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Indiana Genealogical Society News

1 August 2011

Dear Members,

Welcome to all our newest members - we appreciate your support!

This month marks an anniversary for the Indiana Genealogical Society - it's the anniversary of the launch of the Members Only area of our website. It's hard to believe that it was just 3 years ago that we committed to giving back to our members by providing databases to help in their Indiana research. Today that database collection stands at 636 total, and we're always working on adding more.

We're also celebrating reaching 500 followers on Facebook. It's proven to be a great way to reach an audience of people with an interest in Indiana genealogy, both members and non-members alike.

Read on to see what else has been happening in Indiana this summer.

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War of 1812 \$10,000 Match Challenge

As we enter our last 30 days, our \$10,000 match challenge is now over 80% of our goal. Thank you to: the [Brown County Genealogical Society](#) in Nashville, Indiana for their \$50 donation; the Clinton County Genealogical Society in Frankfort, Indiana for



their \$100 donation, and the [South Bend Area Genealogical Society](#) in South Bend, Indiana for their \$100 donation. And thanks also to all the attendees of last month's "Ancestry Day" event held in Fort Wayne, for donating a total of \$1,005.

Footnote.com has begun digitizing the pension files and putting them on its [website](#) for the public to access. There are over 40,000 images online already.

ABOUT THE MATCH CHALLENGE: The Indiana Genealogical Society is aiding the Federation of Genealogical Societies' campaign to digitize the National Archives' collection of War of 1812 pension files, by matching every donation up to the first \$10,000 that is made before **August 31, 2011**.

With Ancestry.com's pledge to match every donation made to the Federation of Genealogical Society's campaign, that every donation you make to our match challenge will actually be QUADRUPLED by the time it reaches FGS. Even a \$5 donation means 40 more pages will be digitized!

[Donate Online](#) or send a check (made payable to Indiana Genealogical Society, with "War of 1812 donation" in the memo line) to:

Indiana Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 10507
Fort Wayne, IN 46852-0507

Hendricks County Probate Records Update

Our project to preserve and digitize [Hendricks County probate records](#) continues to make progress. More digital files have been put online in recent weeks - there are now 425+ probate cases online.

We're also making plans to hold another "Saturday work session" this fall, where you can stop by during the day and spend some time unfolding the probate packets and organizing their contents. We're tentatively planning to have the session at the Plainfield Public Library in October - we'll let you know once we have the details finalized.

Databases Added To Members Only

computer keyboard

Here are the most recent additions to our [Members Only area](#):



College Records:

- Faculty of Earlham College, Richmond (1922)
- Students of Earlham College, Richmond (1922)

--Students of Indiana Central College, Indianapolis

(1932)

NOTE: Indiana Central College later became University of Indianapolis.

--Students of Indiana University, Bloomington (1928)

NOTE: This database only includes the Class of 1928.

County Records:

- Students of Lebanon High School, Boone County, Indiana (1915)
- Teachers of Lebanon High School, Boone County, Indiana (1915)

--Students of Kokomo High School, Howard County, Indiana (1933)

--Teachers of Kokomo High School, Howard County, Indiana (1933)

OTHER ADDITIONS

Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We added several databases over the past month - about schools in Hamilton, Knox, Washington and White counties, as well as an index to the 1860 mortality schedule for Allen County. Our collection of databases for Allen County and Wells County cemeteries also increased.

Naturalization Records Index for Northwestern Indiana

One of the challenges of researching an immigrant ancestor is finding the court that they filed their naturalization papers in. FamilySearch is making that task a little easier with a [card file](#) of naturalization petitions from the Northern District of Illinois (a federal court) for 1840-1950. Don't let the word "Illinois" deter you - the card file also includes petitions from residents of several counties in northwestern Indiana: Benton, Fulton, Jasper, Lake, La Porte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Starke and St. Joseph.

Monroe County Closures

If you are planning a trip to Bloomington to do research, you may be impacted by some changes. Due to budget cutbacks, the Indiana Room of the [Monroe County Public Library](#) has reduced the hours it is open - it is now open each day from 1 pm to closing. And last month, the Monroe County Courthouse closed to the public, so that it could begin a structural repair project, to help the aging building (which was built in 1907). The county offices which are normally housed in the courthouse have been moved to a nearby building. The project is expected to

last 6 months.

La Porte County Publications

If your research interest includes La Porte County, two new publications could aid your search:

--*In Court In La Porte* by Harold Henderson is an every-name index to the earliest court records of La Porte County, Indiana. Specifically, it is an index to the people, places and businesses mentioned in Complete Record Book A (June 1833 to April 1837), Judgment Docket A (June 1833 to June 1838) and Minute Record A (June 1833 to October 1836). Court records are valuable because they can provide unique information on the whereabouts of early settlers who may not appear in census or property records.

This soft-cover book is \$20 (Indiana sales tax is included), with \$5 for shipping & handling. 25% of the proceeds will be donated to the La Porte County, Indiana Genealogical Society. It can be purchased directly from the author at hhsh@earthlink.net

--*La Porte County, Indiana, Commitments to Benevolent, Educational, and Reformatory Institutions and Related Guardianships, 1848-1920* by Dorothy Palmer and Mary Wenzel contains abstracts of the commitment records of La Porte County residents at various institutions, such as prisons, insane asylums, and homes and schools for the feeble minded, the deaf, blind, epileptics and orphans.

This soft-cover book is \$20 and can be purchased from the [La Porte County, Indiana Genealogical Society](#)

Jefferson County Courthouse Re-Opening

More than 2 years after a serious fire, the Jefferson County Courthouse in Madison is finally set to re-open to the public. The public is invited to the re-dedication ceremony, which will be held on Friday, August 26 at 11 am. The courthouse will also be open for tours on Saturday, August 27 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Morgan County Obituary Resources

The Morgan County Public Library in Martinsville has added an [obituary database](#), which goes back to the early 1900's. The Mooresville Public Library has a database for [Mooresville-area obituaries](#).

Indiana in the News

Here are links to some interesting news items from the past month:

--[Vandals damage more Elkhart County cemetery headstones](#) - about repeated vandalism at 2 cemeteries in Elkhart County.

--[County officials give widow permission for home burial of her husband](#) - about an Owen County woman who ran into a problem with cemetery laws when she wanted to bury her husband on their farm.

--[Water line project unearths graves from old county home burials](#) - about several unmarked graves discovered in Terre Haute, which may be burials from the Vigo County Home.

--[Torn, tattered Civil War-era flag found at Sullivan County](#) - about the digitizing of Civil War materials in Sullivan County.



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