

ARCHIVES CURRENT

Newsletter of the Friends of the Indiana State Archives, Inc.

SUPREME COURT GRANT ADVANCES PRESERVATION

A recent grant of \$10,000 from the Indiana Supreme Court has launched Stage 2 in the State Archives' project to make Supreme Court case files from 1817 to 1868 accessible to the public.

A previous grant from the Supreme Court in 2004 enabled the State Archives to create a database to the

Stage 2 involves the preservation of the original case files. Presently they are stored in the State Archives' vault in bundles corresponding to the original boxes in which Supreme Court Clerks filed the cases. Each case is folded in thirds and tied with a ribbon or string. Most of these handwritten documents have remained undisturbed for a century or more.

To preserve the case files, the State Archives is using temporary employees and volunteers. They are carefully unfolding the individual cases and lightly cleaning them to remove surface dirt. Cases needing mending or other conservation treatments are noted. The documents are then flattened and placed in

acid-free folders. The individual case records are compared to the database to make sure the information is accurate and corrections made. Finally, the folders are placed in acid-free boxes corresponding to the original boxes and then returned to the State Archives' vault. With proper storage and environment, the case files are secure for the future. They can be readily retrieved for research and copying.

As a last step in Stage 2, conservation personnel will treat the cases marked



A bundle of case files.

for special care due to mold, insect damage, and torn or soiled documents.

The current phase of the project is being supervised by Michael Vetman, a Reference Archivist with over ten years of archival and library experience. He is being assisted by Morgan Casteel-Foust. Volunteers working with the project include Archives' volunteer coordinator Barbara Wood, and Maire Gurevitz, a senior at Butler University. Additional volunteers are needed to advance the project. Perspective volunteers may contact Barbara Wood by e-mail at volunteers@fisa-in.org or by telephone at 317-591-5222.

Stage 3 of the project envisions adding subject information about the individual

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(left to right) Maire Gurevitz, Michael Vetman, Morgan Casteel-Foust

12,522 cases heard by the Court prior to 1868. Before the creation of the database, Archives' staff had to rely on a card index created in the 1930s when searching for specific cases. The card index was arranged alphabetically by the first party to the case. Second party searches were impossible. In creating the database, a field was added for the second party's name, as well as a field for the county in which the case was originally tried. This database can now be sorted and searched online at <http://incite.in.gov/DataEntryApp/Public.aspx>



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ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS HONORED BY INDIANA SENATE

On April 17, 2007 the volunteers of the Indiana State Archives were recognized for their dedication and hours of service in a resolution introduced on the floor of the Indiana Senate by Senator Brent Waltz. Senator James Merritt, a member of the FISA Board of Directors, also

The State Archives, our volunteer program and our volunteers were also the subject of a front page story in *The Southside Times*, a weekly newspaper published in Beech Grove by Times-Leader Publications, LLC. The article included a photo of Dale Armstrong, Barb Wood and Alan

they are entering data in the computer, refolding materials or processing collections, our volunteers are making Indiana's historical records more accessible to all Hoosiers. The work that has been accomplished and continues to be accomplished by our volunteers is greatly appreciated.



(left to right) Jeff Roeder, Jerry Sargent, Ann Loyal, Dale Armstrong, Senator Brent Waltz, Boyd Obermeyer, Mary Etta Boren, Sandy Ricketts, Barbara Wood

offered words of praise for the work done by the Archives' volunteers.

Six of our volunteers were escorted onto the floor of the Senate as the resolution was presented. They were: Dale Armstrong, 500 hour volunteer; Mary Etta Boren, 1000 hour volunteer; Ann Loyal, 1000 hour volunteer; Boyd Obermeyer, 1000 hour volunteer; Sandy Ricketts, 1000 hour volunteer and Barb Wood, 1000 hour volunteer.

Also in attendance were: Steve Towne, President of The Friends of the Indiana State Archives; his son, David Towne; Jeff Roeder, Assistant Director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records; and Jerry Sargent, a member of the FISA Board of Directors.

January taken by Sandy Ricketts at the Statehood Day celebration in December 2006. The photo was taken in front of the State Archives' "The Legislative Houses of Indiana" display.

Since receiving these accolades, our volunteers have continued to work on their respective projects. Whether

Congratulations to all our volunteers and thanks to Jerry Sargent, a member of the FISA Board of Directors, for initiating this recognition.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Indiana State Archives please call 317-591-5222 to leave a message and your number for Barb Wood or visit our web site at www.fisa-in.org. Click 'contact' for the e-mail information. We will be glad to set up an interview and tour.

Submitted by Barb Wood,
Volunteer Coordinator
Indiana State Archives

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9, 2007
Noon

Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, at the Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis

December 11, 2007
12:00-1:00

Indiana Statehood Day Celebration, Indiana State House, Indianapolis

The Archives' volunteers continue to work on their various projects and in so doing, reach new levels of recognition. Mary Etta Boren and Ann Loyal have joined the 1000 Hour Club and Charlie Hessler, June Pogue, Kathy Venable, Trudy Weaver and the IUPUI (spring term) students have reached the 100 hour level.

We have one new volunteer, Ruth May, who is working on early nursing student records from closed private nursing schools. Ruth was recruited by Lloyd Hosman.

Several volunteers continue entering data on the Civil War Service Card Collection. We have completed 248 of the 258 boxes in the collection. When completed, this collection will be available on line and will constitute the largest collection of its kind.

Boyd Obermeyer is processing a large collection of aerial photographs from the Department of Natural Resources. These are aerial surveys of flood plains and river basins.

Barb Wood has completed the transfer of records from the Industrial Board's Department of Women and Children into acid free folders and boxes. Included in this collection were transcripts of the proceedings of the Commission on Working Women from 1914. This may be the only copy in existence.

Mary Etta Boren is working on a collection of more than 100 cubic foot boxes of Marion County Superior Court records dating from 1871. The records are in extremely poor condition having been stored in the State Record Center for 50 years. Mary Etta wears rubber gloves, rather than the usual cotton gloves, because the records are

so badly soiled. She is creating an inventory of the cases as she processes them.

Ron Darrah is processing membership files of the Indiana Department of the United Spanish American War Veterans.

Glenn Mather and Sandy Ricketts are processing records and photographs from the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Archives, please contact us at 317-591-5222. We are located at 6440 E. 30th Street, and are open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays).

Barbara F. Wood
Volunteer Coordinator

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES

The Friends of the Indiana State Archives, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization of citizens concerned with helping the Indiana State Archives fulfill its role as the permanent repository for official records of state and local government in Indiana. The Friends supports the management, preservation, and responsible use of Indiana's public records and serves as an advocate for the Indiana State Archives. Join other Hoosier citizens in an effort to save Indiana History. Enroll today.

Enclosed is my check made payable to the Friends of the Indiana State Archives, Inc. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter and invitations to workshops, special events and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

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- _____ Individual Member \$25
- _____ Paul V. McNutt Society \$100
- _____ Oliver P. Morton Society \$250
- _____ William Henry Harrison Society \$500

Please clip and mail to:
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6440 East 30th Street
Indianapolis IN 46219

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cases and linking the cases to the published opinions given by the Supreme Court.

The Indiana State Archives is deeply grateful to Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and the Indiana Supreme Court for their continuing commitment to the preservation of Indiana's judicial heritage.

*Visit the Friends
website at
www.fisa-in.org*