INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE ONLINE

A RESOURCE FROM IHS LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES

November 6, 2026

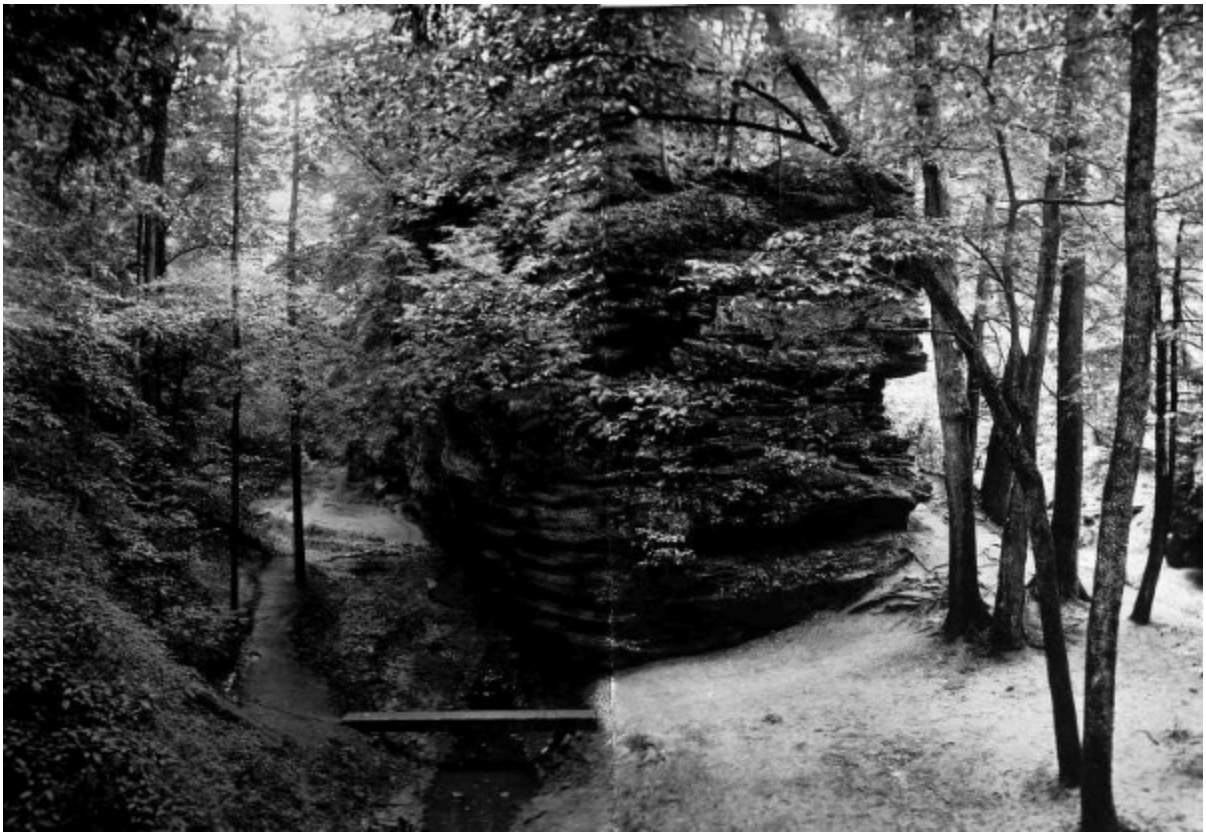
In this Issue:

- 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



Wooded Path, ca. 1920 *(Indiana Historical Society, P0066)*

JOIN US FOR A REGIONAL MEETING IN NOBLESVILLE

In Your Neighborhood Meeting

Nov. 30, Noblesville, Noon to 1:30 p.m. (EST) – Join us for a free in-person regional meeting! We'll chat about developing exhibits, and there will 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 Hamilton East Public Library)

Around Indiana



Sand Dunes, ca. 1920s (Gift of Ann Simonek, Indiana Historical Society)

NEWS

The DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology announced that it is awarding 12 grants to projects around the state focused on preserving local history. The grants will fund projects that range from masonry repair on historic buildings in South Bend, Cannelton, Terre Haute, and Plymouth to funding a study in New Harmony, a request for federal recognition for a site in Fort Wayne, and an Ohio River shipwreck. (WFYI)

The Ernie Pyle World War II Museum has been selected for a $100,000 matching grant offered by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by the Vermillion County Community Foundation. (WCI News)

Indiana Resource: The Indiana Folklore Collection is the largest accessible university-based folklore repository in the Midwest. Browse the collection here. (Wabash Valley Visions and Voices Digital Memory Project)

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:

2026 Evansville Museum Ball

Nov. 7, Evansville – Enjoy an evening at the Museum, surrounded by great food, fabulous exhibitions, live music, and plenty of surprises along the way. (Evansville Museum)

Traders Days
Nov. 7-8, Fort Wayne – Shop for traditional crafts, goods and wares, and enjoy hands-on demonstrations and interactive educational programs. (Akima Pinšiwa Awiiki, or Chief Richardville House)

Belle Gunness: The Mystery Continues
Nov. 7, La Porte – See *The Gunness Mystery* documentary with County Historian Bruce Johnson, followed by a presentation on *The Belle Gunness Mystery: Hard Evidence & Occam's Razor*. (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)

Blast From the Past: 80's Night
Nov. 7, Shelbyville – This fun and festive event will feature food, drinks, music, a 1980s exhibit, and more. (Grover Center; event at the Carl McNeely Civic Center)

Reporter Wallace Terry, the Vietnam War, and Bloods
Nov. 11, Indianapolis – In honor of Veterans Day, IHS Press senior editor Ray E. Boomhower will talk about the experiences of pioneering journalist Wallace Terry. (Indiana Historical Society)

DCHS Annual Dinner & Bicentennial Celebration Launch
Nov. 11, Muncie – This year's dinner will include the launch of the Delaware County Bicentennial Website and an historical program: *A Brief Look at Delaware County History*. (Delaware County Historical Society; event at Cornerstone Center for the Arts)

Abraham Lincoln Historical Program
Nov. 11, Scottsburg – Enjoy desserts and drinks, followed by a live historical presentation by Abraham Lincoln re-enactor Danny Russel. (Scott County Heritage Center & Museum)

Plan Ahead:
Untold History: The Remarkable 40-Year Story of the Indiana Tax Court
Nov. 17, Indianapolis (Indiana Historical Society)
Preservation by Design: Protecting the Character of Zionsville's Village
Nov. 18, Zionsville (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)
Teeny Tiny Art Market Opening Party
Nov. 19, Zionsville (SullivanMunce Cultural Center)
Lew Wallace Hoosier Author Fair
Nov. 27, Crawfordsville (General Lew Wallace Study and Museum)
Snowflakes and Special Collections Archives Crawl
Dec. 1, Muncie (Bertha C. Ball Center, Ball State)
Holiday Artisan Fair
Dec. 5, La Porte (La Porte County Historical Society Museum)
Tea with Mrs. Claus
Dec. 6 and 13, Elkhart (Ruthmere)

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.

Local Speech Global Reach
Through Dec. 1, Clinton (Clinton Public Library)

From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics

Through Dec. 3, Waterloo (Waterloo Grant Township Public Library)

What We're Reading This Week



Cedar Bluffs Near Peru, Indiana, 1911 (Indiana Historical Society, P0411)

RESOURCES & NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Are museums boring? Only a little, a study finds. (Artnet)

A new search engine, Arkivism, lets you explore 4 million works of art & historical photographs from museums and libraries around the world. (Open Culture)

Enrollment is open to participate in the 2027 Annual Survey of Museum-Goers. **Enroll by Dec. 1 for early-bird rates**. (AAM)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, & INCLUSION

Breaking the silence on how visitors and educators perceive quiet spaces in museums. (Taylor & Francis Online)

AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY

Museums don't need more visitors. They need more contributors. (MuseumNext)

How to host a community scanning day. (YourArchive)

The easiest collaborative win of the year: your holiday season. (Heritage Tourism Studio)

EXHIBITS & INTERPRETATION

What makes a museum label worth reading? (Engaging Places)

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Establish criteria: how to get everyone on the same page. (Let's Grow Leaders)

An infographic outlines the findings from the 2027 Governance Outlook Survey for Mission-Driven Organizations. (Diligent)

NEED A BREAK?

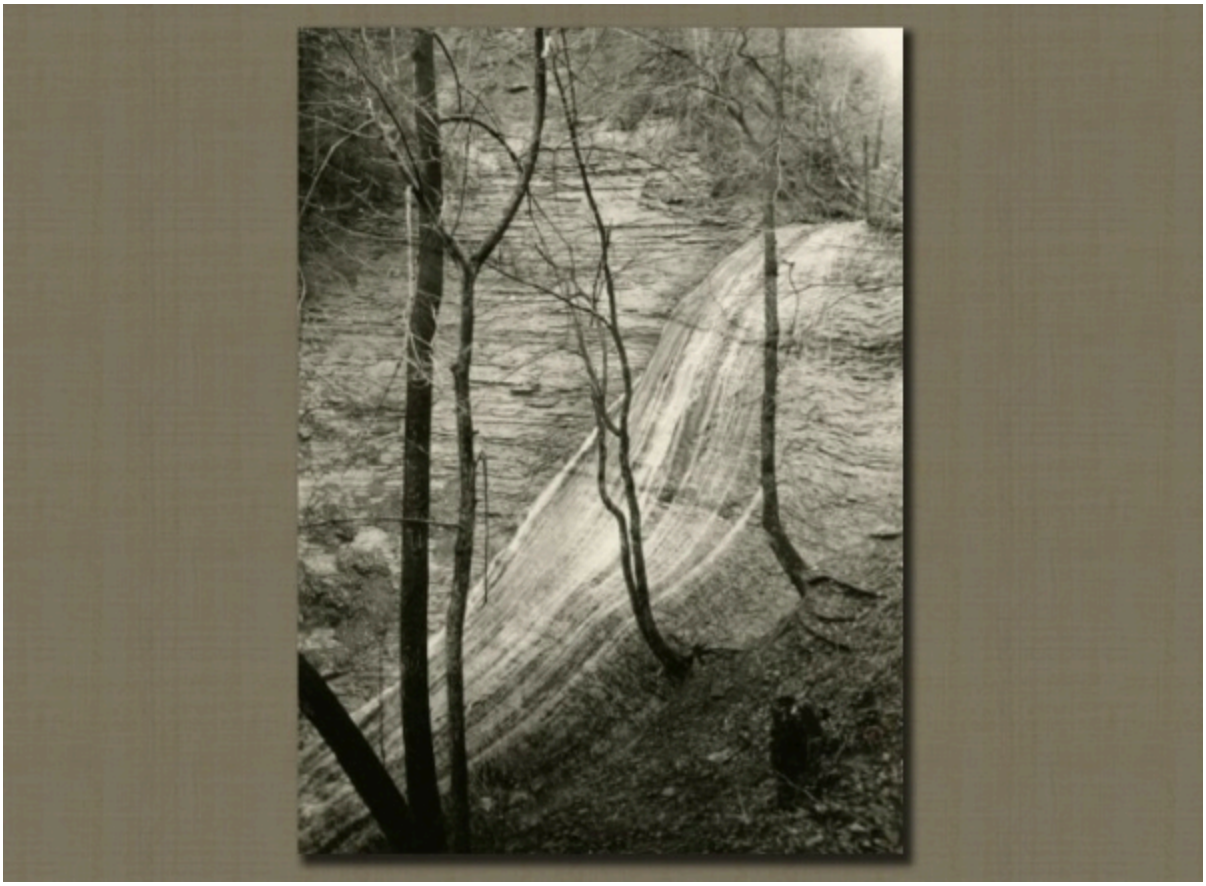
Explore the explore the wonders of the Qhapaq Ñan, the Great Inka Road. (Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian)

Seven places in Europe that legends say were built by giants, devils, or dragons. (Smithsonian Magazine)

From dragons to dinosaurs: how people interpreted fossils throughout history. (Big Think)

Discover 7 places to experience unusual geology in Indiana, plus 20 natural wonders in Indiana that will amaze you. (Atlas Obscura; Visit Indiana)

Learning Opportunities



Bridal Veil Falls, 1918 (Gift of Ann Simonek, Indiana Historical Society)

IN INDIANA

Upcoming:

Innovative Communities: Past, Present, and Future

Nov. 12-15, New Harmony – The conference commemorates the bicentennial of the Community of Equality (1825-1827), the ambitious social experiment founded by Robert Owen and his partner William Maclure in New Harmony. Registration is free; **register by today, Nov. 6**. (Owen-Maclure 200 Bicentennial Conference)

Plan Ahead:
Virtual: 2026 AIM Annual Meeting
Nov. 17, on Zoom (Association of Indiana Museums)

FREE WEBINARS & VIRTUAL LEARNING

Upcoming:
The Indigenous Collections Care (ICC) Guide: Transform Stewardship at Your Institution
Nov. 9 – Learn how the ICC Guide was created and be inspired by case studies to make meaningful change in stewardship practices at your institution. (Connecting to Collections Care)

NCPH Consultants Grumpy Hour
Nov. 10 – Join public historians led by NCPH's Consultants Committee for a virtual night of connection and support. (NCPH)

The University and the Museum: Objects, Questions, and the Space Between
Nov. 13 – Presenters will explore how museums have long invited visitors not toward answers, but toward better questions (Museum Edition, Zakros Interarts)

Self-Publishing Basics for Any Author
Nov. 13 – Get the insider perspective from the author of over two dozen self-published novels and novellas. (Lyrasis)

Plan Ahead:
HOPE Crew Coffee Conversations: Historic Masonry
Nov. 17 (National Trust for Historic Preservation)
How to Face the Future, Cultivate Optimism, and Defy Dystopia
Nov. 20 (Museum Edition, Zakros Interarts)
AASLH History Hour: A New Revolution of Belonging
Nov. 24 (AASLH)

VIRTUAL TRAINING

Upcoming:
What Funders See Before They Fund You: How Communications and Public Presence Shape Funding Decisions
Nov. 10 – Learn what funders are really learning about your organization outside the grant process and what you can do about it. $69. (GrantStation)

Your Fundraising Plan for 2027: Designing a Sustainable Revenue Strategy
Nov. 12 – See how to build a fundraising plan that ties together your case for support, your revenue mix, your board and staff roles, and the metrics that actually matter. $69. (GrantStation)

Plan Ahead:
Beyond the Gallery: New Ways to Connect with Communities
Nov. 16 (Ohio Museums Association)
Level Up Your Site's Membership Program
Nov. 17 (AASLH)
Reframing Leadership: A Leader-as-Coach Model for Museums
Nov. 17 (AAM)
Digital Directions: Foundations for Digital Collections
Nov. 17-19 (NEDCC)
Basics of Archives Management Virtual Workshop
Nov. 18 (AASLH)
Museums and Social Media Summit

Nov. 18-19 (MuseumNext)
Connecting with Classrooms and Your Community
Dec. 9 (AASLH)

IN-PERSON TRAINING

Plan Ahead:
2026 Lost Region Recovery Project Conference – Turning 250: The View from the Midwest
Nov. 19-21, Sioux Falls, S.D. (Middle West Review)

Funding Available



Souvenir of Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, Indiana, 1920, page 19, cropped *(Indiana Historical Society)*

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indiana Humanities Action Grants
Due Nov. 30 – Action Grants of up to $5,000 provide tax-exempt organizations with funds to develop and implement responsive and meaningful humanities programming. (Indiana Humanities)

New Professional Award to Attend the NCPH 2027 Annual Meeting
Due Dec. 1 – Two $500 travel grants to encourage new professionals to attend the 2027 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Mo. Applicants must be members of NCPH, must have been practicing public historians for no more than three years, and must have no institutional travel support to attend the annual meeting. (National Council on Public History)

Friends of Princeton University Library Research Grants
Due Jan. 13 – This program offers short-term Library Research Grants to promote scholarly use of the Princeton University Library special and distinct collections. These grants, which have a value of up to $6,000 plus transportation costs, are meant to help

defray expenses incurred in traveling to and residing in Princeton during the tenure of the grant. (Friends of the Princeton University Library)

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Inspire Grants for Small Museums
Due Nov. 13 – This grant program funds project-based efforts by small museums to serve the public through educational programs and exhibits, community partnerships, and collections stewardship activities. (IMLS)

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture
Due Nov. 13 – This grant program is designed to build the capacity of African American museums and support the growth and development of museum professionals at African American museums. (IMLS)

Museum Grants for American Latino History and Culture
Due Nov. 13 – This program is designed to build the capacity of American Latino history and culture museums to serve their communities. (IMLS)

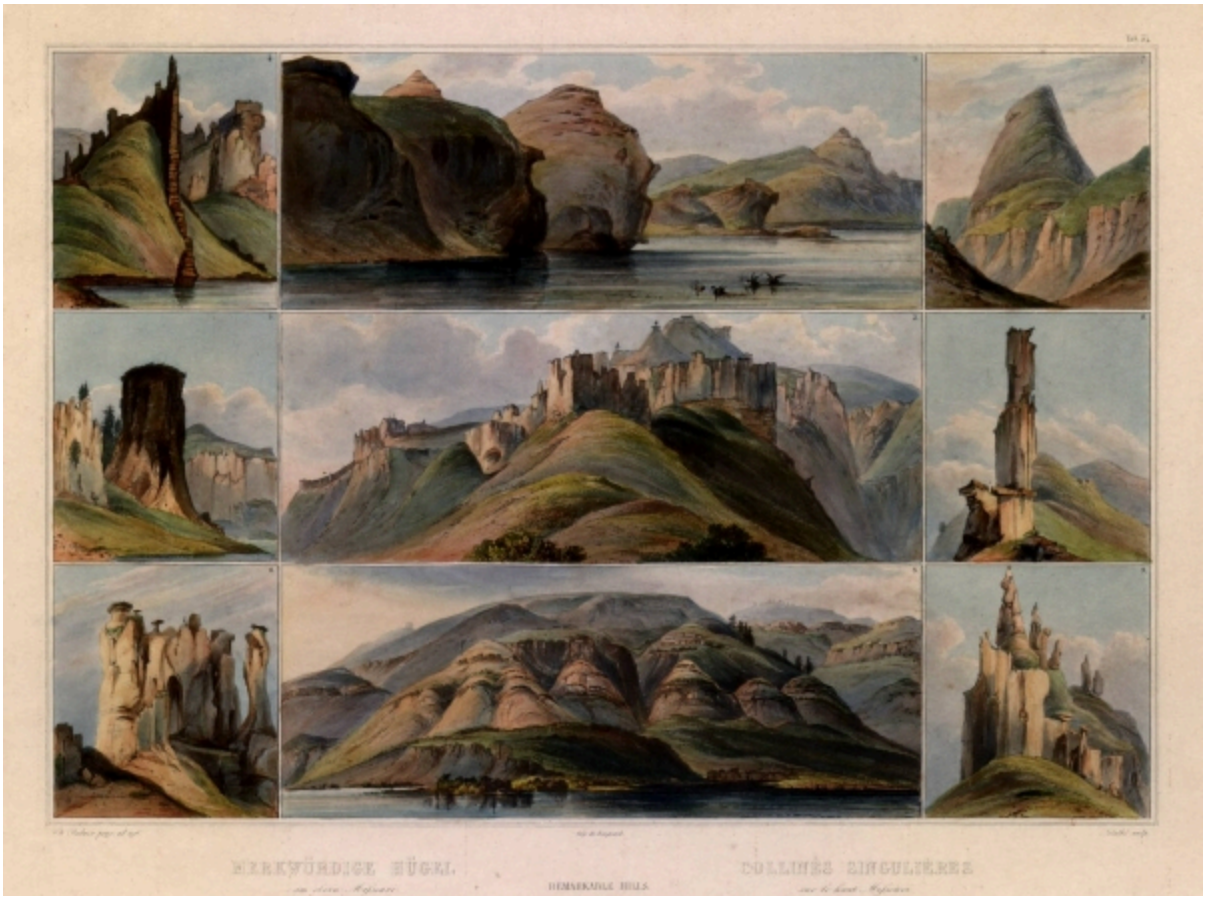
Museums for America
Due Nov. 13 – This program supports museums of all sizes and disciplines in strategic, project-based efforts to serve the public. (IMLS)

More IMLS Grants
Due Nov. 13 – Learn more about the Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Grants, Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, Museums Empowered Grants, and the 21st Century Museum Professionals Program. (IMLS)

PLAN AHEAD

Generosity in Action: $500 Community Microgrants
Due Nov. 19 (National Museum and Center for Service, with Giving Tuesday)
Hank and Dottie Rosso Scholarships to Attend a Fund Raising School Course
Due Nov. 30 (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy)
Spark Good Local Grants
Due Nov. 30 (Walmart.org)

Local & Regional Job Openings



Remarkable Hills on the Upper Missouri, May 1839 (Indiana Historical Society)

LOCAL

The Indiana Historical Society is hiring. See job listings here.

Festivals Project Manager
Fishers – Conner Prairie

Senior Director, Heritage & Archives
Indianapolis – Lilly

Executive Director
Lafayette – The Haan Museum of Indiana Art

Director of Programs & Education
Muncie – Minnetrista Museum & Gardens

REGIONAL

Museum Curator/Director
Baraga County, Mich. – Baraga County Historical Museum

Collection Manager
Grand Haven, Mich. – Tri-Cities Historical Museum

Project Manager II or Project Manager III
St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota Historical Society

Executive Director
O'Fallon, Mo. – Mid America Veterans Museum

Curator, Exhibitions and Collections
Cincinnati, Ohio – National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Executive Director
Oberlin, Ohio – Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society

Educational Outreach Coordinator
Nashville, Tenn. – Tennessee State 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!

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