

# Family Pathways

WAYNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, RICHMOND, INDIANA

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2026

## Wayne County from 1776 to 2026 Our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The Miami tribe were the only people in what is now Wayne County, Indiana in 1776.

Richmond, Indiana in 1884.



Downtown Richmond, IN as seen in 1974 with the Promenade.

Inside: list of other Genealogy Libraries.



View of the old Elder-Bearman store and Manpower around 2024.



**WAYNE COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**OFFICERS**

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 Vice-President . . . . . Ron Baker  
 Recording Secretary . . . . . Jane Pyle  
 Corresponding Secretary . . . . . open  
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**First Families or Research**

[wcsresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:wcsresearch@yahoo.com)

**On the web:**

<http://wcs-in.org/>

**On Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com>

**By Phone:**

(765) 277-9606

**Located:**

First Friends Meeting, (lower level)  
 2010 Chester Blvd.,  
 Richmond, IN 47374

Open every Monday from 10am to 4pm except for December and January. Other times by appointment.

Family Pathways is published quarterly by  
 WAYNE CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
 PO BOX 2599

RICHMOND, IN 47375-2599

\*Members may submit a free query each year. Non-member query is \$1.00 up to 25 words or \$2.00 for 25 to 50 words. \*Back issues for Vol. 1 through Vol. 30 are \$1.25 per issue

*From the Desk of the President.*



I want to thank one of our members, Lois Baldwin from So. Carolina, for her suggestion of listing the genealogy libraries around us. I also included the state libraries of Indiana and Ohio. Can't forget Allen County in Ft. Wayne. They are the largest genealogy library east of the Mississippi River. Let me know if we need to add any other genealogy libraries within 100 miles of Richmond.

Anyone else would like to see something new in our newsletter. Contact me.

Membership dues are due by the end of this month. See page 9 for the form. There are 7 members that have not paid their 2026 dues yet.

Next Newsletter will have picture of our Annual Rummage Sale. (May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>).

We are changing up our Christmas Bazaar to be on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Just to see if Thursday is better than Saturday. The last few years we have had fewer and fewer customers on Saturday. Also, we moved the Bazaar to Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Always open for any donations of slightly used items for sale in our Rummage and Bazaar Sales. Need to be clean. We can pick it up for you if you are within a 20-mile radius of Richmond. Either call 765-277-1207 or contact us using any method listed to the left.

Does anyone have any ideas on how to get interested parties to join our Society? We are getting older and have had some health scares. We will not survive as a Society if we lose one more person. Our hard workers are mostly in their 80s. We need help putting our tent up at festivals, moving boxes for our sales from the basement to the Church dining room and back down after the sale. It doesn't take long but we need help. A couple of hours, here and there. Do you have a spouse you can loan us? Or sons, sons-in-law, nephews, or friends?

**Special announcement**, our Rummage Sale netted us \$1517.30 this spring. Largest sale in 10 years. As always, thank you for what you can do to help us.

Your President,

*Marcia L. Sloan*

## History of Wayne County, Indiana

It is well documented that the first white settlers came to the Indiana Territory by 1805, Smith, Rue, Holman, and others. This was followed by more settlers in 1806. There were many fur traders in this area. Then they turn to running trading post. And towns grew around these posts.

In 1787 the Northwest Territory was established that included what is now Wayne County, Indiana. By 1800 this area became the Indiana Territory, from the 85<sup>th</sup> latitudes all the way west to the Mississippi River. And from the Ohio River north to the Great Lakes.

Wayne County was established in 1811 out of Clark and Dearborn Counties. Indiana was admitted into the Union on December 11, 1816, as the 19<sup>th</sup> state.

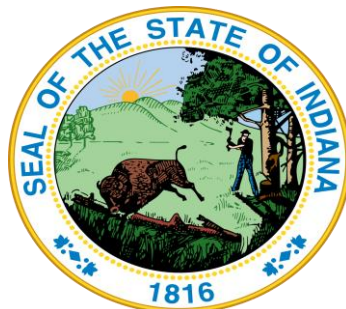
The first county seat was Salisbury, Indiana, a town which no longer exists. It was later moved to Centerville, Indiana in 1818, where it remained until Richmond was designated as the seat in 1873.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne\\_County,\\_Indiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_County,_Indiana))

During the antebellum years, Wayne County had several stations on the Underground Railroad, a network of blacks and whites who aided refugees from slavery to reach freedom. Levi Coffin and his wife Catharine aided more than 1,000 refugees at their home in Fountain City, now designated as a National Historic Landmark. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne\\_County,\\_Indiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayne_County,_Indiana))

Wayne County, Indiana is located at two major crossroads. US 40 goes from the east to the west . Starting in New Jersey and goes through St. Louis on the Mississippi River. And US 27 that goes north and south. It starts in Miami, FL and goes through Cincinnati, Ohio to Ft. Wayne, IN. This has allowed commerce to grow in Wayne County. Even the railroad made a major depot in Richmond, IN.

As factories have left and the economy adjusts to new needs, the 2020 census shows a decrease of just over 12,500 people from the top census numbers in 1970 of 79,109. (Information from the Western Wayne News, Dec. 1, 2021.)



## Just a reminder of the research collection in our library.

We own around 4000 books and periodicals.

Family Files (drop files)

Surname 'Family Genealogy' - over 600 books

George Heavilin card collection - years: 1972-1984 (440,000 3X5 cards)

Beverly Yount scrapbook - years: 9/10/1963-4/15/1973

Cemeteries - map listings & lists of interments

Wayne County townships maps

Funeral cards / Prayer cards - years: 2002 to present

Obits, births, deaths, anniversaries – collected by George Heavilin

We have collected the Obits from the Palladium-Item (and now also the Western Wayne News) since 1990.

Richmond City directories: 1931, 1937, 1939, 1941-43, 1945, 1947-49, 1951, 1955-56, 1958, 1960-62, 1964-1994, 1996, 1998, 2000

Many more books



## Other libraries near Richmond, Indiana with genealogy resources

(always call first, their hours can change)

### Morrisson-Reeves Public Library

80 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street

765-966-8291

**Hours:** Monday thru Thursday 9:30am to 8pm

Friday 9:30am to 6pm

Saturday 9:30am to 4pm

Sunday Closed

Go straight back to the elevator or stairs and go to the lower level. (For now.)\*\*  
(As of April 2026, elevator is out of service. And just saw that they are moving the collection to the first floor around May 6<sup>th</sup>.)

They have many WPA (Works Progress Administration created by FDR in 1935) books. City Directories and microfilm on newspapers.

\*\*This is subject to change for the renovation of the library this summer (2025/6).

765-966-8291 or email them at [refdept@mrlinfo.org](mailto:refdept@mrlinfo.org)



**Earlham College Friends Collection**

801 National Road West

Contact the library before you go. Their hours change. Contact the Friends Collection using this email address ([archives@earlham.edu](mailto:archives@earlham.edu)) to set up an appointment or check if they are open.

**Hours:** Tuesday thru Friday 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm.

Always close on weekends and Monday. (<https://library.earlham.edu/hours>)

Many Quaker records and the history of the Quakers.



**Preble County Genealogy Room** open M-R 9-5 & F 9-3.

450 South Barron St., Eaton, OH

<https://preblelibrary.org/genealogy/> or call 937-456-4970.



**Winchester Library** open M-R 9-8, F 9-5, S 9-5

125 North East Street, Winchester, IN

<https://www.wincomlib.org/> or call (765) 584-4824



**Randolph County Historical Society, Inc.**

416 South Meridian Street, Winchester, Indiana 47394,  
[765.584.1334](tel:765.584.1334) Email: [rchsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rchsmuseum@gmail.com) Facebook public page: The  
Randolph County Historical Society Museum and Shop. Facebook closed group:  
Randolph County Indiana Historical and Genealogical Society.

**Museum & Library Hours**

Open to the public:

Thursday - 1pm to 4 pm

Appointments are also available most days of the week based upon volunteer  
availability.

The Museum is available for club, group, class, and private tours.

There is no charge, however, donations to assist with 'keeping the lights on'  
are greatly appreciated.

If you are researching your family and would like to make an appointment, please  
contact us at 765.584.1334 or send an email to: [rchsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rchsmuseum@gmail.com)



**Franklin County Library**, (Brookville, IN) open M-R 9-8, F 9-6, S 9-3  
919 Main St., Brookville, IN

<https://fclibraries.org/localhistory/> or call (765) 647-4031



**Fayette County PL** (Connersville, IN) open M-R 10-7, F 9-5, S 9-5  
828 Grand Ave., Connersville, IN



**Fayette County Public Library**

828 Grand Avenue • Connersville, Indiana 47331  
(765) 827-0883



**Cambridge City PL open Monday and Wednesday 2-4. (E-mailed that the genealogy part is only open on Tuesdays from 2-4.)**

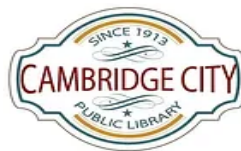
600 West Main St., Cambridge City, IN

Mon / Wed 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Tue / Thur 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday / Sat 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

(765) 478-3335



[email info at ccitypl.org](mailto:info@ccitypl.org) or call (765) 478-3335

Also, there are a few good libraries in Ohio and Indiana that have ‘good to great’ genealogical information.

**Allen County Public Library**

900 Library Plaza,

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Email: [ask@acpl.info](mailto:ask@acpl.info)

Phone: [\(260\) 421-1200](tel:(260)421-1200)

**Locations and Hours**

Main Library Hours

Monday - Thursday 9am-9pm

Friday and Saturday 9am- 6pm

Sunday 12pm - 5pm

900 Library Plaza

Fort Wayne IN 46802

<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>



**Indiana State Library**

<https://www.in.gov/library/about/hours-and-directions/>

<https://www.in.gov/library/collections-and-services/genealogy/>

315 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202-3210

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Closed (call to see if they are open on Saturday)

Sunday *Closed*

**Contact Information**

317-232-3689 Reference Desk

**Hours:** The Genealogy Collection is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



**Ohio Memory**

[www.ohiomemory.org](http://www.ohiomemory.org)

The Ohio History Connection and the State Library of Ohio coordinated contributions to this site from over 390 cultural heritage institutions across the state. The site now has over 1.6 million digital images, including yearbooks, diaries, letters, county atlases, photos of Civil War officers, newspapers and much more.

## **State Library of Ohio**

274 E. First Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43201  
[1-614-644-7061](tel:1-614-644-7061)

The State Library's Columbus location, as of May 15, 2026, is closed for relocation. Staff are available by phone and email during regular business hours. Read about the [State Library Relocation](#) for details.

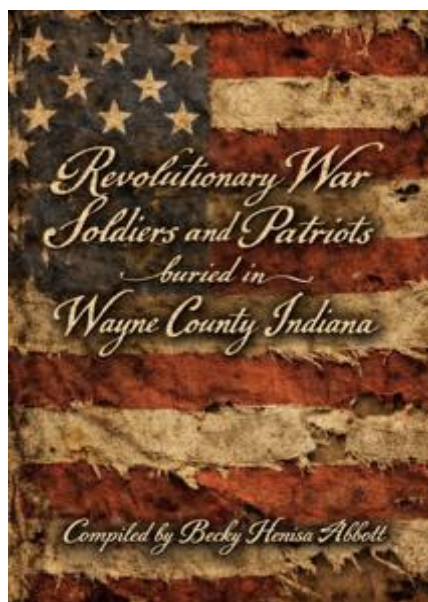


## **Greenville Library**

520 Sycamore Street  
Greenville, OH 45331  
Phone: [937-548-3915](tel:937-548-3915)  
Email: [gplstaff3915@gmail.com](mailto:gplstaff3915@gmail.com)  
<https://www.greenville-publiclibrary.org/gplgenealogypage>

### **Hours**

Sunday-Closed  
Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Just received information that the NEW DAR book on Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Wayne County, IN is now available. Improved information on these burials. Their first selling date will be the Memorial weekend at the Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park, Cardina Greenway, Richmond, IN. If interested in purchasing a copy, contact the Wayne County Genealogical Society and we will get you in contact with a DAR representative. I believe the price will be around \$25.00



**Supplies needed**

- Sheet protectors (500 to box)
- Binders with outside pockets on the front and spine
  - Need 1/2 inch binders
  - Need 1-inch binders
  - Need 2-inch binders
- White or Black binders
- Reinforced Hanging Folders (Pendaflex) 5-tab, standard letter size



**Copier paper (500 sheets to a ream)**  
**(REALLY NEED)**

Need Scotch Tape (for 1" core roll, 3/4" wide or individual dispensers) (Please NO off brands)

(You can order any of these from Amazon.com. And have it shipped to my home address, 931 South 10th Street, Richmond, IN 47374. But please email ([masloan@iu.edu](mailto:masloan@iu.edu)) me that you did this. Amazon doesn't list who sent the package.)

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN TO US ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you want newsletter by e-mail as a PDF \_\_\_\_\_ (This saves the society money)

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Membership fee and a Donation to (if you can) to help offset our expenses.

Make check payable to – **WAYNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Send to: **PO BOX 2599**

**RICHMOND, IN 47375-2599**

The "**MEMBERSHIP FEES**" for the **WAYNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** are as follows:

1. Membership is for the calendar year.
2. All memberships include the quarterly newsletter.
3. Membership fees: Single is \$20.00, and couples are \$25.00.

What surnames are you looking for or willing to share information on?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Wayne County Genealogical Society (WCGS) is a 501c3 non-profit organization focused on preserving the history of Wayne County, Indiana, and assisting those interested in learning about Wayne County history and ancestors. In February 2002, WCGS met the requirements and became a chapter of the Indiana Genealogical Society

**More Information Inside!**

**Wayne County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 2599  
Richmond, IN 47375-2599**