
INDIANA ARCHIVES

Indiana before Statehood

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Even as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were exploring land recently purchased from France, other Euroamericans were establishing the political, economic, and social contours of the Indiana Territory, the subject of this ninth installment of the Indiana Archives series. As the following essays indicate, there is ample archival material for research in Indiana's history before statehood. These resources suggest a variety of approaches and questions that researchers might pursue to understand the beginnings of this particular section of the first American West.

One way of examining this era is to emphasize place: the physical, economic, social, and political environment in which people created what eventually became the nation's nineteenth state. This view leads to investigations of the Indian tribes who originally inhabited the land; the first white peoples of European background—initially French and Spanish, and later English—who cooperated and competed with Native Americans and with one another; and the white families whose migration from the East and South forced native peoples from the land despite their resistance and whose presence prompted ordinances issued by a nascent federal government, creating a governmental framework that would lead to statehood. Emphasizing its specific place and people implicitly argues for the distinctiveness of Indiana's colonial experience.

A second approach, in contrast, highlights instead the process of settlement. It contends that there has been an essential continuity among successive waves of settlers moving westward in American history. According to this view, Indiana was one of a series of North American frontiers, the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century version of a familiar pattern of settlement involving Indian, Euroamerican, and black men and women. Like frontiers before and after it, Indiana's early history encompassed the displacement of Indian peoples, the drive

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to gain control of relatively inexpensive land, and shifting relationships among peoples that ultimately led to the organization and transformation of the territory. This interpretation does not discount the unique elements of Indiana's frontier past, since the timing and locale of this stage of America's westward expansion make it qualitatively different from that found elsewhere. But it places that record within a national and even international context, underscoring, among other commonalities, the importance of the national state in the founding of Indiana.

The contributors to this year's Archives survey describe a range of opportunities to probe these and other, more specific, avenues of study. Suzanne K. Justice reveals the wealth of ethnographic material on Native American tribes available at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University Bloomington. Sandra Taylor describes how printed sources, family manuscript collections, and unpublished memoirs located at the Lilly Library, also at Indiana University Bloomington, reveal much about the exploration and settlement of the Indiana Territory, including the involvement of prominent citizens in various military expeditions. Alan F. January's review of primary and printed materials held at the Indiana State Archives focuses on those documents that delineate the legal processes that led to the formal organization of Indiana, first as a territory and then as a state. And Glenn L. McMullen reviews the archival results of the Indiana Historical Society's long and varied efforts to recover and document the history of early Indiana and the Old Northwest.

More than thirty years ago, John D. Barnhart and Dorothy L. Riker published *Indiana to 1816: The Colonial Period* (1971), the last major study of Indiana's early history to build upon primary resources found within the state. Since then there have been various syntheses of the era, most notably Andrew R. L. Cayton's *Frontier Indiana* (1996), which have drawn upon more recent scholarship to raise intriguing questions about place, identity, power, and consequence. The resources described in the essays that follow offer the basis for some possible answers to these questions, or at the least for fresh understanding of the origins of Indiana.¹

Indiana before 1816: Resources of the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology

The Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, located on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, is a center for research and a repository for materials pertaining to the prehistoric and early

¹This article explores archival sources on frontier Indiana. Those interested in locating material on the Lewis and Clark expedition might begin at the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis; the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Archives, St. Louis; the Filson Historical Society, Louisville; and the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield.

historic periods in the midwestern United States. Its resources include archaeologically excavated artifacts, donated artifacts, excavation records, photographs, site reports, published and unpublished library resources, and archival materials. Over fourteen thousand years of Indiana's past are represented by the collections, from the Paleoindian culture to the early explorers and settlers of the Indiana territory.

The Black Laboratory curates over ten thousand collections, the contents of which total millions of artifacts and other materials. Of these collections, about one thousand contain material from the early historic period, but two of them, derived from field excavations, stand out as particularly important sources of information about life in Indiana between European contact and statehood in 1816. The materials from the Fort Ouiatenon excavations conducted outside of Lafayette, Indiana, vividly illustrate life in a frontier trading community. They are particularly interesting because they include a wide range of artifacts from Native American tribes, French voyageurs, Jesuit priests, and American explorers. All passed through the gates of Fort Ouiatenon and left marks on the archaeological record that can be discerned through thoughtful research and interpretation.² Excavations at the Fort Knox II site, near Vincennes, Indiana, has yielded artifacts from the early Euroamerican military presence in Indiana. Soldiers stationed at the U.S. fort located on this site fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe, among other military operations, and their artifacts enrich our understanding of a frontier soldier's life.³ From regimental uniform buttons to discarded provisions, each artifact from Fort Knox II has the power to expand our understanding of this turbulent period.

Researchers of early Indiana will also find the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archive, which is curated at the laboratory, to be particularly interesting. It consists of over two hundred individual collections gathered by the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Project, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice from 1953 to 1966. The project's original purpose was to produce a detailed analysis of Native American land use and tenure that federal officials could then use to develop a defense against land claims and alleged treaty inequities that had been brought before the Indian Claims Commission by Indian groups. For this reason, and despite its title, the ethnohistory archive does not contain many documents that could be considered ethnographic. Nevertheless, the depth and breadth of the information contained in it is staggering, and it is one of the single most important achievements of historical research on early America.

²See J. Jones, *18th and early 19th Century Aboriginal and Euroamerican Occupations in the Vicinity of Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana*, 1984.

³See M. Grey, *The Archaeological Investigations of Fort Knox II: Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology Research Reports, No. 9* ([Bloomington, Ind.], 1988).

The ethnohistory archive is divided into four parts: microfilm collections, tribal history documents, Indian Claims Commission documents, and the general collections.⁴ There are more than one thousand reels of microfilm from two hundred collections, reproducing original documents from major archival holdings throughout the world, including the U.S. Library of Congress, every midwestern state historical society, the British Museum, and the Public Archives of Canada and France, and bringing them together in one accessible place. It should be noted that many of the documents have neither been translated nor transcribed but are simply duplicated. One of the most consulted collections within the microfilm archive is the "Letters Received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs," which contains correspondence gathered from all thirteen Indian agents within the midwestern United States.

The most frequently used portion of the archive is the tribal history documents section, which consists of more than 800 binders organized by common tribal name and then by date. The tribal binders contain information transcribed or copied from published material, microfilm, and other original sources. This collection is unique in scope, spanning over three hundred years of Native-Euroamerican relations, and it is one of the most comprehensive collections of ethnohistoric data in existence for Indian groups. The tribes represented in the archive are the following:

Chippewa (Ojibwa): 95 volumes covering the years 1613-1927
 Delaware: 75 volumes covering the years 1600-1927
 Fox: 29 volumes covering the years 1600-1890
 Huron (Wyandot): 68 volumes covering the years 1608-1910
 Illinois: 29 volumes covering the years 1640-1902
 Kickapoo: 37 volumes covering the years 1600-1957
 Mascouten: 11 volumes covering the years 1600-1825
 Menomini: 12 volumes covering the years 1600-1883
 Miami (including Miami, Wea, Piankashaw, and Eel River):
 63 volumes covering the years 1600-1876
 Ottawa: 79 volumes covering the years 1600-1900
 Potawatomi: 82 volumes covering the years 1600-1898
 Sac: 34 volumes covering the years 1600-1884
 Seneca: 53 volumes covering the years 1550-1883
 Shawnee: 87 volumes covering the years 1540-1896
 Sioux: 21 volumes covering the years 1670-1902
 Winnebago: 27 volumes covering the years 1600-1909

⁴All of the archive is indexed to some degree, and an overview of the collections is available at the Glenn A. Black Laboratory's website <www.gbl.indiana.edu> or in D. Miller, *A Guide to the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archive: Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology Reports, No. 4* (Bloomington, Ind., 1979).

The Indian Claims Commission Collection is made up of thirty-seven boxes of material relating to the history of claims brought against the Indian Claims Commission and includes defendants' exhibits, Department of Justice internal publications concerning cases, announcements of the commission's decisions, and research reports written by the staff of the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Project. The material is organized by Royce Area number (which identifies specific areas of Indian lands) and is unbound.⁵ Four boxes of material related to Royce Area number 11 and a single box of material for Royce Area number 26 include dockets and defendants' exhibits and other material pertaining to the Treaty of Greenville and the related treaty claims.

The General Collection of the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archive contains supplementary materials, secondary sources, indices, and tribal files that support the archive's other collections. It also includes several hundred photo reproductions of historic maps covering the midwestern United States. Although many of the index files in this collection are incomplete, they are nevertheless useful resources for research in the early historic period. The index used most frequently is that of Indian Names, which provides a useful cross-reference for tribal identification and treaty location. Also useful is the Tribal File index, which includes Chippewa, Delaware, Fox, Huron, Miami, Winnebago, Potawatomi, and Shawnee materials.

As an ongoing project, the Glenn A. Black Laboratory is working to provide access to many of the materials in the Great Lakes-Ohio Valley Ethnohistory Archive through its website <www.gbl.indiana.edu>. Many of the materials that make up the Miami Tribal History Collection, in particular, are available on-line, as is an in-depth description of the ethnohistory archive and other resources available through the Black Laboratory.

Limited access to the collections in the laboratory is available to all qualified scholars upon application to the director, following the procedure outlined in our registration forms. The materials contained in the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archive, together with the millions of archaeological artifacts recovered from sites throughout our state, provide an unequalled glimpse into life in Indiana before 1816.

Early Indiana History Documents at the Lilly Library, Indiana University

The earliest documents relating to Indiana that are in the Lilly Library at Indiana University are certified typescripts of documents preserved in the judicial archives at the National Archives of Canada

⁵For an explanation of Royce Area numbers see Bureau of American Ethnology, *18th Annual Report, 1899* (Washington, D.C., 1899).

and photostatic copies of eight documents located in the Chicago Historical Society. They date from approximately 1718 to 1763 and concern the French in Indiana, particularly the posts at Ouiatenon and Miami. However, even earlier than these documents is the first printed book containing a description of any part of the present state of Indiana: *Dernières découvertes dans l'Amérique Septentrionale de m. de La Sale; mises au jour par m. le chevalier Tonti, gouverneur du Fort Saint Louis, aux Islinois* (A Paris, Au palais, J. Guignard, 1697). Robert Cavalier de La Salle's party, in passing from the St. Joseph River to the Kankakee River in December 1679, used the portage where South Bend now stands. This work was first translated into English in 1698, and the Lilly Library has first editions of both the French and English publications.

Two small collections, the Lasselle and the Harrison Township, Knox County, Indiana groups, as well as several individual documents in the Indiana History series, detail activities in and around Vincennes, Indiana, in the eighteenth century. The Lasselle collection consists of documents assembled by Hyacinth Lasselle (1806–1876) for the use of the heirs of François Bosseron in presenting claims to Congress for reimbursement for provisions supplied by Bosseron to the army under George Rogers Clark during the American Revolution. Included is a letter from Clark to Bosseron, dated August 10, 1778, appointing him captain of a militia company at Post Vincennes. Some historians have suggested that this is possibly the first commission given in Indiana. The latest item in the collection, dated January 15, 1840, is a letter from Lasselle to William Henry Harrison recounting the history of the citizens of Vincennes who joined the "American cause" in the Revolution, Bosseron's appointment as commander, and Clark's recapture of Vincennes in February 1779.

The territorial period of Indiana's history was characterized by struggles with Indians and with the British from Canada. Several individual items document the conflicts with the Indians, including official receipts to John Wilkins, quartermaster general of the U.S. Army from 1796–1812, and selected letters and papers of Charles Willing Byrd, secretary of the Northwest Territory, 1799–1803. The William Henry Harrison manuscript II collection includes receipts for provisions and whiskey for army personnel and requisitions of food and whiskey for Indiana, dating from January 1794 to September 1795 and signed by Harrison as aide-de-camp to Gen. Anthony Wayne during his campaign against the Indians in Ohio and the ensuing treaty negotiations; it also contains requisitions to the quartermaster for supplies for the garrison at Fort Washington, Ohio, 1796–1798, where Harrison was commandant. In addition, the collection includes personal and official letters from Harrison, 1803–1811, and letters and papers, 1812–1814, of the quartermaster's department of the Northwestern Army under Harrison's command.

Early nineteenth-century documents located in the Samuel Judah family papers consist of receipts and payment vouchers signed by John Gibson as secretary of the Indiana Territory. Of particular interest here is payment for taking a "census of the inhabitants of the Indiana Territory," dated July 4, 1801. Two important printed items from this first decade of the century include *Letter from the Secretary of State, accompanying certain laws of the North-western and Indiana territories of the United States, in pursuance of a resolution of the House of the 24th ultimo. 14th January, 1802. Ordered to lie on the table*, (Washington, 1802?). Signed by James Madison, this was an act levying a territory tax on land. The second item is an extremely rare copy of the first map printed in Kentucky: *A Map of the Rapids of the Ohio River, and the Countries on each side thereof, as to include the routes contemplated for Canal Navigation* (Engraved and printed by John Goodman, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1806). The map represents one of the earliest schemes to build a canal to bypass the hazardous rapids at Louisville.

Without question the best-documented era of early Indiana history in the Lilly Library is the period from about 1811 until the constitutional convention in 1816. In addition to the Harrison files noted above, there are significant printed materials dating from this period. One in particular is a rare broadside entitled *A Bloody Battle Between the United States Troops under the command of Gov. Harrison and several tribes of Indians, near the Prophet's town, Nov. 7th, 1811*, which contains eight stanzas of poetry praising the heroic actions of Harrison's troops in the Battle of Tippecanoe. This stands in some contrast to a December 4, 1811, letter written by John Badollet, land commissioner in Vincennes, to Jonathan Jennings, delegate to Congress from the Indiana Territory, commenting on the Indian situation before and during the battle: "Notwithstanding the repeated entreaties of the Prophet and his band for peace, Our Western Alexander pushed on to their town. . . . Til then the Indians had not committed one act of hostility. . . ." This letter, acquired by the Lilly Library less than a decade ago, is the copy retained by Badollet.

Several manuscript collections at the Lilly Library have significant documents dealing with the War of 1812, some relating to contemporary events and others in the form of memoirs or reminiscences written later.⁶ The Return Jonathan Meigs papers include letters and papers relating to Indian disturbances in Indiana and Ohio in 1811; raising Ohio troops that participated in the Hull campaign, which culminated in the surrender of Detroit to the British in August 1812; and Meigs's

⁶The Lilly Library's War of 1812 collections include more than 12,000 manuscript items, about 1,250 books and pamphlets, nearly 200 prints and broadsides, and a few periodicals and newspaper files that cover the war years. Most of these materials relate to the east coast and naval encounters, but there are also many documents that are concerned with the Northwest Territory.

accounts of disbursements, July 1812–September 1813, in connection with a council at Urbana, Ohio, and one at Piqua, Ohio. In yet another collection one can find William Henry Harrison's letter "to the Chiefs and Head Warriors of the Delaware, Miami, Wea, Eel River, Kickapoo, Potawatimie and Winebago Tribes of Indiana," inviting them to the gathering at Piqua.

The Boyd collection consists primarily of letters to Gen. John Parker Boyd, beginning with orders to him as commander of the Fourth Infantry Regiment to reinforce Harrison's troops just before the Battle of Tippecanoe. Also present is Henry Dearborn's letter of farewell, dated July 15, 1813, addressed to Boyd and the field officers of the army at Fort George, and instructions from Gen. James Wilkinson at Sacketts Harbor and Grenadier Island during the 1813 campaign against Canada.

Another active participant in the settlement and development of Indiana was William Polke, who moved from Kentucky to Knox County, Indiana Territory, in 1806. There he was appointed justice of the peace in 1808, and that appointment, signed by Harrison, is in his papers. Polke was also active in the local militia, present at the Battle of Tippecanoe as a ranger under Harrison, and on September 29, 1812, was appointed "Captain of Spies" at Vincennes. Polke served as a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1816 but, unfortunately, not a single document concerning that service at the convention survives in his collection.

Memoirs and reminiscences of the War of 1812 are found in the Samuel Williams papers, the Daniel Isgrig papers, the autobiography of Eli Farmer, and the "Memoirs" of Milton Stapp. The Lilly Library also has a small group of letters from John Armstrong, Jr., secretary of war between February 1813 and September 1814, to Col. John J. Abert in the 1830s, in which Armstrong comments on the battles of lakes Erie and Ontario and offers reasons for the failure of the attack from his point of view as a former cabinet member. Armstrong's comments to Abert appear as part of his request for copies of certain letters and documents that he wanted in the preparation of his *Notices of the War of 1812* (New York, 1836–1840).

Even as political and military officials were establishing the rudimentary boundaries of Indiana, other pioneers regarded the region as a social laboratory, as reflected in the small Rappite collection in the Lilly Library. The Harmony Society, founded by George Rapp, organized the town of Harmony on the Wabash River in 1814. The letters in the Rappite collection are written from Beaverpointe to Frederick Rapp, George's adopted son, then living in Harmonie, Indiana Territory.

Meanwhile, the daily business life in early nineteenth-century Indiana can be found in the daybooks of the Jones and Stockwell merchandise store, which opened in March 1815 in Princeton, Indiana. The first volume includes daily entries for sales from November 1815

through May 1819. Though sales were entered both Christmas Day 1815 and New Year's Day 1816, none were recorded on those days in the years following.

There is very little in the Lilly Library concerning the constitutional convention of 1816. However, it holds a first printing of the *Journal of the Convention of the Indiana Territory: begun and held at the Town of Corydon, in the County of Harrison, and Territory aforesaid, on the second Monday in June, being the tenth day thereof, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States, the Fortieth* (Louisville: Butler and Wood, 1816), as well as the first printing of the Constitution itself: *The Constitution of the state of Indiana. Adopted in Convention, at Corydon, on the twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of Our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States, the Fortieth* (Louisville: Butler and Wood, 1816).

Territorial Records in the Indiana State Archives

Territorial documents comprise a small but important group of records in the Indiana State Archives. The number of documents that survive is surprising, considering the vicissitudes of time and the frequent relocation of the seat of government. The bulk of the records was created by the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of territorial government, but these can be supplemented by a variety of records created by local and federal offices.

The case files for the General Court of the Northwest Territory and the Indiana Territory cover the period from 1791 to 1816. In some instances a case's entire documentation exists; in others only one document survives. There is a finding aid that is searchable by the names of the parties to the case, by the date of the case, and by the type of case (e.g., debt, trespass, divorce, assault and battery). Family history researchers will find the name index particularly useful. Unusual research subjects include slave replevin (i.e., the capture and return of escaped slaves via their legal definition as property) and trading with Indians. In addition to the case files, the State Archives has the two order books of the General Court of Indiana Territory, 1801–1816, the docket book, and minutes of the court.

Four individuals—Arthur St. Clair, William Henry Harrison, John Gibson, and Thomas Posey—served as governors of the Northwest and Indiana Territories. The State Archives has five manuscript boxes of Governor's Correspondence dating between 1793 and 1816. These consist primarily of recommendations, petitions, memorials, appointments, and other miscellaneous subjects. Four boxes of Governor's Military Correspondence reflect the importance of the militia on the frontier. All of these territorial manuscripts can be searched by name and by subject in a database prepared by the State Archives. Fields for each manuscript in the database include date, agency, county, and record

title. Typical subjects include elections, recommendations, militia appointments, Indians, and judges. Family history researchers will find the lengthy petitions to the governor a fertile source for names of pioneer ancestors.

The gubernatorial correspondence in the State Archives should be supplemented by the two-volume printed edition of the messages and papers of Governors Harrison, Gibson, and Posey, issued in 1922 by the Indiana Historical Bureau.

In addition to correspondence, the State Archives holds the *Journal of the Proceedings of the Executive Department of Indiana Territory, 1800–1816*. This important volume, which contains the record of hundreds of appointments to local office, was transcribed and published in 1900. The Indiana Historical Society produced a reprint, with an index, in 1985. Three volumes kept by the Treasurer of Indiana Territory are also in the Archives: the Account (Day) Book, 1806–1814, the Treasurer's Ledger Book, 1806–1815, and Collector of Revenue Allan D. Thom's Account Book for 1814–1816. Together these give a good picture of the finances of the territory. Another executive officer, the Attorney General, is represented by one manuscript box of records. There is also one box of election returns covering the years 1803–1816.

The second or representative stage of government in Indiana Territory began on January 3, 1805, with the election of nine representatives to the lower house of the General Assembly. The manuscript journals for most of the sessions of the General Assembly between 1805 and 1815 are in the State Archives. Regretfully, the record is not complete. There are no journals for the sessions of 1806, 1807, and 1810. Only one journal for the upper house, then called the Legislative Council, for the session of 1813–1814 has been located. Gayle Thornbrough and Dorothy Riker transcribed and edited the ten surviving journals and published them as *Journals of the General Assembly of Indiana Territory, 1805–1815* (Indianapolis, 1950). For the sessions of 1806, 1807, and 1810, the editors relied upon newspaper accounts and other documents to illustrate the work of the sessions. The annotations and the biographical sketches of the members of the territorial General Assembly make this volume an indispensable source of information for the territorial period of Indiana.

Territorial lawmakers first met at Vincennes, then in 1813 the capital moved to Corydon. During eleven regular and two special sessions the General Assembly enacted hundreds of acts and resolutions. The handwritten manuscript copies of 433 of these pieces of legislation are preserved in the Indiana State Archives. An inventory is available. The laws adopted at the first session were printed in Frankfort, Kentucky. Elihu Stout of Vincennes published the laws passed at subsequent sessions until the removal of the capital to Corydon. The last territorial session laws were printed at Madison and Lexington. Printed copies of these session laws are very scarce today. All of the

laws are reprinted in a two-volume compilation entitled *Laws of Indiana Territory* (Springfield, Ill., and Indianapolis, 1930). Francis S. Philbrick edited the first volume, which covers 1801 through 1809. The second volume, edited by Louis B. Ewbank and Dorothy Riker, picks up in 1809 and closes in 1816. Legislation passed before the creation of the Indiana Territory is reprinted in *The Laws of the Northwest Territory, 1788–1800* (Springfield, Ill., 1925), edited by Theodore C. Pease.

Territorial lawmakers devoted much of each session to organizing government on the frontier. They set up counties and established courts and lesser offices of government such as sheriffs, surveyors, and river pilots. They levied fees and taxes. The physical needs of a raw country were of special concern. The General Assembly passed legislation establishing ferries and gristmills, improving river navigation and roads, encouraging the killing of wolves and other predators, organizing a militia, and regulating trade with the Indians. Aspirations to a higher civilization led to the incorporation of towns, churches, seminaries, and "a university in the Indiana Territory," as well as laws for the support of illegitimate children and inspection of flour, beef, and pork. As the territory prospered there were acts for the incorporation of banks and canal companies. Private legislation granting divorce and relief of individuals became more common, as did sumptuary legislation licensing taverns and for "the prevention of vice and immorality."

Bills and resolutions concerning slavery came up at almost every session of the territorial General Assembly. The session of 1805 passed a bill allowing any person owning or purchasing slaves outside the territory to bring them to Indiana and bind them to service. Indentures were to be recorded with the county clerk. The State Archives has the original indenture book for Clark County and a copy of the Knox County book on microfilm.

Before 1800 the only land owned by individuals in Indiana Territory was either in and around Vincennes, where titles went back to the French donations, or in Clark's Grant, which had been allotted by the state of Virginia to the men who served with George Rogers Clark in his Revolutionary War campaign against the British. The State Archives has the Official Plat Book of Clark's Grant made by William Clark between 1789 and 1810. The earliest document in the State Archives is the Minute Book of the Town of Clarksville, which dates from 1784. Photostats of the land claims in the District of Vincennes, from the *American State Papers*, are available.

Sales of public lands in Indiana Territory in the southeastern area of the territory known as the "Gore," began in 1801 at Cincinnati. The State Archives has copies of the two tract books recording all Indiana land sales out of the Cincinnati District between 1801 and 1840.

The first two federal land offices in Indiana were at Vincennes and Jeffersonville. Sales at these two offices began in 1807 and 1808,

respectively. The State Archives has the surveyors' field notes, plat books, tract books, registers of receipts, Registers and Receivers journals, and miscellaneous records from both land districts. Volunteers from Friends of the Indiana State Archives are currently indexing the names of purchasers in the Vincennes Land District.

The State Archives has several microfilm series from the National Archives concerning Indiana Territory. These include the General Land Office's miscellaneous letters sent to district officers and letters to surveyors general, the latter series dating from 1796. Letters sent by the war department involving military and Indian affairs and correspondence received by the secretary of war begin in 1800. Also available are photostatic copies from the National Archives of the muster and payroll records for Indiana militia called into service at the Battle of Tippecanoe and the War of 1812.

Records from several counties formed before 1816 were microfilmed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. Copies of these microfilms are available at the Indiana State Archives.

The territorial period in Indiana ended in 1816 with admission to statehood. Forty-three delegates from thirteen counties met at Corydon in the summer of 1816 to frame a state constitution. Drafting the document took only eighteen days. Two handwritten copies of the constitution were made by Dr. David H. Maxwell, a delegate from Jefferson County. One of these, housed today at the State Archives, has been in the hands of the State of Indiana continuously since 1816. It was restored in 1995 by conservator James Canary of Indiana University with funds provided by the Indiana Bar Foundation. It is displayed today in the Indiana State House during legislative sessions in a special case constructed with funds provided by the Indiana State Bar Association. The case is decorated with a veneer of wood from the "Constitution Elm" under which delegates at Corydon sat during their deliberations in 1816.

Old Northwest and Indiana Territory Holdings at the Indiana Historical Society

When the Indiana Historical Society was founded in 1830, its objects included "the collection and preservation of all materials calculated to shed light on the natural, civil and political history of Indiana." Despite this goal, the society collected research materials only intermittently in the nineteenth century, and some of the material it collected was lost during and after the Civil War. Indeed, the society's library and research collections lacked a physical facility until 1934, when the William Henry Smith Memorial Library opened inside the Indiana State Library Building.

Yet from its origins, the Indiana Historical Society and its Smith Library have concentrated their collecting efforts on early Indiana history and the history of the Old Northwest. Though some of the materials gathered in the nineteenth century have disappeared, several

manuscripts that are still treasures in the library's Old Northwest collection—such as Patrick Henry's "secret orders" to George Rogers Clark—were archived as early as 1859. Indeed, even as late as the 1970s, many of the library's new acquisitions described in the Society's annual reports dated from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It has only been since the 1980s that the Smith Library has focused on the period from the Civil War to the present.

Any attempt to describe the manuscript holdings of the Smith Library on Indiana history before statehood must begin with the caveat that many of these documents are located in what archivists call "artificial" collections. The Society's Northwest Territory Collection is not an organic body of materials created by an individual, family, or government body, but the result of hundreds of piecemeal acquisitions through purchase and donation. The same can be said of the William Henry Harrison and Indiana Territory collections: each of these has been built up over many years piece by piece. Other collections of personal and family papers from the period are in fact "true" provenance-based collections, however. These include such manuscript groups as the papers of Francis Vigo and John Armstrong, described below. It is also important to note that any description of the Smith Library's territorial holdings can only highlight a representative sample of its many collections and individual items.

One of the earliest and most valuable collections containing pre-statehood materials is the Arthur G. Mitten Collection, 1755–1936. Mitten was a railroad executive and collector of historical manuscripts, including correspondence and other signed documents generated by military and government officials, and graphics. Mitten concentrated on William Henry Harrison and the Northwest Territory. His collection includes the papers of Arthur St. Clair, first governor of the Northwest Territory, and the papers of James Taylor, quartermaster of the Eighth Military District in the War of 1812. At an early date, the Smith Library separated the Harrison materials from the rest of his collection, and these papers became the foundation for the library's William Henry Harrison Collection, described below.

Albert G. Porter, Indiana's governor from 1881 to 1885, was another collector of early Indiana materials whose papers are held by the Smith Library. From 1891 until his death in 1897, Porter gathered historical materials for a history of Indiana, including papers of Benjamin Parke, an Indiana territorial delegate to Congress and judge, and documents on the early history of Vincennes. Though Porter's history was never completed, the materials he collected are available for others to build upon.

A centerpiece of the library's early Indiana collections is the Northwest Territory Collection (officially, the Old Northwest Papers and documents, 1721–1802). The collection documents the exploration, settlement, and administration of the Old Northwest and the Northwest Territory. With hundreds of individual documents, the collection

defies generalization. Some of the topics it covers include French fur-trading expeditions; French and British influence in the Northwest Territory; government relations, conflicts, and treaties with Native Americans; George Rogers Clark's expeditions against Vincennes and Kaskaskia; military actions in the West during the American Revolution; and the administration of the Northwest Territory.

Individual documents in the Northwest Territory Collection include a very early fur-trading contract between trader Charles Fabureau and the Sieur Dumont, who temporarily commanded the French post at Miamis (now Fort Wayne) from 1721; an inventory of goods belonging to Sieur Fontenay Douville, signed by the Sieur de Vincennes at the post of the Wabash (Vincennes), from 1732; and the farewell proclamation of Louis Ange, French commandant at Vincennes for a quarter-century, to the people of Vincennes following the Treaty of Paris, dating from 1764.

Perhaps the best-known individual document in the Northwest Territory Collection is Virginia governor Patrick Henry's secret orders to George Rogers Clark, dated January 2, 1778, authorizing Clark's expedition against the British post of Kaskaskia. Clark successfully captured the post on July 4 of that year, and the capture of Vincennes followed soon thereafter. Another significant individual piece is one of three hundred Virginia Land Office treasury warrants issued to Clark in 1780, used by him to recruit a battalion for an expedition northwest of the Ohio River and issued in place of land grants.

An anonymous journal of a military officer who took part in Anthony Wayne's campaign of 1794, which ended with victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, is another high point of the Northwest Territory Collection. The journal provides a rare first-hand account of the campaign as well as information on the internal conflicts between Wayne and his subordinate, Gen. James Wilkinson. The author, whose identity is unknown, sided with Wilkinson.

Euroamerican relations with Native Americans are one of the main topics in the Northwest Territory Collection. Individual items of note include a contemporary copy of a speech sent from the chiefs of the Delawares, Munsies, and Mohikans in 1771, opposing colonial encroachment, and a 1798 bill of Anthony Shane to the United States for his services as an interpreter of Indian languages.

The Northwest Territory Collection is buttressed by a number of collections of personal and family papers. Among them are the John Armstrong papers, documenting his career as a soldier from 1776 to 1793 and his service as commandant at Fort Pitt and Fort Hamilton and treasurer of the Northwest Territory. Papers from his military career include letters and reports to Wilkinson, Wayne, and St. Clair, dealing with military supplies and relations with Indians and settlers.

Another army officer in the Northwest Territory, Samuel C. Vance, was deputy paymaster at Fort Washington, near Cincinnati,

from 1791 to 1802. Beginning in 1803, he was a merchant and land speculator in Dearborn County, Indiana. Vance's papers include materials relating to his administration of the paymaster's office and his mercantile business.

The papers of Francis Vigo, a fur trader born in Italy who provided financial assistance and intelligence to George Rogers Clark, form another important collection. In 1783 Vigo moved to Vincennes as a fur trader, assisting Anthony Wayne and William Henry Harrison in negotiations with American Indians. This collection includes both Vigo's business and personal papers. Topics include the fur trade at Vincennes, Fort Wayne, Detroit, and Montreal; business dealings with Native Americans; and Vigo's work on behalf of Wayne and Harrison.

The proceedings of the Clark's Grant board of commissioners, 1783–1846, include minutes of the board and records of lands granted and applications refused. The Clark's Grant Commission was created in 1781 to oversee the awarding of 150,000 acres set aside for soldiers who served with George Rogers Clark.

Benjamin Sebastian was a Kentucky attorney and judge who was involved in the Spanish Conspiracy to separate Kentucky and the western country from the United States in 1796. His papers, dating from 1795 to 1807, document his involvement in that effort and the controversy surrounding it.

Harrison played a central role in the history of the Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory as army officer, territorial secretary, delegate to Congress, governor of the Indiana Territory from 1800 to 1813, and brigadier general in the War of 1812. The Harrison papers in the Smith Library collection originated with a group collected by Mitten but also include other documents collected over many years by the library staff. Among them are letters to U.S. secretaries of war regarding Indian relations, treaties, and military operations, as well as War of 1812 military correspondence. Northwest and Indiana territory political and administrative papers consist of appointments, legislative documents, and petitions. Notable individual items in the collection include an 1809 letter from Harrison to Wilson C. Nichols seeking support for Harrison's reappointment as governor of the Indiana Territory. Harrison's 1812 letter to Secretary of War William Eustis was written shortly after Harrison returned to Vincennes from the Tippecanoe battlefield and commended the service of George Croghan in the campaign, supporting a commission for him in the U.S. Army. An 1823 letter from Harrison to Moses Dawson contains Harrison's recollections of the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Like the Northwest Territory Collection, the Indiana Territory Collection is an artificial archival group, encompassing correspondence, documents, and legislative acts related to the Indiana Territory and dating from 1800 to 1816. Much of the correspondence deals with military matters at various garrisons and with treaties and relations

with Native Americans. There are also manuscript copies of 1811 acts of the territorial legislature dealing with land tax, arbitration regulation, and writs of habeas corpus.

The papers of Thomas Posey, governor of the Indiana Territory from 1813 to 1816, contain correspondence and papers from his military service in the American revolutionary period and the 1790s, including a 1794 four-page letter to Gen. Wayne relating to Indian problems in the Old Northwest, and as governor of the Indiana Territory. The collection also includes a lengthy autobiography of Posey and an equally long letter of advice offered to his children and grandchildren in 1814.

Although politics, administration, and military affairs are central to many of the Indiana Territory collections, social and family life, economic conditions, and immigration are also documented. The papers of women from this period are rare, making a small collection of Catherine Lawrence Randolph's papers (1802–1824) noteworthy both for their content and for the author's gender. Randolph was the granddaughter of Arthur St. Clair and the wife of Thomas Randolph, Indiana Territory attorney general from 1808 to 1811. Correspondence written among family members contains references to local affairs. The papers of Louis Gex Obussier, who emigrated from Switzerland to the Swiss settlement at Vevay, where he farmed from 1804 to 1826, include correspondence and business records concerning supplies for the Vevay settlement. The Christian Graeter account books register the accounts of a tavern owner and businessman in Vincennes from 1809 to 1824.

With statehood in 1816 came Indiana's first constitution. The Smith Library contains one of two extant manuscript copies of the 1816 Indiana constitution. Another copy, described as an "original duplicate copy" in a bill of sale, was purchased in the 1930s from Frank Prince of Indianapolis.

In addition to manuscript sources, the Smith Library also contains microfilm sets of primary sources found in other repositories. These include *The Papers of Arthur St. Clair, 1746–1882* (Ohio Historical Society, 1977); the *William Henry Harrison Papers, 1734–1939* (Library of Congress, 1958); and *The Papers of William Henry Harrison, 1800–1815* (Indiana Historical Society, 1993–1999). The last of these sets, consisting of ten reels of microfilm and a printed guide, contains transcriptions of nearly 3,600 Harrison documents in a number of repositories (including the Indiana Historical Society) and private collections. Other microfilm sets include *Letters Received by the Surveyor General of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio* and *Microfilm of Papers Held by the National Archives and Records Administration Pertaining to the Battle of Tippecanoe* (both National Archives publications).

The library's printed collections also contain significant primary sources for research into Indiana's history before 1816. These range

from multivolume series that include primary documents, like the *Indiana Historical Society Publications* (published by the Society) and the *Indiana Historical Collections* (published by the Indiana Historical Bureau), to *The Territorial Papers of the United States* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934–1969), which includes two volumes on the Indiana Territory. A recent publication by Leigh Darbee, *A Guide to Early Imprints at the Indiana Historical Society, 1619–1840* (Indiana Historical Society, 2001), provides detailed information on early imprints in the library's collection.

This summary indicates the wealth of resources for the history of the Old Northwest and Indiana Territory at the William Henry Smith Memorial Library of the Indiana Historical Society. More information can be found by visiting the Society's website <www.indianahistory.org>, which includes an online catalog and collection guides, by contacting the library's Reference Services Department, and by visiting the library.