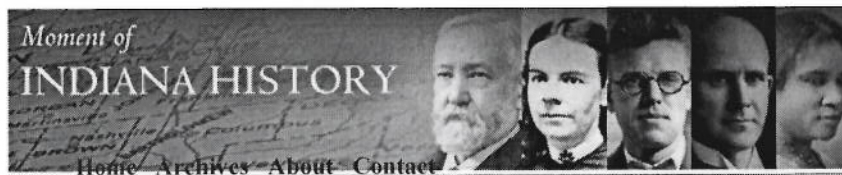


- [WTIU Public Television](#)
- [Friday Zone](#)
- [Indiana Newsdesk](#)
- [The Weekly Special](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
 - [A Moment of Science](#)
 - [Earth Eats](#)
 - [Ether Game Podcast](#)
 - [Feat. Classical Recordings](#)
 - [Kinsey Confidential](#)
 - [Harmonia Early Music](#)
 - [Complete List \(A-Z\) »](#)
- [Video](#)
 - [A Moment of Science](#)
 - [Indiana Newsdesk](#)
 - [The Weekly Special](#)
 - [PBS Video](#)
 - [On YouTube](#)
 - [WTIU Public Television](#)
 - [WTIU Newsbreak](#)
 - [The Weekly Special](#)
 - [WFIU Public Radio](#)
 - [Earth Eats](#)
 - [Muslim Voices](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Services](#)
- [About](#)

Give Now »

Indiana Public Media | WFIU - NPR | WTIU - PBS

- [Home](#)
- [Radio](#)
- [TV](#)
- [News](#)
- [Arts & Music](#)
- [Kids & Families](#)
- [Events](#)



Andrew J. Moyer And Penicillin: Saving Lives on a Grand Scale

By BELLE KIM AND JENNIFER PARK

Posted August 23, 2010

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

Soon after the discovery of penicillin, the number of wounded soldiers returning from WWII dying from infection mandated the antibiotic's mass production.



Listen Now: Andrew J. Moyer And Penicillin: Saving Lives on a... -2:00



STAY CONNECTED



Support For Indiana Public Media Comes From

IU Credit Union

We started a credit union
and created a community.

[iuu.org](#)

[Become an Indiana Public Media supporter »](#)

About Moment of Indiana History

Moment of Indiana History is a weekly two-minute radio program exploring Indiana History. The series is a production of WFIU Public Radio in partnership with the Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS). [Learn More »](#)

*For the Record by Rep. Burgess
for 9/19/14 hearing on
antibiotic resistance*

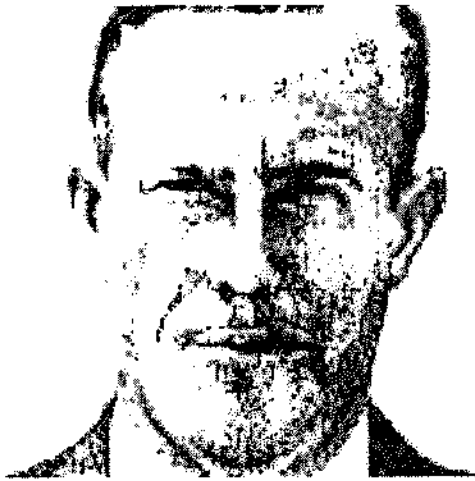


Photo: [archive photo](#)

Star City, Indiana native and Wabash College graduate Andrew J. Moyer developed a method for the mass production of penicillin.

Discovered by Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming in 1928, [penicillin](#) was found to be effective in treating serious bacterial diseases, from syphilis to staphylococcus infections.

Originally, penicillin was produced on a small scale. Within a decade, the number of wounded soldiers returning from World War II dying from infection mandated the mass production of penicillin.

Although a number of European scientists tackled the challenge, Indiana native and Wabash college graduate [Andrew J. Moyer](#) found the key to [mass-producing](#) the antibiotic while working as the director of the USDA's Northern Research Laboratory.

An expert on the nutrition of molds, Moyer found he was able to increase yields tenfold when penicillin mold was cultured in a broth of corn steep liquor and lactose.

The process known as industrial fermentation was the first use of corn steep liquor to grow microorganisms. Moyer also discovered that the production rate could be sped up when the improved medium underwent continuous shaking.

Moyer's innovation facilitated the mass production of penicillin, saving the lives of an estimated 12 to 15 per cent of Allied soldiers wounded in World War II. Mass production also led to greater supply of penicillin, subsequently lowering its cost from \$20 to 55 cents a dose in three years.

He was granted four patents for his work on penicillin, and continued to work for the Northern Research Laboratory until he retired in 1957. He died two years later on February 17, 1959, after a month-long illness.

In 1987, Moyer was posthumously invited into the National Inventors Hall of Fame; the first government researcher to be inducted

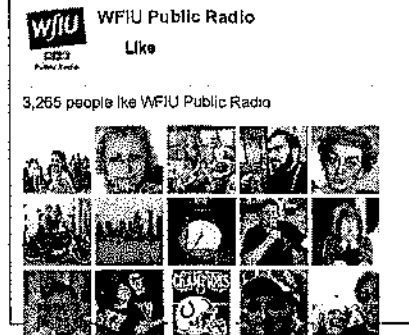
Moyer's method of creating fermentation with corn steep liquor still serves as a model for the development of many other antibiotics.

Search Moment of Indiana History

WFIU is on Twitter

[Follow @WFIU on Twitter »](#)

Find us on Facebook



Facebook social plugin

Tags

[Alexander Fleming](#), [Andrew J. Moyer](#), [industrial fermentation](#), [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#), [Northern Research Laboratory](#), [penicillin](#), [Wabash College](#)

Related Posts (Automatically Generated)

More from my site

- [Unwrapping a gift from the past](#)
- [Monon Railroad](#)
- [Shortridge High School](#)
- [Soldiers' Solace: Clubmobile Women During World War II](#)