



MONROE COUNTY FIELD NOTES

A virtual dig for early 19th-century landmarks and people
1816–1876



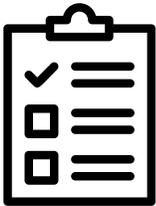
Monroe County
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The Project



Local history is significant only when it is accessible. Sadly, there are gaps in primary records covering the most dramatic moments in our county's first 60 years. Some of our documents and newspapers were lost in a fire, and some of our most compelling residents didn't know how to read or write.

Get involved and your research will help us diversify our community's history! Help us piece together fragmented stories, clues, and facts to solve mysteries.

How to Start



Contact Christine Friesel at indianaroom@mcpl.info to join in. Choose a location or address and learn more about the people who used to live there.

Field reporters should:

1. be able to read cursive writing
2. have a library card to access eLibrary databases

Field Note Example



I live in Bloomington Township (sec. 36) which is in the neighborhood of where Bruster's Ice Cream is now. Using eLibrary resources from Monroe County Public Library, I found out that before the Civil War, my property was home to...

Hannah McCaw. Hannah was a Black woman who owned this land with her husband, Henry, and their children.

The story goes that...

Hannah ran the Underground Railroad with her friends, who established the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Hannah is buried in the Covenanter Cemetery at the corner of High and Hillside in Bloomington.

Use 1856 Plat Map



Once we give you the coordinates and township section of the address you're researching, you'll use the online 1856 plat map of landowners to find who lived on the property.

Search the US Census



Search for the landowner in the US Census. You can use HeritageQuest (via our eLibrary) to search the 1850, 1860, and/or 1870 census.

Our project doesn't go past 1876, but you are welcome to find out more about your characters and what happened to their land or buildings in other years as well.

Submit Your Findings



When you've finished your research, email indianaroom@mcpl.info with a paragraph about what you found. Your findings may be used in future projects about Monroe County's history. Here's an example submission:

Van Buren Township (Sec. 13)

According to oral history about the Underground Railroad, Isaac Adkins was a slave catcher, following the laws of the times, working near his home on W. Leonard Springs Road, west of Monroe Hospital and north of Shirley Springs Cave or Leonard Springs Nature Park.



If you fall into your character or property history and go beyond the basics, or want to share more than a short paragraph, email the Monroe County History Center at library@monroehistory.org.