

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

January 9, 2026

In this Issue:

- [Updates from LHS](#)
- [Around Indiana](#)
- [What We're Reading This Week](#)
- [Learning Opportunities](#)
- [Funding Available](#)
- [Job Openings](#)

Connect with us!

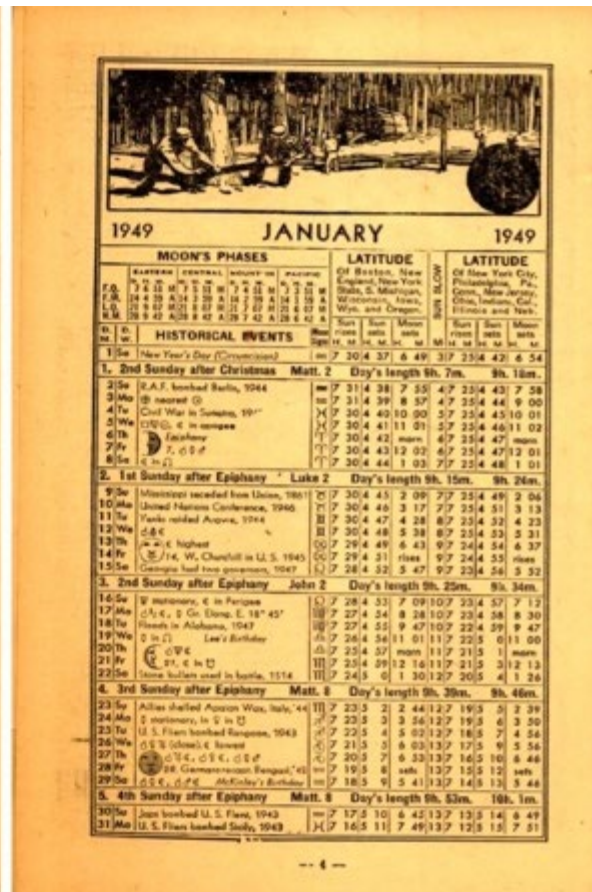
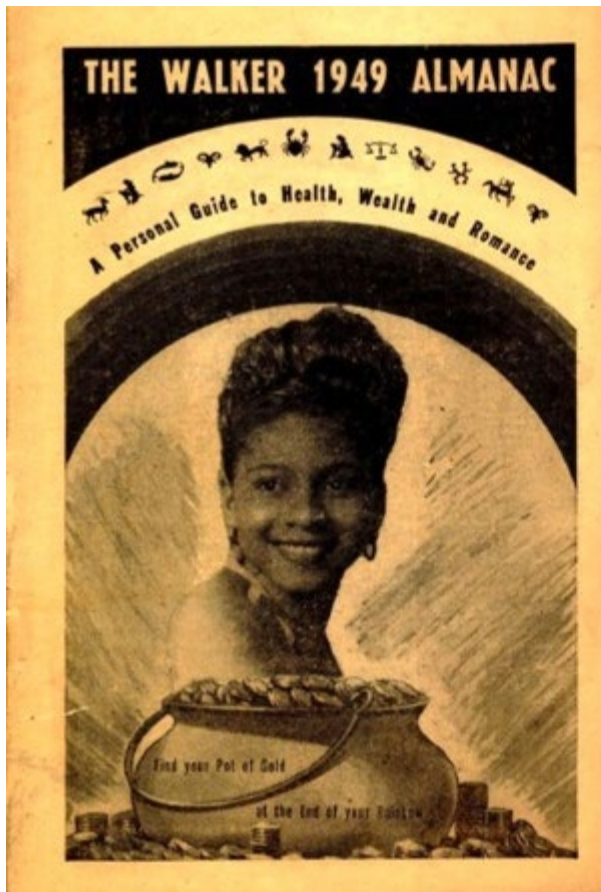
[Local history services](#)



Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations

[Learn more](#)

Updates from Local History Services



[The Walker 1949 Almanac, pages 1 and 4](#) (Madam C.J. Walker Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for reading Communique, and we look forward to working with you this year.

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2026 HERITAGE SUPPORT GRANTS

Heritage Support Grants are available for projects that will help Indiana's local history organizations meet high-priority needs in areas of Collections Stewardship, Capacity Building, Sustainability, and Planning.

[Mini Grants](#) (\$500 to \$4,999)

Applications due March 30

[Project Grants](#) (\$5,000 to \$50,000)

Summaries of Proposal due April 30

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

Heritage Support Grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Around Indiana



[Woman reading a letter by the fireplace. ca. 1900](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0178)

NEWS

The Indiana Association of Historians invites submissions for the [2026 Bennett-Tinsley Award for Undergraduate History Research and Writing](#). **Entries are due Feb. 6.** (Indiana Association of Historians)

Authors are invited to apply by March 1 to secure a free booth space at the [Greensburg Decatur County Public Library's first-ever Author Fair](#) on April 25. Authors/registerants must currently live in Indiana or have spent formative years in Indiana. [Learn more and register here.](#) (Greensburg Decatur County 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.

[New Gallery Wall Display: Man's Best Friends](#)

Now Open – See historical photos and artworks showcasing animals in this display open through 2026. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Liberty Lit Society Book Club](#) – U.S. 250 program

Monthly starting Jan. 17, Frankfort – In this this new monthly book club, teens and adults will read and discuss books about the Revolutionary War, the nation's founding, and more. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

[Pioneer Land Spinners at the Museum](#)

Jan. 17, La Porte – The spinners from Pioneer Land will be spinning yarn from natural fibers at the Museum just like the pioneers did. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[Better Together: Celebrating US](#) – U.S. 250 program

Jan. 31, Indianapolis – Through hands-on activities, storytelling, artmaking, and conversation, we'll reflect on our nation's history and imagine our collective future. (WFYI and Indiana Humanities with partners; event at the Indianapolis Public Library)

[Building Your Ancestry Family Tree](#)

Feb. 7, Frankfort – Learn how to create your family tree using Ancestry.com, plus more tips for using Ancestry. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

VOLUNTEER FOR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN INDIANA

[National History Day in Indiana is looking for judges across the state](#) to help support our regional competitions. Competitions take place on Saturdays from mid-February to mid-March, and judges are needed from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteer hours and PGP points for teachers are available. [Sign up here.](#)

UNBOUNDED PODCAST

[Get In Hoosier, We're Going Shopping: Indiana Businesses Part 1](#)

In this episode, Casey dives into the history of Arnold F. Habig and the Kimball International Company.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Free Admission](#)

Jan. 19 – Join us for a day of reflection, creativity, and community connection.

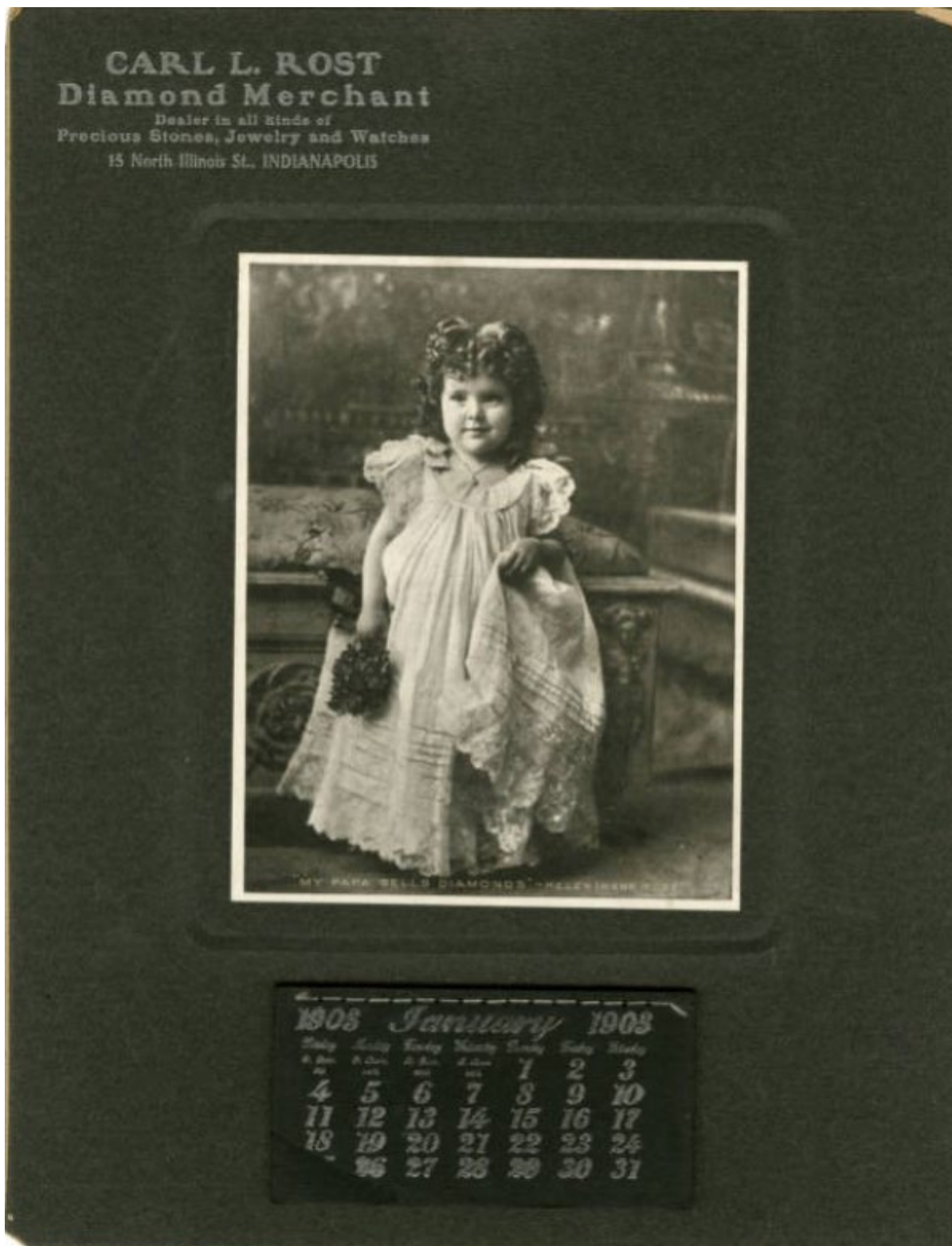
[An Evening with Dean James Bullard: The Federal Reserve](#)

Jan. 22 – Dean Bullard shares his experiences with the Federal Reserve, his insights as an economist, and his reflections on the legacy of the Federal Reserve.

[History of Firefighting with Koorsen Fire Museum \(Homeschool Workshop\)](#)

Jan. 27 – Koorsen Fire Museum will demonstrate how the inventions of the past have impacted the fire safety measures we see today.

What We're Reading This Week



[Helen Irene Rost, 1903](#) (Indiana Historical Society, M1050)

FROM THE FIELD

AASLH is accepting nominations for the [2026 Leadership in History Awards](#). Nominations are open to everyone and **due March 1**. Learn more about the nomination process during a [free webinar on Jan. 22](#). (AASLH)

What children really need from museums: [5 lessons from Hands On! 2025](#) on the role institutions can play in shaping children's sense of belonging, resilience, and creativity. (Blooploop)

Designing for the planet: lessons on [sustainable exhibition design](#). (MuseumNext)

U.S. 250 NEWS AND RESOURCES

Sharing the Spirit of America – this nationwide program [invites communities across America to read the Declaration of Independence ‘together’](#), at the ‘same’ time on July 8, 2026. (initiated and sponsored by the Hawai‘i America250 Commission)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Honoring cultural protocols in [archival practice](#). (Lucidea)

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising’s real purpose: [community, belonging, and meaning](#). (Clairification)

The ultimate event monetization playbook: turn every event into a [revenue machine](#). (Wild Apricot)

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MARKETING

Leveraging social media – [how to build a winning social media strategy](#) for your nonprofit. (GoFundMe Pro)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Do you know if [your team is overwhelmed?](#) (Harvard Business Review)

10 New Year’s resolutions [for board members](#). (Gail Perry Group)

NEED A BREAK?

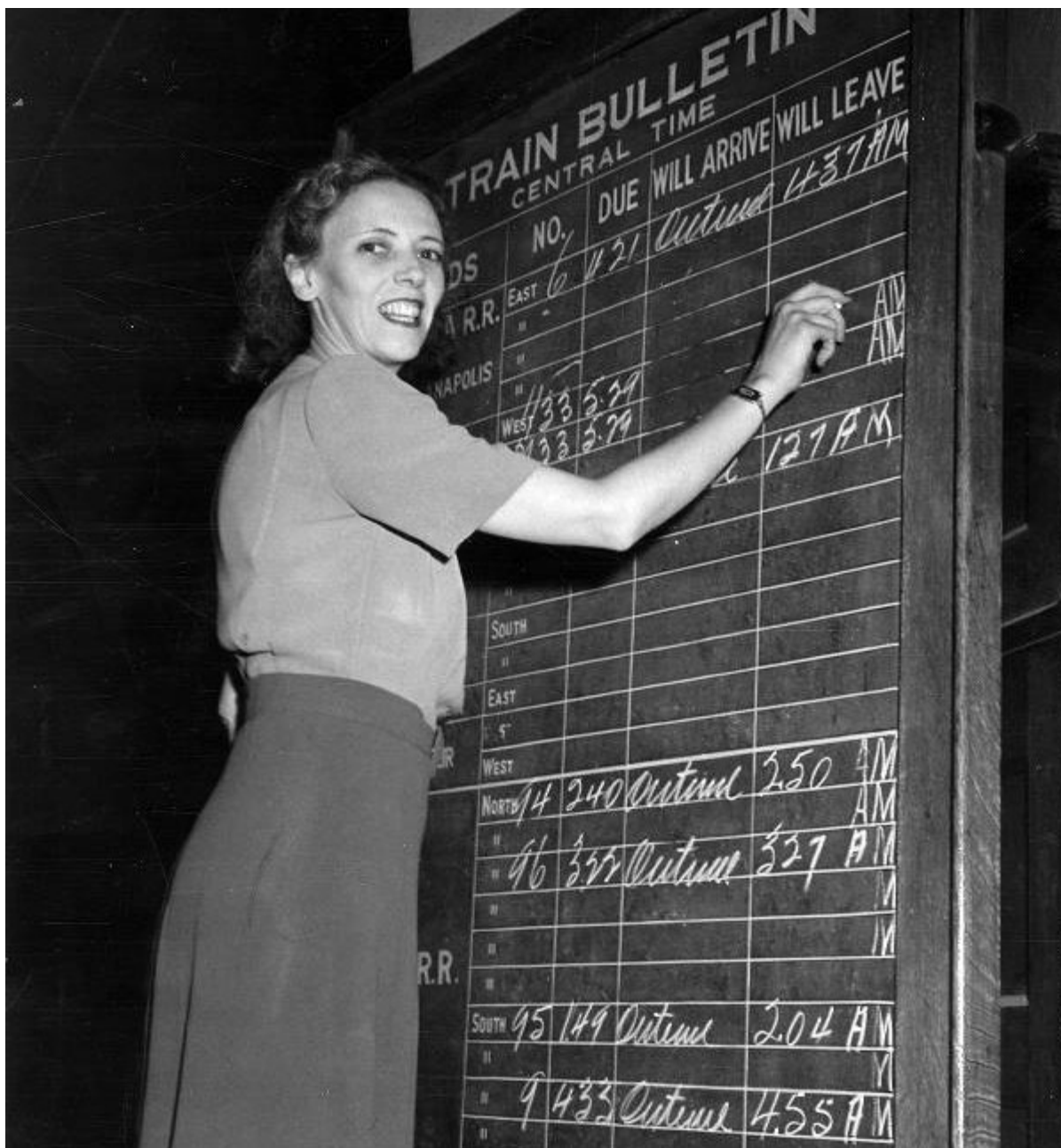
10 scientifically proven ways to [stick to your New Year’s resolutions](#). (Mental Floss)

Years gone by: see how people have marked the passage of time [in this collection of historical calendars, clocks, and more](#). (Smithsonian)

How we set the date: learn [how the months got their names](#); plus take an interesting look at [the history of calendars](#). (Almanac.com; Calendar.com)

Discover Ichi-go Ichi-e, the Japanese art of [savoring every moment](#). (Open Culture)

Learning Opportunities



[Diane Hyland Marking Up Trains at Union Station. 1944](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

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

Jan. 12 – Learn about the practice of adaptive leadership to calm chaos, promote innovation, and build stakeholder engagement and teamwork. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

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

Jan. 12 – Learn how to examine your existing funding portfolio with a focus on healthy diversification. (GrantStation)

[Get Your Board Fundraising](#)

Jan. 15 – Learn practical strategies for better engaging your board in fundraising. (Candid)

[AASLH History Hour: Dealing with Disruption](#)

Jan. 27 – Join peers to discuss how to navigate potential disruptions in 2026 business strategies. (AASLH)

[Succession Planning for Cultural Institutions: What's Next?](#)

Jan. 28 – This webinar will look back and think about the future of the Collections Stewardship Succession Planning Initiative. (CCAHA and Lyrasis)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

[Doing History in Polarized Times \(Core Issues Briefing Series #2\)](#)

Jan. 14 – This webinar will explore recent research and tested strategies to help history practitioners work more effectively in today's fractious discourse. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

[Digitization: Planning for Success](#)

Jan. 15 – This session covers digitization project stages, selection criteria, and handling considerations for vulnerable media. \$110. (NEDCC)

[Strategies for Acetate and Nitrate Negatives and Film](#)

Jan. 20 – Learn about the logistical complexities involved in a digitization/reformatting project that includes nitrocellulose- and cellulose acetate-based film. \$110. (NEDCC)

[Understanding the US History Workforce \(Core Issues Briefing Series #3\)](#)

Jan. 21 – Learn about data and insights that can support making informed decisions, advocating for needed change, and building more sustainable institutions. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

[Safety and Cultural Heritage Summit: Preserving Our Heritage and Protecting Our Health](#)

Jan. 22-23 – This virtual seminar will present sessions on the topics of control of health and safety hazards in museums, historic sites, conservation treatment and collection care. \$20; register by Jan. 19. (Potomac Local Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association)

[Making the Case: Story + Data Advocacy for Museums](#)

Jan. 26 – Learn a simple framework to turn your mission into a sharp, stakeholder-ready case backed by the right data. \$20; \$15 members. (Ohio Museums Association)

[Museum Wellness Summit](#)

Jan. 28-29 – See inspiring case studies and fresh research from around the world on how museums can strengthen the health of their communities. Cost varies. (MuseumNext)

[Ethics, AI, and the Public Humanities Speaker Series](#)

Jan. 29-March 17 – This four-part speaker series will bring together experts to help us consider the ways that artificial intelligence is reshaping our world and our work. Pay what you can. (NCPH)

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Indiana Association of Historians invites submissions of [papers for the 46th Annual Conference](#), "History in Unexpected Places – Rethinking and Reimagining History in the Early 21st Century." **Proposals are due Jan. 16.** (IAH)

The Association of Midwest Museums is [seeking proposals for sessions, workshops, posters, and conversation stations](#) for the 2026 AMM Conference. **Proposals are due Jan. 23.** (AMM)

Funding Available



[Security Trust Company, 1929](#) (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPOTLIGHT

[National Digital Newspaper Program](#)

Due Jan. 15 – This program supports institutions in digitizing historically significant newspapers published from 1690 to 1963 to create a publicly available national digital archive. (NEH and the Library of Congress)

[Mini-Grants for Humanities Programs](#) (Indiana)

Rolling applications, due on the last day of each month – These grants of up to \$1,000 provide tax-exempt organizations with funds to present humanities programs for their communities. (Indiana Humanities)

[SIA Foundation Grants](#) (Indiana)

Due March 31 – This grant program supports the funding of specific capital projects in the areas of Arts and Culture, Education, and Health and Welfare. (SIA Foundation, Inc.)

U.S. 250 FUNDING

[Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition Grants](#)

Due Jan. 15 – In honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's principles of equality, liberty, and government by consent, this program supports activities to preserve and improve access to primary source materials. (NEH)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

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

Applications reviewed quarterly, starting January 2026 (Indiana Landmarks)

[SAA Foundation Catalyst Grants](#)

Due Jan. 31 (Society of American Archivists)

[The Virginia Savage McAlester Preservation Fellowship](#)

Due Feb. 13 (Architecture and Design Foundation)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Charles Hankins, Son, and Grandson, 1924](#) (Indiana Historical Society, P0495)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring!

See open positions [here](#).

[Education Coordinator](#)

Fort Wayne – Fort Wayne History Center

[Out of School Time Program Intermittent Educator](#) (part-time)

Indianapolis – Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

[Event Coordinator](#)

Noblesville – Nickel Plate Heritage Railroad

REGIONAL

[Office Manager](#)

Lansing, Mich. – R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

[Historic Sites Manager](#)

Muskegon, Mich. – Lakeshore Museum Center

[Museum Registrar](#)

Kansas City, Mo. – The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures

[Collections Management Database Administrator](#)

St. Louis, Mo. – Missouri Historical Society

[Preservation Director](#)

Cincinnati, Ohio – Cincinnati Preservation

[Museum Director](#)

Green Bay, Wis. – Neville Public Museum of Brown County

[Museum Curator](#)

Stevens Point, Wis. – Portage County Historical Society

PAID INTERNSHIPS

[Governor's Summer Intern: CHE-Records Retention](#)

Indianapolis – Indiana Commission for Higher Education with the Indiana Archives and Records Administration

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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To submit a news release, email col@indianahistory.org by noon Wednesday for same-week publication. Some exceptions may apply.

We'd love your input on this e-newsletter! [Use this form](#) to give us your feedback.

[Local History Services](#)

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