The Indiana County Historian Program

Training Module # 3:
Primary and Secondary Source Analysis

Indiana Historical Bureau

- Finding and Evaluating Sources
- Making Your County History Relevant to All Hoosiers

- Dr. Michella Marino, Deputy Director
- Jill Weiss Simins, Historian
Story: Buckingham’s Baseline

Source: Indiana Archives and Records Administration
https://www.in.gov/iara/

- Land records
- Surveyor field notes
Source: National Archives
https://catalog.archives.gov/

Digitized surveyor field notes – Including Indiana

Source: HathiTrust
https://www.hathitrust.org/
Story: Land Survey to Spread Democracy


Source: American Memory, Library of Congress

1784 and 1785 Land Ordinances

https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mbhtml/dbnote.html
Source: U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Story: American Indian Perspective

Story: American Indian Perspective


Source: National Archives
https://catalog.archives.gov/

Treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795 (Ratified Indian Treaty #23, 7 STAT 49), between the Wyandot, Delaware, Shawnee, Ottawa, Chippewa, Putawatome, Miami, Eel River, Wea, Kickapoo, Piankashaw, and Kaskaskia Tribes and signed by "Mad" Anthony Wayne, that ended the Indian War on the Northwestern Frontier, commonly called "Wayne's War."
Source: National Archives
https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/treaties

Source: American Memory, Library of Congress
https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mdbnote.html

1784 and 1785 Land Ordinances
Sources: Oral Histories and Community Partners
http://www.miamiindians.org/

Conclusion of story 1

This base line was part of survey system designed to divide and organize land on a grid. Described by Land Ordinance of 1785, this method enabled U.S. government to sell land to settlers after removal of Native Americans.

U.S. Surveyor-General Jared Mansfield planned a north-south range line (Second Principal Meridian) and this east-west base line to serve as foundational lines for survey of Indiana Territory. Ensigner Buckingham, Jr. led the crew that marked these lines in the landscape 1804-05. During following decades of expansion, most western states adopted this survey method.
Story: Early Black Settlements


Source: Free Papers; "Negro Register "
https://indianahistory.org/explore/our-collections/archives/
https://www.in.gov/iara/2489.htm
Sources: Land Records

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS Abraham Van Buren, of the county of Franklin in the State of Indiana, and son of John Van Buren, late of the same county deceased, late of the county of Washington in the State of Indiana, deceased, by his will dated the eighteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, and being about to depart this life, did, by and with his last will and testament, appoint and direct that all his property, both real and personal, should be sold, and the proceeds thereof be disposed of and applied towards the payment of the debts and legacies, and the residue to be divided amongst the children of said Abraham Van Buren, and for the support of his widower, Mary Van Buren, and for the support of the children of said John Van Buren, deceased.

NOW KNOW YE, That the property of the estate of the deceased, in the hands of the executor hereinbefore mentioned, is being sold by order of the Circuit Court of the county of Franklin, and the same shall be disposed of at public auction at the courthouse of the county of Franklin, on the fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and all persons interested in said property are hereby notified to be present at said sale and to be heard.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Martin Van Buren, the executor, do hereby certify the true and exact copy of this instrument, and the same to be true and correct.

By the President:

Martin Van Buren

Source: IUPUI Digital Collections

http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/resources/databases

- Historic Indiana Atlases
- Historic Indiana Maps
- Historic Indiana Plat Books
- Indiana Historic Architecture Slide Collection
- Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory
- Theses and dissertations
Source: Ancestry.com

- Census
- City Directories
- Military Collections
- School Directories
- Immigration Records
- Ship Logs
- Church Records
- Vital Records: birth, death, marriage
- Wills

Source: Indiana Documents Leading to Statehood, Indiana Historical Bureau

https://www.in.gov/history/2451.htm
Oral Histories & Nontraditional Sources

Story: U.S. Colored Troops

Source: Military Records (Ancestry; Fold3; Report of Adjutant General @ HathiTrust)

Source: Graves

Find-A-Grave
SHAARD Database
Death records, Ancestry
Cemetery Records, ISL, local libraries
Church Records

http://eagleproject.homestead.com/Thorntown_colored_cemetery.pdf
Story: Sugar Creek & Political Power


Story: Sugar Creek & Political Power

James Sidney Hinton, 1880, Division of Manuscripts and Rare Books, Indiana State Library.
Source: More Newspapers

Databases with pay walls / accessible via ISL and other libraries

- Newspapers.com
- NewspaperArchive

Conclusion of Story 2
Primary and Secondary Sources

• Definitions

• Source reliability and evaluation
  • Popular vs. Academic
  • Just because they are old doesn’t mean they are trustworthy!
  • Understanding source context

• Revisionism

Resources at Indiana Historical Society

https://images.indianahistory.org/digital/search
Resources at the Indiana State Library

ISL Digital Collections
https://digitalcollections.library.in.gov/

- Indiana Memory
- Hoosier State Chronicles
- Subscription Databases
- Newspapers on microfilm
- When in doubt . . .

Indiana State Library
https://www.in.gov/library/ask.htm
Indiana Historical Bureau,  
Division of the Indiana State Library

Questions?

Indiana Historical Bureau (IHB)  
Division of the Indiana State Library, a state agency.

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Indiana Historical Society (IHS)  
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