INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMMUNIQUE ONLINE
A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

August 21 2026

In this Issue:

- Updates from LHS
- Around Indiana
- What We're Reading This Week
- Learning Opportunities
- Funding Available
- Job Openings

Connect with us!
www.indianahistory.org/LHS
localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org

Heritage Support Grants for Indiana History Organizations
Learn more

Updates from Local History Services: Disaster Recovery Resources



Break in bank of canal, 1913 (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

Our thoughts are with the individuals, organizations, and communities impacted by the recent storms and flooding.

Local History Services is gathering information about organizations that have been affected by the events so that we can compile resources that may help with salvage and recovery.

If your organization has been affected, please complete this brief Disaster Impact Survey.

INDIANA RESOURCES

Indiana Department of Homeland Security Information Hub (IDHS)

FEMA Emergency Declaration for the State of Indiana (U.S. Department of Homeland Security)

Indiana Landmarks Regional Offices

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

If your organization's collections have been affected, you can call the National Heritage Responders **hotline at (202) 661-8068** for advice and guidance from trained conservators. For the general public, if your personal items have been damaged in an emergency, email NHRPublicHelpline@culturalheritage.org. (FAIC)

Save Your Family Treasures Resources and Guidance (Heritage Emergency National Task Force from FEMA and the Smithsonian)

After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures (FEMA)

Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts Emergency Assistance (CCAHA)

DOCUMENTING FOR SALVAGE AND RECOVERY

Immediate documentation is essential to effective disaster salvage and recovery efforts. The first response should be assessing and recording the conditions of collections and buildings. This documentation will help form the basis for decisions about next steps in the salvage and recovery process.

Emergency Documentation*

A. Initial Written Damage Assessment

1. Location
2. Type of Collection
3. Number of wet/damaged items or percentage (ballpark #s ok)
4. Nature of damage
5. Ongoing threat
6. Action taken
7. Resources needed

B. Take pictures from all four sides of the building, if possible

C. After it is safe to enter the structure, take pictures inside:

1. Follow a set path (from left to right or from right to left, but always in one direction).
2. Stand at front entrance and shoot to the left, straight ahead, and to the right.

3. If possible, photograph from corners to the center of the room.
4. If possible, photograph from center of the room to the four walls.

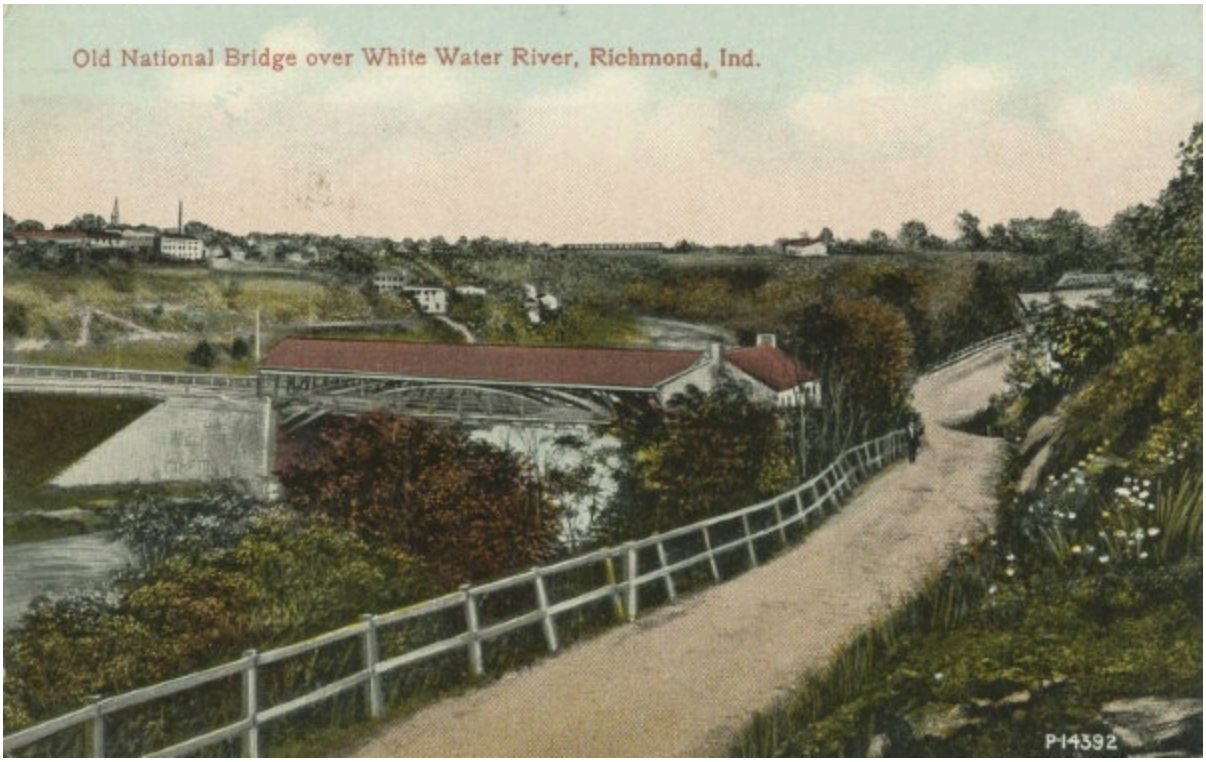
D. Take pictures of objects and collections:

1. Take photos before moving items.
2. Wear gloves, because flood water may be contaminated.
3. A ruler is helpful (a coin or other object can be used for scale).
4. Capture the entire object.
5. Take photos from at least two angles.

NOTE: It is essential to document time spent, including volunteers, because FEMA expects cost sharing 25%/75%; Keep a log.

** Information provided by Valinda Carroll, Indiana State Library, adapted from "Initial Response and Assessment" presentation by Stacy Bowe, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative.*

Around Indiana



Old National Bridge Over White Water River, Richmond, Indiana, 1913 (Indiana Historical Society, P0391)

NEWS

Historic flooding across Indiana breaks records set more than a century ago. Indy Star shares photos of storms and flooding from Indiana's history over the years. (WTHR; Indy Star)

Roberts Settlement, one of Indiana's historic Black communities, recently unveiled the Legacy Gardens – enhancing the site's Legacy Walk. (Indianapolis Recorder)

Purdue University announced it has finalized plans to acquire the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library on Indiana Avenue in Indianapolis. The university said it plans to use the museum to help enrich its museum studies program. (WFYI)

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society announces the acquisition of Nickel Plate Road Business Car No. 1, a 1929 Pullman car that once served as the mobile headquarters of Cleveland railroad executives Oris and Mantis Van Sweringen. (Ink Free News)

Monroe County farmers Jeff Lucas and Anne Fields Lucas have received the 2026 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau. (Indiana Landmarks)

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:

TASTE of Montgomery County
Aug. 22, Crawfordsville – Enjoy music and try food and drinks from restaurants, caterers, craft breweries, and wineries from throughout Montgomery County. (General Lew Wallace Study and Museum)

Voices and Votes Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit in Upland
Aug. 22-Oct 4, Upland – This is the third of seven Indiana sites to host the traveling Smithsonian exhibition, Voices and Votes: Democracy in America. (Indiana Humanities; Upland Historical Society)

Moses Allen's Civil War
Aug. 25, Frankfort – Join Jeffrey Heavilon as he shares his ancestor Moses Rush Allen's Civil War letters. (Frankfort Community Public Library)

175 Series: Waterways to Railways Tour
Aug. 29, Elkhart – Discover Elkhart's origins as a small village at the confluence of three important waterways. (National New York Central Railroad Museum with Ruthmere)

Plan Ahead:

Chatham Arch Neighborhood Walking Tour
Sept. 1 and 26, Indianapolis (Indiana Landmarks)
The Thursday Parlay: International Circus Hall of Fame
Sept. 3, Wabash (Wabash County Museum)
Tunes and Tales Presents the Musical Legacy of Henry Hart
Sept. 4, Madison (Jefferson County History and Art Center)
Miami Akaawiaki (Quillwork) with Claudia Hedeen
Sept. 5, Fort Wayne (The History Center)
Lunch and Learn: Hosted Digital Collections and Indiana Memory
Sept. 8, Indianapolis (Indiana State Library)
Door Village Harvest Festival
Sept. 12-13, La Porte (DVHF)
Corbin-Bechaka Home Tour
Sept. 13, Plymouth (Marshall County Historical Society and Museum)
Canal Society of Indiana's Fall Symposium and Tour
Sept. 19, Bloomfield (Canal Society of Indiana)
A Night at the Races: Historical Horses
Oct. 3, Winamac (Pulaski County Historical Society)

IHS TRAVELING EXHIBITS OPENING THIS WEEK

Indiana organizations can borrow professional-quality traveling exhibits from the Indiana Historical Society. You can visit exhibits at the sites below. Please check with the hosting organization to confirm open dates and times.

Faces of the Civil War
Through Oct. 1, La Porte (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

What We're Reading This Week



Children Playing, 1957 (Gift of Reba A. Weaver, Indiana Historical Society)

RESOURCES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The Preservation Oaks podcast highlights local historical organizations across the U.S., sharing their accomplishments and community impact. If you'd like to share the work of your organization, email preservationoaks@gmail.com.

An 11-year-old boy in a small Illinois town just became the Guinness World Record holder for being the youngest museum curator. (Smithsonian Magazine)

Historic preservation: 6 myths about preservation architects. (National Trust for Historic Preservation)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

An accessibility toolkit for museum digital engagement. (ASTC)

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Introducing semantic search at The Met: a peek behind the curtains at the process of improving one of the world's largest online art collections. (The Met)

Discover millions of artworks from thousands of museums with this huge art search engine. (This is Colossal)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

How to persuade a new generation to join your nonprofit's board. (Blue Avocado)

Who gets to decide? An interview with Becky Beaulieu on how museums exercise effective decision-making. (Museum Questions)

NEED A BREAK?

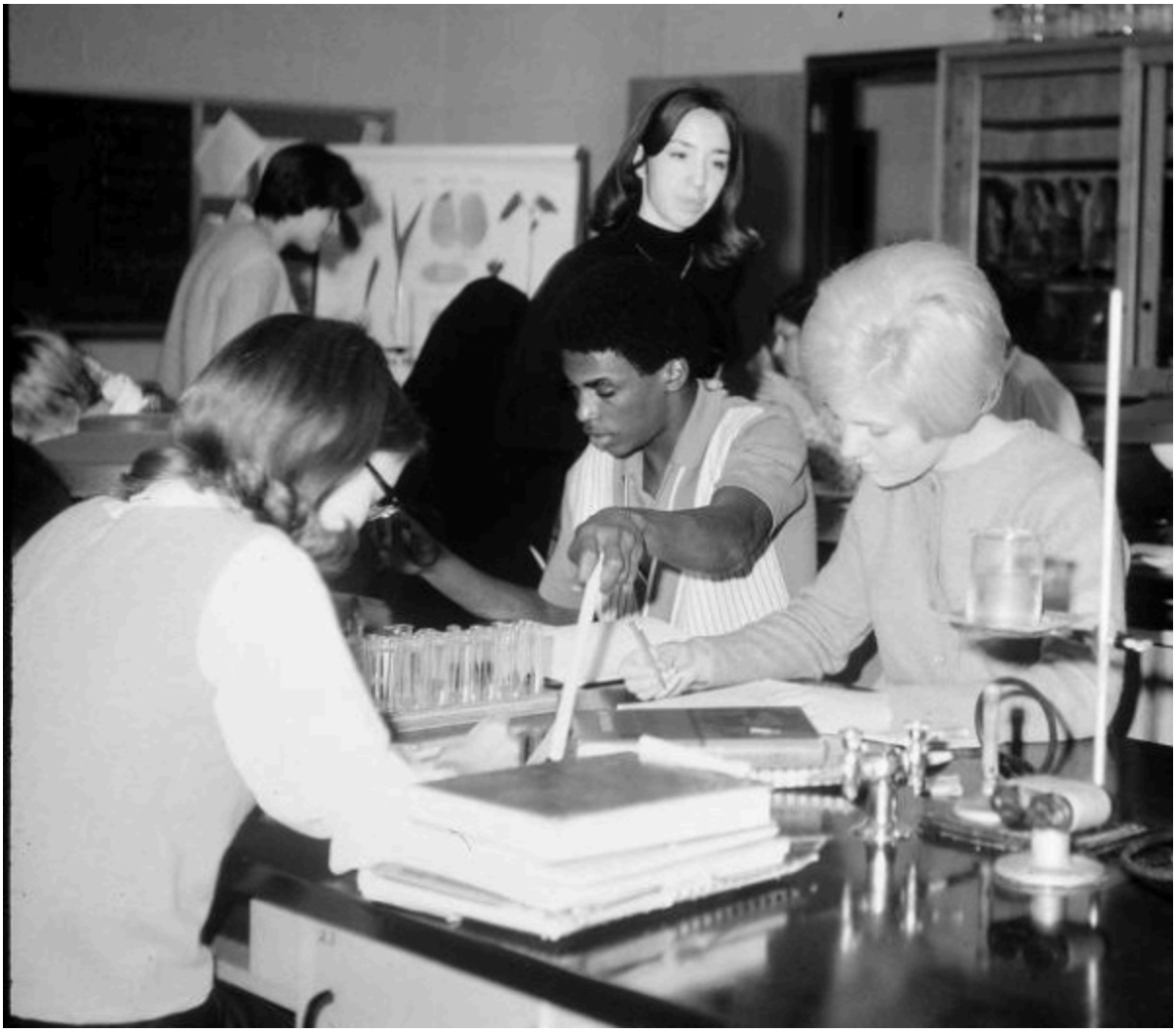
When the US Mail was delivered underground at 35 mph through a network of pneumatic tubes. (Open Culture)

Explore the interesting history of the yo-yo and a collection of gorgeous yo-yos in the Smithsonian.

The surprising historical job of waking people up before alarm clocks existed. (Mental Floss)

A couple in San Francisco found a mysterious 150-pound sculpture buried in their backyard. Now, they're trying to figure out who made it. (Smithsonian Magazine)

Learning Opportunities



Marian College Students in the Classroom Lab, 1972 (Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society)

IN INDIANA

Upcoming:

OCRA Community Engagement Summits

Aug. 26-Sept. 23 – The Office of Community and Rural Affairs is hosting five Community Engagement Summit meetings. Session topics will include placemaking, local community successes, OCRA programming, as well as the opportunity to network with fellow community leaders. $25; includes lunch. (OCRA)

- Delphi – Aug. 26
- Madison – Sept. 3
- Huntingburg – Sept. 9
- Wabash – Sept. 15
- Noblesville – Sept. 23

Plan Ahead:

Fall Nonprofit Series

Sept. 5-26, Indianapolis (Indianapolis Public Library)

Preserving Historic Places Conference

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Franklin (Indiana Landmarks, DHPA, and IU)

Indiana Constitutional Symposium

Nov. 5, Indianapolis (Indiana State Archives)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:
AASLH History Hour: Sharing How Your Org Benefits Your Community
Aug. 25 – Join the discussion on how museums can advocate for themselves and share stories of the positive benefits we bring to our communities. (AASLH)

Beyond Accommodations: Building Neuroaffirming Staff Systems for Connected, Resilient Teams
Aug. 26 – Learn how embedding Universal Design, co-regulation practices, and behavior-based evaluation tools can proactively support neurodiverse staff. (Association of Children's Museums)

From Passion to Performance: Strengthening People Managers in Nonprofit Organizations
Aug. 27 – Learn how to equip managers with practical tools to build clarity, accountability, and engagement while advancing organizational values and long-term impact. (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

Plan Ahead:
Documenting America Wiki Scholars Courses
Starting Sept. 1 (AASLH and Wikipedia)
An Introduction to Agentic AI for Nonprofits
Sept. 16 (Nonprofit Tech for Good)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Upcoming:
Visibility on a Shoestring: Marketing & Communications Strategy for Lean Nonprofits
Aug. 24 – Learn how you can build real credibility in your community even if you don't have a communications team. $39. (GrantStation)

Exhibiting Your Collections
Aug. 25 – Learn about the risks of exhibiting collections so that you can develop policies and guidelines to mitigate those risks. $110. (NEDCC)

Every Place Has a Story: Communications that Inspire Support
Aug. 25-26 – Learn how to uncover compelling stories within their organizations and turn them into compelling communications. $139. (Friends of the Texas Historical Commission)

Small Museum, Big Collection: Streamlining the Most Time-Consuming Collections Tasks
Aug. 27 – Learn about strategies for streamlining the most time-consuming collections tasks. $10; free for members. (Association of Indiana Museums)

Designing History Walking Tours
Aug. 27 – See what makes a great historic walking tour and learn how to develop memorable and immersive experiences for visitors no matter your location or budget. $150; $100 members. (AASLH)

Is Social Media Still Worth It?
Aug. 27 – Join museum professionals for a candid look at what's working, what's changing, and what may no longer be worth your time. $15; free for members. (SEMC)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Plan Ahead:
AASLH-NCPH 2026 Joint Conference
Sept. 16-19, Providence, R.I. *Discounted registration available through today, Aug. 21. (AASLH)
Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference
Sept. 23-27, Hampton Roads, Va. (ASALH)
Fantastic Futures 2026 Conference

Sept. 15-17, Washington, D.C. (A.I. for Libraries, Archives & Museums)

Funding Available



Loading the "Queen City", ca. 1906 (Indiana Historical Society, M0945)

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Costume Society of America Small Museum Collection Care Grant
Due Nov. 1 – This grant of $1,600 is intended to assist the costume and textiles collection of a small museum that has a very limited budget and staff. Funding may be used to support the care, conservation, and/or exhibition of costume and textiles that have historic, regional, or other significance and are intended for preservation. (CSA)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Arts Project Support Grants
Due Sept. 3; draft application review deadline for new applicants is Aug. 24 – These grants provide funding to support a public-facing short-term arts project or a series of arts activities. (Indiana Arts Commission)

PLAN AHEAD

Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation Grants
LOI due Aug. 31 (Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation)
Preserving Black Churches Grants
Due Sept. 11 (National Trust for Historic Preservation)
Robert Lehman Foundation for Visual Arts Exhibitions and Programs
Due Sept. 15 (Robert Lehman Foundation)
Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants
Due Sept. 16 (NEH)
J.W. Couch Foundation Grants

Due Sept. 25 (J.W. Couch Foundation)
Bank of America Art Conservation Project™ Grants
Due Sept. 30 (Bank of America)
Historic Preservation Education Grants
Due Sept. 30 (Indiana Humanities)
Matters of Religion Grants
Due Oct. 31 (Indiana Humanities)

Local & Regional Job Openings



Women Working at U.S. Rubber Co., 1943 (Gift of Reba A. Weaver, Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

Controller
Indianapolis – Indiana Landmarks

Database and Development Systems Associate
Indianapolis – Indiana Landmarks

REGIONAL

Head of Digital Collections Initiatives
Chicago, Ill. – Chicago History Museum

Visitor Engagement Associate
Chicago, Ill. – Obama Presidential Center

Visitor Engagement Team Leader
Naperville, Ill. – Naper Settlement

Contract Registrar
Skokie, Ill. – Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

Historic Sites Program Assistant
Muskegon, Mich. – Lakeshore Museum Center

Google Services Administrator
St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

Site Director
Columbus, Ohio – Ohio History Center & Ohio Village

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!

This is a free publication. Anyone may subscribe.

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
(317) 232-1882 | localhistoryservices@indianahistory.org