
News from the Indiana State Archives

State Archivist F. Gerald Handfield, Jr., director of the Commission on Public Records, reorganized the commission into four consolidated divisions during 1990. The State Archives and Records Center, headed by Justin E. Walsh, constitutes one division. Forms Management and Records Management constitute another, known as the Records Systems Design division and headed by Ron Terry. The Conservation Lab and Micrographics constitute a third, the new Records Preservation division, headed by Deputy-Director Marta O'Neill. A fourth division, the new Records Automation and Innovation Lab (GRAIL), is headed by Sam Helm. This division will coordinate automation of the commission and formulate a statewide strategy for the use of optical disks to improve records administration for all levels of state and local government in Indiana. The GRAIL office is also spearheading an interagency Paperwork Reduction Task Force for the office of Governor Evan Bayh.

Recent acquisitions of the State Archives include:

RECORDS OF THE INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, 1847–1947; 70 cubic feet; unrestricted access; finding aid being prepared.

This is one of the most significant collections acquired in 1990. The records date from the opening of the school in 1847 and include minutes, pupil registers, financial ledgers, and instructional materials. The collection also includes sixty bound volumes comprising a nearly complete set of annual reports from institutions for the blind throughout the United States. These date from the beginning of the formation of benevolent institutions in the 1840s through 1905. Taken together, the two parts of the collection provide a rich resource for research on nineteenth-century policy toward the visually handicapped, not only in Indiana but nationwide.

STATE FAIR COLLECTION, 1890–1960s; 50 cubic feet; unrestricted access except motion picture film; itemized inventory of blueprints and photographs.

This extensive collection includes minutes of the Indiana State Fair Board, financial records, more than three hundred blueprints of buildings on the state fairgrounds, plus programs, premium lists, and scrapbooks. A rich collection of photographs and motion picture film dating from the 1920s through the 1950s documents the history of the fair.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY NEGRO REGISTER OF 1853.

This volume was compiled under a law of 1852 entitled "An

Act to Enforce the 13th Article of the Constitution.” The act required that county clerks “shall record the name, age, description, place of birth and residence” of all African-American residents for the purpose of prohibiting further black settlement in Indiana. The Switzerland County Register contains ten entries. Archives also has the Negro Registers of Clark, Franklin, and Ohio counties.

A handout on the “MAJOR FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES” that are held by the Archives is available upon request from Indiana State Archives, Room 117, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Included are name indexes, land records, military records, and veterans’ grave registration files useful in genealogical research.

The American Home Front During World War II

**October 18-20, 1991
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana**

A major conference on the American home front during World War II will be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, October 18-20, 1991. Sessions will cover such topics as public opinion and citizen morale, economic mobilization, the roles of women, civil rights, films and music, and the effects of war on children.

The general public is invited to join distinguished historians in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Rosie the Riveter and others who fought the war on the home front.

For further information please write or call: Indiana University Conference Bureau, IMU L-9, Bloomington, IN 47405. Telephone (812) 855-6449.

On page 17 of the March, 1991, issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*, Edward Pierce should, of course, read Edward D. Pierre.