
News from the Indiana State Archives

The Indiana Friends of the Archives (IFA) held its annual meeting on February 26, 1992. Dene B. Stratton of Camby was elected treasurer. Newly elected members of the board of directors are William J. Doherty, professor of history at Marian College, Indianapolis, and Ralph D. Gray, professor of history at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

James E. Farmer, president of the IFA, reported that more than forty-five individuals have become charter members. Inquiries about membership may be addressed to Indiana Friends of the Archives, 117 State Library and Historical Building, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

In July, 1992, the IFA and the Indiana Historical Bureau jointly published a second printing of *View from the State House: Recollections and Reflections, 1961–1965*. This reprinting of former Governor Matthew E. Welsh's book recognized the rarity of the work documenting watershed developments in state government by the principal figure in the developments.

The IFA has recruited three volunteers to help the Archives reduce its processing backlog. Wendy Gillette of Indianapolis is working five hours a week on an inventory of territorial records. Her information will be put on a database to facilitate searches by name, document, agency, and subject. Anne L. Rodick of Bloomington is devoting one day a week to preparing a database for nineteenth-century court records from Posey County. Earl J. Anderson of Indianapolis has begun microfilming fragile and deteriorating Archives documents. Among those already filmed are the muster rolls of the Battle of Tippecanoe (1811), Marion County Will Books A and B (1822–1855), Veterans' Enrollments for Marion County (1886) and Randolph County (1894), and additional Fort Wayne land records and Ku Klux Klan materials.

The Archives staff has prepared several displays during the past year. These included a history of the Indiana State Fair; an exhibit of materials from the files of the War History Commission designed to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of World War II; and documents relating to crime in Indiana.

Recent acquisitions of the State Archives include:

FRANCIS OTWELL CIVIL WAR COLLECTION, 1861–1866. 86 documents.

Baker and Daniels, an Indianapolis law firm, donated funds to the Indiana Friends of the Archives to purchase a valuable collection of Civil War documents formerly belonging to Francis Otwell of Bloomington, an officer in the 27th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, 1861–1862, and the Veteran Reserve Corps, 1863–1866. The collection consists mainly of muster rolls, morning reports, and clothing and ordnance returns of the 94th Company, 2nd Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps, stationed at Indianapolis under Otwell's command. Among other duties men of this company guarded Camp Morton, the Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. Records relating to Camp Morton are very scarce.

Conrad Baker, an early partner in Baker and Daniels and Indiana governor from 1867 to 1873, figures prominently in the collection because he was assistant provost marshal general of Indiana. Many soldiers from Otwell's command were detailed to Baker's office to assist in enforcing the draft and arresting deserters.

After the documents were cleaned and mended, they were displayed at a reception hosted by Baker and Daniels. The collection is housed permanently with the other Civil War documents in the Archives.

INDIANA LINCOLN UNION. One half cubic foot. Minutes of the Executive Committee, 1926–1943; financial records, 1932–1954; designs for the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial; miscellaneous correspondence of Richard Lieber and his secretary, Florence G. Ernsting. Gift of Jack Lieber Ernsting, Greenwood, Indiana.

INDIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION. Labor Market Development Reports, 1941–1974. 130 volumes. Comprehensive surveys of selected Indiana labor markets including detailed information on employment of women and minorities especially during World War II.

LAKE COUNTY NATURALIZATIONS, 1906–1932. 10 cubic feet. Declarations of Intention, Petitions, Certificates of Naturalization.

KU KLUX KLAN. One cubic foot. Previously unprocessed material from the case files of the Indiana attorney general. Includes briefs, depositions, correspondence, investigative reports, and contemporary books and articles relating to D. C. Stephenson and the Ku Klux Klan.