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Indiana Genealogical Society logo

Indiana Genealogical Society News
1 September 2011

Dear Members,

Do you know how far apart you are from one other? At our board meeting last month our Vice-President Tina Eisworth Lyons revealed some fascinating statistics she had compiled about the diversity of our membership. Although about half of our membership is in Indiana, 42 states in all are represented, plus Canada. Of those outside the state, Calfornia, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio represent the largest amounts. And among our Indiana residents, 61 of the 92 counties are represented.

It's a testament to the wonders of the web (an invention which celebrated its 20th anniversary last month) that we are able to communicate with you wherever you are in the world and share news about our mutual interest in Indiana genealogy.

The genealogy world will be converging on Springfield, Illinois next week for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference. IGS will be there on Thursday, September 8 from 5 to 8 pm for the Society Showcase - if you're there, stop by our table to chat with some of our board members.

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Quick Links

IGS Blog

IGS Members Only area

War of 1812 $10,000 Match Challenge

WE DID IT! We not only reached our goal of getting $10,000 in donations before our August 31 deadline, we surpassed it! We received a total of $12,117 from 220 donors representing 34 states in the U.S., as well as Australia. With IGS matching that with $12,117 of our

own, we will be presenting a check to the Federation of Genealogical Societies at their conference next week for **$24,234**. That translates to 48,000 images. And with Ancestry.com's match of our donation to FGS, that means another 48,000 images will be digitized - 96,000 in all because of your generosity!

Thank you to all these organizations for their contributions in the last month:

--**La Porte County, Indiana Genealogical Society** - $100
--**Detroit Society for Genealogical Research** - $100
--**Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan** - $150
--**Oakland County (Michigan) Genealogical Society** - $300
--**Ohio Genealogical Society** - $500
--**Ionia County (Michigan) Genealogical Society** - $100
--**Cheboygan County (Michigan) Genealogical Society** - $100
--**Kalamazoo Valley (Michigan) Genealogical Society** - $300
--**Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society** - $114
--**Illinois State Genealogical Society** - $1,010

Don't forget, you can look at some of the digitized files - Fold3 (formerly Footnote.com) has begun digitizing the pension files and putting them on its **website** for the public to access. There are some 60,000 images online so far.

Databases Added To Members Only

computer keyboard

Today we added 10 more databases to our **Members Only area**:

--Directory of businesses from 1858 directory for 7 counties in western Indiana: Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam and Vermillion (Newport only).
--Indexes to 1860 mortality schedules for Jay County and Marion County
--Residents of Porter County who died in World War II (1942-1946) - courtesy of the Porter County Public Library.

OTHER ADDITIONS

Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We added several databases over the past month about schools in Howard, Madison and Porter counties, as well as 1860 mortality schedule indexes for Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland counties. Our collection of cemetery databases for Adams County and Allen County also increased.

National Black Genealogy Summit

The Indiana Genealogical Society is proud to be a sponsor of the **National Black Genealogy Summit** on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22 in Fort Wayne. The theme is "African Diaspora: Awakening Our Legacy," and included in the jam-packed schedule are nationally-renowned speakers Tony Burroughs and Timothy Pinnick.

The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library will offer extended hours for research from October 20-23. There will also be a pre-summit program offered on Thursday, October 20 that is free and open to all. It will focus on family health history, foundations of genealogical research, a librarians' track, and information sharing.

Visit the conference website for the complete schedule and registration information on this African-American genealogy event.

County Genealogists Update

At its August board meeting, the Indiana Genealogical Society appointed Audrey Kinezian of Knox, Indiana as our **Indiana County Genealogist** for Starke County. Audrey is a Chicago native who discovered genealogy while living in New England in the early 1970's. She was able to take advantage of learning from devoted librarians and archivists long before genealogy became the huge hobby that it is today. She became a professional genealogist in 1982 and lived all over the United States before retiring to Starke County in 1997.

We also send our condolences to the family and friends of our ICG for Spencer County, Kris Manley, who passed away on August 3. Kris was a fixture in the world of Spencer County genealogy, including her service at the Spencer County Public Library in Rockport. The Spencer County Historical Society named her their Genealogist of the Year in 2007. You can read her obituary **online**. The Indiana Genealogical Society board made a donation to the Spencer County Public Library in her honor.

Hendricks County Probate Records Work Session

Our project to preserve and digitize **Hendricks County probate records** continues to make progress, with over 50,000 photos taken so far. Thank you to Susan Parker of Seattle, Washington for her donation towards the continuing costs of this project.

A probate packet contains fascinating details, such as this stationery showing what the Hendricks County courthouse looked like in the 1800's. See for yourself - come to our work session on Saturday, October 15 at the **Plainfield Public Library** in Hendricks County. Stop by any time from 9:30 am to 4 pm and help us unfold some of the probate packets and organize their contents. Stay a little, stay a lot - it's up to you!

Please register ahead of time so we'll have enough supplies on hand - register online via the library's **Events Calendar** or contact their Indiana Room at (317) 838-3800.

Genealogy Grants Available

Are you involved with an Indiana non-profit group that has a good idea for a genealogy project, but needs some funding to either get it started or ensure that it continues? Take advantage of the Indiana Genealogical Society's genealogy grants program. We offer $500 grants to Indiana non-profits that have 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. The grants are available for cemetery restoration or development of a resource (either printed or electronic). No membership in IGS is necessary to apply. For our IGS chapters, we also offer a special chapter resource grant.

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2011 - visit the **Grants** section of our website to download an application form.

District Directors Update

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Randi Richardson as the District Director for the South Central District (representing Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange, Scott and Washington counties). Randi has been involved with IGS as the Indiana County Genealogist for Monroe County.

We have an opening for the District Director for the Southeast District (representing Dearborn, Decatur, Fayette, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland and Union counties). If you live in one of these counties and would like to represent your district, please contact President Michael Maben (e-mail mmaben@indiana.edu).

Share Your Hoosier Ancestors' Stories

As a member of our society, chances are your ancestors have some connection to Indiana - why not share the details of their life with us? We have two ongoing programs you can participate in, "Once A Hoosier" and "Always A Hoosier."

How do you know which one to send the information to? If your ancestor spent some time in Indiana but died elsewhere, send their information to "Once A Hoosier" **(submission form)**. On the other hand, if they were buried in Indiana, send their information to "Always A Hoosier" **(submission form)**.

Submissions are published in our newsletter and sent to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne for permanent storage.

Digitizing of Indiana Newspapers

The Indiana State Library has received a grant of almost $300,000 from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) to digitize 100,000 pages of Indiana's newspapers from 1836 to 1922 that have been deemed historically significant. The digitized images will be put online at the **Indiana Memory** website. For more information about this project, see their **press release**.

The Tipton County Public Library has digitized various Tipton County newspapers ranging from 1856 to 1976 and placed them online for free access - see **http://tiptonpl.newspaperarchive.com/**

Indiana in the News

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

--**Central State patient gets new grave marker** - about the graves of patients at the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane (aka Central State Hospital) in Indianapolis.

--**Vandals Damage 70 Headstones At Indy Cemetery** - about vandalism at a cemetery on the southwest side of Indianapolis, which has burials going back to 1856.

--**New gravestones mark region Civil War veterans' sacrifices** - an update about a project in Lake and Porter counties to erect markers for Civil War veterans.

--**University digitizes hundreds of documents** - about how Taylor University has been digitizing their collection of school yearbooks, etc. dating back to 1898.

--**Families upset after semi runs through Whitestown cemetery** - about damage that was caused to a Boone County cemetery from a semi crash.

--[Group awarded grant to digitize historic records](#) - about a project to digitze some of the records of Central Normal College in Hendricks County.