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Indiana News - February 2012

Hello All!

We hope you saw our e-mail alert about the threat in Congress to close public access to the Social Security Death Index. In this, our regular monthly e-mail, we give you information on some genealogy-related bills that are under consideration by the Indiana General Assembly.

With the ongoing activity about access to records, the Indiana Genealogical Society board decided at their January 28th meeting to form an Advocacy committee under the direction of IGS President Michael Maben. This committee would:

- interact with government officials at all levels to determine impediments to our mission
- liaison with our own Indiana County Genealogists, as well as national and state representatives of the [Records and Preservation Access Committee](#)(RPAC)
- communicate with the IGS membership and the public at large about issues that are relevant to our mission of preservation and access to records.
- develop position papers relevant to the mission of the Indiana Genealogical Society

If you would like to participate in the Advocacy committee, please contact IGS President [Michael Maben](#).

We're also happy to announce that registration is now open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's April 28th conference (featuring Debbie Mieszala) and our pre-conference seminar. Both events will be at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne - a great excuse to

visit one of the best genealogy repositories in the country!

Registration Opens for Fort Wayne Conference

Debbie Mieszala

Registration is now open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual [Conference](#) on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at the [Allen County Public Library](#) in Fort Wayne! Debbie Mieszala will be our featured speaker, presenting sessions on:



--Lessons From A Snoop: Collaterals and Associates

--Digging Through Documents Word by Word

--Patently Unique: Locating Patent Records, Online and Off

--Bringing Our Soldiers Home

There will also be sessions offered on Ancestry.com expert tips, FamilySearch news, and writing a book using Family Tree Maker and Microsoft Word. In between sessions, you can browse the vendor area, enjoy the hospitality provided by the [Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana](#), or get in a little research time at the [Genealogy Center](#).

Indiana librarians: We have applied for LEU credits for the conference sessions.

Indiana Genealogical Society members are eligible for a \$10 discount on conference registration - if registering [online](#), be sure to use your Members Only login before registering. We also have a [registration form](#) that you can print out and mail.

Pre-Conference Seminar Offered

If you need another reason to come a little early to Fort Wayne on conference weekend, we're also offering a [Seminar](#) on Friday, April 27, 2012 at the [Allen County Public Library](#).

Enjoy a relaxed, interactive atmosphere with a morning open forum/show & tell about what's going on in our counties and an afternoon session where you are invited to brainstorm about your research brick walls and consult our Ask the Experts panel.

[GenWishList](#) blogger Tina Lyons will offer a session about how the power of social media (blogs, Facebook and Twitter) can be harnessed by societies. We've also built in some time in the schedule for you to do a little research at the [Genealogy Center](#).

Indiana librarians: We have applied for LEU credits for the seminar sessions.

Registration is just \$5 - register [online](#) or print out & mail in the [registration form](#).

Bills in Indiana State Legislature

2012 is the designated "short" session for the [Indiana General Assembly](#), with the session scheduled to finish by the end of March. However, there are some bills being considered which you may want to contact your legislators about:

--[House Bill 1015](#) has been referred to the Senate after passing the full House by a 90-2 vote. It deals with the issue of access to a cemetery that is on private land. It states that the landowner must give access to the cemetery to the family members of the deceased at least 3 days out of the year (with the dates of access to be worked out between the land owner and the family members). In return for this access, the landowner is absolved of liability for any injuries that may result to the family members from their access.

--[House Bill 1093](#) has been referred to the Senate's Committee on Local Government after passing the full House by a 90-4 vote. It would give a court the option to impose a fine (\$100 for the first violation; \$500 for subsequent violations) on a government agency and/or its officials if the state's [Public Access Counselor](#) determines that a violation of the state's open records law or open door law has occurred. Money received from such fines would be deposited in the state's education fund. (See [news article](#) for further details)

--[House Bill 1207](#) has been referred to the Senate after passing the full House by a 59-37 vote. It would amend several provisions of the state's civil service system. Among the bill's provisions are to remove board approval before the hiring or firing of the Indiana State Library's director and employees and the director and employees of the Indiana Historical Bureau. Also affected is the position of State Archivist. (See the [Society of Indiana Archivists](#) press release for further details).

Members Only Additions

We hope you saw our e-mail about the February issue of *IGS Newsletter* being added to the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members Only area. These are the new databases we've just added:

[College Records:](#)

Purdue University:

--Students of Purdue University, West Lafayette (1923)

[NOTE: This database only includes students from the class of 1923]

[County Records:](#)

Grant County:

--Graduates of Marion High School, Grant County, Indiana (1928)

--Teachers of Marion High School, Grant County, Indiana (1928)

Henry County:

--Residents of Henry County, Indiana (1874)

Johnson County:

- Students of Franklin High School, Johnson County, Indiana (1926)
- Teachers of Franklin High School, Johnson County, Indiana (1926)

Monroe County:

- Index to Will Records for Monroe County, Indiana (1818-1904)

OTHER ADDITIONS

Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We also added databases in January about:

- Allen County (cemetery)
- Madison County (school records)
- Steuben County (Civil Conservation Corps roster)
- Whitley County (school records)
- Vietnam War (Indiana soldiers who died in Vietnam)

County Roundup

News items and newly-found resources from around the state:

ALLEN COUNTY:

- The [Fort Wayne-Alen County Department of Health](#) is now accepting credit card payments for orders of birth and death records. Cash and money orders will still be accepted.

CLAY COUNTY:

- The Family Photo Reunion blog has found an 1882 Clay County marriage license for George Ealey and Malissa Rader - descendants of the family are being sought. (See [blog post](#))

DELAWARE COUNTY:

- Members of the Delaware County Historical Society's Pioneer Cemetery Preservation Committee have been busy restoring Muncie-area tombstones. (See [news article](#))

HANCOCK COUNTY:

- Greenfield's historic district (which has buildings dating back to 1846) has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. (See Indiana Landmarks' [press release](#))

HENDRICKS COUNTY:

- The Family Photo Reunion blog has found a wedding portrait of William Calvin Presnell and Claudie Ethel Moon who married in Hendricks County in 1898 and then moved to Saskatchewan, Canada - descendants of the family are being sought. (See [blog post](#))

- The Danville Public Library has purchased a new microfilm viewer/digital scanner for their Indiana Room, thanks to an \$8,545 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Indiana State Library. (See [blog post](#))

JEFFERSON COUNTY:

- Grandview Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Madison is in foreclosure, with a sheriff's sale scheduled for later this month. (See

[news article](#))

JENNINGS COUNTY:

--A recent renovation of the [Jennings County Public Library](#) in North Vernon included expanding the local history/genealogy room, and many items that had been in storage are now on display. And thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Lilian Hall Carmer, several hundred obituaries have been added to the library's obituary file.

KNOX COUNTY:

--The [Knox County site](#) on INGenWeb has compiled a [Knox County death index 1920-2005](#). Some of the entries also include the place of burial.

LAKE COUNTY:

--Due to budget cuts, the main branch of the [Gary Public Library](#) permanently closed to the public in January. The disposition of the library's collection of genealogy materials remains undecided.

PORTER COUNTY:

--A historic farmhouse in Union Township, which dates back to at least 1850, was destroyed by fire. (See [news article](#))

ORANGE, SPENCER, VANDERBURGH & WARRICK COUNTIES:

--Doretha Diefenbach-Hines's free site, [JustGraveDiggin.com](#), has a [burials database](#) that covers over 90,000 entries in these southern Indiana counties and includes 20,000 tombstone photos.

RANDOLPH COUNTY:

--A website for Darke County, Ohio also has extensive information about its neighbor, [Randolph County, Indiana](#), including school records.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:

--Work is underway to restore the Colonial Ayers house in Lafayette, a structure which dates back to the 1860's. (See [news article](#))

VIGO COUNTY:

--An anthropology team has worked on some burials found at a construction site in Terre Haute. These burials are believed to be from the Vigo County Home (See [news article](#))

WAYNE COUNTY:

--Richmond's business district has been added to the National Register of Historic Places (See [news article](#))

--If you are planning to visit Earlham College to search their vast collection of Quaker records, please be aware that their [Friends Collection and College Archives](#) will be closed February 16-19 for the college's early semester break.

IGS Joins Twitter

The Indiana Genealogical Society has expanded its social media presence and joined Twitter. Our Twitter handle is [@IndianaGenSoc](#) - follow us so you can stay up-to-date on all the

latest genealogy happenings in Indiana!



Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We've added more [digital files](#) - there are now 603 files online. Files added over the past month include these surnames:

DARNALL, DEARMON, DE HAPPART, DEVAN, EATON, ERGANBRIGHT, FLESHMAN, FOSTER, FOX, FREE, GLADDEN, HADLEY, HANKINS, HARTMAN, HULTS, JACKSON, JELF, JENKINS, JESSUP, KENDALL, KISE, LAWSON, LEACH, LEAK, LEITZMAN, LEMAN, MASTEN, MATLOCK, MOBERLY, MOODY, NEFF, NELSON, NEWBY, NEWLIN, NEWMAN, OURSLER, PARNELL, PEAR, PEARCE, PRATHER, SACRE, SALMON, SCAMAHORN, SCOTT, SCOTTEN, SHUEY, SHULTZ, SIMPSON, THOMPSON, THORNBROUGH, VAUGHAN, VESTAL, WATERS, WEEKLY, WHICKER, WILLIAMS, WILSON

We've added to our [database of the dates of death](#) mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 630+ entries in it.

We added more examples to our [Facebook photo album](#):

--An 1880 receipt from M.H. Spades in Indianapolis that proudly notes they deal in human hair (among other items)

--An 1881 invoice for medicines purchased by Pittsboro resident Basil Tout that includes "rat killer"

Submissions Sought for IGS Quarterly

Indiana Genealogist, the electronic quarterly journal of the Indiana Genealogical Society, is currently seeking submissions. We're looking for narrative articles and case studies involving Hoosier subjects as well as transcriptions, abstracts, or indexes of source material. We'd especially like to see articles about using unusual sources or new technologies. Illustrated material is particularly welcome.

Further information about IGS and the journal, including our submission guidelines and a sample issue, can be found on the [IGS website](#). Editor Rachel Popma is happy to talk with you about potential subjects and submissions. Please contact her at quarterly@indgensoc.org.

State Archives Adds Spanish War Database

The Indiana State Archives has added a database to its [Indiana](#)

[State Digital Archives](#). The [United Spanish War Veterans Membership Files](#) database includes more than 6,000 entries for members of the Indiana Department of the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV). These membership files contain applications, membership information, pension correspondence, and death notices. Information on spouses and widows can also be found within many files.



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