

Hope's Heritage in Print

Heritage Days inevitably reflects back on the history of Hope and the area. Among the parade, crafts, music and food, there is an undercurrent that pulls our thoughts back to earlier years and previous generations. Hope has a fascinating history, filled with colorful characters. Luckily for us, several books have been published that preserve that history for us, and they are useful tools to help remember the sacrifices and struggles of our forebears. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather a few books that help highlight our shared history. More information can always be found at the Yellow Trail Museum, the Bartholomew County Historical Society, and the Columbus Library, which has a specialized Genealogy and Local History room.

Hope, Indiana Sesquicentennial, 1980 This slim volume is essentially a pictorial history of Hope and the surrounding area. The pictures tell stories beyond words, though, and this is a delightful book to sit with for an hour or so, leafing through photos of everything from old businesses to farm life to Civil War veterans.

Hope and Hawcreek Township: Its History and People by Mildred Dixon Harrod, 1987 This general history of our area covers a little of everything. From bills of sale to community organizations, through schools and churches and the town's early history, if there is a topic of local interest, chances are that it has an entry within the 804 pages. This book serves as a comprehensive, if cumbersome history of our town.

History of Bartholomew County, Volumes I and II by the Bartholomew County Historical Society, 1976 and 2003 These two books stand as the official histories of Bartholomew County. Volume I covers the early history of the county, from settlement to 1888. Volume II covers the late 19th century up to 2003. While these books do not focus solely on Hope, they do spend considerable energy discussing the various communities around the county, including some which have faded away through the years. Among the entries are some interesting biographical sketches, town histories, farming, manufacturing, and transportation legacies that have helped shape our world.

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