



This Week in Indiana History

March 17th, 1890

The Bowen Merrill Bookstore Fire

On the late afternoon of March 17th, the volunteer firefighter force of Indianapolis was alerted to a small fire at the Bowen Merrill Bookstore located on West Washington Street. The fire soon turned into a catastrophe, and ended up claiming the lives of thirteen brave firefighters.

Twelve of the thirteen firefighters who lost their lives on this day are picture in the frame to the right.

Courtesy of the Manuscripts Division, Indiana State Library

