
INDIANA ARCHIVES

Archival Holdings in Northern Indiana

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The Indiana Archives section of the *Indiana Magazine of History* turns its attention this year to local archival holdings in the northern part of Indiana. Defining northern Indiana is admittedly an impressionistic enterprise, easily subject to debate. Its boundaries are largely a matter of ascertaining identity; that is, how a city or county orients itself toward the rest of the state and toward areas outside Indiana's borders. After careful consideration, and acknowledging that the Calumet Region of northwest Indiana claims its own particular identity, "northern Indiana" in this article is geographically outlined as the region extending northward from a line roughly going through Logansport, Wabash, Huntington, and Decatur; the region, in other words, lying east of La Porte, Starke, Pulaski, and White counties.

The history and culture of northern Indiana offer more helpful ways of distinguishing it from other parts of the state. The names of its towns, rivers, and lakes are reminders that the original inhabitants were several Native American tribes of the Great Lakes region, particularly the Potawatomi and Miami. It was the first part of Indiana to be seen by European explorers and missionaries, yet, with the exception of Fort Wayne, it was the last part of the state to be opened to European settlement. Large numbers of these migrants came from the East—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New England, and, after the Revolution of 1848, Germany and Poland—rather than from the South as was the case in southern Indiana. Their descendants, along with the Eastern European immigrants who arrived in the twentieth century and the Amish communities still sprinkled across the region, have led some writers to suggest that in demographic terms northern Indianians have blurred and modified the usual conceptions of Hoosierdom.

Northern Indiana's distinctiveness also stems in part from its particular ties to industry, education, and some of the state's most

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notable public figures. It was an early center of the automobile industry: the region's museums commemorate models such as Duesenberg and Studebaker. Large amounts of durable manufactured goods continue to pour out of its factories, from automobile parts to household appliances to recreational vehicles. Its most prominent place of higher education is the University of Notre Dame, whose football prowess and academic agenda, the latter cultivated during the administration of Father Theodore Hesburgh, make it as much a national institution as a college in Indiana. Northern Indiana also has been home to Thomas R. Marshall, Progressive Era governor and Woodrow Wilson's vice-president; early twentieth-century writer and naturalist Gene Stratton Porter, who used the wilderness around her Limberlost cabin as a background for her novels and studies; Jesse Lee Dickinson, who worked to end racial discrimination in education, employment, and public facilities while representing St. Joseph County in the General Assembly during the 1940s and 1950s; Democratic congressman John Brademas, who sought to improve the financing of higher education in the 1960s and 1970s; and Republican Otis R. "Doc" Bowen, longtime state legislator, two-term governor, and Secretary of Health and Human Services during the Ronald Reagan presidency, who brought the state into a closer working relationship with the federal government.

In short, beyond its popular reputation as "lake country," where thousands of vacationers congregate every summer, or "Michiana," where residents share a close affinity with southern Michigan, northern Indiana possesses an independent historical identity worthy of further study, as this year's contributors make clear. Patrick J. Furlong offers a useful panoramic overview of the kinds of sources available at university, college, church-related, museum, county, and historical society archives throughout the region. Complementing this survey is Elizabeth A. Krehbiel-Kutzko's description of the archival holdings of the Elkhart County Historical Museum, a discussion that reflects the energetic restructuring of the museum's curatorial facilities and accession lists as well as the revamping of its organizational strategies. Their essays are reminders that establishing local and regional identities, even within the boundaries of a single state, is almost always a work in progress.

Archival Holdings in Northern Indiana

Many institutions in the northern part of Indiana have archival and manuscript holdings, but few of them can afford trained archivists. As a result, their holdings are often not systematically arranged and cataloged, and finding aids are few. At local historical societies the archival collections are often managed by volunteers who can work only a few hours a week. Researchers therefore should call ahead and be prepared to explain clearly what sorts of information they are seeking.

St. Joseph County has one of a very few formally established archives among Indiana's ninety-two counties. It holds virtually all noncurrent county records except deeds, easements, and other land records, which remain at the county recorder's office. Criminal, civil, and probate court records are located in the archives, as well as the minutes books of the county commissioners and the county council, the county coroner's files, and most other departmental files. The county archives also have the noncurrent records of the city of South Bend from its incorporation in 1865 and the few surviving records of the town of South Bend. Very few township records have been preserved, and only Union Township records dating from the early years of the twentieth century have been placed in the county archives. Except for juvenile court and paternity case files after 1941, almost all records are open for research.

The special collections of the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame are wide ranging in time and distance, and this essay reviews only those likely to interest researchers in Indiana and midwestern history. There is, of course, an extensive collection of Notre Dame materials, as well as the Catholic Americana Collection of parish histories and religious pamphlets, the Modern Manuscripts Collection, and the Modern Authors Collection. Two other groups deserve particular attention. First, there is an extensive collection of items relating to Catholic missionaries to the Indians of the southern Great Lakes region, primarily the Potawatomi and Ojibwa (Chippewa), in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Second, the richest portion of the Joyce Sports Research Collection concerns college football, but there are extensive holdings for professional football and boxing, as well as for college basketball and baseball. There are annual guides and yearbooks dating from 1891 to the present, more than twenty thousand college and professional football game programs, and coaching notebooks from the early twentieth century. The papers of sportswriter Rowland P. "Red" Smith offer a close-up view of American sports for the middle years of the twentieth century. A detailed list of the archives' holdings can be found at its World Wide Web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~rarebook/Dept/Text/collections.html>.

The Otis Bowen Library at Bethel College in Mishawaka holds a large collection of Bowen's personal papers covering his many years of public service in the Indiana General Assembly, as governor from 1973 to 1981, and as Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1985 to 1989. The collection is most extensive for his eight years as governor. Bethel College also holds the Missionary Church Archives and Historical Collection that traces the growth of the Missionary Church from its Amish, Mennonite, and River Brethren traditions. Although the earliest documents are from the 1820s, the bulk of the collection dates from the 1860s.

At regional campuses, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne holds the portion of the Sylvia Bowman Papers that cov-

ers her editorial work for the Twayne Authors Series, which published more than fifty biographies of well-known British and American writers. Indiana University South Bend holds audio tapes and typed transcripts of radio broadcasts by Clarence E. Manion, a conservative political commentator whose Manion Forum was broadcast from 1954 to 1979. There are some tapes from 1954–1955 and a virtually complete collection from 1961 to 1979, more than three hundred altogether. Complementing the tapes is a complete file of typed transcripts for the years 1955–1961, as well as a file of the *Manion Forum* newsletter for 1961–1978.

Religious bodies often have valuable archival collections, although many of them are not professionally cataloged. The Congregation of Holy Cross, the religious order that founded and still directs the University of Notre Dame, has its own Indiana Province Archives adjacent to the Notre Dame campus. The Congregational Archives of the Sisters of the Holy Cross are located at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame and are kept separately from the college library and archives.

The Archives of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ are found at the Huntington College Library. Though some records date from 1800, most of the collection dates from the establishment of the church as a distinct denomination in 1889.

The Church of the Brethren Archives are located at Manchester College in North Manchester and include records of predecessor churches such as the German Baptists, the Grace Baptist Brethren, and Dunkard Brethren. Manchester College also holds the papers of Otho Winger, the institution's longtime president and a historian who wrote extensively about the Miami and Potawatomi of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Lemberg Collection documents some of the violent aspects of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The papers of Mt. Morris College of Mt. Morris, Illinois, which closed in 1932, are also located at Manchester College.

The archives of the Mennonite Church are located at Goshen College, although not as part of the college library. This is a large collection of material on church organizations and activities throughout North America, including Mennonite General Conference records from 1898, Mission Board Records from 1882, educational records from 1894, and publishing records from 1906. The collection possesses records from twenty-seven Mennonite conferences and more than six hundred congregations. There are also the personal papers of a number of Mennonite ministers, most notably John F. Funk, who published the *Herald of Truth* in Elkhart from 1884 until 1906.

The Morgan Library at Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake holds the Winona Lake Historical Collection documenting chautauqua-like meetings, as well as the papers of Billy Sunday, the famed evangelist.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend has a centralized archives at the Chancery Office in Fort Wayne containing parish

and diocesan records from 1857, but the collection is not yet systematically organized for research.

The Northern Indiana Historical Society in South Bend has a small but distinguished collection. The Colfax Family Papers include letters from Schuyler Colfax concerning his service as congressman and speaker of the House, as well as letters from Evelyn Clark Colfax, Ellen Wade Colfax, and Hannah Matthews, which offer three women's perspectives of politics and society in mid-nineteenth-century Washington. There are also some early business ledgers, notably those detailing the store and fur-trading activities of Lathrop M. Taylor in South Bend, and extensive map and photographic collections. The Northern Indiana Historical Society is also unusually rich in twentieth-century materials. It holds the records of the All-American Girls' Professional Baseball League (1943–1951); a large collection of newsfilm from WSBT-TV in South Bend (1965–1978); the Palmer Slide Collection of local scenes, primarily of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s; some fifty oral history interviews of area residents; and a collection of construction plans for public buildings in St. Joseph County.

The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne has accessioned some three hundred documents signed by Abraham Lincoln, as well as a large vertical file of clippings, photographs, and ephemera relating to Lincoln, including a few manuscript items. The library also holds a number of letters and diaries of Civil War soldiers, including those of George Squier of Fort Wayne. The personal papers of three former library directors—Louis A. Warren, R. Gerald McMurtry, and Mark A. Neely—are also available for research.

There are no business archives open for research in northern Indiana, but there are two extensive collections that document automobile and other manufacturing by firms no longer in business. The Studebaker-Packard Archives at the Studebaker National Museum include a vast collection of Studebaker records dating from the wagon- and carriage-building efforts of the Studebaker brothers in 1854 to the closing of the South Bend plant of the Studebaker Corporation in 1963. The Studebaker Collection is rich in photographs of wagons, automobiles, and factories and in advertising and other visual material. There is a complete file of the minutes of the corporation's directors and incomplete correspondence files of corporate officers. There are extensive automobile manufacturing records for the period 1946–1963 and a limited number of records concerning automotive design. The records of the Packard Motor Car Company are also incomplete, but their scope extends from the company's beginnings in 1899 to its merger with Studebaker in 1956.

The Studebaker-Packard Archives also have extensive holdings of the records of the Oliver Chilled Plow Company and its successor firms. Included are many glass-plate negatives showing a variety of

plow designs and manufacturing techniques. The records of the recently closed O'Brien Paint Company have not yet been cataloged. Audio tapes and transcripts of interviews by the Michiana Oral Labor History Project document union formation efforts at local plants during the 1930s and 1940s, especially those of United Auto Workers Local 5 at Studebaker and Local 9 at Bendix, including the Bendix sit-down strike of 1936.

The Tri Kappa Collection of Automotive Literature at the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum in Auburn focuses primarily on the Auburn Automotive Company, Deussenberg, Inc., and the Cord Corporation and E. L. Cord personally, but there is significant material about other Indiana-built automobiles. The collection is rich in illustrated material, including advertising and owner's manuals.

The Cass County Historical Society in Logansport has the Williamson Wright Family Collection, encompassing the varied activities of a family involved in town development, politics, and railroads. The Harrington Photo Negative Collection shows Logansport scenes and people as recorded by a local studio from the 1890s until 1960. The Henry Tucker Diaries cover the business of Wall and Tucker Undertakers at the turn of the century, while the John W. Coast journal documents the work of a druggist in Young America, Cass County, from the early 1880s until the early 1900s.

Archival Materials at the Elkhart County Historical Society

The Elkhart County Historical Museum houses the collections of the Elkhart County Historical Society. This society is devoted to the preservation and exhibition of artifacts, documents, and photographs dealing with the history of this county, its government, and its people. The organization has been collecting items of historical significance since its founding in 1896, although these collections have only been exhibited and housed within Rush Memorial Center since 1968. The primary focus of the facility today is education and research.

The archives were originally created to hold volumes and papers discarded by Elkhart County governmental offices. The founders also recognized the importance of preserving personal documents regarding the county's early history. Some written correspondence was obtained in the late 1800s, but the bulk of the personal and business materials and photographic images has been donated in more recent years by private individuals who currently live in the county or who had connections in the county at one time.

The potential research opportunities to be found in the archives are numerous and virtually untapped by academics and professionals. Very little has been published regarding Elkhart County's history and its relationship to the state since the turn of the century. The temporal span of the collections extends from the inception of the

county in 1830 to the present. A surname and business index has been compiled for local government documents from 1830 to 1860. Personal and business papers have been topically indexed. Current endeavors include further indexing of the entire collection and the computerization of these indices to provide easier access for researchers.

Accounts of daily life in nineteenth-century Elkhart County are available in numerous diaries and letters, such as those of the Hively family, John Schwin, and John Nusbaum. Joseph and Silas Hively grew up on a farm south of Elkhart in the 1860s. Silas later owned Hively Grocery on Middlebury Street in Elkhart during the Depression. The diaries of John Schwin and John Nusbaum of Middlebury include descriptions of family life and events on the farm and remarks about the weather. The diaries of J. D. Umberhower and the reflections of Marjorie Harris Smith, a Hively descendant, are twentieth-century accounts of an increasingly urbanizing local society. Umberhower was an exceptionally active individual who kept a detailed record of his life in Goshen from 1898 to 1911. His activities included playing cello, attending musical events, going to various churches and revivals, visiting children, and renting properties. Smith's personal papers discuss her memories of family life and community activities as she was growing up in Elkhart in the 1920s and 1930s.

Civil War materials at the society are numerous and include both personal documents and government papers. Soldiers' diaries and letters are a valuable source of information. For example, the letters of George B. Dausman, who served in Company H of the 75th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, contain vivid descriptions of his experiences on the march and in an army hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Along with Dausman's correspondence are letters written by family members regarding his illness and by his commanding officers explaining the circumstances of his death on February 28, 1863. Other Civil War sources of particular note are the diaries and papers of Captain E. L. Billings, a member of Company K of the 57th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and Companies I and D of the 2nd Regiment (Convalescent Camp); the diary of Sergeant Rueben R. Lutz, who served in Company G of the 74th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers; and the diary and papers, including muster roll, of John D. Myers of Company D of the 74th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. County records also document support payments to the families of the men who were away serving their country; muster rolls, including that of the Goshen Invincibles, formed on August 14, 1863; and the enrollment of soldiers and their widows and orphans compiled in the late 1800s.

Activities at home and overseas during World War I are represented in the Elkhart County Historical Museum archives in personal papers and pamphlets. Among the collections are the personal papers and training materials of 1st Lieutenant Claude French, who entered the service on September 21, 1917, and was an instructor at Field Artillery Central Officer's Training School. For a woman's per-

spective and notes on medical aspects of the war, one should consult the diary and military papers of Maud Essig, Reserve Army Nurse Corps, who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France in 1919. Also among the archives' World War I collections are the notes of the Elkhart County Council of Defense from June 23, 1918, to November 16, 1918. This committee of public officials and civic leaders was created to oversee various aspects of Elkhart County life during World War I, including the activities of conscientious objectors, campaigns to increase food production and preservation, and intervention in labor troubles. This collection also contains the list of ex-servicemen in Elkhart, compiled November 1, 1920, from American Legion membership cards by the Elkhart Public Library.

Life at the front and at home during World War II can be reviewed in a number of primary sources ranging from war bulletins and information on the men and women from Elkhart County who served in the armed forces to the activities of the local Office of Price Administration, War Bond Drive, Civil Defense Council, and Air Raid Wardens. War production lists were compiled for a number of local companies, such as C. G. Conn, Ltd., Elkhart Lumber & Saw Mill Company, Railway Express Agency, and Barnes Heater Company. Many letters to friends and families have been preserved; these describe life overseas as well as at home. The James Ozanne collection, in particular, contains a number of letters from James Ozanne, Jr., initially stationed at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, to his family in Elkhart. Ozanne was later reported missing in action on November 29, 1942, shortly after being sent to the Pacific theater. This collection also documents his family's attempt to accept and understand the circumstances of his death through correspondence with his commanding officers and exchanges with other families who also lost their sons.

Other sources at the Elkhart County Historical Society cover the development of the medical profession from the early days of grinding and preparing herbs for sale as medicinals in the personal papers of Paul Herring, dated 1873; to physicians' licensing records, which include education and specialization from the turn of the century to the 1940s; to the records of local physician Mary Bartholamew. Views of alchemy and pharmacy are in the Hawk Drug Store's medicinal recipe books, dating from the early 1900s, and the Goshen Pharmacal Company inventory, taken around 1900 by representatives of the county government. The county's treatment of the mentally ill and incompetent can be studied in the Elkhart County Home records.

The local music industry for which Elkhart is famous is represented in pamphlets and papers from Buescher, Selmer, Pan-American, Martin, and C. G. Conn, Ltd. Included in these collections are drawings and specifications of various instruments, serial numbers, and sales manuals. Personal contracts, employee handbooks, and

other papers belonging to individuals working for these companies are part of these corporate holdings. The Greenleaf family has donated a number of scrapbooks, personal papers, and diaries dating from 1816 to 1985. Carl D. Greenleaf was the president of C. G. Conn, Ltd., from 1915 to 1949. The bulk of these materials center around his life in Elkhart and that of his daughter, Dorothy G. Boynton.

A wide variety of other businesses, from banks to general stores, buggy shops, smithies, and insurance agencies, are represented in the archives and range from the early days of Elkhart County to the present. One of the earliest cash books dates from February 8, 1854, in Cleveland Township and includes payments made on accounts such as eggs, butter, and pork. Even earlier business accounts are given in personal correspondence, such as a letter dated October 12, 1839, from Jesse D. Vail of Benton to Hannah Vail of Union, Pennsylvania, in which he describes the local crops as being first rate, the money scarce, and business dull.

The Elkhart County Historical Society recently acquired the personal and professional papers of three generations of the James M. Dale family, who resided in Goshen from the 1870s until 1996. J. M. Dale owned a dry goods store in Goshen from the 1870s until the turn of the century. Among the items donated are a vast number of the cash and daily account books from this business. Dale's daughter, Cora Belle Dale, was a composer and painter of some repute at the turn of the century. Her personal letters and writings, as well as copies of her compositions for voice and piano published either under her name or her professional name Ame Traverse, are also in this collection. Cora Belle Dale was admitted to a mental hospital in the late 1910s. The letters she wrote to her family of her experiences there and the letters between her brother and the staff physicians at Longmont have been preserved.

The holdings of the Elkhart County Historical Society, unlike those in many local history archives, contain an almost even distribution of documents pertaining to the activities of women and men. In addition to the collections already mentioned, local women's organization records are available; included are those of the League of Woman Voters and World War II Mothers. There is, however, a dearth of information regarding the activities of black and Hispanic individuals in the county.

Until recently the focus of the society has been on collecting items and providing information for individuals interested in genealogical research. The archives' current goals include upgrading preservation techniques and broadening the accessibility of the collections for general researchers on all topics.