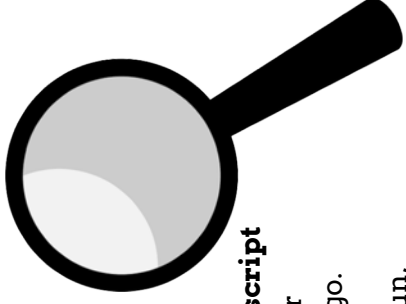


# Indiana State Library:

## Exploring Manuscripts



The Indiana State Library has over three million **manuscripts** in its collections. A **manuscript** is a document that has never been published, like letters, diaries, family papers, and other records. We will explore four diaries written by young people who lived in Indiana long ago.

The diary entry below was written by Alice Perkins, a young woman who lived in Rising Sun, Indiana. She kept this diary from January 1 to July 9, 1895. What does it say? What can we learn about life in the 1890's by reading documents like old journals or letters?

Could people in the future learn about life today by reading your diary? Do you write on a computer or in a notebook? Some people worry that the history of people living today will be lost because we do not use paper for things like messages and journals. Instead we use email or websites. Email and websites may not be available to future researchers. What might they use instead to understand how we live today?

A "night dress" is an old fashioned word for nightgown. Alice knows how to sew!

### Read Alice's diary. What can you learn?

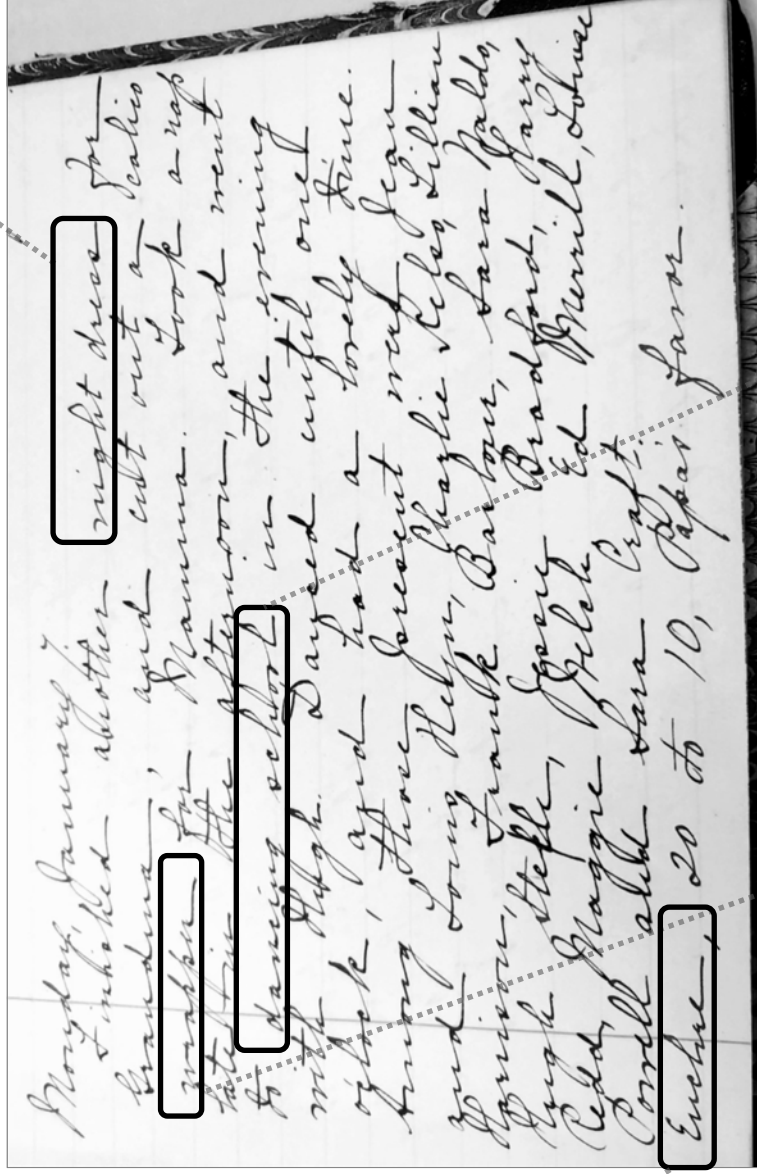
This is a transcript of Alice's diary:

Monday, January 7.  
Finished another night dress for Grandma, and cut out a calico wrapper for Mamma. Took a nap late in the afternoon, and went to dancing school in the evening with Hugh. Danced until one o'clock, and had a lovely time. Among those present were Jean and Louis Heyn, Charlie Rilso, Lillian Harrison, Frank Barbour, Sara Naldo, Hugh Steple, Jessie Bradford, Harry Redd, Maggie Melch, Ed Merrill, Louise Powell and Sara Craft.

Euchre, 20 to 10, Papa's favor.

(Transcription of names may not be accurate.)

Ask your parents if they know the card game euchre (pronounced you-cur). Do you play games with your family? Alice did! "Papa's favor" means that Papa won the game.



The Indiana Young Readers Center is open to the public!

Monday	8am - 4:30 pm	Friday	8am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	8am - 4:30 pm	Saturday	Check website
Wednesday	8am - 4:30 pm	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	8am - 7:00 pm		
Friday	8am - 4:30 pm		

[in.gov/library](http://in.gov/library)

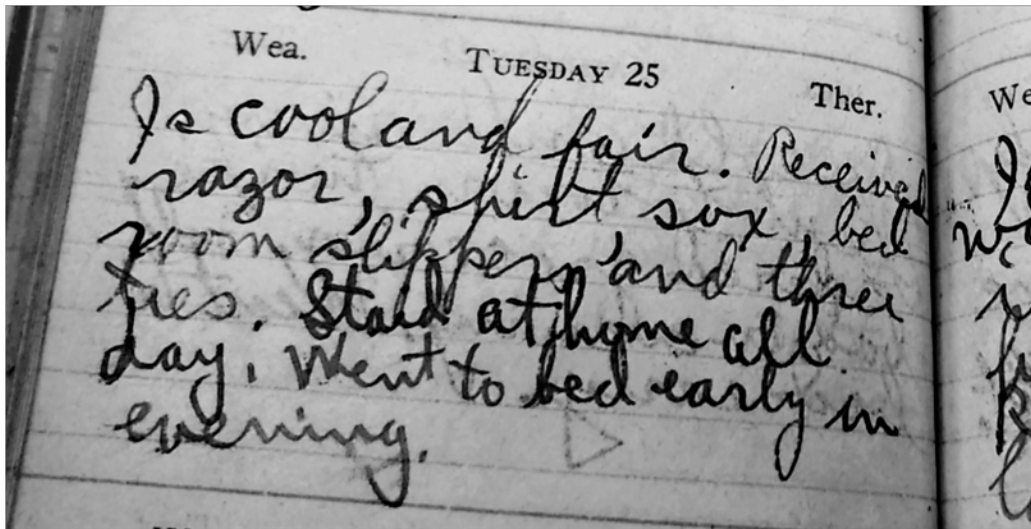
A "wrapper" is a long dress with sleeves, usually worn during the day. The one that Alice made for Mamma was made out of a cotton fabric called calico, which was usually printed with a design. Alice must have been good at sewing.

Evening "dancing schools" were common in the 1880s all over Indiana. They were usually social gatherings for young people where they learned popular dances of the day from an instructor. They had to pay to attend and sometimes learned "deportment" or good manners.

## Many older documents are written in cursive.

This diary entry was written by a real person named Clifford Quick. Clifford lived in Muncie, Indiana and attended Muncie High School. He wrote this diary during his adolescence. This passage is from December 25, 1923. A **passage** is a section of writing.

Can you **transcribe** the **passage** into print? To **transcribe** means to make a copy of something, especially so that it can be accessed or understood in a different way. In this case, you will be transcribing Clifford's diary from cursive to print. Be careful. Clifford is not a very good speller. You can find the answer on page 6.



**Reading cursive writing is like reading a code.**

# Explore the diary of Silas Adin Lingo, age 12.

This diary was kept by Silas Adin Lingo who lived in Decatur County, Indiana. He kept this journal from 1875 - 1881. He was twelve years old when he started keeping this diary. This diary is over 140 years old! Can you see some damage to the diary?

Use a magnifying glass to compare his writing with the transcript. Do you think the transcript is correct? Researchers are often careful to check the original document instead of just reading a transcript, in case the person who made the transcript (also known as the transcriber) made a mistake.

How is Silas's life similar to yours? How is it different? At 12 years old, was Silas in school? What did he do for fun?

This is a transcript of Silas's diary:

Journal for 1875

Diary kept by me Adin Lingo

Junior beginning the 6th of April 1875

April

6th	Su.	<del>Helped in the garden.</del> Played all day.
7th	Mo.	Helped in the garden
8th	Tu.	Done a few little jobs around home
9th	W.	worked in the garden
10th	Th.	Read a good deal and done a few [jobs]
11th	Fr.	Read some and worked some [cross outs]
12th	Sat.	Done a few little jobs around home.
13th	Su.	Read some <del>and done a few little jobs.</del>
14th	Mo.	done a few little jobs around home.
15th	Tu.	done a few little jobs around home.
16th	W.	read nearly all day at home
17th	Th.	read a right smart on this day
18th	Fr.	read a good deal on this day
19th	Sat.	Helped chop wood all day
20th	Su.	<del>Helped chop wood all day</del> read all day.



4 Journal for 1875  
Diary kept by me Adin Lingo  
April Junior beginning the 6th of April 1875

6th	Su.	Helped in the garden. Played all day.
7th	Mo.	Helped pop in the garden
8th	Tu.	Done a few little jobs around home
9th	W.	worked in the garden
10th	Th.	read a good deal and done a few little jobs
11th	Fr.	read some and <del>worked some</del>
12th	Sat.	Done a few little jobs around home
13th	Su.	read some and done a few little jobs
14th	Mo.	done a few little jobs around home
15th	Tu.	read nearly all day at home
16th	W.	read a right smart on this day
17th	Th.	read a good deal on this day
18th	Fr.	Helped chop wood all day
19th	Sat.	Helped chop wood all day
20th	Su.	Helped chop wood all day read all day.
21st	Mo.	

## Silas is now 14. How has he changed?

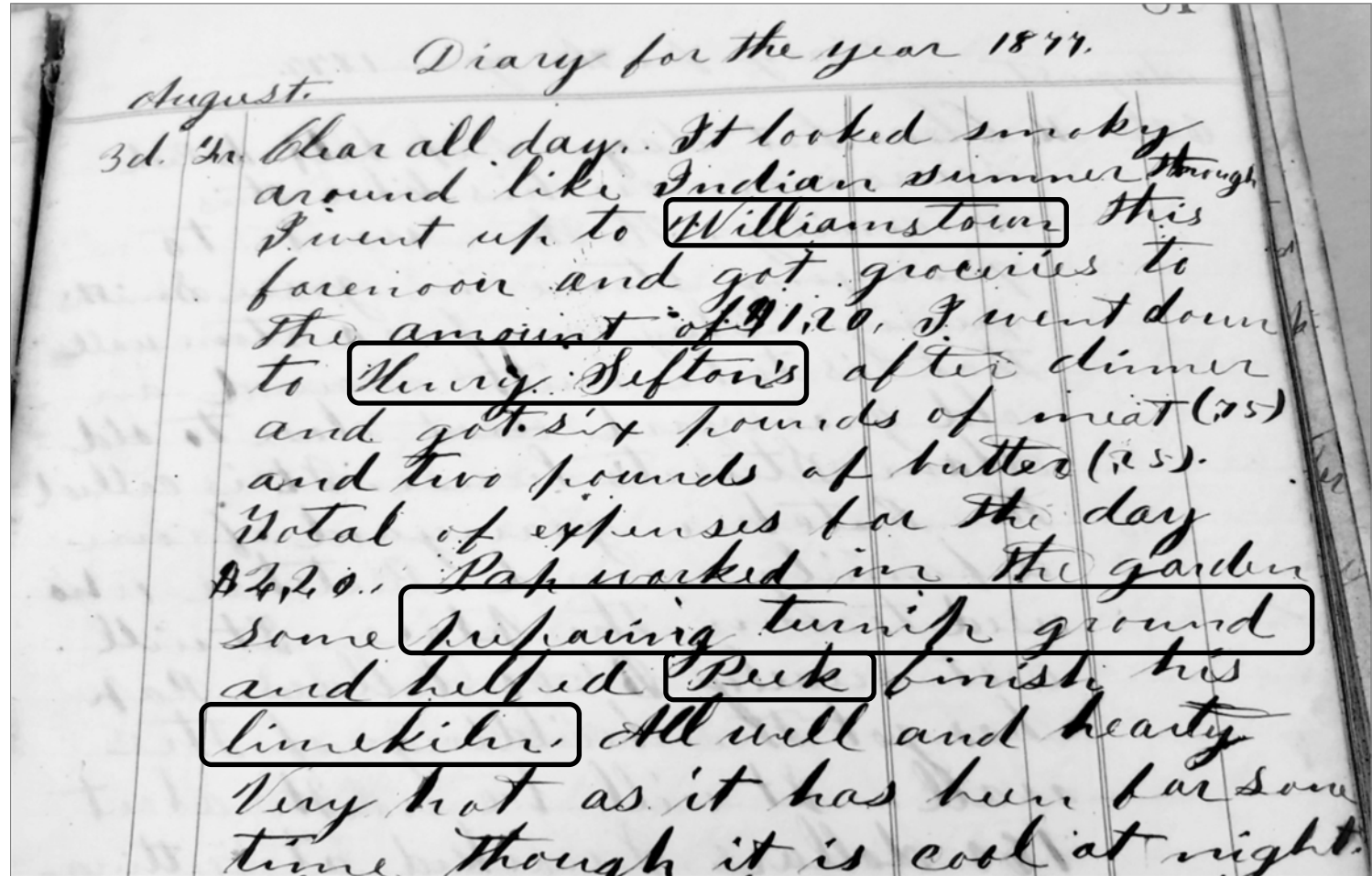
Because Silas kept a diary for so long, we can see him grow up. At age 14 he has important responsibilities like grocery shopping and keeping track of money. He writes in much longer sentences now and has more to say. Use a magnifying glass and the transcript to read what Silas wrote on August 3rd, 1877.

This is a transcript of Silas's diary:

Diary for the year 1877

August

3d Fr. Clear all day. It looked smoky around like Indian summer though. I went up to Williamstown this [afternoon] and got groceries to the amount of \$1.20. I went down to Henry Sefton's after dinner and got six pounds of meat (.75) and two pounds of butter (.25). Total of expenses for the day \$2.20. Pap worked in the garden some preparing turnip ground and helped Peek finish his limekiln. All well and hearty. Very hot as it has been for some time, though it is cool at night.



Diary for the year 1877.  
August.  
3d. In clear all day. It looked smoky around like Indian summer though. I went up to Williamstown this forenoon and got groceries to the amount of \$1.20. I went down to Henry Sefton's after dinner and got six pounds of meat (.75) and two pounds of butter (.25). Total of expenses for the day \$2.20. Pap worked in the garden some preparing turnip ground and helped Peek finish his limekiln. All well and hearty. Very hot as it has been for some time. Though it is cool at night.

A researcher might read this and have lots of questions. Where is Williamstown, Indiana? Who is Henry Sefton? What do you have to do to prepare turnip ground? Who is Peek? What is a limekiln?

If you keep a diary, what words would future researchers have a hard time with? Do you think people 140 years from now will know what Instagram is? Or Alexa and Siri? Or texting?



## Read Iris Baughman's World's Fair diary.

In 1904, St. Louis hosted the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, also known as the St. Louis World's Fair. The fair was an enormous event that lasted over seven months. At the fair people could learn about arts and cultures from many different countries.

Iris Baughman was about 9 years old in 1904. She visited the St. Louis World's Fair and kept this little notebook about her experience. She lived in Monon and Rensselaer, Indiana before moving to Oklahoma. later in life. The transcript has been started for you. Use a magnifying glass to try to complete the transcript. Sometimes the writing in old documents fades away. That is happening to Iris's diary. See page 6 for the whole transcription.

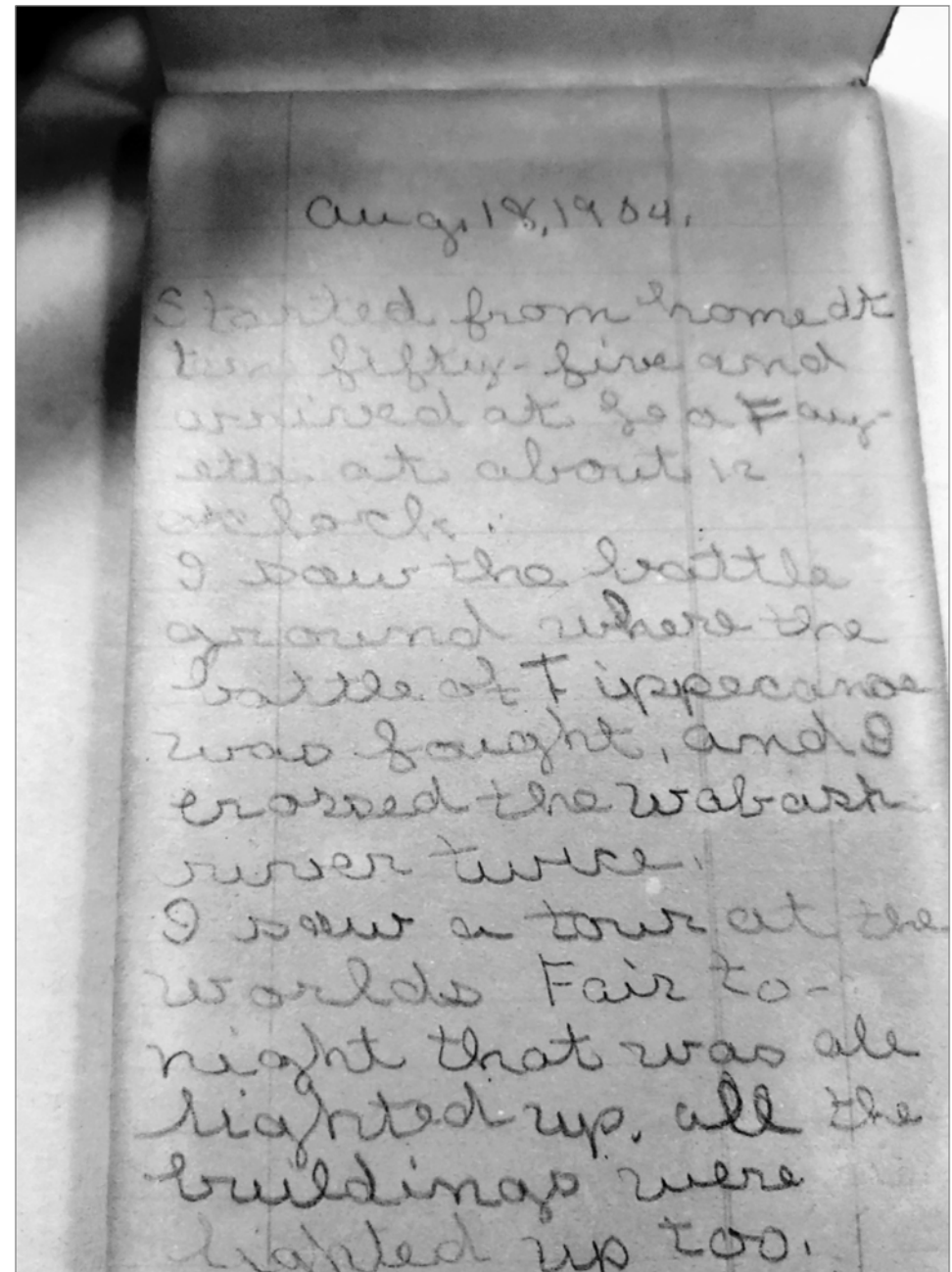
Aug 18, 1904,

Started from \_\_\_\_\_ ten fifty-five and arrived at Lafayette at about 12 o'clock.

I saw the \_\_\_\_\_ where the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ river \_\_\_\_\_.

I saw a tour at the \_\_\_\_\_ to-night \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_. All the \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ too.

(Continue on next page)

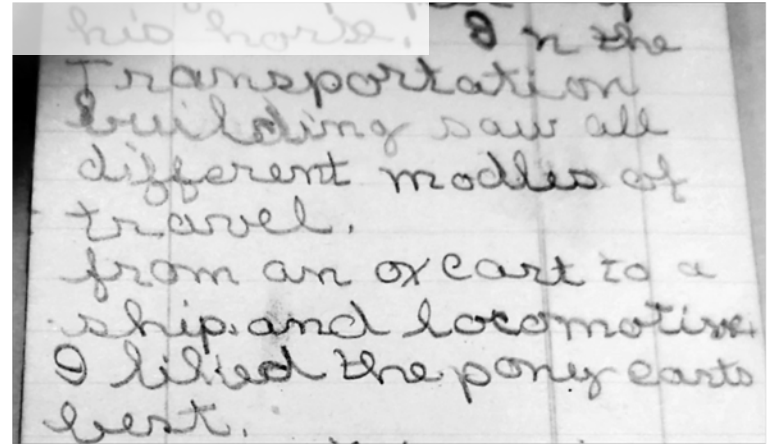


# Finding more manuscripts to explore

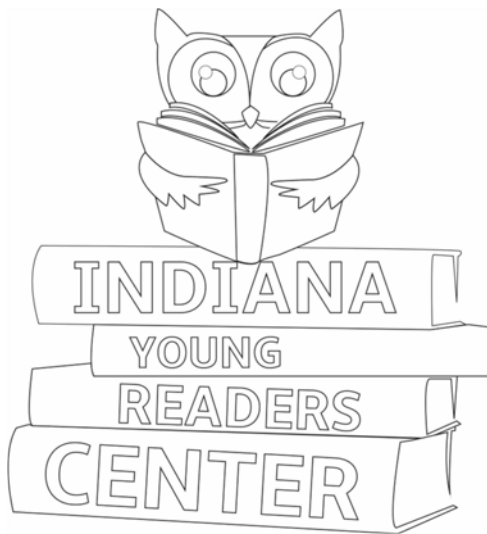
Believe it or not, you probably have some interesting manuscripts in your house or in the house of a relative. While it is **never okay** to read someone else's diary without permission, your parents might have old school work they can show you or your grandparents might have letters from their youth. You can learn a lot about your family from old hand-written recipes or photo albums. You can also visit the Indiana State Library or your local public library to find manuscripts on topics that interest you like sports, the history of your county, famous people, or arts and culture.

Iris Baughman diary - continued from previous page.

In the \_\_\_\_\_ building saw \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [models] of \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ox cart \_\_\_\_\_ ship and  
 \_\_\_\_\_. I \_\_\_\_\_  
 best.



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Transcription of Irish Baughman's Diary written on August 18, 1904	Transcription of Clifford Quick's Journal Entry written on December 25, 1923.
In the	Is cool and fair. Received
transportation	razor, shirt, Sox, bed
building saw all	room slippers and three
different modes of	ties. Staid at home all
travel	evening.
from an ox cart to a	I saw the battle ground where the battle
ship and locomotive.	of Tippecanoe was fought, and I
I liked the pony carts	crossed the Wabash river twice.
best.	I saw a tour at the Worlds Fair to-night
	that was all lighted up. All the
	buildings were lighted up too.