



Famous Hoosier Biographies

James Dean

[*James Dean: The Biography*](#) by Val Holley

Previously unavailable sources on Dean's life make this comprehensive biography a welcome addition to the wealth of information available on the actor's short and tragic life. Author Val Holley thoroughly examines Dean's childhood, burgeoning career as an actor, and his reckless nature that led to his demise in 1955.

Also Available from MPL:

[Rebel Without a Cause](#) (DVD)

[James Dean: Little Boy Lost](#) by Joe Hyams/narrated by Christopher Lane (Audiobook available through Hoopla)

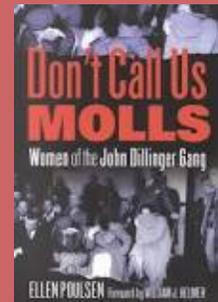


[Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die-James Dean's Final Hours](#) by Keith Elliot Greenberg (eBook available through Hoopla)

John Dillinger

[*Don't Call Us Molls: Women of the John Dillinger Gang*](#) by Ellen Poulsen

In this untraditional biography focusing on the female companions of John Dillinger and other notorious gangsters, specifically Dillinger's girlfriend Billie Frechette, author and researcher Ellen Poulsen uses eyewitness and family members' accounts, courtroom transcripts, FBI and prison records, and photographs to reconstruct the thrilling yet dangerous lives of these women. The book offers a compelling narrative by underscoring a softer, more human side to the women's sensational lives while also providing an in-depth examination of the attitudes and cultural phenomenon surrounding these 1930s public enemies and their wives and mistresses.



Also Available from MPL:

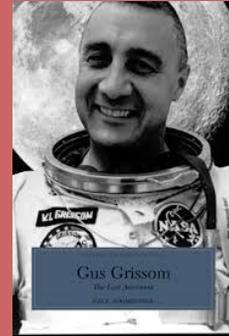
[*Hoosier Public Enemy: A Life of John Dillinger*](#) by John A. Beineke

[*Dillinger*](#) by Jack Higgins (Fiction; eBook available through Hoopla)

Gus Grissom

[*Gus Grissom: The Lost Astronaut*](#) by Ray E. Boomhower

This straightforward, yet gripping biography tells the story of Indiana's first astronaut. The book explores Grissom's life from early childhood in Mitchell, Indiana to combat service in Korea, to his selection for Project Mercury (1958-1963, the United States' first man-in-space program), and his later space missions and tragic death.



Cole Porter

[*The Cole Porter Story*](#) by Cole Porter/Richard G. Hubler

The Cole Porter Story is a unique blend of self-reflection and biography of one of America's most influential songwriters. Porter himself dictated the first portion of the book where he wittily reminisces about his jet setting, marriage, and scandalous lifestyle. Similar to a traditional biography, the second section of the book includes photographs, explores the triumphs and tragedies of his extravagant life, and examines Porter's impact on American Broadway Theatre during the Jazz Age and beyond.

Also Available from MPL:

[*Anything Goes - Cole Porter's Musical Comedy*](#) (e-Video available through Hoopla)

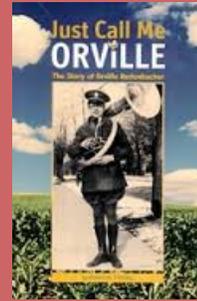
[*You're Sensational: Cole Porter in the '20s, '40s, & '50s*](#) (Audio CD)



Orville Redenbacher

[*Just Call Me Orville: The Story of Orville Redenbacher*](#) by Robert W. Topping

Indiana's own "popcorn king" Orville Redenbacher's life comes alive in this atmospheric and carefully researched biography. Orville's (or "Reddy" as his Purdue fraternity brothers affectionately called him) remarkable rise from Hoosier farm boy and agricultural pioneer to successful businessman and gourmet popcorn icon is told with help from personal correspondence, interviews, and extensive archival research.



Wilbur Wright

[*The Wright Brothers*](#) by David G. McCullough

Using intimate personal correspondence, private diaries, and other personal family documents, author David McCullough tells the dramatic and inspiring tale of turn-of-the-century American aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright. The book chronicles the lives of Wilbur (born in Indiana in 1867) and Orville as they transcend childhood tragedy, limited education, and little money to invent the world's first successful airplane.



Also Available from MPL:

[*Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies*](#)
by Lawrence Goldstone

[The Wright Brothers](#) (eBook available through OverDrive)

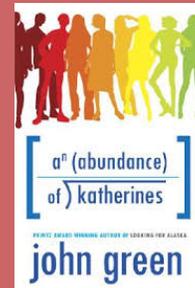
[Wright Brothers' Flying Machine](#) (DVD)

Famous Hoosier Authors

John Green

[An Abundance of Katherines](#) by John Green (Young Adult Fiction)

This quirky young adult novel follows Colin Singleton, a recent high school graduate who loves three things: mathematics, anagrams, and dating girls named Katherine. Colin embarks on a summer road trip with his best friend that leads to a humorous, thoughtful, and engaging journey that will get him closer to forming a mathematical equation that explains his nineteen relationship failures with girls named Katherine.



Booth Tarkington

[The Magnificent Ambersons](#) by Booth Tarkington

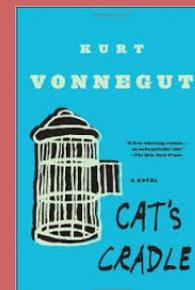
In this richly detailed historical drama, spoiled aristocratic George Amberson Minafer witnesses the evolution of his small midwestern town into a thriving city of the Industrial Age. The Ambersons, a prominent wealthy family going back generations, find themselves socially and financially challenged by the working-class, younger families and the growing pains of their beloved community.



Kurt Vonnegut

[Cat's Cradle](#) by Kurt Vonnegut

Published in 1963, renowned Indiana author Kurt Vonnegut delights in this science fiction novel that uses humor to lighten dark and poignant subjects such as religion, militarization, and the role of technology. Vonnegut constructs a vibrant world filled with unique and witty characters and detailed landscapes in this tongue-in-cheek examination of the apocalyptic-minded American culture.



Lew Wallace

[Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ](#) by
Lew Wallace

This classic, biblical-era story weaves together the lives of Jesus Christ and Jewish charioteer Judah Ben-Hur. Ben-Hur is wrongly accused of attempted assassination of Jerusalem's governor and thus an epic adventure ensues to save his life and his family. One of the best-selling books of all-time, *Ben-Hur* is a provocative and vivid narrative with a foundation of family, sacrifice, betrayal, and faith.



Also Available from MPL:

[Ben Hur](#) (Audiobook available through Hoopla)

[Ben Hur](#) (DVD)

You're very welcome!™

learn more Visit moorevillelib.org