

Winter 2011

Again!

The February ice that we all dealt with turned its attention to the roof at the Indiana State Archives. The melting provided leaks, again. The ceiling tiles, in a section of the stacks, became saturated and then gave way, dumping water over stored state records. The ceiling above the microfilm cabinets in the reading room leaked. The plastic covered cabinets were moved away from the wall to allow the carpet to dry. Our records are so vulnerable in this “temporary” home.

Help!



Again! Damage up and down and top to bottom.

Good News, Bad News: a message from Stephen E. Towne, President Friends of the Indiana State Archives

The Friends of the Indiana State Archives (FISA) is thriving. Friends' volunteers outdo themselves year after year in providing important, indeed, essential, services to help the staff of the State Archives. In 2010 Friends volunteers worked over 9500 hours in organizing, indexing, and restoring State Archives records. The results of volunteers' labors are now posted on the Internet on the Indiana State Digital Archives for the entire world to see and use. Many thousands of researchers take advantage of the searchable databases that volunteers created. I recently met an historical researcher from Tennessee who couldn't praise enough the Civil War soldier database, and how its availability has helped him to reconstruct the past. He has the Friends volunteers to thank. The Friends volunteers should be very proud of their achievements.

In addition to the vibrant work of the volunteers, the Friends are at work on other fronts to assist the State Archives staff in their work to preserve the important records of Indiana government. Over the years the Friends have purchased equipment for both staff and volunteers to use. Computers, cameras, projectors, and other items have been bought with FISA-raised funds. Again, Friends members, volunteers, and Board members stepped up to fill important needs.

The greatest need that the Indiana State Archives has is a safe

and suitable home for the vital, essential, and irreplaceable records it must preserve. As you all know, the warehouse in which the State Archives has been stuck for the past ten years is utterly unsuited to the preservation of the state's documentary treasures. This winter has seen numerous roof leaks that have jeopardized the records. Temporary patches have failed. The roof itself is weak and liable to be destroyed in a high wind. We have heard that state administration have set aside large sums to replace the roof. But why spend good money on a bad building? The building housing the State Archives is a cheap and flimsy shell built to house a factory. Putting a new, expensive roof on this structure is throwing away taxpayer's money. What's worse, the lack of proper temperature and humidity controls in the building is destroying the records day in, day out. A new roof won't fix that problem, and buckets of dollars would be needed to fix the HVAC system in a ramshackle building. Keeping Indiana's documentary treasures in that building is tantamount to a death sentence for the fragile records of Indiana's governors, justices, and legislators of the last two hundred years.

I am personally concerned that the original State Constitutions of Indiana, case files of the Indiana Supreme Court, bills of the General Assembly, and the correspondence of Civil War Governor Oliver P. Morton with President Abraham

Lincoln must be submitted to the daily threats of rain, snow, heat, humidity, and high winds in what is essentially a pole barn building on 30th Street. Is the work of Justice Isaac Blackford, territorial Governor William Henry Harrison, General Lew Wallace, Morton, Lincoln and other fore-parents of Indiana to be sacrificed to the shortsightedness of the incumbent officeholders today? What does it say that the state's treasures are kept in a "tool shed?"

State government has many important responsibilities. One of them is ensuring the survival of the records that document 200 years of decision making and action. Without those records, the legitimacy of Indiana's government would be in question.

Protecting those records and making them available to Indiana citizens is a sacred trust incumbent on the state's leaders. The state's citizens look to them to fulfill their responsibility to preserve those records. The Indiana State Archives must be removed from the outrageous factory/warehouse where they have been "temporarily" dumped and be placed in a suitable facility where proper protections are made for their long-term survival.

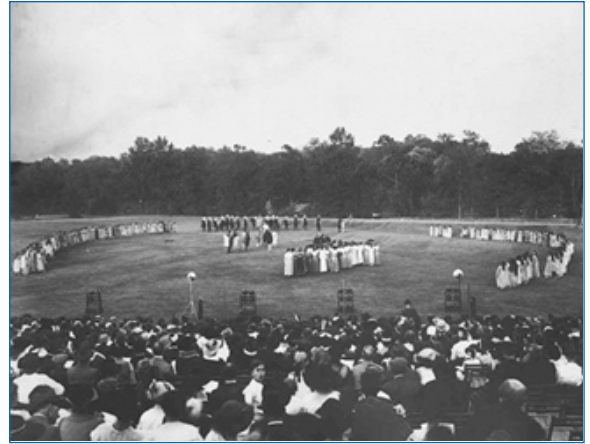
We all need to redouble our efforts to inform and advise people both in and out of government on the imminent perils posed to the State Archives records.

Annual Meeting in April

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the State Archives will be held at the Indiana State Library on April 19th. George W. Geib, retired Professor of History, Butler University, will discuss “The Pageant of Indiana: 1916.” This is a timely topic as we approach Indiana’s 200th anniversary. The buffet lun-

cheon will begin at Noon. The price of the luncheon is \$15.00, including tax and gratuity.

There is metered street parking or garage/lots in the area. Please contact Connie Rendfeld at carendfeld@aol.com or 317-232-3694 by April 12 for lunch reservations.



1916 Centennial celebration.

The Lilly Genealogy Club brought 21 members to the State Archives for an afternoon of work on February 9th. Lilly has a program called ‘Hearts and Hands’ that allows their Employee Activities Club members to take some time off for approved projects in the community. At the Archives, they worked on processing the Secretary of State’s dissolved corporation records. Volunteer, Tom York worked with the Genealogy Club. York, a retired Lilly employee, is a former chair of this group. The club also took a much-appreciated tour of the Archives, including a “show and tell” presentation by Elizabeth Hague in the Conservation Lab.

Several teen-agers were in the group as family members, as well as a set of parents of one member who were visiting from Northern Indiana. They had a great time, and would like

Donating Their Time

to come back several more times a year if chairman, Dale Cheetham organizes it through Lilly management again. The club accomplished

what usually takes several months for Archives volunteers Jim Davis and Tom York to do.



Archives volunteer, Tom York (standing) assists the Lilly Genealogy Club.

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Volunteers Set Records!

Volunteers for the Indiana State Archives logged 9,559 hours in 2010! That's our best year yet. The volunteers have been delighted to see their work become available to the public on the Indiana Digital Archives. We are completing work on new data bases to go on-

line later this year. These include: The Indiana Girls' School, Indiana Boys' School, Crawfordville Land Office, an index of Lawyers Admitted to the Marion County Bar, closed Schools of Nursing and Indiana Registered Pharmacists.

Tape is Evil

by Elizabeth Hague

When framing photographs, certificates, etc., make copies to frame and preserve the original. If originals must be displayed, their exposure time should be limited and low light (50 lux maximum) is essential. As I mentioned in an earlier article, light—specifically UV light—can damage items.

Notice the discoloration in the corner where the frame blocked the light from the edge of the certificate. At home, hang them in a windowless hallway. Lights can be turned on long enough to view the item and then extinguished.

Don't forget to renew your Friends of the Indiana State Archives membership!



You can see the shading difference and the damage from being in a frame.