

The Indiana Room – Not Just For Genealogists

I am a Buckeye by hazard of birth and claim to be a Hoosier by virtue of living in Indiana for more than half of my life. Enough said. When I came to southern Indiana I discovered pork tenderloins, redbuds and dogwoods. In Columbus, I discovered world class architecture and a first rate library.

What about you? Have you lived in Bartholomew County all - or most – of your life? Or, have you moved to the area recently? Would you like to know more about where you live? Whether you're a native Hoosier or a transplant, you'll find that the Bartholomew County Public Library's Indiana Room has a lot to offer! It's divided into two sections – books that can be checked out and reference books that are to be used in the library.

It's not just genealogy and history, although you will find plenty of information on both. Some real gems can be discovered in the Indiana Room, which is open for use during the library's normal hours of operation.

Study local histories - discover the *History of Bartholomew County* by local author Jean Prather along with the earlier reprint version *1888 History of Bartholomew County, Indiana*. If you enjoy looking at photographs, try *The Faces Among Us* by Harry McCawley and *Columbus, Indiana* – the architecture through the eyes of Balthazar Korab. If your interest extends to the state of Indiana, much more can be found both written and photographic.

Find your ancestors. Whether you're a beginning genealogist or an experienced researcher, we have books that can help. From the unique eight volume set of *American Quaker Genealogy* to Columbus city directories, there is information to help you find your family. Have some fun looking up or refreshing your memory about grandpa, grandma, mom, dad and schoolmates in our extensive collection of Columbus and Hope yearbooks.

Explore nature. What kind of birds, trees, flowers, fauna and flora exist in our beautiful state and where can you find them? Check out the *Mosses of Indiana* or the *Butterflies of Indiana* for something a little more unusual.

Discover books by authors who are from Indiana such as the prolific writers Gene Stratton Porter and Booth Tarkington. Or read more recent authors Carol Faenzi (the Stonecutter's Aria) and Lou Holtz (Wins, Losses & Lessons). Taste local cuisine with Daniel Orr (Real Food) and Chef Gregory (the Chef Gregory Cookbook) or the Brown County Cookbook and the Conner Prairie Cookbook for a little more regional color.

Because the seasons are changing and it will soon be fall, take a look at *Farmer John Outdoors – A Hoosier's Guide to Country Living* and *Month by Month Gardening in Indiana* or *Farming Once Upon a Time* - a wonderful collection of farm photographs by J. C. Allen.

A variety of publications can be found in the Indiana Room including *Outdoor Indiana*, The Indiana Historical Society's magazine *Traces*, several genealogy magazines and newsletters, local historical societies' newsletters and Historic Landmark Foundation's *Preservation*.

Autumn is the favorite season of many Hoosiers. And for good reason; it conjures up images of farm harvests, fall festivals and food. It's a great time to curl up with a good book and a cup of hot cider on a chilly afternoon. Find just the book you're looking for in the Indiana Room at the Bartholomew County Public Library. Enrich your life by learning about the beauty, culture, traditions and heritage of Bartholomew County and the state of Indiana.

Michele Bottorff is a Reference Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library