

46TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
of the **INDIANA**
ASSOCIATION
OF HISTORIANS

Indiana University East

Saturday, April 11, 2026, Richmond Indiana

In which, historians, of all manners, from Indiana and beyond, explore sundry topics related to:

**HISTORY IN UNEXPECTED PLACES:
RETHINKING AND REIMAGINING
HISTORY IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY**

IN an era when archives are digital, landscapes convey environmental stories, and community narratives emerge through unconventional means, historians are increasingly challenged to find and interpret the past in unexpected places. This conference invites explorations of the overlooked, the unconventional, and the invisible. We ask for histories that question what qualifies as a source, an archive, or even a site of memory. We are looking for history in unexpected places.

Summary of Events

Friday, April 10, 2026

Opening Reception:

7:00 PM EST to 9:30 PM EST
The Wayne County Historical Museum
1150 N A Street
Richmond, Indiana, 47374

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Registration and Help Desk

8:30 AM EST to 3:45 PM EST
The Lobby, Whitewater Hall
Indiana University East
2325 Chester Blvd.
Richmond, Indiana 47374

Breakfast Service and Social Space

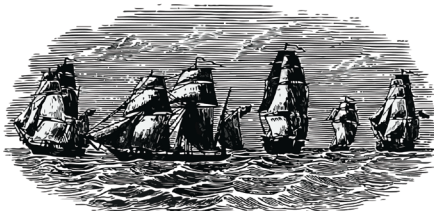
8:30 AM EST to 10 AM EST
Community Room, Whitewater Hall

Session #1:

9:45 AM EST to 11 AM EST
Rooms 201, 202, 212, 213
Second Floor, Whitewater Hall

Lunch Business Meeting:

11:15 AM EST to 12:30 PM EST
The Lobby, Whitewater Hall



Summary of Events cont.

Saturday, April 11, 2026, cont.

Keynote Address:

12:45 PM EST to 2 PM EST

Vivian Auditorium, Whitewater Hall

“Why American Indian History Matters in Indiana” by
Dr. Susan Sleeper Smith, Emeritus Professor of
History, Michigan State University

Session #2

2:15 PM EST to 3:30 PM EST

Rooms 201, 202, 212, 213

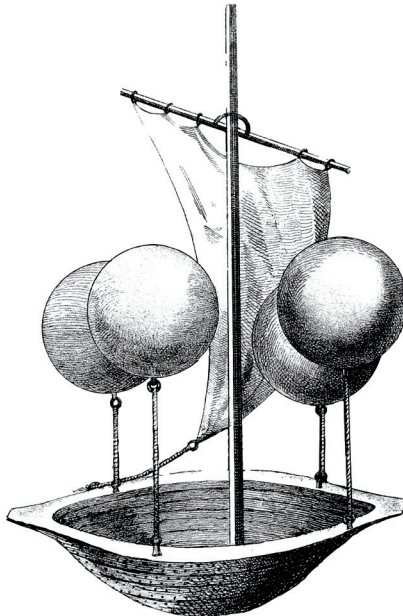
Second Floor, Whitewater Hall

Session #3:

3:45 PM EST to 5:00 PM EST

Rooms 201, 202, 212, 213

Second Floor, Whitewater Hall



The Robert M. Taylor Memorial Lecture

Dr. Susan Sleeper-Smith's research explores history as a narrative structured by sites of encounter, where the interaction of diverse Indigenous peoples with settler colonists created new and ongoing processes of social and cultural change. Her scholarship focuses particularly on Native American women and their continued involvement in shaping these historical processes.

Her book *Indigenous Prosperity and American Conquest: Indian Women in the Ohio River Valley, 1691–1792* (2018) builds upon and extends a body of influential scholarship that includes the previously published university press volumes *Indian Women and French Men*, *New Faces of the Fur Trade*, *Contesting Knowledge*, *Rethinking the Fur Trade*, and *Why You Can't Teach U.S. History Without American Indians*. She also co-edited *Violence in Indigenous Communities: Confronting the Past*,

Engaging the Present with historians Jeff Ostler and Josh Reid.

Dr. Sleeper-Smith joined the Department of History at Michigan State University in 1994 and was promoted to full professor in 2008. She served as Director of the CIC-American Indian Studies Consortium from 2008 to 2010 and later as Interim Director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library in Chicago in 2018. She retired from Michigan State University in 2021 and now serves as a scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library.

Her current research examines the role Indigenous women played in resisting federal policies of forced removal and the ways their actions contributed to ongoing traditions of Native survivance.

"WHY AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY MATTERS IN INDIANA"



Susan Sleeper-Smith
Emeritus Professor of History
Michigan State University

Session #1

9:45 AM EST to 11 AM EST

Panel A:

ArchIvory: Indiana Communities, Elephant Ivory, and Alternative Archives, Whitewater Hall, Room 202

Panelists:

Ellie Kurt, IU Bloomington, “Community Embedded History: Outreach and Archive Creation”

Jakob Myers, IU Bloomington, “Cloth for Cloves: Zanzibar and the United States in the 19th Century”

Andy Pope, IU Bloomington, “The New Style: An Analysis of the ArchIvory Digital Collection as a Tool for the Dissemination of Research”

Chair:

Jonathan Schlesinger, IU Bloomington

Panel B:

Digital Storytelling and Virtual Spaces as Sites of History: The Case of Section CG in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana, Whitewater Hall, Room 212

Panelists:

Rebecca Shrum, IU Indianapolis, “The History of Section CG in Crown Hill Cemetery and Virtual Spaces to Tell its Stories to Audiences Today”

Alex Lay, IU Indianapolis, “Notable Burials in Section CG of Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana”

Amanda Von Ruden and Anna Wrobel, IU Indianapolis, “Digital Storytelling using Instagram Videos to Create Public History for Cemeteries”

Chair:

Justin Clark, The Indianapolis Public Library

Panel C:

Politics, Race, and Public Narratives in the Post-Civil War United States, Whitewater Hall, Room 213

Panelists:

Krista Kinslow, University of Texas On-Ramps, “Native Americans at the Centennial Exhibition”

James A. Fuller, University of Indianapolis, “Senator Morton and the Native Americans”

Matt Lee, University of Indianapolis, “Indiana Newspapers & the 15th Amendment”

Summer Whelan, IU Indianapolis, “Hidden in Plain Sight: Sites of Incarceration as Evidence”

Chair:

Justina Licata, IU East

2:15 PM EST to 3:30 PM EST **Session #2**

Panel A:

Reimagining the Archive: A Roundtable about Building Community through the Sources, Whitewater Hall, Room 213

Panelists:

Marlene Lindsey, The Black Legacy Project of Wayne County, Beth Herrick, The Black Legacy Project of Wayne County, Jackson Farmer, IU East Student, Alicia Marin, IU East Student, Lloyd Murphy, IU East Student, Brant Moffitt, IU East Student, Nathan Hogg, IU East Student

Chair:

Justina Licata, IU East

Panel B:

Extra, Extra! Read All about It!: The Research Potential of Digitized Newspapers, Whitewater Hall, Room 212

Panelists:

Stephen E. Towne, IU Indianapolis, "Oh, The Places You'll Go: Research Finds in U.S. Civil War-era Newspapers"
Evan N. Miller, IU Indianapolis, "Hidden Between the [Digitized] Lines: Advice for Using Digitized Newspaper Collections and a Perspective for Continued Digitization Initiatives"
Jared T. Tetreault, IU Indianapolis, "One Click Away: Creating a Comprehensive and Interactive Map using Newspapers"

Chair:

S. Chandler Lighty, Indiana Archives and Records Administration

Panel C:

"Afterlife of a Cemetery: Greenlawn, Civic Memory, and the Dilemma of a Confederate Grave Marker in Indianapolis: A Panel," Whitewater Hall, 202

Panelists:

Leon E. Bates, Independent Scholar, Danita Davis, City of Indianapolis, Jordan Ryan, City of Indianapolis

Chair:

Thomas Mackie, IU East

Panel D:

Hidden Histories of Indiana Communities, Whitewater Hall, Room 201

Panelists:

Renatto Carr, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, "Come As You Are, Hoods Not Required: The 1942 Lynching of James Person in Vigo County, Indiana and Edgar County, Illinois"
Christopher Frey, Bowling Green State University, "Searching for Queer Terre Haute, 1865-1900"
Kisha Tandy, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, "The Stout Sisters: Using a Scrapbook as a Historical Guide to Black Life in Indianapolis in the 1920s"
Joanna Hahn, Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site, "Living Free as Resistance"

Chair:

Daron Olson, IU East

Session #3

3:45 PM EST to 5 PM EST

Panel A:

Politics and Power in the Midwest, Whitewater Hall, Room 212

Panelists:

Kathleen Tobin, Purdue University Northwest, "Millie's Voice: Reporting on Indiana Politics in the Late Mid-Century"

Emiliano Aguilar, University of Notre Dame, "The Compadrismo System: Reconceptualizing Bossism in East Chicago, Indiana"

Cale Russell Erwin, IU Indianapolis, "Think Tank in Corn Country: The Hudson Institute and Partisan Policymaking at the Local Level in the 1980s and 1990s"

Logan Nicolin, Western Kentucky University, "The Joe Levine Collection: Interacting With Hidden Histories in Modern Spaces"

Chair:

Steven Stofferahn, Indiana State University

Panel B:

Pomp, Pageantry, and Print: Mis/Remembering Native Presence in the American Revolution, Whitewater Hall, Room 202

Panelists:

Owen Bennet, IU Indianapolis, "From Savage to Statesman: The Evolving Memorialization of Sagoyewatha, or Chief Red Jacket, in American Memory, 1830-1900"

Andrew T. Metrick, IU Indianapolis, "Monuments of Erasure: The Villainization of Native Americans at Oriskany and Wyoming"

Sarah Johnson-Taylor, IU Indianapolis, "Constructing the 'Savage': Joseph Brant in American Literature and Memory"

Charity Munro, Independent Scholar, "Rethinking Wilderness in Indiana: How the Concept of Wilderness Has Contributed to the Erasure of Indigenous Peoples"

Chair:

Dr. Rachel Wheeler, IU Indianapolis

Panel C:

Ideas, Technology, and Historical Interpretation, Whitewater Hall, Room 213

Panelists:

Scott Powell, Ivy Tech Community College-Terre Haute, "The Northwest Ordinance, American Higher Education, and Athens, Ohio"

Ben Weller-Passman, Independent Scholar, "The Mechanical Turk and AI"

Daniel P. Murphy, Hanover College, "The Sun or the Son: Constantine the Great, Christianity, and his Divine Companion"

Robin Turpin, IU Northwest, "Two Who Wrote the High Road: Flannery O'Connor and C. Vann Woodward on Southern Segregation and White Racism"

Chair:

Daron Olson, IU East

Indiana Association of Historians Board Members:

Justin M. Carroll, *President*

Emiliano Aguilar, *Vice President*

Anthony Miller, *Immediate Past President*

Daniella J. Kostroun, *Treasurer*

Justina Licata, *Secretary*

Michella Marino, *Communications Director*

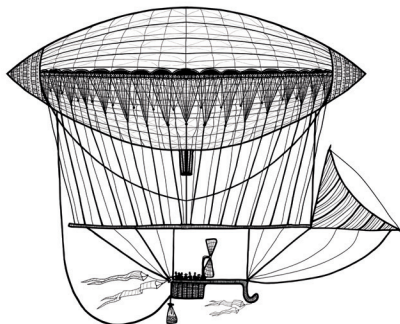
Elana Passman, *At-large Committee Member*

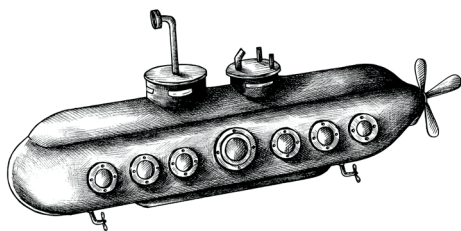
Steven Stofferahn, *At-large Committee Member*

Justin Clark, *At-large Committee Member*

About the Indiana Association of Historians

Founded in 1980, the Indiana Association of Historians welcomes anyone interested in the study, enjoyment and promotion of history. As an organization, we bring together educators, scholars, genealogists, archivists, public historians, librarians and the general public interested in the pursuit of history. Our purpose is to provide a forum for professional historians to come together as a group for dialogue about the academic discipline they share, but the IAH is also committed to reaching out beyond the university community, or communities, to share the study of history with other professional historians and with the broader public.





VERY SPECIAL THANKS:

Dr. Brian Thomas,
Executive Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, IU EAST
Professor T.J. Rivard,
Professor of English, IU EAST
Dr. Margaret Thomas Evans,
Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences, IU EAST
Cheri Bills,
Administrative Assistant, IU EAST
Cyndi Wickers,
Administrative Assistant, IU EAST
Bill Bunch,
Executive Director, Wayne County Historical Museum
Ryan Harris,
Event Planning, IU EAST
Alyssa Baker,
Event Planning, IU EAST
Zoe Brock,
Graphic Design Student, IU EAST
& The Indiana Association of Historians Board



EAST



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