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Hello Members!

The new year is ushering in some great news. Genealogists were already anticipating 2012, with the release of the 1940 census in April. The National Archives had already committed to putting digital images of the 1940 census online for free, thanks to an agreement with Archives.com. Now comes word that there will be a free index, too.

Genealogy entities Archives.com, FamilySearch and findmypast.com recently announced they will collaborate on a project to create a free online index. Volunteers are needed to help with this massive undertaking (there were approximately 130 million people in 1940) - visit the project site, **www.the1940census.com**, for more information and to practice your indexing skills in preparation for April. You can also read the **press release** about this project.

Update: Social Security Changes

In our last e-mail, we told you about policy changes by the Social Security Administration concerning Social Security records and how that would affect researchers. The fallout from those policy changes continues. The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) that has been a staple of Rootsweb has now been taken down by Rootsweb's parent, Ancestry.com, with a **note** mentioning "sensitivities" as the reason for its removal.

It should be noted that the index is still available for searching on Ancestry.com. Cyndi's List has a **listing** of all the sites that still offer free access to the SSDI.

Members Only Additions

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

College Records:
--Students of Central Normal College, Danville (1934-1935)

--Faculty of Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute (1913)
--Students of Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute (1913)
[NOTE: This database only includes students from the class of 1913; Indiana State Normal School later became Indiana State University]

--Directory of Faculty of Indiana University, Bloomington (1935)
--Students of Indiana University, Bloomington (1929)
[NOTE: This database only includes students from the class of 1929]

Miscellaneous Records
--Elected County Officials in Indiana (1902)
--Lawyers in Indiana State Bar Association (1916)

OTHER ADDITIONS
Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We also added databases over the past month about:
--Greene County (a roster of a Civilian Conservation Corps company stationed in Worthington)
--Johnson County (Alva Neal High School & Franklin High School)
--Lake County (Hammond High School)
--Montgomery County (Alamo High School)

Jackson County To Add Genealogy Library

Among all the bad news about budget cutbacks and access being restricted to records, the Jackson County History Center in Brownstown has provided some good news. Last month, they broke ground for a 1,200 square foot Genealogy Research Center. Their **Facebook photo album** includes an artist's rendering of what the center will look like.

Damage to Indiana Cemeteries

Cemeteries across Indiana continue to make headlines for the wrong reasons:

--**Work begins to restore Oak Hill grave sites** -
an update about a long-neglected cemetery in Lake County (The Oak Hill Cemetery Restoration Project now has a **Facebook page**)
--**Graves found under Jeffersonville softball field** -
about graves found in a Clark County public park that may be part of a pioneer cemetery.
--**Vandals hit cemetery, trash golf course** - about the damage done to a LaGrange County cemetery.
--**Second grave digger sentenced in scheme** - about a Noble County grave that was disturbed.
--**Liberty cemetery lacks cash** - about the financial difficulties of

a Union County cemetery which was recently vandalized.

Other News from Indiana

Some other items making news in the past month:

--**ONB discovers treasures in Integra archives** - about stolen papers from 1897 recently discovered in an Evansville bank.
--**Community reacts to downtown fire** - about a fire in Knox County that destroyed a building dating back to the 1840's.
--**Lake, Porter counties work at digitizing records** - about the effort to digitize northwestern Indiana's most recent records.
--**Corydon preservationist Maxine Brown wins Indiana award** - about a lifetime achievement award being presented to a Corydon woman for her work on African-American history in southern Indiana.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We've added more **digital files** - there are now 505 files online.

We've added to our **database of the dates of death** mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 620 entries in it.

We added more examples to our **Facebook photo album**:

--an 1880 receipt for a metallic casket for a 16-year-old
--an 1888 receipt from the Indiana Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Indianapolis [today known as the Indiana School for the Deaf]

A note if you plan to visit Hendricks County to do research: the Hendricks County courthouse has just added some security measures. You must now enter and exit through the doors on the west side of the building (Jefferson Street), and pass through a metal detector.

Indiana Marriage Indexing Project

Our **Indiana Marriage Indexing Project (1811-1959)**, done in partnership with FamilySearch, continuesd to progress. Entries from Hamilton County, Hendricks County and Jay County have been added, bringing the number of Indiana

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counties included in the index to 35. FamilySearch estimates that the project is 53% complete.

Indexers are currently working on records from Jefferson County, Jennings County, LaGrange County and Lawrence County. Your help is welcome - just sign up with **FamilySearch Indexing**, go to their Partner Projects page and download a batch from our project.

War of 1812 Burials Sought

The Society of the War of 1812 in Indiana is compiling a **registry** of burial sites of War of 1812 veterans. If you know of any War of 1812 veterans who were buried in Indiana, please share your information with them.

Civil War in the News

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The **National Archives blog** has a great example of the kind of detailed information you can find in a Civil War pension file, including this tintype photo of a soldier's widow and daughter.

Fold3's blog has a series of posts showing examples of women who served as soldiers in the Civil War:
--**Part I: The Sarahs**
--**Part 2: Cathay Williams** (the first African-American woman)
--**Part 3: Jennie Hodgers**