

Vincennes University's Learning Resources Center is named in honor of the late Judge Curtis G. Shake (1887-1978), one of Indiana's—and the U.S.'s—most famous native sons. Judge Shake was Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, a presiding Justice at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials after World War II, and was President of the Board of Trustees of Vincennes University.

<http://www.facebook.com/VULibraries>

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**Directions to the Library Website:**

To access online resources and other information about library services, go to VU's website at <http://www.vinu.edu>, then click on the Library icon, top right. Library resources are available for off-campus access by first logging on to your MyVU or Blackboard account. Use the OneVU Discovery Tool to find books and articles in VU library collections, or access Find Articles or Find Media (under the Research link) to search specific resources.

**Feedback?**

Questions, comments, suggestions about this publication or other topics are always welcome! Call Reference Librarian Richard King at 5411 or email [rking@vinu.edu](mailto:rking@vinu.edu).

**Problems Connecting to the Library**

**Resources?** Fill out the Report a Problem form at <http://www.vinu.edu/content/services-0>.

# THE TEXT MESSENGER

## eNews From VU Libraries

*"Books won't stay banned. They won't burn. Ideas won't go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom. The surest path to wisdom is a liberal education." --Alfred Whitney Griswold (1906-1963), American Educator*

### Meet the New Librarians! *Welcome Magen Melton and Bradley Scott*

Two new librarians have joined the Shake Library staff. Please welcome Magen Melton, Technical Services Librarian, and Bradley A. Scott, Information Services Librarian.



Magen Melton grew up in Elnora, Indiana, and graduated from North Daviess High School in 2007. She then went on to obtain her Bachelor's Degree in Rhetoric and Writing with a Literature and a Journalism minor from the University of Southern Indiana in the fall of 2011. After taking a year off to discover life outside of schooling, she then attended Indiana University and received her Master's in Library Sciences in May of 2015. Outside of academia, she is a part of the EvilleCon, an anime convention in Evansville Indiana, as both the board secretary and staff member in charge of volunteers. Her biggest passions are reading fantasy novels, creating steampunk costuming on a budget, and of course her husband and two cats. **Contact: Email: [mmelton@vinu.edu](mailto:mmelton@vinu.edu), Phone: 812-888-5807**

Ever since I was a young child, I've loved books, movies, and everything else that libraries provide. I've been a professional librarian for well over a decade. In that time, I've worked in both public and academic libraries, and I've lived in environments from the sweltering sands of south Texas to the chilly shores of Lake Superior. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, travelling, and researching the heck out of whatever odd corner of the universe currently fascinates me. **Contact: email: [bscott@vinu.edu](mailto:bscott@vinu.edu), Phone: 812-888-5377**



Contact Your College's Library Liaison for Assistance:

*College of Business and Public Service; College of Technology*

Librarian:  
Bradley Scott, Information Services Librarian  
email: [bscott@vinu.edu](mailto:bscott@vinu.edu)  
Phone: 812-888-5377

*College of Health Sciences & Human Performance*

Librarian: Magen Melton, Technical Services Librarian  
email: [mmelton@vinu.edu](mailto:mmelton@vinu.edu)  
Phone: 812-888-5807

*College of Humanities;*

*College of Social Science, Performing Arts & Communication*

Librarian: Richard King, Reference Librarian  
email: [rking@vinu.edu](mailto:rking@vinu.edu)  
Phone: 812-888-5411

*College of Science, Engineering & Mathematics*

Librarian: Jamie Cox, Public Services Librarian  
email: [jcox@vinu.edu](mailto:jcox@vinu.edu)  
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Additional Contact Information for VU Libraries

Dean of Learning Resources & Technology

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Jasper Campus Library  
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Indianapolis Aviation Technology Center  
Library Staff: Christina Fitch  
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Fax: 317-381-6060

# CALL FOR READERS!

## Join Us on the Front Steps for Banned Books Week Friday, Oct. 2



Once again, Shake Library is offering a chance for the VU community to participate in Banned Books Week, an international awareness celebration of the freedom to read sponsored by the American Library Association. Students, faculty and staff are welcome to read aloud from their favorite controversial literature Friday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. to noon on the library's front steps. This annual event has proven popular as instructors (such as English instructor Jesse Coomer, reading at left) bring in classes to enjoy refreshments and enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere of amplified voices

blasting the campus with such often banned literary works as Allen Ginsberg's beat poem *Howl*, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*, and J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, adult and children's literature are welcome--anything goes! **If you want to read, contact librarian Richard King at 812-888-5411 or [rking@vinu.edu](mailto:rking@vinu.edu) and you can be added to the list of readers.**

**From The American Library Association at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek>**

**September 27–October 3, 2015**

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community -- librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types -- in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship. Check out the frequently challenged books section to explore the issues and controversies around book challenges and book banning. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted with removal or restrictions in libraries and schools. While books have been and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that, in a majority of cases, the books have remained available. This happens only thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, students, and community members who stand up and speak out for the freedom to read.

# Notes and News from Lewis Historical Library

*Come visit Lewis Historical Library and discover its wonders  
and be sure to visit our new Facebook and Flickr pages!*

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## Indiana Memory Bicentennial Grant

*By Duane Chattin, Director, Public Information*

VINCENNES, Ind. - Rare and fragile pre-1825 primary source material from Vincennes, Knox County and Vincennes University will be digitized to make it more widely available for researchers, thanks to a \$9845 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Indiana State Library.

“Much of this material should be of interest for scholarly research about the importance of Vincennes and VU to early Indiana statehood. These items will be made available linking to the Indiana Memory site (<https://digital.library.in.gov/>) hosted by the Indiana State Library,” said Richard King, reference librarian at VU’s Shake Learning Resources Center, which also houses the Lewis Historical Library.

The project will focus on three collections. The first is the early years (1806) of the Vincennes University Board of Trustees Minutes. This material reveals the origins of higher education in Indiana; including meetings presided over by Territorial Governor and future U.S. President William Henry Harrison.

The second collection is the Early Vincennes French Family Papers: Badollet Family Papers (1780-1878). This includes correspondence of John Badollet, the first Land Registrar of Vincennes. Documents from the French period of Indiana are not plentiful, and especially for the early years of Vincennes, established by the French about 1732.

The third collection is the Knox County (Ind.) Commissioners Records and Vincennes: early tax records 1814-1823. One of the oldest and largest counties of the 92 Indiana counties, Knox County originally encompassed land ranging from the Ohio River to Michigan, before being reduced to its current borders as Indiana became established.

“Early Knox County records, such as the Commissioners tax records, should be of interest to researchers, genealogists, and historians everywhere. Largely unknown and fragile, we believe these unique records should be digitally shared with the historical community on Indiana Memory, especially due to their early time coverage of pre-statehood through post-statehood periods,” King said.

The digitization will adhere to State Library Digitization standards and will be done by Wabash Valley Visions and Voices, an Indiana State

University-based project with extensive past service in digitizing important historical documents and photos for southwest Indiana. The Knox County Public Library (KCPL), a long-time collaborator with the Lewis Historical Library, has been a Voices and Visions contributor for many years.

“Instrumental in providing advice and support for this project are Emily Cooper-Bunyan, Knox County Public Library (KCPL) Director, Brian Spangle, Historical Collection Administrator at KCPL, Cinda May, Project Director of Wabash Valley Voices and Visions (Indiana State University), and Dr. David M. Peter, Dean of VU’s Shake Learning Resources and Technology,” said King.

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Indiana State Library.

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## **FOCUS ON LEWIS LIBRARY COLLECTIONS: The Allen Family Papers Collection, RHC #5**

*By Dr. Patrician Ann Owens, Lewis Library Volunteer*

Cyrus McCracken Allen was born in Clark County, Kentucky, 22 April 1815, son of Thomas Allen, one of the early and highly-respected pioneers of Indiana. Cyrus M. Allen followed mercantile pursuits a few years, but soon dropped that and began the study of law, with the view to making it a profession. He embarked in his profession at Paoli, Indiana and in 1841 located to Petersburg where he practiced law four years before moving to Vincennes in 1844 where his legal ability soon placed him in the front rank of his profession. He took an active part in the political affairs of the county and in 1859 was elected to the state legislature by the Whig Party. He was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and was one of the first to present his name for the nomination to the presidency.

His son, Cyrus M. Allen, Jr. graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, in June 1865. He served at several frontier posts including Fort Laramie (located in the present day state of Wyoming.)

Included in the family papers are a treasure trove of items related to Cyrus Allen, Jr.’s service in the army and to his family. Researchers can find a copy of his appointment to Second Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Cavalry signed by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton on 25 July 1865, Allen’s Oath of Office when he was appointed a First Lieutenant on 7 July 1866, and a collection of letters written to his fiancée, Anne Eastman. These are touching, heartfelt letters from a man who greatly missed his fiancée and their time together in Vincennes.

Letters written by Cyrus Allen, Jr. from his posting at Fort Laramie currently are being studied by library volunteer Dr. Patricia Owens. She and librarian Sandra Lowry at Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming are working together to combine primary source documents from both sites (Lewis Library and Fort Laramie) for an article to be published in *Annals of Wyoming*.

Librarian Lowry was thrilled to learn of the Allen letters in the Lewis Library regional history collection since the Fort Laramie files on Allen are quite sparse. She noted that there are entries of Lieut. Allen in the post trader's ledger for personal items such as a comb and toothbrush.....perhaps suggesting he took pride in his appearance.

Lieut. Allen's letters from Fort Laramie are filled with vivid descriptions of the weather, his fellow soldiers and of the Native Americans in the region. Fascinating reading – all of this, and more is waiting for you in Lewis Historical Library. Visit soon.

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### GLIMPSES: USS Maine Photos

While writing a finding aid for the Byron R. Lewis Collection, RHC#1, volunteer Dr. Patricia Owens discovered this photo taken in 1898 of wreckage of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor.

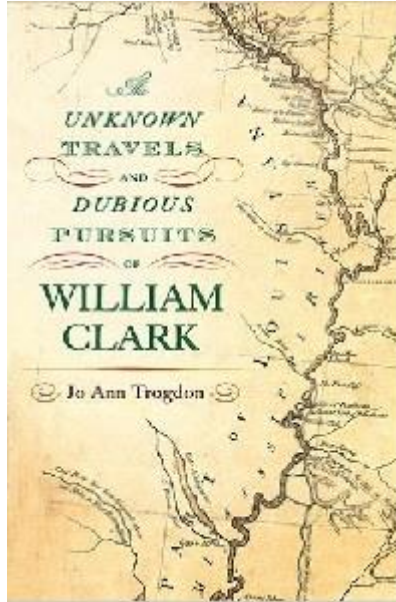


Photo of wreck of battleship U.S.S. Maine in Havana Harbor, sunk in 1898. From the Byron R. Lewis collection.





# Book Reviews by Library Staff



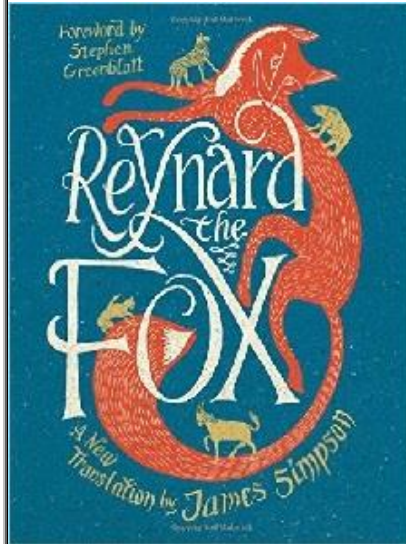
Trogdon, Jo Ann. *The Unknown Travels and Dubious Pursuits of William Clark*. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 2015. (On Order)

**Check it out – a new book about George Rogers Clark’s younger brother!** Years before being co-captain of the Corps of Discovery, territorial governor and Indian agent, William Clark (1770-1838) was an adventurous young soldier, surveyor and aspiring businessman. Travel opportunities within the U. S. army brought him on campaigns away from his Kentucky home and in 1798, as a civilian, Clark traveled down the Ohio and Mississippi

river to sell agricultural products at New Orleans, then a Spanish controlled city. That trip is the focus of this volume. Clark kept a written account of the journey, including maps of the Mississippi River’s course as well as notations of military fortifications along the way. Trogdon questions Clark’s motives; asking if he was possibly collecting information for James Wilkinson, the infamous spy, who was plotting to separate Kentucky from the Union. Skillfully describing events in Spanish Louisiana, Trogdon relates the roles of governors, businessmen and a host of nefarious characters who schemed with Wilkinson and often crossed paths with Clark or his associates. VERDICT – Trogdon makes adroit use of Clark’s journal and sources in Spanish archives and expertly crafts questions asking “what if...” and “might Clark have done this....”

This fascinating read is a substantial contribution to history of post-Revolutionary America and the expanding knowledge of Clark.” (Reprinted with permission from *Library Journal*, 15 June 2015)--By Dr. Patricia Ann Owens, volunteer in Lewis Historical Library

***Reynard the Fox: a new translation* (translated by James Simpson, with illustrations by Edith B. Newman). New York: Liveright, 2015 (841.1 R459r).**



What does the fox say? “If anything is said or written here that grieves or displeases any man, don’t blame me, but blame the fox, for these are his words and not mine.” Are antiheroes dark and edgy? Yes. Do they upset our ideas about right and wrong? Definitely. Are they a modern innovation? Not at all. This collection of medieval French tales, “translated” from an early-modern-English version published in 1481, reads almost like the evil twin of Aesop’s familiar animal fables. Reynard the Fox is a trickster and manipulator par excellence. When the Lion, the mighty

(but somewhat vain and dim) king of the animals, convenes his court, all the animals complain about Reynard. He broke into my house and peed on my children, says Isengrim the Wolf. He stole my sausage, says Courtoys the Dog. He attacked Cuwaert the Hare, says the panther. Right, says the King. Summon him to my court! What follows is a black comedy in which the clever and utterly amoral Reynard uses every trick in the book to evade the justice that is so richly due him. With flattery and deceit, he defeats one royal messenger after another. When finally confronted in court, he proves to be a brilliantly bewildering lawyer in his own defense. And when it comes to combat, he doesn’t just fight dirty – he fights filthy.

How popular were these tales in medieval France? Well, the name “Reynard” ended up becoming not just a common name to apply to foxes, like “Tom the cat” or “Fido the dog”, but the standard French word for the entire species.

These stories can be enjoyed purely for their own sake, but they’re even more interesting when you think about what they’re satirizing. Reynard’s self-serving tricks are a lot like the amoral but effective tactics that Niccolo Machiavelli described a few decades later in his brutally frank book about power-politics, *The Prince*. Where Aesop’s animal fables insist that there is a comforting moral order to the universe, the Reynard stories insist on the opposite. Anarchy and cynicism prevail; the innocent and the gullible are victimized while rogues like Reynard prosper. A little reading in history or current events will demonstrate that this is closer to the truth than many would like to think. --By Bradley Scott, Information Services Librarian