

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

May 15, 2026

In this Issue:

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

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**Heritage Support Grants for Indiana
History Organizations**

[Learn more](#)

Updates from Local History Services



*[Eleanor Winslow](#), [Mary Jeanne Ottinger](#), [Dorothy Ottinger](#), [Judy Preston](#), [Joe Cagnon](#), [O. L. Robertson](#),
and [Ruth Knue](#), 1942 (Gift of the Indianapolis Public Library, Indiana Historical Society)*

REGIONAL MEETING IN VALPARAISO ON MONDAY, MAY 18

[In Your Neighborhood Meeting](#)

May 18: Valparaiso – Join us on Monday for a free in-person regional meeting! The Porter County Museum will share tips, tricks, and lessons learned from developing exhibits for their site. There will also be time for networking and a tour of the museum. You are welcome to bring your lunch; Drinks and desserts will be provided. **Free to attend – [RSVP Here!](#)** (Hosted by the Porter County Museum)

REGISTER BY MAY 22 FOR COLLECTIONS CONUNDRUMS

[Collections Conundrums Workshop: Southwest Indiana](#)

May 28: Evansville – This full-day workshop from Local History Services will focus on the decisions we make about our collections. (Hosted by the Evansville Wartime Museum; additional workshops will be held in [Fort Wayne](#) and [Franklin](#))

Cost: \$35; \$30 IHS members; \$25 Local History Partner Members

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Around Indiana



[IPS 27 Spring Planting. 1994](#) (Gift of Junior League of Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

A devastating fire damaged the [historic Trinity United Methodist Church](#) in downtown Madison on Monday. (The 812)

Evansville Living profiles the city's [nine historic districts](#) and shares history and facts about historic district designations. (Evansville Living)

An Eagle Scout project restores the [Round Lake Cemetery](#) in Whitley County. (The Post and Mail)

A new nonprofit has been formed to [preserve a historic 1875 one-room schoolhouse](#) in Muncie. (Muncie Journal)

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.

Upcoming:

[175 Series: Waterways to Railways Tour](#)

May 16, Elkhart – Discover Elkhart's origins as a small village at the confluence of three important waterways. (National New York Central Railroad Museum in collaboration with Ruthmere)

[Voices and Votes Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit](#)

May 16-June 28, French Lick – This is the second of seven sites to host the traveling Smithsonian exhibition, *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*. (Indiana Humanities; exhibit at the Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau)

[State Historical Marker Dedication: Lt. Col. William Swaim](#)

May 16, Ossian – Join the dedication ceremony for a new Indiana state historical marker commemorating farmer and Civil War soldier Lt. Col. William Swaim. (Indiana Historical Bureau)

[Wawasee "Points of Interest" Historical Cruise](#)

May 16, Syracuse – Local historian Ann Garceau will guide the cruise and share stories from Lake Wawasee's past. (Chautauqua Wawasee)

[Free Family History Classes](#)

May 17-21, Scottsburg – The Scott County Genealogical Society, Inc. is hosting free classes for those wanting to learn how to do their family history. Registration required. (classes will be held at the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum)

[From Tobacco Plantation to La Porte Pioneer Woman: The Remarkable Life of Susannah Pottenger-Brown](#)

May 19, La Porte – Gene Bukowski will present a talk on the remarkable life of Susannah Pottenger-Brown. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

[New Harmony. Robert Dale Owen and the Politics of 1860](#)

May 20, New Harmony – Historian and author Bill Bartelt explores how the political turmoil surrounding the Election of 1860 and the subsequent breakup of the Union captured the attention of New Harmony residents. (event at the Atheneum Visitors Center)

[Genealogy for Night Owls](#)

May 21, Indianapolis – This free research event features extended hours and one-on-one consultation sessions with representatives from various local historical, genealogical, and lineage organizations. Registration required. (Indiana State Library)

[Research Tips for Using Library Resources](#)

May 21, Shelbyville – Donna Dennison Presents: Research Tips for Using Library Resources (highlighting Fairland & Moral Township). (Fairland Historical Society, event at the Shelby County Public Library)

[National Historic Preservation Month Event](#)

May 21, Zionsville – Hear from guest speaker Brad Ward, President and CEO of Indiana Landmarks, about the importance of historic preservation, and learn about the organization's ongoing preservation initiatives. (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)

[Ribbon Cutting for *The Year of the Pledge* Exhibit](#)

May 22, Vincennes – This new exhibit features items from the collection surrounding Red's iconic Pledge of Allegiance, including awards, recordings, paintings and letters, and more. (Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy)

[Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous](#)

May 23-24, Vincennes – Stroll through the encampment and interact with members of the North West Territory Alliance, see reenactment battles, an 18th century trade fair, and more. (Spirit of Vincennes)

Plan Ahead:

May 26-30, Bloomington – [Bloomington Early Music Festival](#)

May 26, Corydon – [Adventures with Roger Turpen](#)

May 27, Michigan City – [Mansion After Hours: Historic Cocktail Tasting & Tour](#)

May 30, Indianapolis – [White River State Park Walking Tour](#)

May 30, La Porte – [Patton Cemetery Walking Tour](#)

June 2 and 27, Indianapolis – [Herron-Morton Place Neighborhood Walking Tour](#)

June 6, Anderson – [Back to the Future: A Mid-Century Modern Home Tour](#)

June 6, Fort Wayne – [Miami Indian Heritage Days: Cookware from Local Clays](#)

June 12, Frankfort – [Genealogy Workshop](#)

June 12, Muncie – [History Bites: Stories of the White River at Muncietown](#)

Indiana Historical Society Spotlight

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 IHS AWARDS!

Do you know an individual or organization who does outstanding work in Indiana's state and local history? Each year, the [Indiana Historical Society Awards](#) recognize 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.

Nominations are due July 1, 2026. [Start your nomination today!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Man's Best Friend: In War and At Home](#)

May 16 – Join us for a short presentation about working dogs in the Vietnam War and a demonstration by ICAN on how dogs continue to assist humans after they return home.

[The Revolutionary Power of the Printing Press](#)

May 20 – Discover how ink, paper, and bold ideas changed the course of history. As part of the Smithsonian's *Making History, Making Change* Lecture Series, the Indiana Historical Society and Conner Prairie are collaborating to delve into the revolutionary power of language.

[Walking with History: Remembering Women's Efforts](#)

May 30 – This tour highlights and reflects on the often-unsung heroes of war – including the female soldiers, nurses, and first responders.

What We're Reading This Week



[Production Worker at Diamond Chain Manufacturing Company at Mobile Canteen, 1944](#) (Gift of the Diamond Chain Company, Indiana Historical Society)

RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

CCAHA's National Collections Care Capacity Building Program provides [free preservation planning and consulting services](#) to small and mid-sized cultural heritage organizations across the U.S. Institutions will apply to work directly with CCAHA's team of preservation specialists on a customized collections care project. **Apply by June 1.** (CCAHA)

Juneteenth to July 4 is [Civic Season](#) – an annual tradition developed by museums and young people to “school up” on history and “skill up” to shape our future. Find a [toolkit, programming ideas, and more ways your organization can participate](#). (Made By Us)

The Penn Cultural Heritage Center will [launch a first-of-its-kind survey](#) exploring the collecting practices in place at museums and libraries across America. (Artnet)

U.S. 250 NEWS & UPDATES

Reminder! AASLH and NxtLevel are hosting [weekly facilitated conversations this month](#) as part of the History & Democracy Initiative. You don't need to be a member to participate. (AASLH)

A museum on the U.S. founding can now [fit in your pocket](#) – Google has teamed up with world-renowned preservation organizations to create [Making of the Nation](#), a virtual exhibit available online or on the Google Arts and Culture App. (WTOP News)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

Teach history inclusively with these [eight community-centric lessons](#). (National Geographic Education Blog)

REACHING YOUR AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

Reaching younger audiences: [lessons from the V&A's content platform](#) for 10- to 14-year-olds that's reached over 2.5 million users. (Cultural Content)

The clip economy and the [case for one-minute museum videos](#). (Engaging Places)

Low-cost effective [marketing ideas](#) for nonprofits on a budget. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS

Archival ethics and [respecting the "right to be forgotten."](#) (LUCIDEA)

FUNDRAISING

Outshine AI: How to make your proposal [clear, compelling, and human](#). (The NonProfit Times)

Nonprofit leaders answer: What is a [contingency plan](#) your nonprofit has for unexpected funding cuts? (Blue Avocado)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Managing [diverse personalities](#) in nonprofit teams. (The Nonprofit Prof)

How to be more assertive – [without being 'rude' or 'aggressive'](#). (Self)

NEED A BREAK?

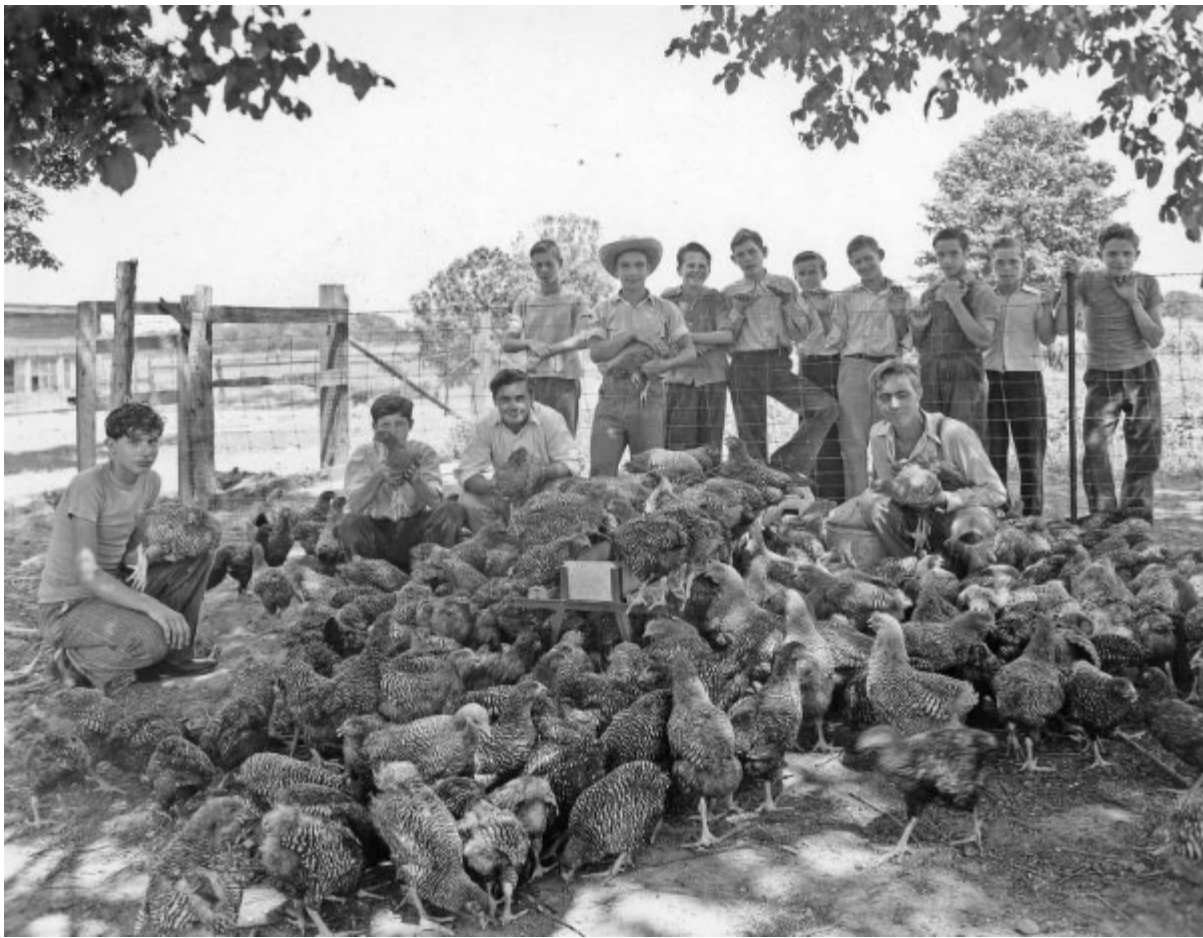
The fascinating story of ranch dressing: from an [actual Hidden Valley Ranch](#) to the [Clorox Company](#), which has owned the Hidden Valley® brand since 1972. (Rimping Supermarket; The Clorox Company)

When the Supreme Court decided [tomatoes were vegetables](#) (but they're actually fruit). (NPR)

How the Chicken of Tomorrow contest [changed the poultry industry forever](#). (Tasting Table)

Would you try this WWII-era recipe for ["mock bananas?"](#) (Atlas Obscura)

Learning Opportunities



[Glenn Home, 1945](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

IN INDIANA

Upcoming:

[Indiana Main Street 101 Training](#)

May 21, Elkhart – This session will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Indiana Main Street program and the requirements for becoming a recognized Indiana Main Street community. (Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs)

[Preserving History Networking Seminar](#)

May 27, Cedar Lake – Join professionals and volunteers from preservation and historical organizations to learn, brainstorm, and network. \$35; includes lunch by the culinary artists of ReMix Catering. (Cedar Lake Historical Association)

Plan Ahead:

June 4, Seymour – [Indiana Main Street 101 Training](#)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:

[Library Collaborations to Engage Local Public Audiences](#)

May 19 – Learn how museums can partner with libraries from across the U.S. to strengthen their community engagement. (National Informal STEM Education Network)

[Active-Allyship in the Modern World](#)

May 19 – This session will offer practical tools to help you show up with intention and integrity for the communities you care about. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

[Theory of Change 101 – What's So Great About Mapping Change?](#)

May 19 – Learn about the Theory of Change methodology and explore an exercise of mapping change. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

[May Day 2026: Assessing Risk to Protect Your Collections](#)

May 20 – Learn about useful tools that will help you assess your risks so that you can create an emergency plan that covers the situations that your institution is most likely to experience. (Connecting to Collections Care)

Plan Ahead:

May 26 – [AASLH History Hour: Military History](#)

May 29 – [How to Make Practical Use of Assessment Reports](#)

May 29 – [Building Performance Standards and Historic Buildings](#)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Upcoming:

[Budgeting to Fully Fund Your Overhead](#)

May 20 – Learn how to accurately describe your budget and properly package your programs and projects to effectively secure funds from diversified funding streams. \$69. (GrantStation)

[Creating a Staff Safety Plan](#)

May 21 – This webinar will provide recommendations and practical takeaways for improving workplace culture and protecting co-workers as well as the organization. \$45; \$25 members. (AASLH)

[Digital Preservation Storage 101](#)

May 21 – This webinar will help you improve digital preservation storage at your institution. \$55. (NEDCC)

Plan Ahead:

May 27-28 – [History and Democracy Virtual Summit](#)

May 27-28 – [Museum AI Summit](#)

June 15-July 13 – [Introduction to Financial Management Online Course](#)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Upcoming:

[2026 AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo](#)

May 20-23, Philadelphia, Pa. – Join thousands of museum professionals for the largest convening of our field. \$925; \$725 members; some discounts available for other options. (American Alliance of Museums)

Plan Ahead:

June 16, Canton, Ohio – [Risk Assessment and Disaster Plan Development Workshop](#)

June 22-26, York, Pa. – [2026 Lincoln Highway Conference](#)

Sept. 16-19, Providence, R.I. – [Registration is now open for the AASLH-NCPH 2026 Joint Conference](#)

Funding Available



[*Boy with Produce Wagon. ca. 1893*](#) (Gift of Rudolf K. Haerle, Indiana Historical Society)

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Indiana Humanities Mini-Grants](#)

Rolling deadline: last day of each month – These grants provide tax-exempt organizations in Indiana with funds to present humanities programs for their communities. The programs can come in a variety of formats – workshops, presentations, reading/discussion programs, exhibitions, podcasts, film documentaries, and more. (Indiana Humanities)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

[Dottie Rosso Scholarship for a Fund Raising School Course](#)

Due May 22 – The Dottie Rosso Scholarship is a partial (50 percent) scholarship for individuals working in nonprofits with operating budgets of \$1 million or less to attend a Fund Raising School Course. (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)

[Midwest Registrars Committee Travel Stipends for AMM Conference](#)

Due May 22 – The MRC is offering travel stipends at two levels (half-stipend of \$375 or full stipend of \$750) for members to attend the Association of Midwest Museums Conference. All applicants must be MRC members, but applicants may join MRC at the time of their application submission. (Midwest Registrars Committee)

PLAN AHEAD

Due May 26 – [Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation Grants](#)

Due May 29 – [CFM Foresight Scholarship](#)

Due June 5 – [Historic Preservation Fund \(Indiana\)](#)

Due June 5 – [Amazon Web Services Imagine Grants](#)

Due June 12 – [Scholarships for 2026 AASLH and NCPH Joint Conference](#)

Due June 25 – [Media Projects Grants](#)

Due June 25 – [Landmarks of American History and Culture and Summer Institutes Grants](#)

Local & Regional Job Openings



[Bottling French Dressing at Quaker Maid, 1940](#) (Martin Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

[Executive Director](#)

Madison – Historic Madison, Inc.

REGIONAL

[Indigenous Studies Librarian](#)

Chicago, Ill. – The Newberry Library

[Museum Director](#)

Charles City, Iowa – Floyd County Museum, Floyd County Historical Society

[Corporate Archivist & Chief Historian](#)

Cincinnati, Ohio – Procter & Gamble

[Exhibits Specialist](#)

Toledo, Ohio – National Museum of the Great Lakes

[Executive Director](#)

Nashville, Tenn. – Tennessee Historical Commission

[Collections Photographer](#)

Nashville, Tenn. – Tennessee State Museum

[Government Records Archivist](#)

Madison, Wis. – Wisconsin Historical Society

[Director of Development](#)

Racine, Wis. – Racine Heritage Museum

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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Some exceptions may apply.

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[Local History Services](#)

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