

# The Indiana Historian

*A Magazine Exploring Indiana History*



Patient, kindly, gentle, and generous, Professor Borden influenced countless hearts which were fortunate in once having had a living contact with him; and he will live throughout all time, even when his name and deeds are forgotten, through the splendid influence he exerted, which influence will not only continue but will increase and broaden . . . .

Quotation from a former student, Horace Dunbar.

## *The Borden Legacy*



# Focus

**Philanthropy: voluntary action for the public good—including voluntary giving, voluntary service, and voluntary association.**

Source: Robert L. Payton, *Philanthropy: Voluntary Action for the Public Good* (New York: American Council on Education/Macmillan Publishing Co., 1988).

Many people know the name Carnegie because of their local public libraries, supported by the money of Andrew Carnegie. In Indiana, the name Lilly, for example, is connected with numerous buildings, projects, and charitable causes.

Carnegie, the Lilly family, and many others in the state and nation are easily recognized as philanthropists in the traditional sense. William W. Borden was also a philanthropist.

The small town of New Providence owed him much. One author has indicated that Borden's "personality is indelibly impressed upon the town, its institutions and the people" (Wilson, p. 7). The testimony of former students throughout this issue provides a measure of his influence.

The legacy of Borden, however, reached beyond his town. After his death, his scientific collections were given to the Smithsonian Institution and to Chicago's Field Museum. Parts of his collections went to several Indiana institutions.

The philanthropy of the people of Borden has preserved

his memory through the restored Borden Museum, which now serves the town as a community center. Large and small contributions and volunteer efforts—including those of the Borden Institute Historical Society—have made this monument possible.

This issue opens with a discussion of Borden and education on page 3. Some influential youthful experiences are covered on pages 4 and 5.

On pages 6 and 7, we introduce his contributions to geology. On pages 8 and 9, we focus on his pivotal two years in Leadville, Colorado.

His important Borden Institute is highlighted on pages 10 and 11. The Borden Museum is the focus on pages 12 and 13.

"Behind the Scenes" on page 14 again focuses on philanthropy as volunteerism while pointing out an important primary source.

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The *Indiana Historian* provides resources and models for the study of local history to encourage Indiana's citizens of all ages to become engaged with the history of their communities and the state of Indiana.

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The cover illustration is a reproduction of an engraving of the Borden Institute (left) and the College Dormitory from the *Annual Announcement of the Borden Institute and Business College*, 1888 (Indiana Division, Indiana State Library). The quotation is from Wilson, p. 215.

## You Be the Historian

- Explore the concept of philanthropy. How has it changed over the years? Who in your town would be a philanthropist in the traditional sense? Who in your town is a philanthropist in the more modern sense of volunteerism? Talk with people or read about them. Why are they philanthropists?
- The part of the obituary of Borden on this page can be used to illustrate that sources are not all accurate, and all sources need to be verified. After reading this issue, verify the information in the obituary. What is correct and what is not?

## RICH GEOLOGIST IS DEAD DIES IN TOWN HE FOUNDED

Millionaire Borden, Owner of One of the Finest Collections in the United States, Made Gifts to Smithsonian Institution.

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind., Dec. 19.—Prof. William W. Borden, 83 years old and the wealthiest man in this county, died this afternoon of paralysis at his home in Borden, the little capital of the strawberry district, which was named in his honor.

Prof. Borden was a millionaire, having founded his vast fortune during the early days of the gold craze in Colorado and California. As a philanthropist and scholar he was widely known. He was especially interested in geology, and his magnificent museum at Borden contains one of the finest private collections in the United States. Representatives of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington have often visited his museum, and he has made many valuable contributions to that institution.

Several years ago Prof. Borden founded Borden College at Borden and it is now a successful normal school.

Indianapolis Star, December 20, 1906, p. 5.

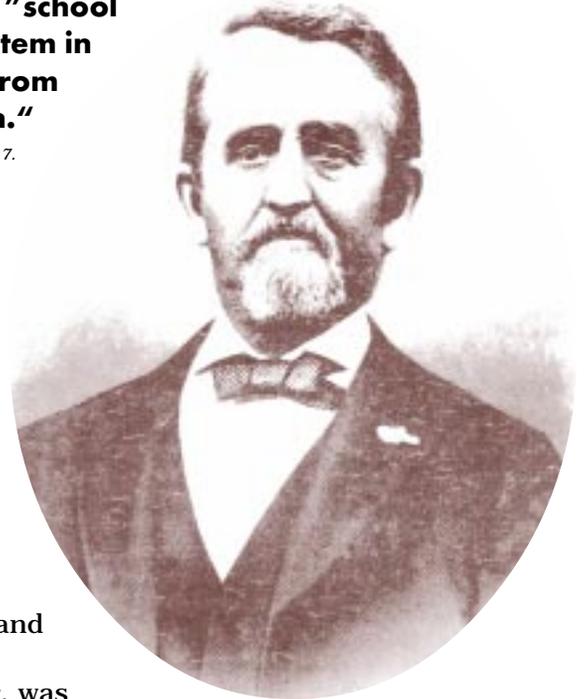




# Borden and Education

**At the University in Bloomington, Borden finished his "school education, but such an education is but a small item in comparison with the great fund which comes from many years of life and observation."**

*Catalogue of the Borden Museum, p. 17.*



William W. Borden from an engraving.

*Lewis C. Baird, Baird's History of Clark County Indiana (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1909), p. 497.*

William W. Borden was both formally educated and self-taught. Learning was critically important to Borden, and he frequently discussed various aspects of his own education in his writings.

In his 1901 "Personal Reminiscences," he points out the limited opportunities at the one-room school in New Providence, noting that there were many books to read at home and that he "learned more under my mother's supervision, than at school" (p. 15).

Borden was able to attend the Washington County Seminary in nearby Salem for three years. He then

went to the University at Bloomington. The trip was a stage journey of two days. . . . My trunk was packed with home made clothing, in fact blue jeans, tow linen shirts, a supply of home made dip candles, and a bundle of goose quills for pens (p. 17).

Borden's personal experience with education in Indiana—and his later founding of the Borden Institute—illustrate well some steps in the progress of Indiana education.

The history of education in Indiana is complicated and reflects many changes in the social, economic, political, and religious conditions as Indiana moved from the territorial period, into statehood, and into the twentieth century.

The 1787 Northwest Ordinance set the stage for formal education. The 1816 state Consti-

tution defined a general, graded educational system "from township schools to a state university, wherein tuition shall be gratis, and equally open to all." The 1851 Constitution recognized the need "for a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all."

Little effort, however, was put forth to make public, state-supported schools a reality. The earliest schools in Indiana seem to have been associated with religious organizations. By the early 1860s, many privately-funded academies served as secondary schools to bridge the gap between elementary education and university work.

It was not until 1896 that it became mandatory to attend school. Funding, curriculum, and teachers' training are just a few of the additional problems requiring solutions as Indiana's educational system progressed.

Sources: Quotations from the 1816 and 1851 constitutions are from Charles Kettleborough, *Constitution Making in Indiana*, Vol. 1, 1780-1851 (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, reprint, 1971), 114, 346. Sources on education are listed on page 15. Borden's "Personal Reminiscences" are part of the *Catalogue of the Borden Museum*.

## You Be the Historian

- Compare Borden's supplies for the university with your tools in school today. Research education and technology at the time Borden went to school.
- What is a common school as indicated in the 1851 Constitution?
- Research other aspects of the history of education in Indiana. Compare the types of schools in Indiana today to the types of schools in Borden's lifetime.





# Memories of His Youth

**"If a lesson can be drawn from my long life it is this: That all prosperity must rest upon an economical use of time and resources; that energy and perseverance long continued will eventually overcome all obstacles; that a poor boy or girl possessed of energy, honesty and frugality will be sure to win a way in life."**

Catalogue of the Borden Museum, p. 34.

William Borden's 1901 "Personal Reminiscences" contain much information about his youthful pursuits.

His admiration for his mother is obvious:

She was a woman of broad views and energetic habits. What was more remarkable for that day, she was well read, and thoroughly conversant with the politics of the time (pp. 21-22).

After his father's death, his mother managed the inn and farm. William worked as the hostler at the inn when he had time left from working on the farm.

William was apparently typical of youths of his time. Along with regular shooting matches,

Log rolling, and later corn husking, Saturday afternoon horseracing and swapping, training days for the militia, musters and battalion drills, were the great social events (p. 13).

He points out that there were quilting parties for the girls (p. 14).



Maps of Indiana Counties in 1876 (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1968) [p. 10].

In his reminiscences, Borden notes:

Three incidents of this period are indelibly impressed on my mind. The first was the Cholera Plague [reached Indiana in 1832]. . . . The disease was very fatal, for the physicians did not understand its nature nor its treatment. A healthy person would be seized with the disease and in twenty-four hours afterwards be a corpse. . . . Salem lost nearly one hundred of her citizens . . . Merrill Weir, a chum of mine, was withdrawn from school, to assist his father to make coffins for the dead (p. 16).

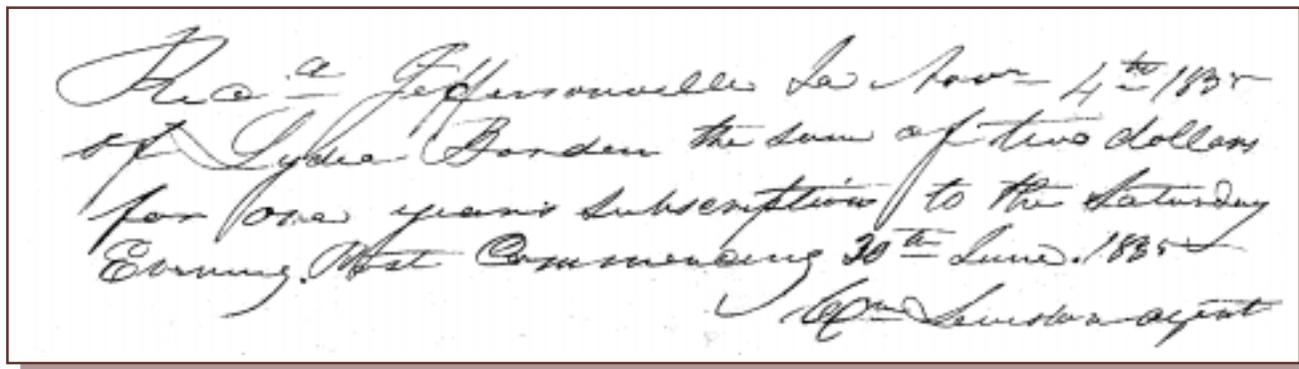
The other incidents are described on page 5.

New Providence was located in Wood Township, Clark County. **Note:** The Post Office name was later changed to Borden, in honor of its distinguished citizen, William W. Borden.

### The Borden Family

- John, Jr. (father)  
Born Portsmouth, RI; platted New Providence, IN, 1816;  
died, age 38, November 7, 1824.
- Lydia, née Bellows (mother)  
From Groton, CT; married John Borden,  
May 1822; died, age 54, June 2, 1851.
- William W.  
Born August 18, 1823; died, age 83,  
December 19, 1906.
- John (brother)  
Born April 23, 1825.

Borden saved this 1835 receipt for his mother's subscription to the *Saturday Evening Post*.



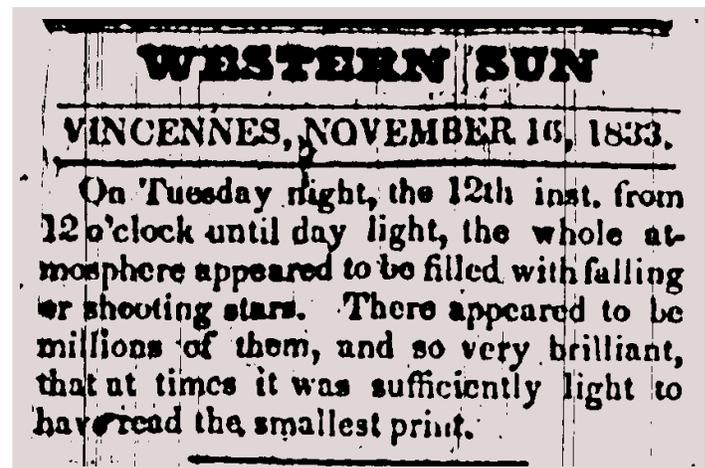
Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.



## SQUIRREL HUNTING.

The inhabitants of Craig township, in this county, finding that the gray squirrels were making great depredations in their corn-fields; held a consultation on the subject of quelling their cunningness, by hunting them down. Three men were appointed to act as captains, in three different neighborhoods; each captain choosing eight men to assist him in the hunt, where a subscription was got up and agreed upon to be divided as follows, viz: The captain and his party who produced the greatest number of squirrel TAILS, to have half the subscription—the next best to have two thirds of the other half—and the remainder to the least successful party.— At the close of the day, (the 21st inst.) upwards of three thousand five hundred squirrel tails were produced. While the people were assembled the following question was discussed:—“How much corn would three thousand five hundred squirrels have eaten and destroyed, in the next seventy days, that is, before the first of November, the time when the farmers begin to gather in their corn? And it appeared to be the general opinion that each squirrel would destroy two ears of corn per day and allowing one hundred and twenty ears of corn to make a bushel, the quantity destroyed in seventy days, would have been four thousand and eighty-three bushels, which at twenty cents per bushel amounts to eight hundred and sixteen dollars!!! This is certainly a very serious consideration for farmers, and we hope to hear of more squirrel hunts, both in this county and in the neighboring county in Kentucky, from whence many of the gray emigrants may daily be seen crossing the Ohio river, peradventure to meet the harvest of a more fruitful soil, but the poor animals soon become bequilled, and hoosierized.—*Vevey Monitor August, 23.*

“From some unknown cause, great numbers of these animals moved southward. They were so fat that they were unable to climb smooth barked trees, and it was inferred they fed on the seventeen year locusts, which matured at that time. They were so plentiful and the strange migratory instinct rendered them so insensible to danger, that they were slain in great numbers with clubs” (p. 16).



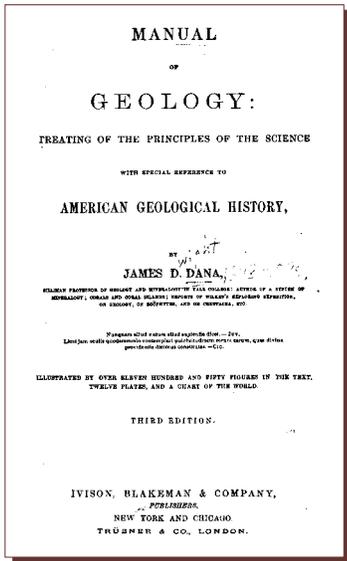
“This phenomenon was supposed by the superstitious to be connected in some way with the cholera, I have described” (p. 16). Borden’s words and this short news article do not begin to describe the magnitude of this astronomical phenomenon. In his 1873 book, *Comets and Meteors*, Daniel Kirkwood, Professor of Mathematics at Indiana University, gives a dramatic account of the event.

This shower of fire can never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The meteors were observed from the West Indies to British America, and from 60° to 100° west longitude from Greenwich. As early as 10 o'clock on the evening of the 12th shooting-stars were observed . . . From 2 to 6 o'clock the numbers were so great as to defy all efforts at counting them; while their brilliancy was such that persons sleeping in rooms with uncurtained windows were aroused by their light. The meteors varied in apparent magnitude from the smallest visible points to fire-balls equaling the moon in diameter. . . . No sound whatever accompanied the display. . . . A gentleman of South Carolina described . . . “I was suddenly awakened . . . I heard a faint voice . . . beseeching me to arise, and saying ‘O my God, the world is on fire!’ I then opened the door . . . . The scene was truly awful; for never did rain fall much thicker than the meteors fell towards the earth.”

*Daniel Kirkwood, Comets and Meteors: Their Phenomena In All Ages; Their Mutual Relations; And The Theory of Their Origin. (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Co., 1873), pp. 69-71.*



# A Passion Becomes a Profession

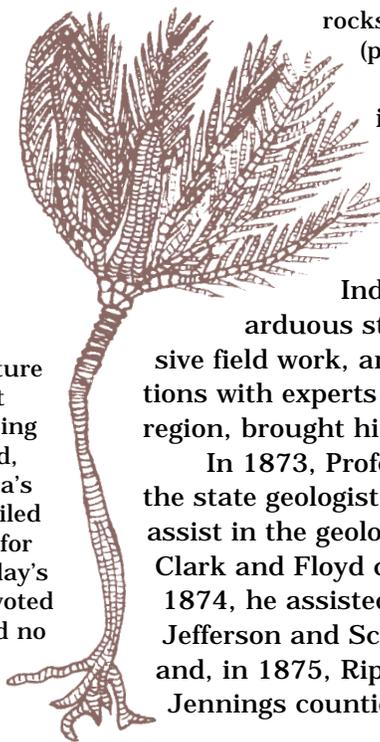


Manual of Geology by James Dana. Although not Borden's personal copy, this 1880 edition is in the collection of the Indiana State Library.

In 1862, Borden was introduced to geology and paleontology by a Dr. Reid of Salem, who visited New Providence.

He was interested in fossils, and gave me some Actinocrinidae fossils [crinoids], which he had found at Paynter's Hill in Washington county. He explained to me the structure of the creatures, and what the term fossil meant. Seeing that I was much interested, he advised me to buy Dana's Geology. War prices prevailed then, so I paid six dollars for the book. As soon as my day's work was completed, I devoted myself to its perusal. I had no instructor, and soon became involved in a labyrinth of theories and scientific terms.

With what I could glean from the pages of this book, I began field work, and studied the



A drawing of a Crinoid.

Walter H. Bucher, Elementary Guide to the Fossils and Strata in the Vicinity of Cincinnati (Cincinnati: The Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, 1945), p. 130.

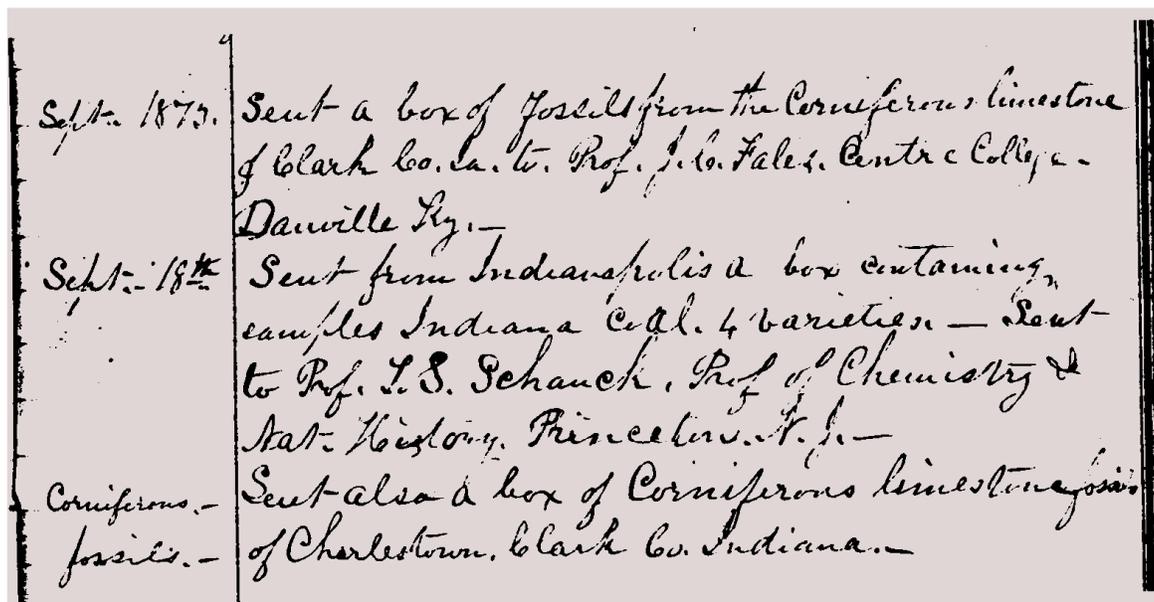
rocks and formations (pp. 27-28).

Borden immersed himself in the rich geological resources of southeastern Indiana. His

arduous studies, extensive field work, and collaborations with experts who visited the region, brought him recognition.

In 1873, Professor E. T. Cox, the state geologist, asked him to assist in the geological surveys of Clark and Floyd counties. In 1874, he assisted in surveying Jefferson and Scott counties, and, in 1875, Ripley and Jennings counties.

Borden sent specimens of Indiana fossils to universities throughout the United States, as revealed by this page from a journal kept by Borden from 1871 to 1873. The journal is a fascinating collection of field research, scientific as well as spiritual observations, and articles on historical events. Perhaps the most remarkable pages were entitled, "Some Things Science Has Accomplished In My Day," where he mentions the daguerreotype, Morse telegraph, and the railroad!



Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.



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MAP  
OF  
CLARK AND FLOYD COUNTIES, INDIANA,  
PREPARED FOR THE  
5TH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
PROF. E. T. COX,  
State Geologist.  
1873.  
Geology by W. W. BORDEN.



E.T. Cox, Fifth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana (Indianapolis: Sentinel Co., 1874).

The locality of the Falls has long been known as the collectors Paradise. The rocks are the coral reefs of the Paleozoic ocean and they contain myriads of fossil forms which exhibit the exquisite workmanship of the Creator. The corals are in the greatest profusion, many being of an immense size, and delicate texture. The species are numerous.

Map and description of the Falls of the Ohio. This area is now a state park and collecting is not allowed.

Source: William W. Borden, "Report of a Geological Survey of Clarke [sic] and Floyd Counties, Indiana," included in E.T. Cox, *Fifth Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Indiana* (Indianapolis: Sentinel Co., 1874), p. 149.

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# Leadville: Dust, Disease, and Destiny

**"After two years of mining in Colorado, we sold our interests and I returned to my farm with a competency, which would enable me to carry out certain ideas for the advancement of learning and the benefit of my fellow man, which I had for some time entertained."**

Catalogue of the Borden Museum, p. 29.

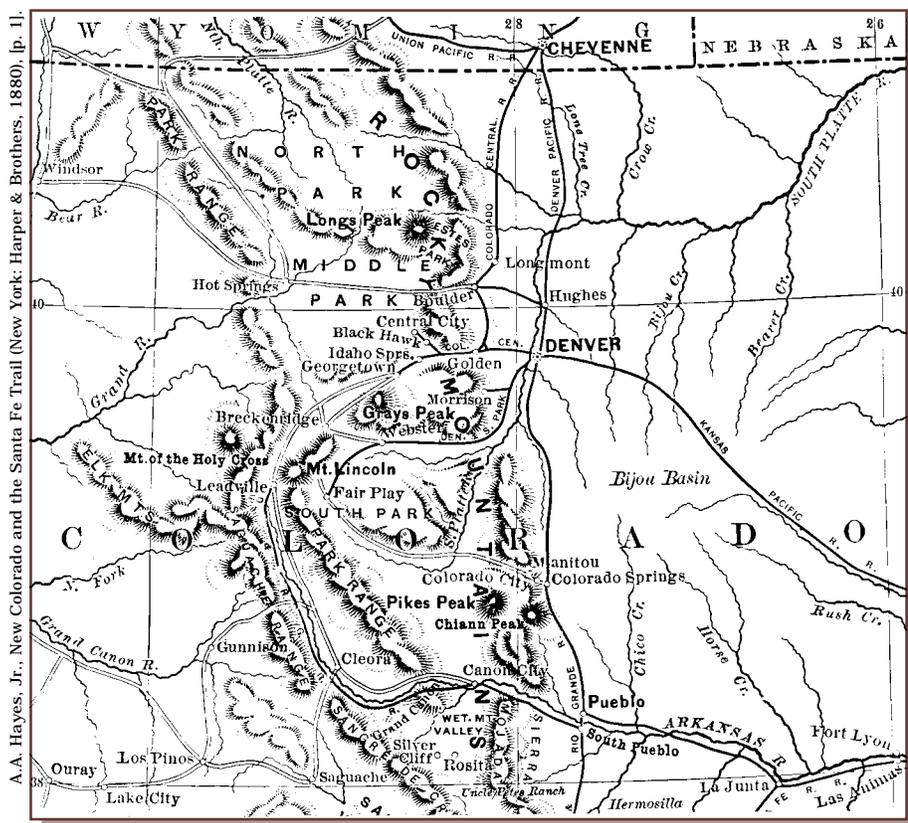
William Borden made his fortune as a result of part ownership of a silver mine in Leadville, Colorado. According to Borden's reminiscences, "my brother said, 'if you can distinguish between granite and limestone, we want you with us.' Well, I thought I could do that, so I went out" (p. 29).

The venture was a family affair.

My nephew was already located in Leadville as the expert assayer for Leiter of Chicago. He had secured an interest in a mine by grubstaking the prospector, George Fryor, and asked my brother, John, to take an interest in some abandoned claims which Fryor, [a man called] "Chicken Bill" and my nephew had attempted to develop (pp. 28-29).

During the two years he was in Leadville, Borden became partners with his brother John, and H.A.W. Tabor, a prominent citizen of Leadville. Marshall Field of Chicago provided money for the operation. The *New Albany Courier-Journal* reported on March 7, 1879, when Borden was visiting New Albany, that "The firm of Borden, Tabor and Co. owns mining property worth over five million dollars at the present writing, which is constantly increasing in value."

In approximately 1880, after returning to New Providence, Borden wrote a book to answer the questions that people asked him about Leadville. Some excerpts from that publication are on the next page.



A.A. Hayes, Jr., *New Colorado and the Santa Fe Trail* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1880) (p. 11).

"In 1876, the attention of the country was drawn again to the mineral resources of Colorado. . . . The goldminer moved away and prosperous mining towns . . . were given over to desolation . . . minerals, over which the goldminers had been treading for years, were more critically examined, and found to be rich in silver. Railroads had begun to penetrate the mountain gorges and bring these waste places into communication with the outer world" (p. 28).





This image, titled "Suburban Scene, Leadville," is on page 103; quotation is excerpted from page 101.

Along a part of the length of two streets (six inches deep in horrible dust, which one of the local papers declares will breed disease) are seen rows of the typical far Western buildings, some large, some few of brick, one or two of stone, very many small, very many of wood. Outside of these are mines and smelting-works, smelting-works and mines, stumps and log-cabins, log-cabins and stumps, *ad infinitum*.

#### THE LEADVILLE CRAZE,

No mining camp in this country ever attracted more attention than Leadville. Old miners here from the various camps in the mountains, testify that such rich mineral deposits were never before seen by them. This report spreading abroad has induced an unprecedented influx of adventurers to this place. Since the first house was built, in June 1877, the town had grown, in 1878, to a city of several thousand inhabitants, and at this date the city and surroundings number 12,000 to 15,000. At this time the city is well organized. It has a Mayor, five Councilmen, a Marshal, two Fire Companies, and a well organized police force, who, to use the expression of one of their number when questioned on this subject, "have the upper hand of the disorderly and intend to keep it." It is no uncommon sight to see a guardian of the peace taking roughs to the "lock-up." Under the watchful eye of these peace officers a citizen is as safe here as he would be in any Eastern city, notwithstanding some newspapers to the contrary.

These excerpts from *Borden's Leadville: A Treatise on Leadville Colorado* (pp. 14, 37) offer a different description of Leadville and an idea of the high cost of living in the mining town.

#### WAGES AND PRICES.

Clerks in stores and banks from \$50 to \$200; per month, Painters \$5; per day. Carpenters \$4 to \$4 50. Miners \$3 to \$4 per day. Teamsters \$40 to \$60 per month. Freighters ask \$40 per day for a four mule team. Machinists \$4 per day Brickmasons \$5 per day [not much brick work to do]. Blacksmiths \$4 per day.

Flour \$15, per barrel; corn \$4, per bushel; hay 120 per ton; potatoes 6 cents per pound; beans 7½ cents per pound; butter 35 cents; cheese 25 cents; coffee 35 cents; apples 16 cents; salt 5 cents; onions 10 cents per pound; lemons and oranges 5 to 10 cents each; eggs 35 to 50 cents per dozen; coal oil \$1 per gallon; whisky 25 cents per drink, meat, fresh, 10 to 20 cents per pound; breakfast bacon 15 cents; cigars 25 cents each. A good pair of work horses \$400 to \$500. Mules, about the same. Coal, none in the market. Coke \$65 per ton. Charcoal 16 to 25 cents per bushel.

In Leadville the prices on supplies are somewhat inflated by reason of the bad roads at this season of the year.

#### BORDEN'S LEADVILLE.

A TREATISE

—ON—

Leadville, Colorado.

Reliable Information,

—BY—

Prof. W. W. Borden,

Ex-Asst. State Geologist of Ind.

Containing the different routes, scenes of interest on the way, and one of most accurate descriptions of Leadville and vicinity ever published.

Address, FRANK A. CANNON,

PUBLISHER,

NEW ALBANY, IND.

PRICE, 25 CENTS.

# Opportunity Among the Hills

**"Believing that a liberal education is the best preparation for the struggles of life, I encouraged the erection of a college building in my native town, where within a short distance from home, and at reasonable expense, such an education could be given to the sons and daughters of the farmers of this region."**

Catalogue of The Borden Museum, p. 33.

Borden returned to New Providence after his financial success in Leadville, Colorado. He engaged in collecting and scientific study, and he implemented his educational theories with the founding in 1884 of the Borden Institute.

The documents on the next page provide some brief information about the school and its curriculum in the year 1887-1888. William E. Wilson's *A History of Borden Institute* (1931) provides the best summary of the school's extensive curriculum. Wilson derived much of his information from publications by Borden, including *The Borden Quarterly*, a newspaper published by the school.

Wilson, in that work, quotes many former students of the Borden Institute, who praise their educational experiences and the man who enabled them to have those experiences. Jesse H. Newlon is quoted as follows:

In many respects Borden was a unique school. . . . Things proceeded very informally. Rules and regulations were conspicuous only by their absence. There were no study halls. Between classes students studied in various places around the building or in their rooms. There were no examinations. . . . Yet the learning was most thorough, more thorough than in any classroom in school or university where examinations are most rigid. . . .

. . . It was a creative institution of unusual distinction (pp. 217-18).



The Laboratory at the Borden Institute in 1900.

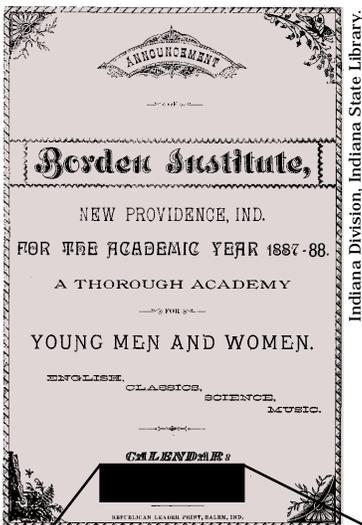
The Indianian, V. 5, No. 1, p.31.

Georgia Bellows Wilson attended the Borden Institute from 1902-1906:

The idea of Borden Institute was conceived in Professor Borden's mind because he loved the community. He believed in the ability of the young people, but realized that most of them lacked funds and opportunity for an education. He knew how handicapped they were going to be without it (p. 224).

This marker is being installed by the Indiana Historical Bureau and West Clark Community Schools-Gifted/Talented Program.

**Borden Institute Site**  
Coeducational school founded 1884 by William W. Borden primarily to serve children of southern Indiana farmers. Low-cost, progressive program included teacher preparation and laboratory-based scientific studies. School closed 1906. Borden also established library and museum with extensive geological collections.



Fall Term begins Sept. 14, 1887.  
 Winter Term begins Dec. 7, 1887.  
 Winter Vacation Dec. 21, 1887-Jan. 3, 1888.  
 Spring Term begins March 21st, 1888.

COURSES OF STUDY.			
ACADEMY COURSE.			
	FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.	SPRING TERM.
FIRST YEAR.	English Language. Arithmetic. Geography. Reading and Spelling. Penmanship.	English Grammar. Arithmetic. Physical Geography. Reading and Spelling. Penmanship.	English Composition. Algebra. Physiology. Reading and Spelling. Penmanship.
2D YEAR.	English History. Algebra. Latin—Jones' First Lessons.	English and U. S. History. Algebra. Latin—First Lessons.	English and U. S. History. Botany. Latin—Cæsar and Prose Composition.
3D YEAR.	Latin—Cæsar. Rhetoric. Geometry.	Latin—Virgil. Natural Philosophy. Geometry.	Latin—Virgil. Chemistry. Trigonometry.
4TH YEAR.	Mental Science or Surveying. Geology or Literature. Roman History. Latin—Cicero.	Ethics. Literature. Astronomy. Latin—Livy.	Political Economy. Literature. Review of English Studies.

Bible study weekly through the course.  
 Literature once a week during first three years.  
 Public declamation and English Composition through entire course.  
 Students may elect Latin, French or German through the fourth year.  
 Classical students preparing for higher institutions will substitute Greek for the sciences and otherwise modify this course to suit the requirements of the school for which they are preparing.

Left and above (right) are excerpts from two pages in the 1887-1888 *Announcement*, the cover of which is pictured above (left).

**BUILDING AND APPLIANCES.**

The building is new and is one of the finest in the State. It is finely finished and well furnished. It is well lighted and heated. The globes and maps are the latest and best. A fine Stereopticon has lately been added by Prof. Borden, with views of a great number of places of historic interest in this and other countries. Also a large collection of photographs, besides being a substantial aid in the study of History and Geography, affords great pleasure to the student. The apparatus for Chemistry and Physics has been greatly added to and is quite complete. We have especially fine facilities for the study of Geology. Borden Institute contains one of the finest cabinets in the west. Prof. Borden has spent the greater part of his life in the study of Geology and natural phenomena, and the student has free access to the fruit of his labors. In addition to his own large collection he has purchased and placed in the building the fine cabinet of the late Dr. Jas. Knapp, of Louisville. This region includes strata from the Lower Silurian to the coal measures, and is rich in fossils.

**LIBRARY.**

A valuable selection of books, all neatly bound, has been placed in the Library for the free use of the student. Encyclopaedia Britannica, books of reference, the best histories of all nations, the best authors in literature, philosophy, fiction, science, art, travel and pedagogy can be found here. The number of books has been doubled in the past year and is being constantly increased.

**EXPENSES.**

Students can secure good accommodations at very reasonable rates. Board and room with everything furnished may be secured in private family at \$2.50 and upwards per week. This is good wholesome living such as the student needs. By forming clubs the expense is much less. Borden Hall is nearing completion and when ready for occupancy will furnish a home for the pupils and will be under the direct management of the school. The actual expenses of the school are as follows:

Tuition per term of 12 weeks	\$10 00
Tuition per year, paid in advance	24 00
Board, room, lights and fuel per week	2 50
Books and stationery per year	10 00

**ADMISSION.**

Any person of good moral character will be admitted upon his giving satisfactory evidence that he can do the work and upon his willingness to conform to the rules and regulations as laid down by the Principal.

**TUITION.**—Tuition, \$10.00 per term, MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

For further information address

FRANCIS M. STALKER, M. A., Prin., New Providence, Ind.

**You Be the Historian**

Examine the documents reproduced on this page.

- In 1887-1888, where were students housed? What housing option for students was being added?
- How does the school calendar compare to schools in Indiana today?
- What was the cost of attending the Borden Institute for a full year?
- How do the courses offered compare with classes offered in today's high schools?



# A Lifetime of Collecting

**“Then my thoughts turned to my ancestors, to my parents who penetrated the wilderness, and wrought with sterling manhood and womanhood, for the future of their decedents, and I said, no more fitting memorial of their worth can be made, than to erect upon the sight of their early struggles a museum into which these things can be placed, and where may be gathered old furniture, utensils, books, as a memento of how they lived and what they thought.”**

Catalogue of the Borden Museum, p. 31.

The Borden Museum was a result of William Borden’s lifetime of collecting, starting as a child. In addition, he had traveled extensively:

In all these journeys, I have secured objects for my cabinets, which I thought would interest and instruct.

Having brought together a large assemblage of fossils, minerals, curios, rare books and manuscripts, the question arose, what shall I do with them (pp. 30-31)?

He also envisioned the museum as a memorial of the love and admiration he had for his parents

Borden built the Borden Museum in 1900 on the site of his family’s 1819 two-story brick home/inn and incorporated part of the original structure. The new

museum structure was built of stone and brick. According to William E. Wilson, it was fire-proof, and “is equipped with steel doors and window guards and has the safety of a bank vault.” Wilson indicated that the museum contained “one of the most valuable and rare collections in the state of Indiana.”

Following Borden’s death and the closing of Borden Institute in 1906, his widow, according to Wilson, has donated the use of buildings and equipment to Wood Township for the use of a high school. . . . [in] 1929, she presented this valuable property to the township.

Source: Wilson, *A History of the Borden Institute*, pp. 200-201.



Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, courtesy Indiana University Foundation.

This article appeared in *The Borden Quarterly*, a newspaper published by the school, which provided the latest news about the school, education, and world events.

Borden Institute’s Geological Cabinet is unequalled in the State. All the formations are represented by thousands of specimens. Prof. Borden has spent a life-time and a fortune in making this wonderful collection, and now offers it to the investigation of the inquiring student. Beside the peerless geological cabinet, this department contains a museum of curiosities from all parts of the world. A collection of firearms characteristic of the various American wars has been added. Lately a valuable collection of coins was purchased for this museum. Relics and specimens are constantly added. Students of any term have excellent opportunities to study this mammoth collection, and the facts thus learned will enable them to be better teachers—will give inspiration for more earnest study.

**Special Facilities for Any Term.**

The Borden Quarterly, Vol. 1, #4, December 1889, p. 8.

This photograph shows the second floor of the Borden Museum. It was taken by Frank M. Hohenberger, who established a studio in Nashville, Indiana in 1917. He was taking photographs as early as 1902; he worked until 1963. This photograph has not been dated.



New Albany Ind. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 1885  
 Received of Mr. W. Borden, Twelve  
 hundred dollars (\$1200.) in full,  
 being the purchase money for the  
 Geological, Archeological, Mineralogical,  
 Land marine & fresh water shells,  
 and corals, The entire collection of  
 the Natural History <sup>Specimens</sup> Collection of  
 late Doctor James Knapp  
 ceased, of Louisville Ky.  
 Wm. Borden  
 Leroy S. Knapp

### Respecting, Not Collecting

Collecting fossils, prehistoric animal bones, and even Indian relics, was once an accepted and legal pastime.

Today, many prehistoric animal sites and **all** human prehistoric and historic habitation sites are protected by state and federal laws.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
 UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

MEMORANDUM

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 1902.

Prof. W. Borden  
 Borden Institute, Borden, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-  
 I am glad to have your letter of the  
 11<sup>th</sup> and to know that the Knapp Collection is in  
 good shape.

Borden purchased a major collection in 1885 from Dr. James Knapp. According to Borden, "Dr. Knapp, a Louisville physician, had spent the leisure moments of thirty years, in collecting relics, corals and crinoids from the Ohio Falls and Beargrass Creek, Ky. This collection, carefully arranged and labeled was kept intact until the Doctor's death, when it was purchased and added to my cabinets" (pp. 31-32). The receipt for the Knapp Collection is reproduced above (top, left); a letter recognizing Borden's stewardship is reproduced above.

### You Be the Historian

- Share your collecting experiences with other students.
- Do you have a large collection of a particular kind? If so, have you cataloged your collection? Have you considered donating your collection to a museum or historical society?
- Visit some museums. Are the exhibits presented in a similar way to the Borden Museum pictured on page 12? Talk with a museum curator about how exhibit techniques have changed.
- Ask about collecting policies and how they have changed over the years.
- What effect has technology had on museum exhibits and cataloging?
- Investigate any local, state, or federal laws that regulate collecting objects from archaeological sites.



# Behind the Scenes

"Behind the Scenes" presents some aspect of how the Bureau staff produces each issue of the magazine. The focus may be, for example, the research process, an interpretation problem, etc. It also enables us to thank our partners and demonstrate that research is a collaboration with often unexpected twists and turns.

A major factor in the selection of topics for *The Indiana Historian*, is the availability of primary sources. Being located in the same building as the Indiana State Library, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana State Archives, is an enormous advantage. They contain a wealth of Indiana documents. Most of the primary sources that we use in our issues are found in this building.

When we chose to do this issue on Borden, however, we were determined to get a copy of Borden's mining claim. After a quick visit to the Indiana State Archives, Steve Towne, Reference Archivist, indicated that such a document would be located at the County Recorder's office in Leadville, Colorado.

We knew from other documents that Leadville was in Lake County. The telephone company

provided the number for the Lake County Recorder's office. We telephoned and told them what we needed.

Within a week, we received the mine deed we wanted (detail reproduced below) and copies of two articles about Tabor, the Bordens, and their mining properties.

The response revealed another instance of the value and necessity of the volunteer spirit.

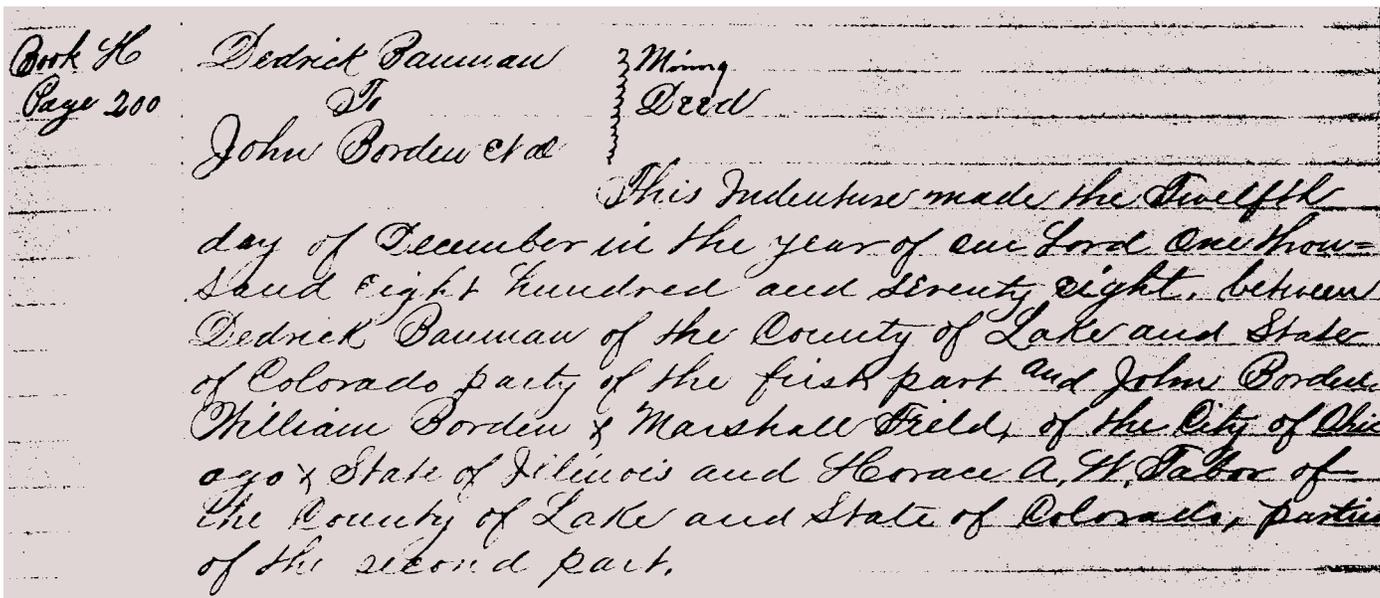
The Lake County Recorder's Office, and other Lake County offices, do not have staff to do research for the many inquiries that they receive. The volunteer friends of the Colorado Mountain History Collection of the Lake County Public Library have added this research to their mission.

Our thanks to the friends, especially Nancy Manly, that a copy of the two-page mine deed was available for our issue.

## Special Thanks

- Cecil J. Smith, Leader Publishing Co., Salem, Indiana.
- Edward Wooten, *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Shirley Nolot, Borden, Indiana.

Detail from recorder's book entry, recorded January 3, 1879 at 11 a.m.



Lake County Recorder's Office, Leadville, Colorado.





**A Note Regarding Resources:** Items are listed on this page that enhance work with the topic discussed. Some older items, especially, may include dated practices and ideas that are no longer generally accepted. Resources reflecting current practices are noted whenever possible.

# Selected Resources

## Bibliography

- Borden, W[illiam] W. *Borden's Leadville: A Treatise on Leadville, Colorado*. New Albany, IN: Frank A. Cannon, [circa 1880].

Written after he returned from Leadville, Borden addressed this detailed guide to individuals thinking of making the trip west.

- [Borden, William W.] *Catalogue of the Borden Museum*. New Albany, IN: The Tribune Company, Printers, 1901.

Excellent source of information on Borden, his life, and the times in which he lived. Quotations throughout this issue, unless otherwise noted, are from this source.

- "Historical and Picturesque Indiana. Clark County." *The Indianian*, 5:1 (January 1900), 2-37.

Interesting article on the history of Clark County, which includes information and photographs of the Borden Institute.

- O'Connell, Brian, ed. *America's Voluntary Spirit: A Book of Readings*. New York: The Foundation Center, 1983.

Provides useful discussions of the changing perceptions of philanthropy.

- *Reminiscences of New Providence, 1884-1994: A Collection of Stories About People, Places, and Events In and Around The Village of New Providence*. [Salem, IN: Leader Publishing Co., 1994].

This booklet contains newspaper articles, photographs, and other sources of information about Borden, the Borden Institute, and the Borden Museum.

According to Shirley Nolot—Borden resident, Wood Township Trustee, and active leader in saving the Borden Museum—a group of volunteers—called The

Compilers—"wanted this information in a book for historical purposes."

- Wilson, W[illiam] E[arl]. *A History of Borden Institute*. Terre Haute, IN: Teachers College Press, 1931.

Very informative look at Borden, his school, and museum. Quotes many Borden publications. Section of excellent quotations from former Borden Institute students.

## Further Reading on Education

The four books listed below are some sources for information on education in Indiana.

- Boone, Richard G. *A History of Education In Indiana*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, reprint 1941. First published in 1892.
- Mattingly, Paul H., and Edward W. Stevens, Jr., eds. ". . . Schools and The Means of Education Shall Forever Be Encouraged." *A History of Education in the Old Northwest, 1787-1880*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Libraries, 1987.
- Phillips, Clifton J. *Indiana in Transition: The Emergence of an Industrial Commonwealth, 1880-1920*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society, 1968.
- Thornbrough, Emma Lou. *Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Historical Society, 1965.

## Further Reading

- Doris, Ellen. *Entomology*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1993.
- Contains tips on how to begin a collection, advice that can transfer to other types of collectible materials.
- Finn, David. *How to Visit a Museum*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1985.

An interesting book suitable for adults or older students.

- Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Schools*. New York: Holiday House, 1983.

A history of schools in the nineteenth century for intermediate readers.

- Kalman, Bobbie. *Early Schools*. Toronto/New York: Crabtree Publishing Co., 1982.

An easy-to-read overview of early education with many graphics.

- Pollard, Michael. *Pioneers in History: People Who Care*. Ada, OK: Garrett Educational Corporation, 1992.

Easy-to-read, brief biographies of individuals who have tried to improve the lives of others; includes a time line and glossary.

- Smith, Carter, ed. *The Riches of the West: A Sourcebook on the American West*. Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press, 1992.

This excellent work uses photographs and maps from the Library of Congress collection.

- Symes, R. F. *Rocks & Minerals*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

A good introductory work for younger readers.

- Williams, Brian. *Mining*. Austin, TX: Raintree, Steck-Vaughn, 1993.

Presents students with an easy to understand overview of the mining industry.

## For More Information

- The Borden Museum still contains some of the books from the original collection. There are a few artifacts on display that were donated after Borden's death. Tours are available by appointment only. Call Shirley Nolot, Wood Township Trustee, at 812-923-8228.





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### Borden Institute razed

Only two walls of the Borden Institute in Borden were standing yesterday as demolition of the former school proceeded. For a dozen years local preservationists tried to save the building, which was nearly a century old. It was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, only to be condemned five years later by the state fire marshal. The abandoned structure, which hadn't been used as a school since the mid-1950s, was less than 300 feet from the Borden School, and officials called it a hazard because elementary students played nearby.

STAFF PHOTO  
BY BILL KIGHT



Louisville The Courier-Journal, November 1, 1983.

