

April 28, 2020

Ms. Sidney Hardgrave
Regional Director of Community Engagement & Impact
Vanderburgh Community Foundation
20 NW Third Street, Suite #820
Evansville, IN 47708

Dear Ms. Hardgrave,

Browning Genealogy is seeking funding to update our local history database, link Browning's two databases, redesign the website to include global search optimization, expand our local history archives, and integrate social media, video, and donation options. With support of \$10,000 from Vanderburgh Community Foundation, Browning Genealogy will increase our capacity to preserve the past for future generations. We hope that the new, user-friendly nature of the linked databases, along with social media and cross-platform integration, will result in revitalized historical interest from the Vanderburgh community.

Founded by Charles Browning in 1954, Browning Genealogy and Local History exists to provide the public—through collaboration with ten libraries and two extensive databases—with free access to over 828,000 local history entries and nearly 466,000 obituaries from Southern Indiana, Western Kentucky, and Southeastern Illinois. Our database receives up to 15 million visits per year, and through education, empowerment, and student outreach, we strive to make the study of genealogy and historic preservation accessible to every community member, regardless of background or economic status.

It is our goal to modernize our resources so that our databases are intuitive and accessible for teachers to implement in their lessons, as well as attractive to underserved populations who are unfamiliar with our free resources. Optional data collection from our website's visitors will allow

us to increase our communication with users and build email marketing, volunteer recruitment, and fundraising campaigns to work toward sustainability.

With the philanthropic support of Vanderburgh Community Foundation, Browning Genealogy will continue to improve community members' access to historical and cultural education and engagement. I look forward to discussing this partnership with you in detail in the near future.

Respectfully,

Brendan Duell

Works Cited

Browning Genealogy, browninggenealogy.org.