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## Indiana Genealogical Society banner



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## Indiana Genealogical Society News

*1 November 2011*

### *Hello Members!*

Budget cuts continue to impact family researchers. If you are planning a research trip to Muncie, be aware that the [Delaware County Building](#), which is home to many county offices (including the county clerk's office and the county health department) is now closed on Fridays.

Another change to be aware of if you're visiting downtown Indianapolis (including the Indiana State Library). The city recently privatized the parking meter system, and as a result the charges increased and you also now have to pay to park on Saturdays. If you let your meter expire, it will now cost you \$20 instead of \$5. Thanks to Ron Darrah for this update.

As holiday retailers like to remind us, the end of the year is right around the corner, and that also means your 2011 membership with us will be expiring, too. We'll be sending you an e-mail in the next month notifying you of your expiring membership, but you don't have to wait - you can [renew online](#) at any time to avoid any interruptions in your membership benefits.

### Members Only Additions

Here are the databases we've just added to the Members Only area:

[computer keyboard](#)



### [College Records:](#)

--Faculty of Indiana Asbury University, Greencastle (1858)

[NOTE: Indiana Asbury University later became DePauw University]

--Students of Earlham College, Richmond (1940)

[NOTE: This database only includes the class of 1940]

--Faculty of Indiana Dental College, Indianapolis (1925)

[NOTE: Indiana Dental College later became Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)]

--Students of Indiana Dental College, Indianapolis (1925)

[NOTE: This database only includes the class of 1925 and the class of 1926]

--Faculty of Wabash College, Crawfordsville (1939)

#### **County Records:**

--Elected Officials in Dearborn County, Indiana (1803-1915)

--Teachers of Kokomo High School, Howard County, Indiana (1932)

#### **Military Records:**

--Veterans Who Died At Indiana State Soldiers Home, Lafayette, Indiana (1910-1911)

#### **OTHER ADDITIONS**

Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We also added databases over the past month about:

--Clay County - Brazil High School records 1918

--Dearborn County - Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War and Spanish-American War soldiers

--Johnson County - Greenwood High School graduates 1877-1930

--Ohio County - Civil War soldiers

--Porter County - Liberty Township school enumerations 1919 & 1924

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### **Rush County Civil War Publication**

The Rush County Genealogical Society is taking pre-orders for its publication, *Let Us Die To Make Men Free: Civil War Soldiers of Rush County, Indiana*. It focuses on 66 Civil War soldiers from Rush County. Download the [order form](#) from their [website](#).

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### **Marion Public Library newspaper Receives Grant**

Congratulations to the

[Marion Public Library](#) in Grant County! They recently received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

grant from the Indiana State Library in the amount of \$6,559 to purchase 4 computers and a scanner for their Indiana Room. The library matched the grant and purchased a printer and ergonomic work stations for the



computers. Now genealogy researchers can have access to the latest technology, and the Indiana Room can offer computer training sessions.

Thanks to Rhonda Stoffer, Indiana County Genealogist for Grant County, for sharing this good news.

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## Indiana Marriage Indexing Update

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Our [Indiana Marriage Indexing Project \(1811-1959\)](#) (done in partnership with FamilySearch) continues to grow. Entries from Floyd County, Fountain County and Fulton County have been added, bringing the

number of entries to over 1.9 million. Thirty of Indiana's 92 counties are included in the index so far.

Indexers are now working on batches from Hamilton County, Hendricks County, Jay County, LaGrange County and Lake County - sign up with [FamilySearch Indexing](#) to help out!

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## Postscript: Indiana's Homes for Soldiers

In our October note, we mentioned how in the wake of the Civil War the federal government had established National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to help care for veterans. CNN recently aired a [video segment](#) about the problems of homelessness among our veterans today. The segment includes a discussion of the former National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Santa Monica, California.

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## Hendricks County Probate Records Project

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Thanks to all those who stopped by our Saturday work session in Plainfield last month - including one volunteer who came all the way from Oregon! We unfolded 119 cases and are now well over 50% finished with the unfolding phase.



We've been compiling a database of the dates of death that are mentioned in all the estate cases we've unfolded so far - there are over 575 entries in the database, with the dates of death ranging from 1837 through 1898. Visit the [Records Preservation Project](#) page for the link to

the database.

We've also added more examples to our [Facebook photo album](#) of some of the interesting things we've come across so far (you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the album). Among the additions are a listing of the probate cases on the Putnam County court docket for February 1878 and an 1881 listing of some of the businesses in Indianapolis - they really did use any and all pieces of paper that were handy!

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## Friends of Indiana State Archives Seek New Building

Stephen Towne, President of the [Friends of the Indiana State Archives](#), recently articulated the need for a new building to house the collections of the Indiana State Archives. In an [Indianapolis Star article](#), Towne discussed the problems of the current building (a converted warehouse on the east side of Indianapolis), including leaks and the inconvenience for researchers who want to visit other repositories that are downtown. The Fort Wayne *Journal-Gazette* published an [editorial](#), aptly titled "Dripping on History," that quotes Towne as well as our own Curt Witcher.

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## Indiana State Websites Honored

The website for the Indiana State Library's [Genealogy Collection](#) was recently honored. *Family Tree Magazine* named it to their list of "[2011 Best State Websites](#)." The library's site contains several statewide indexes, including for marriages, deaths, newspapers and biographies.

Also named to the list was the [Indiana State Digital Archives](#), the online repository of the Indiana State Archives that is home to some 2.8 million digital records. This was the second straight year that their website was honored by *Family Tree Magazine*.

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## War of 1812 Digitization Update

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and Fold3 continue to make great progress in their effort to digitize the 180,000 pension files of War of 1812 veterans. There are now over 97,000 pages [online](#).

The project recently reached an important milestone - the files are arranged alphabetically by the veteran's last name and they finished the "A"s and are now starting the "B"s.

Our match challenge is over, but FGS welcomes your [donations](#) to this worthy project as we move into 2012, the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the war.

## Indiana in the News

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

--[Randolph County courthouse is back on the clock \(or vice versa\)](#) - about some of the renovations to the Randolph County courthouse in Winchester.

--[Couple finds tombstones from 1850's in their front yard](#) - about a Michigan couple who found a tombstone in their yard that (if you read the comments section) may actually belong to a cemetery in Elkhart County.

--[A man on a historic mission](#) - about a Rush County resident honored by Indiana Landmarks for his preservation efforts.

--[Auburn mourns as pillars of city die in Grant crash](#) - about the deaths of DeKalb County historian & author John Martin Smith and his wife Bobbie.

--[Family grateful for return of Korean War veteran's remains](#) - about the use of DNA to identify the remains of a Fountain County soldier who died during the Korean War.

--['This memorial will be remembered and cherished forever'](#) - about a Delaware County cemetery that is honoring veterans.

--[Growing roof project on hold](#) - about how repairs to the Knox County courthouse in Vincennes are now on hold until spring.

--[Homeowners with cemeteries in yards keep history alive](#) - about how homeowners across central Indiana are tending to old cemeteries on their properties.

--[Artwork, symbolism: Valley native has toured more than 300 cemeteries](#) - about the variety of symbols found on tombstones in western Indiana. Includes some great photos!



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