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IN THIS ISSUE

Help Index The 1940 Census

Librarian Credits Approved for Pre-Conference Seminar

Fort Wayne Conference Nears

Legislative Roundup

Indiana Marriage Indexing Project

Members Only Additions

County Roundup

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

FamilySearch Increases Microfilm Rental Cost

National Archives - Chicago Branch Closed For Repairs

Quick Links

IGS on Twitter

IGS on Facebook

   IGS

Indiana News - March 2012

Hello Members,

We've recently seen the best and the worst in Indiana - the devastation of tornados and then the incredible response from around the state (and the country). It's that generosity of spirit that we as genealogists have come to expect when it comes to big projects like the upcoming indexing of the 1940 census (see item below) - nothing is impossible when you are surrounded by others willing to help.

And speaking of being surrounded, the genealogy community will have a chance to get together and celebrate at our April 28th conference (featuring Debbie Mieszala) and our pre-conference seminar on April 27th. 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!

Help Index The 1940 Census

The National Archives will be releasing the digital images of the 1940 census on Monday, April 2 at 9 am Eastern on a special website - **http://1940census.archives.gov/**

Archives.com, FamilySearch International and FindMyPast.com are heading a **project** to coordinate the efforts of the genealogy community to create a free online index of the 1940 census. The Indiana Genealogical Society is coordinating efforts to index the Indiaina portion of the 1940 census. Here's how you can help:

1. Go to **http://the1940census.com/society/**
2. Under "Society Members," click the red "Get Started" button. (This will prompt you to download the FamilySearch Indexing software. Download it and install

it on your computer.)

3. When you launch the indexing software, you will be asked to "Register for a New Account" or "Sign In." (If you already have a FamilySearch account that you use for indexing or for access to record images, you can just sign in.)
4. The "Register for a New Account" button will take you to the FamilySearch website to set up your account. Fill in all the information.
5. Join the IGS group by e-mailing your username to Vice President Tina Lyons at **genwishlist@gmail.com**. Alternatively, you might see a drop down box when you register that will allow you to select IGS as your society.
6. Tell the 1940 U.S. Census Project that you want to help by entering your e-mail, name and favorite state in the form that's on the front page of **http://the1940census.com**. This will let them know how many people are available to index and keep you informed about the project through e-mail.

The indexing will begin as soon as the digital images are released on April 2nd - in the meantime, you can practice by working on two test batches that FamilySearch has created.

Librarian Credits Approved for Pre-Conference Seminar

Our pre-conference **Seminar** on Friday, April 27, 2012 at the **Allen County Public Library** in Fort Wayne has been approved by the Indiana State Library for LEU credits. Indiana librarians who attend can receive 1 Technology LEU (TLEU) towards their certification.

Enjoy a relaxed, interactive atmosphere with a morning open forum/show & tell about what's going 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**.

Registration is just $5 - register **online** or print out & mail in the **registration form**.

Fort Wayne Conference Nears

There is just over a month left to register for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual **Conference** on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at the **Allen County Public Library** in Fort Wayne. With Debbie Mieszala as our featured speaker, it promises to be a great event. Her sessions will be:

--**Lessons From A Snoop: Collaterals and Associates** - Crucial information on direct ancestors is often found by nosing into

the lives of collateral relatives, associates, and neighbors. Case studies present examples of invaluable finds.

--**Digging Through Documents Word by Word** - Proper scrutiny of each piece of information in a document is essential to understanding that item's evidentiary value. Studying every word's meaning and context ensures that evidence has been properly analyzed and comprehended.

--**Patently Unique: Locating Patent Records, Online and Off** - Was your ancestor an inventor? Learn how to locate patent records quickly and easily. Patents offer glimpses of creative genius and add interesting stories to family research.

--**Bringing Our Soldiers Home** - Thousands of lost soldiers and airmen from past wars were never recovered. Some were missing in action, killed in action, or prisoners of war. Learn about the project that aims to bring them home, and how genealogy is aiding in that effort.

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.

Legislative Roundup
The **Indiana General Assembly** wrapped up this year's session in the early hours of Saturday, March 10. Here is the status of several bills that were under consideration:

--**House Bill 1015** was passed and awaits the governor's signature. 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 1034** was passed and signed into law. Effective July 1st, it expands the cemeteries that county cemetery commissions can have jurisdiction over to include those that were established before 1875 or that have a Civil War veteran buried in them. Previously, county cemetery commissions' jurisdiction was limited to cemeteries that were established before 1850, had an "American war" veteran buried in them or showed signs of neglect.

--**House Bill 1093** (and its similar versions offered in the Senate) appears to have been shelved. It would have given 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.

--**House Bill 1207**, which included provisions to change the state's civil service system, including employees of the Indiana State Library, the Indiana Historical Bureau and the position of State Archivist, was engrossed into **House Bill 1283**, which gained attention because it designated an **official state rifle** of Indiana. House Bill 1283 was passed and awaits the governor's signature.

Indiana Marriage Indexing Project

wedding ring

Our **Indiana Marriage Indexing Project (1811-1959)**, done in partnership with FamilySearch, continues to move forward. Entries from LaGrange County, Lake County and Lawrence County have been added, bringing the number of Indiana counties included in the index to 38. FamilySearch estimates that the project is 58% complete.

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

Members Only Additions

We hope you received our e-mail alert about the March 2012 issue of *Indiana Genealogist* being added to the **IGS Records** section.

These are our newest databases:

County Records:
Thanks to the **Brown County Historical Society Archives** for sharing these Brown County tax lists with the Indiana Genealogical Society:
--Tax List of Brown County, Indiana (1848)
--Tax List of Brown County, Indiana (1858)
--Tax List of Brown County, Indiana (1864)
--Tax List of Brown County, Indiana (1875)

Hamilton County:
--Alumni of Noblesville High School, Hamilton County, Indiana (1876-1894)

Henry County:

--Graduates of Rich Square Academy, Lewisville, Henry County, Indiana (1888-1891)

Marion County:
--Graduates of High Schools in Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana (1890-1942)
--Residents of Marion County, Indiana Who Received Medals in World War I
--Women from Marion County, Indiana Who Served in World War I

OTHER ADDITIONS
Haven't visited the Members Only area recently? We also added databases in February about:
--Adams County (1860 mortality schedule)
--LaGrange County (1860 mortality schedule)
--Marion County (teachers)
--Indiana University

County Roundup

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

ALLEN COUNTY:
--The **Chief Richardville House** in Fort Wayne has been **designated** a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. The building dates back to 1827 and was the site of a treaty signed between the federal government and the Miami tribe, of which Jean Baptiste de Richardville was Chief.

JACKSON COUNTY:
--The Jackson County Courthouse has been **added** to the National Register of Historic Places. The courthouse dates back to 1873.
--The Carr Township school has been **added** to the National Register of Historic Places. The school dates back to 1857.

JOHNSON COUNTY:
--Smiley Cemetery in Franklin was **vandalized**. Brad Manzenberger of Stone Revival Historical Preservation has posted a **Facebook photo album** of the damage.

--The **Johnson County Museum** in Franklin has a great collection of records for your Johnson County research. In a **YouTube video**, Linda Talley gives a tour of some of their resources, including the marriage books and probate packets.

KNOX COUNTY:
--**Grouseland**, the home built in Vincennes in 1803 for territorial governor William Henry Harrison, has received a **grant** from Indiana Landmarks to help fix part of its structure. The home is a National Historic Landmark and is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

LAKE COUNTY:
--The project to restore the tombstones of Civil War veterans in northwest Indiana continues, with students in Crown Point seeing the tombstone of Colonel John Wheeler (See **news item**).
--Local officials are moving forward with plans to **demolish** the old

Lowell grade school, which dates back to 1896.
--The Lake County Recorder's office is implementing an online service where users can purchase digital copies of the office's records, including land records (See **news item**).

MARION COUNTY:
--Condolences to the friends and family of Jane Eaglesfield Darlington. A Certified Genealogical Records Specialist (CGRS), she authored numerous genealogy resources for those with Indianapolis/Marion County ancestors.

MONROE COUNTY:
--The **Monroe County History Center** in Bloomington is looking to hire a **Education and Volunteer Coordinator** to give educational programs and tours.

SHELBY COUNTY:
--The **Shelbyville-Shelby County Public Library** will be shortening its name to just the Shelby County Public Library, and will also be moving to a new website in the next few weeks. (See **news article**)

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:
--The **Tippecanoe County Historical Association** in Lafayette is busy computerizing its inventory of its collection of genealogical and historical materials (See **news article**).

VIGO COUNTY:
--The **Wabash Valley Genealogy Society** (which represents several counties in western Indiana) is offering a series of beginning genealogy classes at the **Vigo County Public Library** in Terre Haute. The sessions will take place from 6 to 8 pm on: March 28; April 4, 11, 18 & 25; May 2. Registration is $15 per person. To register, visit their website, or call (812) 236-8994.

WARREN COUNTY:
--The **Warren County, Indiana entry** on Wikipedia is being spotlighted for its attention to detail. The entry, which was compiled by Jeff Williams, contains a thorough history of the county and some of its most notable residents (See **news article**)

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We've added more **digital files** - there are now 610 files online. Files added over the past month include these surnames:

JESSUP, NELSON, POLK, SCOTT, VESTAL, WILSON

We've added to our database of the **dates of death** mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 640+ entries in it.

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

--An 1884 receipt from the Danville Telephone Company - the

operator charged 60 cents to take messages.

--An 1885 invoice from Flanner & Hommown undertakers in Indianapolis - today known as Flanner & Buchanan funeral homes

FamilySearch Increases Microfilm Rental Cost

Effective 15 February, FamilySearch increased the cost to rent its microfilm to $7.50 per roll. This microfilm is loaned to the public via its Family History Centers and more recently, libraries that have been certified as Family History Affiliates. As noted in **Dick Eastman's newsletter**, the cost of the raw material used to make the microfilm is skyrocketing, and finding the raw material is becoming more difficult.

National Archives - Chicago Branch Closed For Repairs

The **National Archives - Great Lakes Branch** in Chicago closed its textual and microfilm research rooms at the end of February to effect repairs to the building. They are scheduled to reopen to the public on Friday, March 30. Researchers are urged to vist their **Facebook page** for any updates.