

INDIANA ARCHIVES

Archival Holdings in Southern Indiana

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The 1998 Indiana Archives section of the *Indiana Magazine of History* surveys local archival holdings in the southern part of Indiana. Although sectional borders in Indiana are often in dispute, geography and two superhighways help demarcate the southern part of the state. Bounded by the Ohio and Wabash rivers and Interstates 70 and 74, the region's mostly rolling topography distinguishes it from the northern two-thirds of the state. Southern Indiana is predominantly rural and agricultural, although the terrain and the relatively poor quality of much of the area's soil make farming sometimes difficult. It is heavily forested in places and dotted elsewhere with coal mining operations, manifestations of recent industrial growth, and tourist attractions. Its largest urban centers are at the southern edges of the region. The population of the area has always been diverse, from the prehistoric people who gathered at Angel Mounds near present-day Evansville to the Indians who first came into contact with French explorers, traders, and missionaries to the pioneer settlers who came from western North Carolina and Virginia and from eastern Kentucky and Tennessee.

The origins and timing of this migration and settlement make southern Indiana the oldest part of the state and the site of many historical "firsts." Some can be readily noted. Many consider Vincennes the oldest city in Indiana. Clarksville is often identified as the first American settlement in Indiana Territory. Corydon was Indiana's first state capital. Salem residents produced one of the first newspapers in Indiana and the first literary work published in the state. The first major public figures in Indiana history lived in its southern region, among them Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark; William Henry Harrison, first governor of Indiana Territory

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and later ninth president of the United States; and Jonathan Jennings, first governor of the state. Other firsts may be less well known. The first state prison, the first hospital, the first state forest, and reportedly the first Ku Klux Klan klavern were established in southern Indiana. The area experienced the first encroachment by Confederate troops during the Civil War, and its young men were among the first American soldiers killed in combat during the Spanish-American War and World War I. New Harmony alone organized one of the earliest kindergartens in the nation, pioneered the trade school movement in the United States, pointed the way toward a free public school system offering equal education to boys and girls, and led in the establishment of free public libraries, civic dramatics clubs, and possibly the first women's club in America with a written constitution and bylaws.

Yet southern Indiana's history goes beyond a list of precedents. Abraham Lincoln spent fourteen formative years in Spencer County. Knox County was home to the colorful nineteenth century politician James D. "Blue Jeans" Williams and the red haired, cigar-chomping comedian Richard Bernard "Red" Skelton. In Orange County can be found the huge dome of the former West Baden Springs Hotel, the equally imposing French Lick Springs Hotel Golf and Tennis Resort—for years the headquarters of early twentieth century Democratic party power broker Thomas Taggart—and evidence of mutual respect between local residents and basketball legend Larry Bird. Evansville, in Vanderburgh County, offers still other perspectives through the careers of such one-time residents as songwriter Paul Dresser; Julius W. Holder, general manager of the African-American weekly *Evansville Argus*; former mayor and United States senator Vance Hartke; former governor Robert D. Orr; and Sallie Wyatt Stewart, a teacher in the black schools of the city for fifty years as well as a successful businesswoman, philanthropist, and civic leader.

Through memorials, historic districts, and various other initiatives, southern Indianans have demonstrated an acute sense of their region's past, and this year's contributors describe some of the archival resources available for further research. Stephen L. Cochran and Mark V. Wetherington outline the ways in which holdings in the Vincennes area and at The Filson Club Historical Society in Louisville provide a general overview of Indiana's oldest area. Josephine M. Elliott and Roger A. Peterson focus on specific antebellum-era collections, showing how local history is made, preserved, and later used for a variety of purposes. Gina Walker describes several archival collections that help illuminate Evansville's history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Together these essays suggest the range and diversity of sources available for exploration of two centuries of southern Indiana history.

VINCENNES AREA ARCHIVES

The history and culture of southern Indiana begin in Vincennes, and they are distinctly French.¹ Moreover, while it is natural to associate Vincennes with the American Revolution because of the town's intimate ties to the western theater of that war, the French Revolution also had an impact on this area of the state. The expulsion of French clerics from Spain in 1793 meant that many priests who had fled to Spain from France a year earlier were now forced elsewhere, and many, desiring missionary work, decided on the United States. Most of them ended up in the Vincennes and Kaskaskia areas because of the need for French speaking clerics there.²

Any survey of archival resources in the Vincennes area must take into consideration the long and varied geographic history of Knox County. The county is the oldest—and one of the largest—of the ninety-two counties in the state of Indiana. Its boundaries, which originally stretched from the Ohio River north into Michigan, have been significantly reduced with the passage of time. Anyone interested in pioneer settlers of Indiana should therefore think of them as pioneer settlers of Knox County; for example, some archival resources that list “Knox County Church Records” actually cover churches that are outside present-day Knox County.

There are six major collections of archival material in Knox County: the Old Cathedral Library & Museum, formerly known as the Bruté Library and now operated by the Catholic Diocese of Evansville; the Francis Vigo Chapter DAR Library; the Knox County Public Library Historical Collection; the Lewis Historical Collections Library; the Knox County Records Library; and the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Library.

The Old Cathedral Library & Museum is the oldest library in the state of Indiana. First organized in 1794 around already existing parish records and the books of the Right Reverend Benedict Joseph Flaget, the library continued to receive volumes from many well-known missionaries, priests, and others who were occasional visitors to or residents of Vincennes. The library includes books and manuscripts bearing the signatures and/or marginal writings of Flaget, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Father Edward Sorin, Francis

¹Vincennes, the county seat of Knox County and one-time territorial capital, is one of the oldest settlements in the state. Established in 1732, it may have been inhabited just prior to 1700. Simon William Gabriel Bruté de Remur, *Early Vincennes: Originally Published in Six Installments in the Vincennes Western Sun and General Advertiser, March and April, 1839* (Vincennes, Ind., 1974), 4-12; Henry S. Cauthorn, *A History of the City of Vincennes, Indiana, from 1702-1901* (Vincennes, Ind., 1901), 34-35; Hubbard Madison Smith, *Historical Sketches of Old Vincennes: Founded in 1732* (Vincennes, Ind., 1902).

²Thomas T. McAvoy, *History of the Catholic Church in Indiana, 1789-1834* (New York, 1940); J. Herman Schaunger, *Cathedrals in the Wilderness* (Milwaukee, 1952).

Vigo, Father Pierre Gibault, the Reverend Jean François Rivet, John Rice Jones, the Reverend John Leo Champomier, and all four bishops of the former Vincennes diocese.

By far the largest percentage of the collection is the result of a lifetime of book collecting by the Right Reverend Simon William Gabriel Bruté de Remur, first bishop of Vincennes. Bruté was a remarkable person by any measure. He was educated as a physician and as a priest; twice he turned down offers to work for the French crown, instead joining the Sulpicians and teaching at the seminary at Rennes. He came to the United States in 1810 and in 1834 was appointed bishop of Vincennes. He had been there for nearly a year before his books were floated down the Ohio River to Louisville on a flatboat, then hauled overland to Vincennes.³

While Bruté was a major benefactor of the collection, the parish records begin in 1749—nearly ninety years before Bruté's arrival—and reflect the life of Catholic laity, both the French settlers and “les Savages.” The development of the library over time derives from two additional channels. One part contains essentially books and records that every resident religious since Bruté has left the library. The other part, running concurrently, consists of material donated by many parishioners, known and unknown, over the passage of time.

A knowledge of French and Latin is essential to derive maximum benefit from the Old Cathedral collections. French was the dominant language of most of the inhabitants of Vincennes until the 1820s, and roughly 75 percent of the collections are in French. A fair amount is in Latin, and much of the correspondence between early French priests is a mixture of the two languages.

The Old Cathedral Library nonetheless facilitates research into the eighteenth century. It is particularly rich in the areas of theology, dogma, religious studies, lives of the saints, sermons, and homiletics. There is also a large collection of Bibles, exegetical and liturgical works, and works on philosophy. The collection is surprisingly rich in medical materials and in original documents relating to the French Revolution, natural history, geography, law, political economy, general literature, botany, and lexicography. Manuscripts in the collection also include a papal bull signed by John XXII, dated 1319, a letter signed by Saint Vincent de Paul, a facsimile of Saint Isaac Jogues's “New Holland” letter, sermons and sermon notes by the Vincennes Diocese's first four bishops, songbooks, messages from French clerics to the pope requesting succor during the French Revolution, and some of Bruté's correspondence.

The Francis Vigo Chapter DAR Library has been growing since this chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was

³Mary Salesia Godecker, *Simon Gabriel Bruté de Remur: First Bishop of Vincennes* (St. Meinrad, Ind., 1931), 50-153.

formed in the early twentieth century. One of the chapter's earliest projects was the acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of Grouseland, William Henry Harrison's residence as territorial governor. The library has the Harrison papers on microfilm and a fair amount of original material on Harrison dating from his Vincennes days.

The collection is roughly four hundred linear feet in size, has particular strength in Knox County history, and contains a wealth of original genealogical material on families who were early settlers in the Vincennes area. Also in the collection are some county tax records prior to 1846, death records for the city beginning in 1882, some original county death records, county mortuary records, and many Knox County church records. The library is also a good resource for those studying the DAR itself; it has a complete run of *DAR Magazine* from 1910 to the present as well as most of the other materials published by the DAR.

The **Knox County Public Library Historical Collections** and the **Lewis Historical Collections** at Vincennes University's Shake Learning Resources Center are complementary collections, and for most genealogists they are the home base for Vincennes-area research. The Lewis collections have a much greater manuscript component than the public library's collections. The Lewis materials also include a fine county history collection covering over eighty Indiana counties and twenty-six Illinois counties. The public library's collection has a very strong set of locally published, privately printed family histories and a vast array of source material on Vincennes, Knox County, adjacent counties, and the state of Indiana.

Both libraries feature sizable collections that facilitate research into pioneer settlement of the entire area. Both have Vincennes city directories that go back to the mid-1800s. Both have microfilm and fiche collections that include the Draper manuscripts, the Vincennes *Sun/Western Sun/Commercial/Sun Commercial* newspaper, and county death records to 1880. Both have census data that begin in the early 1800s. Both also have book collections that concentrate on the history of those states that provided most of Indiana's early settlers: Virginia, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and the states of the Old Northwest.

The **Knox County Records Library**, operated jointly by the county commissioners and the Knox County Public Library, houses many of the county's oldest original records. The Public Library Historical Collections and the County Records Library are administered by the public library staff, and the two collections are highly complementary. Included are records from the offices of the county auditor, recorder, treasurer, and clerks of the circuit, superior, and probate courts. While most of these records date from the twentieth century, many reach back to the early nineteenth century and occasionally earlier. The auditors' records have commissioners' records from 1823 on in thirty-nine volumes and tract books from 1818 to 1875. The

recorders' records include deeds from 1814 to 1909 in ninety-four volumes, with an eighteen-volume index, and mortgages from 1848 to 1955 in 178 volumes with a twenty-nine-volume index. The treasurers' records include tax lists for the years 1802, 1804, and 1805 and tax duplicates for the years 1846–1994, with additional years added annually. The clerks' circuit court records include civil case files from 1796 to 1965, criminal case files from 1797 to 1954, execution dockets from 1819 to 1955, probate records that include wills from 1824 to 1948, and guardianship case files from 1808 to 1954.

The final major Vincennes-area facility that strongly supports primary research is the library at the **George Rogers Clark National Historical Park**. This library focuses on the Revolutionary War era and George Rogers Clark, his companies, and his life in—and the cultures and history of—the trans Appalachian frontier. It includes microfilm collections of Clark's Virginia papers and the Draper manuscripts. The facility also has very strong collections on the period of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812.

The above listing is far from exhaustive. Most of the early government records are in English, but since quite a few of the wills in the early nineteenth century are in French, a knowledge of that language is helpful though certainly not required.

THE FILSON CLUB HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Filson Club Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, was founded in 1884 as an independent history research library. Its mission to "collect, preserve, and publish historical material, especially that pertaining to Kentucky" included the addendum "and adjacent states." This broader collecting field has allowed The Filson Club to build a special collections department that is regional in scope and contains material from the Upper South, the Ohio River Valley, and "adjacent states" such as Indiana. The Filson Club's founders were especially interested in the earliest periods of exploration and settlement in the Ohio Valley; thus, their earliest publication series—which began in 1884—covers such topics as the explorations of Christopher Gist and the Battle of Tippecanoe.

The Filson Club's manuscript collections also reflect the founders' interest in the frontier era. Manuscripts include letters that provide insights into many aspects of the early settlement of the region: Indian-white conflict, land acquisition, daily life on the frontier, and the growth of towns and cities. Among the earliest Indiana-related documents is a Revolutionary War letter written in 1779 by Joseph Bowman while on the American expedition against the British. Bowman gives a detailed account of the retaking of Vincennes. Over thirty years later, a letter written in 1811 by militiaman John Drummens to his wife in Clark County reflects the persisting cultural conflict on the frontier; Drummens speculated on a possible march to "Shawneys

Prophets Town" and rumors of peace. Most Indians and whites, he wrote, believed that there would be a battle, one that would ultimately claim his life.

Once the threat of Indian attack had passed and the land had been opened up for settlement, items in a variety of collections describe the frontier process of immigration, land acquisition, and settlement. Both the Clark-Hite and William Clark papers contain much information on land transactions in territorial and antebellum Indiana, as do the Norvin Green, John Jeremiah Jacob, Colonel Thomas Joyes, Francis Marion Lee, and William Pope papers. The Francis Hegan Miller Collection alone includes many land transactions between the commissioners appointed to apportion the 149,000 acres granted to George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment and the soldiers who qualified for land grants. In the Corlis-Respass Family Papers a letter written by Jonathan Jennings in 1815 provides general information on the Indiana Territory and assures prospective settlers that the inhabitants are protected by "mounted riflemen." Documents in the Corlis Family Papers include an 1816 letter by George Corlis noting the descent of three hundred immigrant families down the Ohio River, all bound for Indiana. Correspondence by John Jencks, penned the following year, describes the poor living conditions that frontier families encountered in the vicinity of Vincennes.

Indeed, so many people arrived in the Indiana Territory that there was a demand not only for land but for basic household goods. Eliza Fry, writing from Crawfordsville, Indiana, to John Speed near Louisville, noted, "The emigration to this place is so great that there is such a demand for furniture it is impossible for it to be made as fast as it is called for." She predicted that Crawfordsville "will be in a few years a great place." The establishment and growth of Indiana's villages, towns, and cities are topics of frequent comment and description. A letter written in 1815 describes the high quality of the soil in Sullivan County, and subsequent correspondence from Vigo County records the rapid development of the area and the establishment of the county seat at Terre Haute. Hector Green, in an 1834 letter to his wife, describes Vincennes as "this beautiful town," noting that the prairie on which it is situated "excells in beauty anything I have ever imagined . . ." Attorney Walter W. Blair's description of a tour through Indiana in 1846 included stops at Indianapolis, Lafayette, Terre Haute, and Vincennes. At Vincennes he considered putting out his shingle but soon discovered that lawyers before him had been "starved out." In 1851 another traveler had an exciting visit in New Albany where he witnessed a hanging and the explosion of a steam cylinder. In the early 1850s one observer described Indianapolis as the "Rail Road City of the West" and lauded the city's visible symbols of antebellum reform—institutions for the care of the blind, deaf, and mentally ill—as indications of social progress.

Religious and moral issues were frequent topics of discussion in antebellum Indiana. The Martha Adams Papers include a letter written in 1853 addressing the tension between economic prosperity and the welfare of the soul. The "spirit of progress" and material gain, one of Adams's correspondents wrote despairingly, came at the expense of religiosity. A diary (typescript copy) kept by Indianan John Brown (1800–1872) during the early 1820s recalls a discussion between Brown and a Portland, Kentucky, tavern owner regarding the harboring of escaped Kentucky slaves by citizens of Indiana.

One of the largest groups of Indiana-related manuscript material at The Filson Club describes life during the Civil War era. The Filson's founders were evenly divided between Confederate and Union sympathizers and veterans. Because of this ideological conflict the collections reflect both sides of the struggle. Their specific focus is the western theater, stretching from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. Given Kentucky's strategic role as a border state, The Filson Club collects letters, diaries, and images of soldiers who served in the commonwealth from other states as well as from Kentucky. Many of the Union soldiers passing through Kentucky on their way south joined units from midwestern states, including Indiana. The Civil War diaries at The Filson Club include those of Johnson W. Culp and James W. Thomson. Culp, a private in the 87th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, begins his diary with his enlistment at La Porte, then chronicles his subsequent move to Camp Morton and his experiences in the field in Kentucky, from combat to guard duty. Thomson records the experiences of his unit, the 49th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, as it moved through Kentucky and became involved in campaigns in the vicinity of Cumberland Gap. The Sperry-Gathright Family Papers contain the 1863 diary of David B. Sperry, a member of the Fourth Indiana Battery. Sperry describes the more boring aspects of the soldier's experience—camp life, diet, clothes, and finances—as well as the events that broke the monotony—the execution of a deserter, skirmishes, and his unit's involvement in battles at Stones River and Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. A letter written by an unknown soldier who traveled through Indiana by railroad in 1863 records that the troops "lived high" on the food and welcome they received and declares that Indiana "can furnish more pretty girls than any other state in the Union." In an 1862 letter in the Corlis-Respass Family Papers Jesse D. H. Corwine reveals the divided loyalties of some citizens in southern Indiana when he concludes that southern sympathizers "are having a great time recruiting here." During the following year Henry B. Carrington wrote to Governor Oliver P. Morton concerning the Union Army's investigation of John Hunt Morgan's raid. Carrington describes the damage done by Morgan's men and the need to "see substantial justice done." Among the more unusual items in The Filson Club's Civil War collections is a letter from James A. Thomas, a captured Confederate sol-

dier paroled in Indiana, complaining of the Union League's oppression of Democrats in Sullivan County in 1863.

Among the items dealing with cultural life in Indiana during the twentieth century is a diary (typescript copy) kept by Cora Miller Williams from 1907 to 1908 while attending St. Mary's College in South Bend. Her diary covers such topics as classes and lectures, religious activities, meals, dormitory life, interaction with the nuns who ran the college, and recreation. The papers of Young Ewing Allison frequently mention New Harmony, Indiana, one item including a chronology of the owners and occupants of "The old Fauntleroy House" in that community. The Mary Anderson de Navarro Papers, written during the Great Depression to the rector of Mount Saint Francis Pro-Seminary in Floyds Knobs, Indiana, reflect her deep faith and her memories of growing up Catholic in Louisville.

Among the visual representations of southern Indiana at The Filson Club are items in the library's map collection. Nineteenth-century maps provide considerable information on the location of individual farms, houses, roads, steam and railway connections, and water courses in the vicinity of Clarksville, Jeffersonville, and New Albany. The Falls of the Ohio are the subject of numerous surveys and canal plans throughout the 1860s. The photographic collection contains a visual record of steamboating on the Ohio.

General information regarding hours of operation, membership, programs, and publications is available at The Filson Club's World Wide Web site: www.filsonclub.org.

THE ARCHIVES OF NEW HARMONY

The archival holdings in New Harmony, Indiana, center on the historical background of this small Indiana town. Although the archives contain some Harmony Society material, most of the manuscript collections cover the Owen-Maclure period (1825–1827) and the years up to the Civil War.⁴

Four archival repositories exist in New Harmony. The oldest, most extensive, and most accessible institution, the New Harmony Workingmen's Institute, is also the only one with a catalogued collection. Preservation and tourism are the special responsibility of Historic New Harmony, which maintains a professionally arranged archives with material available by appointment. The New Harmony State Historic Site owns valuable historic collections that can be used by special arrangement. Historic New Harmony and the State Historic Site represent the Unified Program by which the State of Indiana Division of Museums and Historic Sites and the University of Southern Indiana operate New Harmony's historic district. The

⁴ George Rapp and the Harmony Society founded the town of New Harmony in 1814 and remained for ten years.

Owen Family Papers collection is privately owned and generally unavailable to the public.

The archival materials in the **New Harmony Workingmen's Institute** encompass the history of New Harmony beginning with its pre-Harmonist times through the two communitarian experiments and continuing to the present. Included are letters, personal papers, business and legal papers, journals, account books, maps, newspapers, photographs, microfilms, and tapes. Among the most valued records are the bound volumes of Robert Owen's communal experiment in New Harmony incorporating minutes, accounts, ledgers, daybooks of the different departments, community dances, and music.

Other collections delineate the life and times of the town during and after the Owen-Maclure period. Unparalleled in their depiction of New Harmony during the years 1826–1831 are the 478 letters of William Maclure and Marie Duclos Fretageot. Maclure's geological journals describe that science in its early European stages. The Branigin-Owen Papers, Carol Baldwin Allen Collection, and a large collection of personal Owen papers cover the Owen family and descendants. William Pelham's letters to his son (1825–1827), the epistolary narrative of the son's schoolboy endeavors as one of Joseph Neef's pupils (1809–1815), and the father's bookseller days in Boston and relationship to the artist Sir John Copley also reveal the early days of the Owen experiment. The collection of the Piquetal d'Arusmont family—William S. Piquetal, Frances Wright's husband, their daughter, and descendants—describes a system of musical notation and an original phonetic system involving stenography devised in 1825. Fretageot family members—the most prominent being Madame Marie Duclos Fretageot, a friend, agent, and correspondent of William Maclure—and their lives are well covered in the groups of papers and bound business journals given to the Workingmen's Institute regularly over the years.

The local people of later generations also left their mark. The Golden family, a famous theatrical traveling troupe of the 1860s to the turn of the century, left a significant group of materials consisting of personal papers, diaries, original scripts, plays, playbills, music, and photographs. (Many other items spanning the years 1880–1920 are at the New Harmony State Historic Site.) Dr. Edward Murphy (1813–1900) and Joyce Isabella Mann (1886–1970) were also benefactors of the institute. The Elliott family papers are a treasure trove for researchers seeking information on young college students writing home during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Historian and professor Ross Lockridge, Sr., director of the first New Harmony Memorial Commission, retained a number of documents on the state's preservation programs. These documents complement the papers of the Memorial Commission in the New Harmony State Historic Sites Archives. The Vreeland Collection covers the years from the 1930s to the 1970s and attempts to analyze the social, political, and eco-

conomic factors in New Harmony's development. This sociological undertaking reflects a purpose similar to that of Robert S. Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd in the 1930s.

Three literary manuscript collections should also be mentioned: Caroline Dale Snedeker's book manuscripts, the collection of her niece Caroline Baldwin Allen, and Celia Morris Eckhardt's writings. The work of the first two women overemphasizes Owen family myth and largely disregards documentation. Eckhardt's biography of Frances Wright is the best to date, and her papers include many of the sources that she used in writing her book.

The business and social organizations of New Harmony, dating from the second decade of the nineteenth century, are well documented. The Harmonie Associates, once a community development association, Red Geranium Enterprises, and Historic New Harmony are all actively engaged in making as well as preserving history. The records of companies now defunct but important to the local scene include the business books of the Shoultz Funeral Home, containing much genealogical data, and the Golden Raintree Association, which sponsored theatrical events and the Ross Lockridge, Jr., pageant from the 1920s to the 1960s. Although the Keck-Gonerman Company of Mt. Vernon has gone out of business, the manuals for its threshing machines and tractors are still eagerly sought by owners of its equipment.

The rare maps, indicating landowners in the town, township, and county, furnish information predating the coming of the Harmonists.

In answering inquiries the first and last resort for the Workingmen's Institute staff is the Local History File. This resource consists of thousands of handwritten and typed 3" x 5" cards—sometimes pasted with newspaper clippings—cataloging a cumulative history of New Harmony and Posey County. Begun in 1908 and continued to date, the cards contain information about the physical makeup of the town, its residents, events, and historical facts.

The audiovisual section—photographs, microfilms, tapes, and films—supports the manuscript collection. Photographs taken by William F. Lichtenberger from around the 1870s to the 1920s, with Homer Fauntleroy picking up the task into the 1950s, made possible the continuation of the preservation and restoration of New Harmony. The microfilming of portions of the manuscripts and most local newspapers has aided in the preservation of the documentary record.⁵ Another part of the audiovisual section includes taped interviews with people who lived during the turn of the century or experienced

⁵ Since the Harmony Society took its records when it moved from Indiana in 1824, very little Harmonist material is located in New Harmony. The Workingmen's Institute does, however, have a large microfilm series of thirty-one reels (1804–1830) exhibiting manuscripts from the Economy Archives (originals at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg).

life during World War I, survived the Depression and the 1930s, enjoyed the oil boom, and lived through World War II and thereafter.

The archival holdings of **Historic New Harmony**, the agency in charge of the interpretation and preservation of New Harmony's historic museums, consist of two types of records. The unprocessed business records of this organization from its beginnings in 1974 to the present are held here. The papers duplicated from various repositories (the Workingmen's Institute, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) and used for background information and restoration work or those created in the process of starting educational house museums and exhibits, such as the two models of 1824 New Harmony, also reside here.

Numerous folders contain information on each designated building, such as block location, descriptions, photographs, and drawings of intended alterations. The extensive collection of architectural plans includes the working drawings for all major recent additions to the community, even structures not owned by Historic New Harmony such as the Roofless Church. This part of the collection also contains restoration drawings for many of the historic buildings, especially the facades in the commercial area. There are interior plans for a number of the house museum exhibition spaces. Architect Richard Meier's plans for the prize winning Atheneum are extensive.

The cartographic collection contains originals and copies, as well as "created" maps. The originals are rare historic maps of New Harmony, and the copies reproduce all maps of the town known to exist. The "created" maps are extensive and varied. Many were based on information found on the Sanborn insurance maps published by the D. A. Sanborn National Insurance Diagram Bureau, which became the Sanborn Map Company in 1902. Maps of the Harmony Society's land acquisitions from 1815 to 1824 indicate original landowners. The geological and mineralogical travels of William Maclure, Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, and Gerard Troost are meticulously re-created from letters and personal accounts. There are comprehensive planning and development maps illustrating projected land use. A series of historical maps for the years 1824, 1843, 1887, 1907, 1973, and 1982 greatly extend the history of the community.

Another important source of information on the Harmony Society period is the Karl J. R. Arndt Collection, which combines photocopies of Harmonist material that was formerly in the Economy, Pennsylvania, archives with Arndt's personal collection. Written in both German and English and classified by subject matter, the papers deal with people, agriculture, religion, the economy, land holdings, and other subjects.

A group of local Posey County people have provided insights into New Harmony life during World War II in oral history interviews accompanied by transcriptions.

The photographic and slide collection presents an architectural and social history of New Harmony from 1974 to 1985, its period of most active restoration. The thousands of originals give a meticulous account of social events, the restoration work, and the reconstruction of the community. The already named institutions plus the Joslyn Art Museum of Omaha, Nebraska, and the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Le Havre, France, are the main sources for the prints, negatives, and transparencies of artist naturalist Charles-Alexandre Lesueur's American sketches and for Karl Bodmer's sketches for *Travels in the Interior of North America, 1832-1834* by Maximilian zu Weid-Neuweid, his great patron. In addition to the pictures, all the manuscript sources, Maximilian's unpublished personal journal, the entire text and plates of his book, plus correspondence, plans, and brochure suggestions create a unique display—the Maximilian-Bodmer exhibition.

The block-by-block system used for indentifying much of the material in the archives is an original one devised specifically for New Harmony records, thereby rendering research easier and clearer. It all amounts to a remarkable physical history of New Harmony—something never before attempted by any local collection or repository.

The manuscripts that comprise the collections of the **New Harmony State Historic Site** were initially gathered in what became two historic state properties: by Mary Emily Fauntleroy in the Old Fauntleroy Home and by the Slater family, who published their newspaper, the *New Harmony Register*, in Harmonist Community Building No. 2.

Mary Emily Fauntleroy, related by marriage to the Owens and an enthusiastic preserver of New Harmony's history and historic buildings, purchased the Old Fauntleroy Home in 1911 from a Fauntleroy descendant. In it she accumulated papers relating to the Fauntleroy family and the home, as well as some early 1820s Owen family letters and poetry.

Among other New Harmony State Historic Site documents are the records of the Minerva Society. Founded in 1859, the society was one of the earliest women's clubs in the United States with a written constitution. Also available are some of the papers of geologist Edward Travers Cox (1821-1907), who learned his profession under David Dale Owen and went on to become Indiana state geologist. A group of forty or so original drawings offers potential for research in early engineering. The work of Oliver Evans, Jr., son of the noted eighteenth-century inventor, and Robert Henry Fauntleroy, surveyor and inventor, illustrates various proposed machines. A recent acquisition of three letters written by Frederick Rapp to his agent, Richard Flower of Albion, Illinois (August-November, 1824), documents the sale of the Harmony Society's town to Robert Owen. The Homer Fauntleroy photographic collection, incorporating the work of photog-

rapher William Lichtenberger, depicts people, places, and town events. Charles and Harry Slater's print shop papers cover the years 1857 to 1932 (with time out for the Civil War) and present a long and varied history of the community. The office files of the first New Harmony Memorial Commission (late 1930s-mid-1950s) contain correspondence and research materials gathered by Ross Lockridge, Sr., as the executive director of the New Harmony restoration. These documents record the first attempt on the part of the state of Indiana to preserve and restore New Harmony as a site of historical importance.

The **Owen Family Papers**, a private collection owned by Kenneth Dale Owen, great-great-grandson of Robert Owen, include the correspondence and papers of the five children of Robert Owen, their descendants, and some of the distinguished persons who joined the Owen-Maclure community. The period covered is 1795 to the present. In addition to the manuscripts the collection contains a large group of original drawings, many depicting scenes in and around New Harmony during the Owen-Maclure community days. They are the work of the numerous artists living in the town during that period, most notably Lesueur and Robert Owen's third son, David Dale Owen.

RECORDS OF OWEN COUNTY

The Indiana General Assembly mandates the local and state records that a county must keep. Unfortunately, many counties have, at various times, destroyed records despite this mandate; fortunately, most of Owen County's records have been preserved and are readily available.

The main research records held in the Owen County Archives are the Deed Books, the Complete Record Books of the various courts, the Complete Probate Books, the County Commissioners' Books, and the various packets containing the files associated with the court books. These packets contain the papers presented to the court and are the documents from which the court books were written. They are valuable because they contain information not included in the transcripts, such as the names of witnesses, subpoenas of the defendant and/or plaintiff, fees, and margin notes.

A county courthouse contains many records that are of interest to a historian or genealogist. Once researchers identify persons in a group (Germans) or a profession (coal miners) in which they are interested, they should start with the Deed Books and, while abstracting land transactions, continue to search for more names. Since, in Owen County, African Americans have been studied extensively in the county records, this group is used in the following examples. Until 1856 many contracts and agreements were recorded in the Deed Books so that, if necessary, this information could be entered as evidence in a court trial. Among the non-land entries found in the Deed Books are free papers, that is, affidavits issued by counties in southern

states declaring that African Americans who left those states did so as free persons. These papers usually name the parents, spouse, and children, thereby providing additional names. Sometimes interesting details are included, such as in the case of Aaron Roberts, where it is noted that his father, Ishmael Roberts, was "an old revolutionary soldier in the 10th Regiment of infantry under Col. Shepherd" during the War for Independence. Aaron's wife, Sarah, is also named, and the paper states that her father, Edward Newsom, also served in the army during the Revolution. The paper is dated 1830, Chatham County, North Carolina.⁶ Researchers now have the name of Aaron Roberts, who is in the 1830 Owen County census, and the names of his father, his wife, his father-in-law, and his daughter Candasa, aged four, whose grandfathers were in the Revolution. Aaron Roberts's brother, Parden Boen Roberts, also had a free paper recorded that notes that Ishmael's wife was named Silvia, that there apparently was another brother named Ishmael, Jr., and that they had been in Chatham County, North Carolina, since before 1810.

The name of the first purchaser of a section of government land is not recorded in the Deed Books but in volumes entitled Land Entry Books. These books record patents issued by the various United States land offices when the purchase was made. It is here that researchers learn that Elizabeth Akins bought forty acres of government land in Owen County in 1837.⁷ Subsequent transactions are in the Deed Books. Here the search begins with the deed index books, which contain much information about the grantor (seller), the grantee (buyer), location and description of the property, the date of the deed, price, type of deed, and the deed book and page where the deed is recorded. These deed index books should be very carefully examined before searching. Some books will be indexed with the grantors and grantees intermixed; some have the grantors indexed in the front of the book and the grantee indexed in the back.

Occasionally some additional personal information can be found in the Deed Books, such as the wife's name, the residence of some persons not currently residents, and family relationships. For instance, one deed book entry states that William Chandler's wife is named Clara and that the couple lived in Vigo County, Indiana, in 1853.⁸ Another notes that Clayborn Harris lived in Cass County, Michigan, in 1865.⁹

Although most of the material in the County Commissioners' Record Books have to do with building and maintaining roads, bridges, and other county property, other matters also came before the com-

⁶ Deed Book 3, p. 280, Owen County Courthouse, Spencer, Indiana.

⁷ Township 9, Range 4, NE:NW—Section 18, 36 & 50/100 acres, Land Entry Book 1, *ibid.*

⁸ Deed Book 12, p. 550, *ibid.*

⁹ Deed Book 22, p. 120, *ibid.*

missioners. Maintaining county property opened up opportunities for some political patronage. For example, the contract for custodial services for the courthouse was likely reserved for members of the black community. Richard Walden was a regular recipient of these contracts. He received twenty-five cents for sweeping out the courthouse doorway on the first day of the September term, 1833, and one dollar during the August session, 1834.¹⁰ Walden probably paid someone else to do the work since he was quite prosperous.

The Owen County commissioners also issued various licenses, such as the one Walden received to vend groceries and liquors in 1833 and other years.¹¹ Licenses required bonding, and since no bonding companies existed, local property owners guaranteed payment of the bond in case of default. For example, "Now is presented the Bond of Richard Walden with Benjamin Leonard, John Galletly, Samuel Scott, Joseph Cocheran and Pardon B. Roberts his securities conditioned as the law requires of Grocery keepers in the sum prescribed by law which bond acknowledged by the obligers in open court and said bond and security is approved by the board and ordered filed."¹² The makeup of the guarantors is interesting. Scott was the sheriff, Cocheran a justice of the peace and later commissioner, and Roberts an African American active in buying and selling town lots.¹³

The greatest number of county records are those from the various courts and are found under the county clerk's jurisdiction. To gain an understanding of court records John J. Newman's *Research in Indiana Courthouses: Judicial and Other Records* (1981) is essential. Owen County civil and criminal files from 1836 through 1856 have been entered into a database and can be searched for any subject. The database contains 1,056 civil and 1,982 criminal cases. Cases before 1836 are found in the Complete Order Books, but the books do not have the detail of the files.

The Complete Probate Books provide the historian with a wealth of information, particularly the intestate records. These books note a person's death and often list personal property such as guns, books, quilts, farm tools, bedding, kitchen utensils, and horses and other livestock. Owen County has all of its books and about one thousand intestate files indexed and filed from around 1826 to 1871. Bills presented to and from the estate are also in these files. About one hundred physicians' bills, some giving detailed courses of treatment, as well as bills from merchants, with detailed accounts of goods purchased, can be found in the Probate Books. Also of value are the store inventories of merchants who have died. Two additional sources are mortgage books and the agricultural censuses of 1850–1880, which

¹⁰ County Commissioners Record Book 2, pp. 56, 109, *ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 110.

¹³ Deed Book 1, pp. 227, 228, Deed Book 3, pp. 106, 107, Deed Book 5, p. 189, *ibid.*

give excellent detail about crops, number of animals, land improved, and many other farm items.

THE ARCHIVES OF EVANSVILLE

Although all repositories in the Evansville region strive to acquire, preserve, and service local history materials, **Willard Library** is distinguished by the size and quality of its collections.

The library's Regional and Family History Center has been operating since 1976 and focuses on fifty counties in the tri state (Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois) area and the states and counties responsible for the migration of people to this region. Censuses; bound family histories and genealogies; migration, naturalization, land, and military records; and sources such as marriage records, wills, and tax lists can be found here. The general collections consist of personal papers of prominent community members such as social worker and reformer Albion Fellows Bacon and her sister, author Annie Fellows Johnston; the Foster Dulles family; community leaders Emily Clifford Orr and William Gumberts; and the business records of Norman A. Shane, Schaefer and Sons Funeral Home, Graham-Paige Car Company, and Mesker Steel, Inc.

Scores of local history societies were born at the turn of the twentieth century as a result of the preservation movement in the United States. Evansville's exemplar was the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, whose longtime president was Judge John Iglehart. His papers represent the work of this group not only in Evansville but also in nearby towns like Mt. Vernon and New Harmony and the surrounding counties.

The photographic and postal card collections number over fifteen thousand glass plates and prints picturing the city, its people, buildings, and activities through many decades. At least a third were taken by Karl Kae Knecht, cartoonist for the Evansville *Courier* from 1906 to 1962. The outstanding microfilm collection of several thousand films is excellent for genealogical research. In addition to the regional census information, there are newspaper runs of Evansville and neighboring county English-language papers covering the entire period from 1821 to the present. The German-language newspapers cover the years from 1859 to 1918.

The Willard Library has also become the owner of the Vanderburgh County Archives. They add another dimension to the resources available.

The archives of the **Evansville Museum of Arts and Science** include two types of papers: the official records of the institution and those relating to the history and development of Evansville and the larger community. The first category has been professionally organized and made available for staff use. The second group has not been processed with library patrons in mind because this is not the mission of the museum. Nevertheless, the staff services the local

history portion of the holdings, which include personal correspondence; the James Lowry Orr Papers; business, school, and church records; documents pertaining to the Evansville Suburban and Newburgh Railway Company (1888–1948); artists' biographies; and newspaper clippings.

Most valuable in the museum's collections are the more than twelve thousand photographs, many of them views of the Evansville shipyards during World War II. The photographs have been divided into the following categories: portraits (emphasis on costumes), persons in groups, buildings (interiors), Evansville (panoramic views), street scenes, individual buildings, transportation and machinery, and floods.

Although it does not consider itself as servicing manuscript material, the **University of Evansville** holds an excellent collection of university archives dating from the days of its predecessor, Moore's Hill College, from 1854 to the present. The minutes of the Conference of the Methodist Church (1852–1975) are valuable for accounts of the ministers and their families. The holdings also include records of the functioning units of the university; biographical information on faculty, staff, other personnel, and students; all aspects of student activities and organizations; financial records; photographs of individuals, groups, and campus buildings; and newspapers covering special events.

The university archives have relatively few papers of local families or groups. Exceptions are the Orr Family Personal Collection and the business records of the Orr Iron Company. Also uncommon and exceptional is the Knecht Collection of ten thousand original cartoons.

Begun in 1972, the **University of Southern Indiana Special Collections and University Archives** is the latest repository to be established in the Evansville area. Its mission has been the collection of local and regional material, with special emphasis on the African-American, German, and Jewish communities. Some specific collection groups include:

Local Authors. Original manuscripts, galley sheets, and research materials comprise this collection. Among the authors represented are Kenneth McCutchan, Vardine Moore, Marilyn Durham, Dallas Sprinkles, Darrel Bigham, and Ronald Roat.

Black History. Evansville's black history is represented in a collection of photographs, oral history interviews, newspaper accounts, and other printed materials.

Local Businesses. The Mead Johnson and Company Archives contain papers concerning company administration and organization, industrial and public relations, marketing and merchandising, product histories, research and development, the personal papers of D. Mead Johnson, sample products, and memorabilia. Other business collections on file include the Burch Plow Works, Inc., Indiana

Furniture Company, Mesker Steel, Inc., and printed reports and oil well logs from the local petroleum industry.

Local Organizations. Minutes of meetings, scrapbooks, reports, and photographs of local organizations are located in this department. The Visiting Nurse Association, American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, and American Management Society are a few of the local groups represented.

Local Government. This collection began in 1972 when government records were removed from the basement of the Evansville City Hall, which was about to be razed. Mayoral administrations from 1886 to 1971 are represented, as well as cemetery records, various items from the Department of Public Safety, minutes of the Common Council, 1918–1958, city ordinances, 1914–1917, and maps of Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The papers of the Evansville Bar Association contain biographical sketches of its members, 1929–1958, minutes and reports of committees, agreements, rosters of members and committees, memorials, accounts, and correspondence.

Indiana Labor History. The product of a yearlong project in which members of labor unions from the 1930s to the 1960s were interviewed, this collection consists of interviews, transcripts, convention ribbons, photographs, union newspapers and pamphlets, and arbitration materials.

Regional History. This collection of materials on Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois includes books, photographs, newspaper clippings, oral history interviews, annual reports from county offices, brochures, newsletters, and several University of Southern Indiana student papers.

Communal Studies Group. The Center for Communal Studies Archives include materials on approximately one hundred historic communes as well as information on several hundred contemporary communities. Shakers, Harmonists, Oneidans, the Communal Studies Association, the Fellowship for Intentional Community, and the Inspirationists of Amana are among the groups represented.

Karl J. R. Arndt Papers. Not yet ready for public use but worthy of mention is the enormous collection of personal and professional papers representing Karl J. R. Arndt's lifetime work on the Harmony Society. The papers are a remarkable concentration of information on the communal group important to southern Indiana.

Oral History. In addition to interviews of local citizens, civic and professional leaders, and businessmen and businesswomen, persons of German descent describe how they maintain their German heritage.

The university archives' photographic and slide collections reflect the work of local and regional photographers. Several hundred negatives of Evansville and surrounding counties were taken by Thomas Mueller, a photographer for the Evansville *Courier*, c. 1920–1960.

The Brad Awe Collection has several hundred slides of Evansville businesses and landmarks, c. 1900–1978. The Blair Collection has thousands of glass plate negatives and prints of New Harmony made by William F. Lichtenberger and Homer Fauntleroy, c. 1880–1930, showing the unique building structures of two very different intentional communities, the Harmonists and the Owenites. The John Waring Doane Collection depicts Mt. Vernon and Posey County, Indiana, residents and buildings, c. 1900–1960. The Fragile Harmony Collection consists of more than one thousand slides of southern Indiana taken by Eric Braysmith, c. 1989–1991.

The university archives contain the official records produced by university personnel. Of special interest are the papers of administrators and faculty that document their professional achievements.

Many of the public libraries in southwestern Indiana house valuable resources for local history and genealogical research. Some of these are the Pike County Library, Petersburg; Alexandrian Free Public Library, Mt. Vernon; Spencer County Public Library, Rockport; Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library; Boonville-Warrick County Public Library; and the Newburgh Public Library.

Two Evansville archives preserve the records of two Roman Catholic communities: the **Daughters of Charity Archives and the Mother Mary Magdalena Bentivoglio Archives**. The first has records relating to the history of the International Religious Community of the Daughters of Charity. The second has the records of the Monastery of St. Clare from 1887 to the present.

Those interested in knowing something of the area where the Hoosier state had its earliest stable beginnings could do no better than come to southern Indiana for an archival treat.