



# Getting Started with Delaware County History

An Annotated Bibliography of Select Resources Available at Muncie Public Library

## Books

- Flook, Chris. [\*Lost Towns of Delaware County Indiana\*](#). Charleston: The History Press, 2019.
- Reference LHG 977.265 FLOO

Book chronicles the forgotten settlements of Delaware County's past. Includes images, maps, GPS coordinates, and small descriptions with citations of each settlement.

- Flook, Chris. [\*Native Americans of East-Central Indiana\*](#). Charleston: The History Press, 2016.
- Reference LHG 970.1 FLOO

This book is the most recent history of the Native American peoples that lived in East Central Indiana before and during the move west by European settlers. Thoroughly researched, Flook uses artifacts, maps, and images to aid in telling the story.

- Goodall, Hurley and J. Paul Mitchell. [\*African Americans in Muncie 1890-1960\*](#). Muncie: Ball State University, 1976.
- Reference LHG 977.265 GOOD

Updated title to a historical account about the African American community in Muncie, which had not received much attention up to that point. It emphasizes the prominent role of African Americans in shaping Muncie and hoped to present a more complete picture of the community.

- Geelhoed, E. Bruce. [\*Muncie, the Middletown of America\*](#). Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.
- Reference LHG 977.265 GEEL

Geelhoed's book explores the history of Muncie in a series of images from the 1920s when the Lynds first conducted their sociological study of the city as the Middletown of America (i.e. average city) to the present as of 2000. Topics explored are education, recreation, work, religion, and politics.

- Glass, James A. and David Kohrman. [\*The Gas Boom of East Central Indiana\*](#). Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.
- Reference LHG 977.2 GLAS

Provides a history of the gas boom that brought many businessmen to East Central Indiana to turn agricultural areas to ones of industry. History is told through images and includes a chapter on Muncie.

Greene, Richard A. [\*Muncie and Delaware County: An Historical Sketch\*](#). Muncie: Delaware County Historical Society, 1965.

- Reference LHG 977.265 GREE

Although dated, Greene provides a short account of the history of Muncie that's easily digestible in one sitting. Also includes a historic walking trail with information about points of interest and a timeline of important events.

Griner, Ned H. [\*Gas Boom Society\*](#). Muncie: Minnetrista Cultural Foundation, 1991.

- Reference LHG 977.265 GRIN

Book about the early history of Muncie during the gas boom and those who lived in the city during that time. It begins in 1886, continues until 1901, and includes a portfolio of early photographs from the John Rollin Marsh family.

Hoover, Dwight W. [\*Magie Middletown\*](#). Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

- Reference LHG 977.265 HOOV

Combining the images of professional photographer W.A. Swift with the Middletown study conducted by the Lynds in the 1920s, Hoover paints a portrait of Muncie in that era when the city kept growing and the future was bright.

Masing, Milton A. and Jeffrey Koenker. [\*Muncie Indiana in Vintage Postcards\*](#). Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 1999.

- Reference LHG 977.265 MASI

Part of the Postcard History Series, the book presents Muncie as a series of images from the various parts that make up the city. Images include people, places (commercial, residential, and public), and events between 1890s and 1920s.

Ravesloot, Holly Beach, Michael Galbraith, and Matthew Farragher. [\*Muncie History: A Handbook for Fourth Grade Teachers about Muncie History\*](#). Muncie: Ball State University and Muncie Public Library, 2005.

- Reference LHG 977.265 MUNC

Updated fourth grade education handbook that aims to make Muncie history accessible to elementary-aged children. Includes information from the settlement of Muncie to 1970.

Spurgeon Jr., Wiley W. [\*Muncie & Delaware County: An Illustrated Retrospective\*](#). Woodland Hills: Windsor Publications, 1984.

- Reference LHG 977.265 SPUR

History of Muncie by a former editor of *The Muncie Star* and *Muncie Evening Press* both narrative and images. Spurgeon charts the milestones in Muncie's history while also telling the stories of the newsmakers of previous generations.

Spurgeon Jr., Wiley W. [Muncie at the Millenium](#). Muncie: Muncie Newspapers, 1999.

- Reference LHG 977.265 SPUR

Pictorial history of Muncie from the 19th to 20th centuries that offers readers a past (and present) glimpse of the community. Told chronologically, the book is a reflection on the community at the end of a millennium.

Stoeckel, Althea L. and Ross S. Johnson (ed.). [Delaware County, Indiana 1827-1850: The Pioneer Period](#). Muncie: Ball State University, 1975.

- Reference LHG 977.265 STOE

Written in preparation for the Bicentennial of the United States, the collection of essays discusses the earliest periods of Delaware County's history during the Native American and pioneer era.

Straw, John B. [Dick Greene's Neighborhood: Muncie, Indiana](#). St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, 2000.

- Reference LHG 977.265 STRA

Using Dick Greene's photographs and newspaper columns, Straw compiles a general history of Muncie from the early to mid-20th century focused on everyday happenings of the community. Greene's work as a journalist tells researchers a great deal about the social history of the community.

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### **County Histories**

Haimbaugh, Frank D. (ed.). [History of Delaware County, vol. 1-2](#). Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1924.

- Reference LHG 977.2 HIST v. 1-2

Early history of Delaware County in two volumes. Volume 1 is a general history of the county organized by topic (i.e. Native Americans, early settlement, agricultural, churches, etc.). Volume 2 provides biographical sketches of people who lived and settled in Delaware County.

Helm, Thomas B. [History of Delaware County, Indiana with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers](#). Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1881.

- Reference LHG 977.265 HELM

Early history of Delaware County up to 1881 that includes sections on the history of the area pre-settlement of the Europeans. It also delves into different aspects of the community such as religion, politics, education, organizations, biographical sketches of prominent citizens with some images, etc.

Kemper, G.W.H. [\*A Twentieth Century History of Delaware County Indiana, vol. 1.\*](#) Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1908.

- Reference LHG 977.2 KEMP

Early history of Delaware County up to 1908 organized chronologically and topically and includes information about citizens and organizations within the county. Also has information on the gas boom that turned Muncie into a city.

[\*A Portrait and Biographical Record of Delaware County, Indiana Containing Biographical Sketches of Many Prominent and Representative Citizens.\*](#) Chicago: A.W. Bowen & Co., 1894.

- Reference LHG 92 PORT

Organized by townships within Delaware County, this history records the biographies of the prominent citizens within the county and includes some images. Condensed version of larger work that also contains information on Randolph County and Indiana Governors.

**Note:** To see what else we have in our collection regarding Delaware County's local history, check out our catalog at [www.munciepubliclibrary.org](http://www.munciepubliclibrary.org)

## Special Collections

Muncie Newspaper Collection. Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- Although not a general history, the Muncie Newspaper Collection is a rich source of historical information about many subjects relating to the community. This collection is available for research via microfilm.

Richard Greene Collection. Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- Born in Richmond in 1903, Richard Greene was a reporter for the *Muncie Evening Press* from 1925-1941 covering police and city hall news and then for the *Muncie Star* from 1945-46 until the end of his life writing "Seen and Heard in Our Neighborhood," a column that recognizes the everyday people within the Muncie community. The collection includes Greene's diaries from 1929 to 1983 and offers readers insight into daily life within Muncie during that time period.

Vertical Files. Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- If you would like to research a certain subject regarding Muncie history, the vertical files would be helpful as a starting point. These subject files were curated from the local newspaper, brochures, reports, etc. Some examples of topics include businesses, industries, downtown, recreation, government, and much more. Subjects can be found via our catalog at [www.munciepubliclibrary.org](http://www.munciepubliclibrary.org), or you can browse the files at Carnegie Library.

**Note:** These are good collections to get you started on researching Delaware County's local history, but if you have a particular subject interest, ask a librarian for research help. Our collection continues to grow, and some of them are still being processed and cataloged. However, many are available to researchers upon request.