civil War and later wars. One of the finest examples is the often-quoted diary of Henry Campbell, "Three Years in the Saddle," which contains his hand-colored sketches of Tennessee and Georgia battles between 1863 and 1865. The archives is also a good source of material on the history of college athletics in the Midwest, single-sex education vs. coeducation issues, scientific developments and the teaching of science in the nineteenth century, and the role played by the Presbyterian Church and home missionary groups in settling and educating the "Far West."

Archives of the Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

From the time of their initial settlement near Terre Haute in 1840, the Sisters of Providence have had a significant impact on the history of Indiana. The archives of this congregation hold a number of important keys for researchers and students of the state's history.

Founded in Ruillé, France, in 1806, the Sisters of Providence first came to Indiana led by Mother Theodore Guerin (now a candidate for sainthood) to establish a novitiate and motherhouse, teach, and care for the sick poor in the diocese of Vincennes, encompassing virtually all of Indiana. Over the years, the Sisters established schools and orphanages and served in parishes in Indiana, across the United States, and overseas. From Jasper, Indiana, to Chicago, Illinois, to Peru, China, and Taiwan, the Sisters of Providence have served as educators, administrators, health care workers, and advocates of the poor and needy. The main focus of the congregation has been education as well as parish and charity work. Their archives document the congregation's history and its influence among the lay population during the past one hundred and sixty years. The materials also help illuminate certain national and international issues.

The overall collection is about nine hundred linear feet and is divided into thirteen record groups. The most valuable to both researchers and the Sisters of Providence are the ministry, foundation, and membership files.

The Ministry record group extends some thirty linear feet and covers the period from 1862 to the present. The collection is divided into the areas of education, parish and diocesan work, health care and gerontology, international missions, schools and establishments,

war-related service, music, and art. The areas that document education, schools, and parishes include information on parish life, school records, and listings of Sisters of Providence members who have ministered in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Jasper, Fort Wayne, Madison, Evansville, outside the state, and internationally. Many requests are processed from former students or colleagues of the Sisters, often providing valuable clues for genealogies and town histories. The educational records also contain early examinations, textbooks, lists of teachers and their academic qualifications, and early correspondence with universities.

The international missions area of the Ministry record group begins in 1920 with the Sisters' first entrance into missionary work in China. The Sisters of Providence were the first American Catholic congregation of women to send missionaries to China. They established the Hua Mei School, a middle school that eventually evolved into Providence University, now with over five thousand students in Taiwan. The Sisters were held captive as prisoners of war during World War II, and there are a number of interesting records from this period. Other material in the international missions area consists of war claims, articles, diaries and journals of Sisters, letters, and references in the form of textbooks, photographs, movie reels, and audio and video cassettes, as well as artifacts from the missions.

A small but important area of the Ministry group documents war-related service covering various periods between 1861 and 1997. In 1861, a military hospital created in Indianapolis was placed under the supervision of the Sisters of Providence. Although the Sisters' hospital work ended in 1871, it played a vital role during the Civil War, a role recently recognized at the Civil War Museum under the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis. The Sisters were also instrumental in establishing an emergency hospital at Vincennes in 1862. More recently, Sister Josephine Bryan served an eighteen-month tour-of-duty in Vietnam, working for Catholic Relief Services in an orphanage. Finally, the Ministry record group houses a number of important artifacts, including letters from soldiers, articles, booklets, hospital registers, photographs, drawings, and inventories.

The Foundation record group occupies approximately twenty-three linear feet and covers a time span from 1860 to 1890. Most items date back to the earliest history of the Sisters and were recovered from a fire in 1889 that destroyed a number of early records. The collection contains many personal articles of Mother Theodore Guerin and the five Sisters who accompanied her to Indiana, including the Le Fer sisters, as well as records concerning the Le Fer family in France and prominent families in southern Indiana. Information about early clergy in the state is also located here. The Foundation record group holds a number of historical pieces such as publications, convent penances, historical drawings, and early artifacts. There are items related to Ruillé, France, and its connections with Indiana's

Sisters of Providence; these include drawings, photographs, daguerreotypes, special relics, and mementos such as hair and cloth from important church and congregational figures. There are also valuable personal papers of members such as Mother Theodore Guerin and the Le Fer sisters, and correspondence with clergy who have shaped the Sisters of Providence ministry throughout the years. And the Foundation group retains records related to the 1998 designation by Pope John Paul II of Mother Theodore Guerin as "blessed" and the continuing movement to have her recognized as a saint.

The Membership record group contains thorough documentation about past and present members of the Sisters of Providence. Information and artifacts from the various jubilee celebrations that the congregation has held over the course of its 160-year history are included in this collection, as well as copies of community publications, chronicles, professional papers, and directories from the Sisters of Providence. Associated with this collection are about thirty oral history interviews with Sisters, all of which have been recorded since 1990 and transcribed.

The final record group of note for those with a special interest in Indiana history is the Non-SP Collection, which holds a small cross-section of sources and artifacts concerning the general public and its relation to the Sisters. Among these records are genealogies from the Thralls family, the Martin family, and the locally famous Bailly family of northwestern Indiana, in particular Olga Mae Schiemann (a member of this family who later became a Sister of Providence); artifacts, papers, and correspondence from popes, bishops, and other clergy; and relics from such individuals. The non-SP group also houses information concerning community organizations and publications that concern the Sisters. This record group would also be of some value to anyone interested in the work of Bishops Simes and Wicke of Indiana.

The archives of the Sisters of Providence reveal the numerous connections this religious subculture has had with the public. The Sisters of Providence have been in Indiana since 1840 and have left their mark on the history of the state, the nation, and the world. Catholic schools, parishes, and the women religious workers who have staffed these institutions helped shape the character of many citizens of Indiana.¹

¹The in-house finding guide to the Sisters of Providence archives has not been published, but the following titles will prove helpful to interested researchers: Mary Borromeo Brown, *History of the Sisters of Providence*, Volume I (New York, 1949); Eugenia Logan, *History of the Sisters of Providence*, Volume II (Terre Haute, Ind., 1978); Mary Roger Madden, *The Path Marked Out: History of the Sisters of Providence*, Volume III (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., 1991). In addition, see *Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guerin*, ed. Mary Theodosia (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., 1978). The archives may be contacted via e-mail at <ekelley@spsmw.org>.