

Club Room of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
January 4, 1923

On this date the Vigo Co. Historical Society met in regular session; Mr. George A. Scott presided in the absence of Judge Henry who was ill.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The principal business to come before the meeting was the adoption of a constitution.

Mr. Briggs read the draft of one suggested by him and the Secretary submitted one proposed by Mr. Faurot. After some discussion of the various paragraphs, the following constitution was adopted.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE VIGO COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

Name. The name of this society shall be The Vigo County Historical Society.

Purpose. The purpose of this society shall be to collect and preserve relics, documents, records, maps, wills, old letters, genealogies and other material relative to the history of our county, city, state and nation, and to promote an appreciation of our historic development.

Membership. The membership shall be active and honorary. The active members shall be residents of Vigo County who will take an active part in promoting the welfare of the society.

The honorary members shall be persons who are non-residents of Vigo County and who are willing to take such part in promoting the welfare of the society as their distance from the city will permit.

Junior Department. There shall be a junior department. The membership in this department shall be composed of persons who are under eighteen years old and who may be interested in the work of the society. The Director of the junior department shall be a teacher in the public schools of the county or city and who will be interested in promoting the work of the society. The Director of this department shall be appointed by the President.

Officers. The officers shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, an assistant secretary, a treasurer, a curator and a genealogist. There shall be a

vice-president for each township in the county. The vice-presidents for the townships shall be appointed by the president. All other officers shall be elected by ballot for one year.

Management. The affairs of the society shall be managed by an executive committee composed of the President, Secretary, Genealogist and five other members appointed by the President. Any five members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the affairs of the society. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to make such recommendations from time to time as the welfare of the society may require.

Amendments. This constitution may be amended from time to time at any regular meeting provided the amendment shall have been submitted in writing at least one month previously.

(signed) Sallie C. Hughes, Secretary.

1/18/1923

This meeting was evidently held January 18, 1923. See Terre Haute Star, Tribune, and Post of Jan 19. Also Indianapolis News of same date.

Albert A. Faurot

Mr Harry Gilbert was elected chairman of the membership committee with the right to select his own assistants.

The following officers were elected:

President-- Judge D. W. Henry.
Vice-president-- George Addison Scott
Secretary-- Sallie C. Hughes
Assistant Secretary-- Grace E. Davis
Treasurer-- Margaret Markle.
Curator-- Anna B. Sankey
Genealogist-- Florence P. Crawford

Executive Committee-- Herbert Briggs, Chairman. A. R. Markle, Albert A. Faurot, Adrian Beecher, George Hebb.

The Secretary was directed to have membership cards, post cards and receipt slips printed.

No further business coming before the society the meeting adjourned at 8:45 to meet again on February 15th.

(signed) Sallie C. Hughes, Sec.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Copied from Vigo County
Misc. Record 47, page 144

This Indenture Witnesseth: That the persons whose names are signed hereto, all of such persons being citizens of the United States of America, and citizens of and residents in Vigo County, in the State of Indiana, desiring to associate themselves for a lawful purpose and not for pecuniary profit, do make, sign and acknowledge these Articles of Incorporation.

The name of this corporation shall be "The Vigo County Historical Society."

The objects or purposes for which this Society is formed are to collect and preserve relics, documents, records, maps, wills, old letters, genealogies, and other material relative to the history of Vigo County, City of Terre Haute, State of Indiana, and the United States of America, and to promote an application of their historical development. (see next page)

The business and prudential concerns of this corporation shall be managed by nine directors, and the names of the directors selected for the management of its business and prudential concerns for the remainder of the first year of its existence are as follows, viz:

H. C. Gilbert	Herbert Briggs
George A. Scott	D. W. Henry
Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes	Adrian A. Beecher
Prof. Albert A. Faurot	Charles Minshall
	B. V. Marshall

The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the second Tuesday of January of each year at 7:30 P. M. at such place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors,

In Witness whereof, these incorporators have hereunto subscribed their names, this ____ day _____, 1924.

Mary Gilbert, Herbert Briggs, Albert A. Faurot, J. M. Bigwood, Grace E. Davis, Adrian A. Beecher, Emilie M. Katzenbach, Wilson N. Cox, Mary F. Law, M. C. Gillum, Zelia L. Gilbert, Helen C. Benbridge, Charles Minshall, Fred M. Shickel, Henry M. Richardson, Virginia T. Henry, Aug. Stukenberg, Mrs. J. M. Bigwood, Mrs. Laura Briggs, George A. Scott, B. V. Marshall, Florence P. Crawford, Mary D. Beach, Rose Farrington, Henry C. Gilbert, Caroline Sidney Wood, W. H. Hoff, Henry C. Miller, Harriet Henry Kean, Geo. F. Kean, Harriette Law, David W. Henry,

Sidney B. Davis, Sallie C. Hughes, Fred Conrath, Mrs. Geo. A. Scott, Simon Levi, O. M. Brown, Susan B. Ball, Helen G. Gillum, Harriet F. Coffroth, Guy P. Shickel, Leonard Roach, Mrs. D. S. Scott.

State of Indiana, Vigo County, SS:

Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana and County aforesaid, personally appeared A. A. Beecher, J. M. Bigwood (and 24 others).

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal this 23rd day of August 1924.

(SEAL)

Geo. A. Scott, Notary

My commission expires
October 16th, 1927

Received for Record September 5, 1924, Vigo County.
September 3, 1924, by Sec'y of State

Note

This document is copied from a copy furnished the Secretary by Geo. A. Scott, January 1940 for insertion in the minute book.

Albert A. Faurot

Close of par. 3 should read:"---to promote an appreciation of our historic development." See Constitution January 4, 1923.

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
February 15, 1923

The Vigo County Historical Society met on this date, with President Henty presiding. Twenty-eight persons were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Judge Henry made an introductory talk and introduced Mr. Wm. R. Halstead who read a paper on "The Pioneer". A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Halstead.

At the suggestion of Mr. Beecher the paper read by Mr. Halstead will be preserved in the records of the society. President Henry proposed that such papers be copied.

A. R. Markle made a motion that the annual meeting of the Society be held on the Thursday nearest the 15th of February, that date being the nearest to the date on which the separation of Vigo County from Sullivan County occurred.

The executive committee was directed to arrange a programme for the next meeting.

No further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10 P. M.

(signed) Grace E. Davis, Ass't Sec.

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
March 23, 1923

The monthly meeting of the Vigo County Historical Society occurred on this date, fifteen members being present. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of both the President and Vice-president, Mr. Briggs presided. He made a special request that all the members of the Society assist in procuring, biographical and genealogical sketches of old citizens and ex-residents the same to be preserved in the records of the Society.

The Rev. John Herring of the Congregational Church gave an interesting address on the influence of the early churches of Terre Haute and called attention to the many interesting things to be found in the newspapers of that day and how their attitude of that time still had its influence at this later day.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Herring for his valuable paper. The secretary read a letter from Mr. George E. Wood of Jackson Co. Indiana, who said that he had given to him for safe keeping the first Ward School bell, which had been given him by Warren Chadwick for safe keeping. That he would like the Historical Society to have the bell which he had later left with W. H. Wiley, Mr. Briggs was appointed a committee of one to see Mr. Wiley about the bell.

The membership at this meeting was reported to be 52.

The following bills were allowed: Record book and sheets \$4.25. Anchor Printing Co. for record cards, receipt cards and postal cards \$12.50. The treasurer was ordered to pay the bills.

No other business the meeting adjourned to meet again in April, date to be announced.

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
April 12, 1923.

On this date the regular monthly meeting of the Vigo Historical Society was held, forty or more members being present.

Judge John G. Cheney of Sullivan gave an interesting talk on the influence of the early school on the education of the present day. He talked especially of the Ascension Seminary presided over by Capt. W. T. Crawford the founder and of how that school of 1861 had influenced the educational idea to such an extent that the present Indiana State Normal was the out-come.

Judge S. C. Stimson who has been a member of the Vigo County Bar for 52 years talked on the influence of the early members of the Bar. He said that he had tried his first case before John T. Scott; besides Mr. Scott he mentioned J. P. Usher, Col. R. W. Thompson, D. W. Voorhees, Col. Nelson, Col. McLean and John E. Lamb.

Judge E. F. Williams spoke of his early days and of studying law in the office of Judge Baskin E. Rhoads and spoke of Judge Rhoads' assistance in locating in Terre Haute the Indiana State Normal.

A bill of \$2.95 was allowed the Anchor Printing Co. for typed letters.

At 9:15 the meeting adjourned.

Sec.

The Secretary announced the first gift to the Society had been received from Mr. John D. Mack, a large number of letters written to John G. Davis from about 1857 through the war years, covering the Missouri Compromise, Kansas-Nebraska Bill and other historical events of those years.

The Secretary was asked to send to Mr. Mack a note of thanks for the gift.

Club Room of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
May 17, 1923.

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on this date, vice-president George A. Scott presiding in the absence of President Henry.

Attention was called to the fact that Mr. George Hebb had not qualified as a member of the executive committee to which office he was appointed; the Secretary was requested to notify the President of the need of an appointee to fill the vacancy.

A bill of \$6.50 was allowed Moore & Langen Co. for "honorary membership" cards.

Mr. Briggs submitted a list of 135 names of citizens he thought worthy of having their biographies written.

Both Mr. Bilbert and Mr. Scott suggested that each member take one name and write the biography of that person, also that one name be put on a card or paper and the members select from the list sent in.

The committee on incorporation was not ready to report.

A very interesting paper (written by Mr. H. C. Gilbert) was read by Miss Florence Crawford on "Reminiscences of the Wabash and Erie Canal". The paper was very interesting and instructive and greatly appreciated by those present.

Miss Beach read a biography of W. D. Griswold (written by Mr. H. C. Gilbert) a former Terre Hautean which is the first biography submitted to the Society.

Miss Isabella Oakey agreed to interest her cousin Mr. Gookins in writing a life of his grandfather Judge Gookins.

Mr. Faurot told of finding the bed of the Erie Canal when the present Friendly Inn was being built.

Good feeling and great interest was apparent at this meeting and all seemed to enjoy it.

No other business the meeting adjourned to meet the Thursday in June nearest to the 15th.

(signed) S. C. Hughes, Secretary.

6/5/23

Club Room of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
June 5, 1923

About twenty members of the Vigo County Historical Society met in regular session on this date, President Henry presiding.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Miss Harriette Law read about fifteen letters that had been received by Mr. H. C. Gilbert from those who had been elected to honorary membership; all the letters showed their appreciation of the honor bestowed upon them and many expressed themselves as ready to prepare biographies of their ancestors who had formerly lived in Terre Haute. Mr. Gilbert was requested to continue this correspondence to which he agreed.

Mr. August Stukenberg read a very interesting paper on Fayette Township which was well received, Judge Henry saying it was a good starter for papers on the other Townships.

President Henry told of calling on one of the old families of Honey Creek Township who had been here 106 years and who wished to present the Society with a sideboard more than 100 years old. He also spoke of a visit to Lyman Durham who agreed to write his reminiscences of early days.

Mr. Wm. H. Wiley gave a short talk of the "City School", the present Hook School, and spoke of the boys who now were men in high positions today. He mentioned the names of Horace Burt, James Oakey, Fannie Auble, Verdi Graff, Wm. Peddle, Wm. K. Edwards and Lydia Hardy.

No other business to come before the Society the meeting adjourned to meet again June 28th.

(signed) S. C. Hughes, Secretary.

6/28/23

Club Room of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
June 28, 1923

The Vigo County Historical Society met at 7:30 P.M. on this date President Henry in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

A varied program was much enjoyed by the twenty-four persons in attendance.

Miss Mary Gilbert read acknowledgements of honorary membership cards from S. D. Gookins of Chicago, Reece Vorhees of Spokane, Rollin H. Buntin of Chicago, Jas. D. McNeal of Fayetteville, N.C., Helen S. Gilbert, Tampa Fla., Mrs. Belle Jones, Dallas, Texas, Curtis Gilbert Bakersfield, Cal., Richard Blake, Marquette, Mich., John L. Oakey, San Bernardino, Cal., Jos. H. Sohler, Wellesley Hills, Mass., Jas. D. Stanley, Indianapolis. Some of the letters contained reminiscences which aroused keen interest and Mr. Gilbert was requested to continue this work.

As a direct outcome of these honorary membership cards a volume of the first newspaper published in Terre Haute, The Western Register was sent to the society by S. D. Gookins as a loan so long as the organization exists. In case of its dissolution the volume is to be returned to the owner. Mr. Gookins also sent a program of an exhibition given by the Ulysean Debating Society dated 1859 and a copy of the Terre Haute Daily Express of June 16, 1880 which contained an obituary and autobiography of his grandfather, Judge Samuel Barnes Gookins.

A biographical sketch of Col. Thos Dowling by his son, John was read by Miss Crawford. Miss Oakey read a biography of Bayless Washington Hanna prepared by his son Read Hanna.

Random notes taken from the newly acquired Western Register, which covers the period between 1823-26 were read by Mrs. Herbert Briggs.

Reminiscences of Lodge No. 19, F.& A. M. and the settlement of Vigo county written by Curtis Gilbert, Oct. 1870 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Lodge were read by Miss Davis.

Mrs. Alice Fischer Harcourt, who was honor guest of the evening was requested to read a poem by Ben Parker, New Castle, Ind, written on the occasion of the death of Col. Thos. H. Nelson and published in the Indianapolis Journal in April 1898. Mrs. Harcourt also gave interesting reminiscences of her girl-hood in Terre Haute.

Mr. Sydney E. Davis & J. R. Cummings made brief remarks and Prof. A. A. Faurot presented a list of names he had transcribed from stoned in a burial ground adjoining the Rose Polytechnic property to be preserved by the Society.

On motion of Mr. Adrian Beecher resolutions were passed on the death of Geo. C. Buntin, the first member of the organization to be called by death. Mr. Beecher, Mr. Briggs and Mr. Gilbert being appointed to prepare them.

No further business coming up the Society adjourned.

(Grace E. Davis, ASst. Sect.

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
September 20, 1923

With about twenty present the meeting was called to order by President Henry at 7:45. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Miss Law read letters from the following former residents: Mr. Edward Blake, Mrs. Austin Brown, Mr. Frank Douglas, Robert Heintz, Mr. Mort Gould, Dr. W. O. Jenkins, Mr. F. A. McElfresh, Mrs. Luella Hedden, Lindsley, Mrs. Carrie Gould Patterson, Mrs. Ralph Tousey, Mr. Percy Williams. These expressed themselves as very much pleased to accept honorary membership in the Society and said many nice things about Terre Haute. All these letters are to be carefully preserved by the Secretary.

Miss Grace Davis read a sketch of Mrs. Margaret Chambers Patterson. Reminiscences by S. D. Gookins were read by Miss Isabelle Oakey.

Miss Law stated that at one time Mrs. John Ellison and Mrs. Charled Peddle agreed to write their memories of early Terre Haute and these were read by Miss Law and thoroughly enjoyed, they contained much information of those days and had a witty side that made them particularly interesting.

Miss Mary Beach read a sletch of the Hagar family which is to be preserved by the Society.

The resignation of Miss Margaret Markle as treasurer was accepted and the office of treasurer and assistant secretary was combined and Miss Davis elected.

Judge Henry gave an interesting talk of the constitution, commemorative of Constitution week. This was followed by some sidelights on the constitution by Judge Scott and some historical features by Mr. Briggs.

A vote of thanks was given Mr. Wm. Penn for the interesting article on Mrs. Margaret Chambers Patterson and the Secretary asked to send him their action and thanks.

No other business the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
October 23, 1923

The meeting on this date was called to order by President Henry, more than fifty people being present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Letters were read from the following: Mrs. Anna E. Markle, Mr. Thomas, A. McLean, Miss Mary Fowler, Mr. John D. Keeler, Mr. George J. Peet, Mr. Wm. H. Peddle. All expressed appreciation for honorary membership and interest in and happy thoughts of Terre Haute.

Mr. Briggs submitted a paper on old Terre Haute read by Miss Ethel Bossum. Mr Charles Clogston read a sketch of Abraham Markle, concluding with the obituary from the Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser of March 31, 1826.

Mr. A. R. Markle read a very interesting paper on "Terre Haute's 107th Birthday" correcting one or more statements in the two former papers. On the whole this was one of the most interesting evenings the Society has had; everybody went away feeling that the evening had been well spent and predicted great things for the Society.

The meeting closed at a late hour with the promise of a fine paper by Judge Scott for the next meeting.

(signed) S. C. Hughes, Secretary.

Pictures of Markle's Mill and of the original town were given to each member.

Correction by Mr. Briggs, Miss Bossum prepared the paper which she read instead of Mr. Briggs.

11/15/1923

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
November 15, 1923

The Vigo County Historical Society met on this date in the regular meeting place Vece-president Scott presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with the correction that Miss Mossom prepared the paper which she read.

Mr. Gilbert announced the gift of a collection of Civil War envelopes which was presented by Mrs. LeRoy B. Cox. These envelopes were collected by her brother, Gilbert Clift and were presented to the society in memory of her father, Wm. Stout Clift. Mr. Gilbert spoke briefly of Mr. Clift and a memorial of him, printed at the time of his death was read. Resolutions of thanks were passed and the sect. directed to send them to Mrs. Cox.

A letter from Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, acknowledging honorary membership and a memorial sketch of Mr. Wells H. Buckingham were also read.

The Indiana Historical Society sent a request that a delegate be appointed to attend the annual meeting of that organization and that a report of the activities of the society be supplied for the yearbook.

Mr. Briggs made a motion that the secretary be instructed to prepare such a paper. Mr. Faurot offered an amendment to the motion, that a duplicate of the report be preserved in the files of our society. The motion was carried as amended. The matter of a delegate was referred to the Executive Committee.

A motion was also passed that the society take out a membership in the Indiana Historical Society the secretary being directed to draw upon the treasury for the fee.

Mr. Geo. A. Scott gave an able address, The Political and Geographical History of Vigo County. A number of maps and plates, prepared, for the most part by Chas. Scott were used in illustration, replicas of which were included in the copy of the address furnished for the files. This paper was prepared from original sources and will be of permanent value.

The Society adjourned to meet again on December 11th, Constitution Day for Indiana.

(signed) Grace E. Davis, Ass't Sec.

11/15/1923

On motion of D. W. Henry the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

To Mrs. L. B. Cox of Chicago, daughter of our late honored and esteemed townsman, Wm. S. Clift, this Society desires to extend an appreciative vote of thanks for her valued and rare gift of an album of some two hundred Civil War envelopes, collected by her brother, Gilbert Clift, in Louisville during the war.

We will take pride in preserving this rare and unique memento in our archives, we trust for all time.

We invite and urge that Mrs. Cox will, at her convenience attend some of the meetings of this Society, of which she is a life member, and give the members the benefit of her recollections while living in Terre Haute and doubly so on account of her honored father, "Uncle Billy Clift", whom everyone knew and every one loved.

D. W. Henry, Pres.

Mrs. S. C. Hughes, Sect. November 15, 1923.

Mrs. Cox also sent, at a later date, a book, the Genealogy of the Clift Family.

12/11/1923

Club Room of Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.
December 11, 1923.

The Vigo County Historical Society met in regular session on this date. Vice-president George A. Scott presided.

The minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

In commemoration of the 107th birthday of Ind. Mr. Charles E. Piety talked on the early history of the state beginning with the year 1787 and covering the various Congressional acts to the time the state was admitted into the Union.

A letter was read from Mr. George Gardner who had been a member of the Congress of 1851; he sent a picture of himself taken on his 100th birthday and said at the time of writing he was 104.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That to Mr. George A. Scott, this Society desires to express its earnest appreciation of his arduous and untiring work in preparing a Political and Geographical History of Vigo County, from its inception, and for his labor in preparing maps of its various stages and for his interesting and instructive address at our meeting on November 22nd.

We deem this sketch and the small maps accompanying them, which he has presented to the Society, as our most valuable contribution, and desire that the paper be inserted in the beginning of our record book.

We desire to express our thanks to Mr. Charles Scott and to Mr. Malcolm Scott for their aid in preparing the maps. Terre Haute, Indiana. December 1, 1923.

Mr. Herbert Briggs told of attending the Indiana Historical Society at Indianapolis one afternoon.

Mrs. Herbert Briggs who had a display of the various flags represented in the history of the state on exhibition told of their significance and meaning.

No further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45.

(signed) S. C. Hughes, Secretary.