

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

December 19, 2025

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Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

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COMMUNIQUE TO RETURN IN JANUARY

Please note: Communique Online will not be published on Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.
Regular issues will resume on Jan. 9. Happy holidays!

Updates from Local History Services



[Indiana Bell Christmas window display, 1969](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thank you for subscribing to Communique Online! We wish you a happy holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Around Indiana



[Members of the Social Hour Club and Their Guests Celebrate the Holiday, 1958](#) (Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

2025 IHS Award Winners announced – Each year, the Indiana Historical Society recognizes [outstanding individuals and organizations](#) whose efforts have enriched the lives of others by conveying awareness and appreciation of Indiana's history on local, regional and statewide levels. Congratulations to this year's honorees! [See the full list here.](#)

2025 Historic Preservation Education Grants awarded – Indiana Humanities and Indiana Landmarks announced that [eleven organizations across Indiana have been awarded nearly \\$28,000 in funding](#) to help Hoosiers connect with their local history. (WIBC)

Reminder! Nominations are due Jan. 9 for the [2026 Indiana Authors Awards](#). Books written by Indiana authors that were published in 2024 or 2025 are eligible. (Indiana Humanities)

U.S. 250 PROGRAMS

PLEASE NOTE: For in-person programs, please check with the hosting organization to confirm date, time, location, and any restrictions and/or requirements.

[The Revolution in Plain Sight: Conversations on Indiana and the 250th](#)

Dec. 20, Jeffersonville – Historians Ryan L. Cole and Jill Weiss Simins will connect the ideals of the Revolution with our local history. (Jeffersonville Township Public Library)

IN-PERSON EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

PLEASE NOTE: For in-person programs, please check with the hosting organization to confirm date, time, location, and any restrictions and/or requirements.

[Science of Sugary Structures](#)

Dec. 20, Fort Wayne – Explore the fun side of sugary gingerbread creations. (The History

Center)

[Holiday Open House with Matinee Musicale](#)

Dec. 20, Franklin – Matinee Musicale will perform a selection of holiday favorites and cookies and punch will be served. (Johnson County Museum of History)

[Night at the Giese Church](#)

Dec. 20, La Porte – See this amazing mechanical church that has been a holiday tradition in La Porte since 1947. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Santa Saturday](#)

Dec. 20, Wabash – Hang out with Santa and an elf, play an indoor snowball game, and enjoy other holiday activities. (Wabash County Museum)

[Day After Christmas Walk](#)

Dec. 26, Delphi – Take a guided walk along the historic canal towpaths and enjoy a selection of hot drinks and refreshments after the walk concludes. (Wabash & Erie Canal Park)

[Experiencing the West: The Journey of Burmese Immigrants and Refugees in Indiana](#)

Jan. 4, Fort Wayne – Minn Myint Nan Tan will discuss the successes and challenges faced by Burmese immigrants and refugees from Myanmar (Burma) as they pursue the American Dream. (The History Center)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

FROM THE BLOG

[The Grand Kankakee Marsh](#)

See how we delved into the research and resources about the “Everglades of the North.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2025 Festival of Trees](#)

Open through Jan. 3 – This year’s Festival of Trees will feature a winter wonderland of more than 80 trees.

What We're Reading This Week



Toddler in Sailor Suit in Rocking Chair with Toys. 1910s (Indiana Historical Society, P0269)

AUDIENCE AND COMMUNITY

4 simple yet effective ways to [encourage member renewals](#). (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Using Universal Design to create [safe, welcoming and joyful spaces](#). (National League of Cities)

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

8 steps to a successful [social media video marketing strategy](#). (Sprout Social)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

If the holidays are stressing you out, [remember: everything is optional](#). (NPR)

10 lessons on [how to lead nonprofits](#). (Bloomerang)

NEED A BREAK?

Thomas Nast and Santa Claus: how the Civil War-era political cartoonist [illustrated the Father Christmas we know today](#). (Mental Floss)

The fad toy [everyone wanted](#) the year you were born. (Cosmopolitan)

How did jigsaw puzzles become a [popular pastime](#)? Plus, watch how jigsaw puzzles are made today in [this fascinating video](#). (My Modern Met; Engineering World)

Getting in the spirit: [the world's most interesting winter holidays](#). (Odysseys)

Learning Opportunities



[Toboggan Scene at the Spiceland Sanitarium, ca. 1900](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0159)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

[Adaptive Leadership: Creating Innovation from Chaos](#)

Jan. 12 – Learn about the practice of adaptive leadership, which calms chaos, promotes innovation, and builds stakeholder engagement and committed teamwork. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

[Assess Your Funding: Diversification and Strategy Overview](#)

Jan. 12 – This webinar will walk you through a practical examination of your existing funding portfolio with a focus on healthy diversification. (GrantStation)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[AASLH Core Issues Briefing Series](#)

Jan. 7-Feb. 11 – This set of webinars offers consolidated access to the latest research, insights, and guidance on how to respond to the history sector's most pressing issues. Cost varies; register for [individual webinars](#) or a [bundle of all six sessions](#). (AASLH)

[Caring for Paper-Based Collections](#)

Jan. 8 – This webinar introduces the preservation of paper-based collections. \$110.

(NEDCC)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

[History Leadership Institute Seminar](#)

Applications are due Jan. 2 for the 2026 History Leadership Institute that will be held both in-person and virtually throughout next summer. Scholarships are available. (AASLH)

[Woodshop Basics for Restoration Projects](#)

Jan. 7, South Bend – Learn about common woodworking tools and techniques. (Indiana Landmarks and South Bend TradeWorks)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The **Society of Indiana Archivists** invites [proposals for the 2026 Annual Meeting, Prioritizing Well-Being: Helping Yourself Help Others](#). **Proposals are due Jan. 2, 2026**. (SIA)

Funding Available



[Circle of Lights, Street View, 1985](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0607)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[The Brooks and Joan Fortune Foundation Grants](#)

Due Dec. 31 – The Foundation provides funds to support education, art, and outreach programs and projects. (The Brooks and Joan Fortune Foundation)

[T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#)

Due Dec. 31 – Grants are available for projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers. (T-Mobile)

[Historic Fraternal Lodges Grants \(Indiana\)](#)

Applications reviewed quarterly, starting January 2026 – This new grant program is available for both lodges in active use by fraternal organizations and buildings no longer used for lodge functions. Historic fraternal lodge buildings that are either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places are eligible for the program. (Indiana Landmarks)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition Grants](#)

Due Jan. 15 (NEH)

[National Digital Newspaper Program](#)

Due Jan. 15 (NEH and the Library of Congress)

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

Due Jan. 31 (Society of American Archivists)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Mayfair Beauty Salon Dinner, 1947](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Collections Manager, Archaeology](#)

Bloomington – IU Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

[Museum Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator](#) (part time)

Kokomo – Howard County Historical Society

[Digital Communications Coordinator](#)

Muncie – Minnetrista Museum and Gardens

[Facilities Supervisor](#)

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REGIONAL

[Collections Manager](#)

Grand Haven, Mich. – Tri-Cities Historical Museum

[Director of Events & Tourism](#)

Marietta, Ohio – Friends of the Museums, Inc., dba Northwest Territory Museum Society

[Development Manager](#)

Shaker Heights, Ohio – Shaker Historical Society

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[Museum Internship \(Georgene Kauth O'Dwyer Memorial Internship\)](#)

Batavia, Ill. – Batavia Depot Museum (Batavia Park District)

[Museum Internship](#)

Batavia, Ill. – Batavia Depot Museum (Batavia Park District)

[Historical Interpreter Intern](#)

Midland, Mich. – Chippewa Nature Center

Orphans Corner

Do you have an item you would like to donate to an Indiana museum or nonprofit? We'll list it here! Email us at col@indianahistory.org and we'll list it for you!

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[Local History Services](#)

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