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## News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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## News from the Midwest—Troy Eller English, Wayne State University, and Alison Stankrauff, Indiana University South Bend, Assistant Editors

Please submit *News from the Midwest* items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller English at [au2050@wayne.edu](mailto:au2050@wayne.edu), and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Alison Stankrauff at [astankra@iusb.edu](mailto:astankra@iusb.edu). Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

### INDIANA

#### Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection—Allen County Public Library

Recently discovered (in a box!), is a fascinating collection of 60 documents gathered by Catharine Garvin of Troy, New York, during her search for her son, Cornelius. In the summer of 1863, 18-year-old Cornelius Garvin, a resident of the Rensselaer County Almshouse who was classified as an incurable “idiot,” was sold into the Union Army as a substitute by the home’s superintendent. When she discovered what had happened, Catharine set out to find Cornelius, and these documents tell her story. They include passes allowing her to travel behind Union lines, statements from soldiers, Catharine’s letters to officials, documents supporting her search signed by civilian and military officials, a copy of the War Department’s findings in the case, and a handwritten note from President Abraham Lincoln to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton urging that the case be investigated. The Catharine Garvin Collection is now online and can be viewed at [contentdm.acpl.lib.in.us/cdm/search/collection/p16089coll38/searchterm/garvin/field/all/mode/all/conn/and](http://contentdm.acpl.lib.in.us/cdm/search/collection/p16089coll38/searchterm/garvin/field/all/mode/all/conn/and).

#### Southwestern Indiana Collections Connection Association

In March 2014, like-minded professionals in Evansville, Indiana, established a professional support group in the southwestern Indiana region that focuses on collections management, care, and preservation. The South-

western Indiana Collections Connection Association (SICCA) strives to provide its members a no-cost, professional networking community to discuss ways to improve and advocate collections care in their institutions. SICCA aims to build a platform for institutional collaboration among its members. Along with professional events, informal get-togethers are held in which 50 members from 26 organizations from Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois can bond over food and drinks at a restaurant or bar while connecting with fellow professionals in the museum, archives, library, and academic fields. The July dinner was held at Turoni’s Pizzeria and Brewery. It was a great group sharing a passion for local history! If you are interested in SICCA, drop a line to Amber at [agowen@vanderburghcounty.in.gov](mailto:agowen@vanderburghcounty.in.gov) or Kaman at [kaman@emuseum.org](mailto:kaman@emuseum.org).



*SICCA’s members enjoy fellowship and pizza.*

### KANSAS

#### Mennonite Library and Archives

The Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, transferred approximately 2,300 digital photographs to the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, on March 23,

2015. The original nitrate negatives and glass lantern slides were taken by Mennonite missionary and ethnologist H. R. Voth from 1893 until about 1912, mostly at Third Mesa villages. The archives at Bethel College houses Voth’s extensive papers. Archivist and Codirector of Libraries John D. Thiesen digitized the photographs over the course of the past three years. Approximately 40 percent of the photos are of ceremonial activities and are therefore restricted from publication and display. The official transfer took place in a meeting of the Hopi Tribal Council in the tribal offices in Kykotsmovi. Having a full set of the Voth photos in the Hopi archives returns the images to their place of origin where they will have the most relevance and use.

### KENTUCKY

#### Northern Kentucky University

Northern Kentucky University is now exhibiting *Exploring Covington’s History: Selections from Special Collections*. The exhibit, which celebrates Covington’s bicentennial, features historical photographs, records, and artifacts from Special Collections. Among the many pieces on display are Covington school pictures from the 1890s to the 1960s and 1930s broadsides advertising toll rates for the John A. Roebling Suspension Bridge. The bridge, designed by Roebling and his son before they embarked on the Brooklyn Bridge project, was completed in December 1866 and has been an iconic Ohio River landmark ever since. The

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exhibition runs through December in the Archives Research Room, Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University. Public visiting hours are Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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## **MICHIGAN**

### **Wayne State University**

In partnership with Wayne State University's School of Library and Information Science, the Reuther Library hosted a *Wikipedia* Edit-a-thon on July 24. Student participants worked to create several *Wikipedia* articles for notable people and organizations with archival materials at the Reuther Library. This effort is part of a continuing effort to increase collection visibility while broadening student skills.

The Reuther Library was awarded a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to increase access to rare, silent footage of Wayne State University history. The grant will support the preservation of film documenting student life, including athletic events and interclass games at Wayne State University circa 1925 to 1932.

Wayne State University's Walter P. Reuther Library was recently awarded a grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support public programming aimed at celebrating and preserving the history of Latino/a Americans in the Detroit metropolitan area. The Reuther Library will host events highlighting archival materials that illustrate the Latino/a American experience. Events will begin during National Hispanic American Month in September and October and continue into the spring around the Cesar Chavez National

Day of Service. Regional organizations will meet near the end of the program to consider future efforts to better document the history and legacy of Latino/a Detroit. Latino Americans: 500 Years of History is part of an NEH initiative, "The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square." Visit [www.reuther.wayne.edu](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu).

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## **MINNESOTA**

### **Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County**

Thanks to a generous grant, the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead, Minnesota, has hired project archivist Matt Eidem. Along with the help of the local college students that he will supervise, Eidem will seek to make over 400 linear feet of archival collections relating to the history of Clay County more accessible to the public by creating finding aids for each collection and entering them into PastPerfect Five. An online catalog of the historical society's holdings will be available online using PastPerfect Online. This project has been funded in part by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

### **Red Wing Shoe Company Museum**

In conjunction with the second annual Red Wing Museum Crawl, the Red Wing Shoe Company Museum launched a new exhibit focusing on William D. "Bill" Sweasy, president of the company from 1949 to 1972, and chairman of the board until 1991. The exhibit explores Sweasy's vision and leadership through a selection of significant business initiatives that he championed within the company and the community.

Visitors to the museum in downtown Red Wing may view photos and artifacts from the corporate archives through spring 2016. Virtual visitors are invited to view additional photographs at the companion exhibit at [solutions.redwingshoes.com/WDMuseumExhibit](http://solutions.redwingshoes.com/WDMuseumExhibit).

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## **OHIO**

### **Greene County Archives**

The Greene County Archives successfully completed its second annual "I Found It in the Archives" Contest. This was an extraordinary opportunity to showcase how the information found in our repository has touched peoples' lives. We had five contest participants, and over 165 people voted for their favorite entries.

We would like to congratulate our local winner, Amber McKenzie, for her essay, "The Dark Side of My Family History." Amber's entry has been submitted to the state level contest.

All of the entries that we received were intriguing, and we would like to thank everyone who submitted an essay! We would also like to thank everyone who read and voted for their favorite stories. The number of voters really exceeded our expectations. We wish Amber the best of luck at the state contest, and we are already looking forward to our third annual "I Found It in the Archives" Contest.