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# Indiana News - 7 June 2012

*Welcome All!*

By popular demand, we've opened distribution of our monthly e-mails to anyone that's interested. Feel free to forward this message to your friends, or better yet, have them sign up to receive it directly (see the box on the top right of our website).

Indiana Genealogical Society members get a few extras - access to all the premium databases mentioned in this month's e-mail, as well as our listing of 225 city directories for Indiana.

## 1940 Census Update

Last month we rejoiced because FamilySearch's [progress map](#) showed that our indexing of Indiana was at 100%. However, FamilySearch subsequently discovered that it had neglected to load several Indiana batches into its indexing software, meaning there was still some work to do before the index could be prepared to go online. A few days ago the indexing reached 100% once more, so we have our fingers crossed that the Indiana index will be put online in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the [Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana](#) has finished indexing the 155,000 entries in the 1940 Allen County census and their index is now [online](#) for free searching. Their index also includes a link to the digital image of the census page.

Did your ancestors live in New York City? Ancestry.com has just added an [index of the 1940 census](#) for New York State - 13 million people in all. The index is free (you must register for a free account).

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## Civil War in the News

With the 150th anniversary and recent Memorial Day observances, we're still learning more about the Civil War:

--[Civil War death toll is raising new questions](#) - using digitized versions of the 1850-1870 censuses, a professor has calculated that the death toll may have been 750,000 - over 10% higher than previously thought.

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## Indiana Marriage Indexing Project

Work continues on the [Indiana Marriage Indexing Project \(1811-1959\)](#), done in partnership with FamilySearch. Entries from Kosciusko County, Martin County, Morgan County and Noble County have been added, bringing the number of Indiana counties included in the index to 42. FamilySearch estimates that the project is 61% complete.

Indexers are currently working on records from Jefferson County, Jennings County, Steuben County and St. Joseph County. Your help is welcome - just sign up with [FamilySearch Indexing](#), go to their Partner Projects page and download a batch from our project.

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## Database Additions

To Indiana Genealogical Society members: By now you should have received our e-mail notifying you about the June 2012 issue of *IGS Newsletter* being added to the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members Only area.

These are the newest premium databases we've added:

### [College Records:](#)

Central Normal College

--Register of Students of Central Normal College, Danville (1935-1936)

DePauw University

--Graduates of DePauw University, Greencastle (1905)

Indiana University

--Faculty of Indiana University, Bloomington (1898)

--Graduates of Indiana University, Bloomington (1898)

--Students of Indiana University, Bloomington (1898)

Taylor University

--Faculty of Taylor University, Upland (1903)

--Students of Taylor University, Upland (1903)

### OTHER ADDITIONS

Haven't visited recently? We added premium databases in the past month for:

--Benton County (teachers directory)

--Clark County (teachers directory)

--Clinton County (teachers directory)

--Crawford County (teachers directory)

- Daviess County (teachers directory)
- DeKalb County (teachers directory)
- Delaware County (teachers directory)
- Dubois County (teachers directory)
- Harrison County (teachers directory)
- Huntington County (1860 mortality schedule)
- Jackson County (teachers directory)
- Jasper County (teachers directory)
- Lawrence County (teachers directory)
- Marion County (Indianapolis school records)
- Montgomery County (Ladoga school records)
- Orange County (teachers directory)
- Pulaski County (teachers directory)
- Tippecanoe County (1886 special census)
- Wells County (1860 mortality schedule)

Not an IGS member? We added free databases in the past month for:

- Allen County (cemetery index)
- Blackford County (marriage index)
- Monroe County (1862 draft enrollment list)
- Noble County (cemetery index)
- Sullivan County (will index)

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## War of 1812 in the News

With June 2012 marking the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the war, here are some items related to the war:

--Fold3 is offering free access to its [War of 1812 collection](#) through June 30th. Fold3 is the site for always-free access to the War of 1812 pension files being digitized by the Federal of Genealogical Societies, but this month they are also offering free access to their otherwise-subscription collections, including some service records and case files.

--[War of 1812: Privateers](#) - Dick Eastman discusses a website compiled by Michael Dun about the private individuals whose ships participated in the war.

--[The 10 Things You Didn't Know About The War of 1812](#) - Smithsonian magazine details some of the lesser-known facts of the war, including its importance to Canada.

--[Last Veteran of the War of 1812, Hiram Cronk - Died in 1905!](#) - GenealogyBank.com examines newspaper items from across the country that mention the life and death of Hiram Cronk of Herkimer County, New York. He was celebrated for being the last surviving veteran of the War of 1812 - so much so that officials gave him a funeral before he even died!

--[Fighting Wasps of 1812](#) - The History Channel Club details the history of naval ships besides "Old Ironsides" that participated in the war.

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## County Roundup

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

### ADAMS COUNTY:

--The Indiana State Archives has added entries from Adams County records to its [online collection](#) of naturalization indexes. The Adams County records comprise some 1,600 entries and span 1854 to 1957.

### ALLEN COUNTY:

--Internet Archive recently added a digitized copy of [History of Allen County, Indiana \(1880\)](#), thanks to the Allen County Public Library. The 1880 history contains biographical entries as well as plat maps showing locations of properties.

### BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY:

--Thieves [vandalized Garland Brook Cemetery](#) in Columbus, stealing bronze vases from the graves. Police later arrested two suspects after they attempted to sell the vases for scrap metal.

### DEARBORN COUNTY:

--Students in grades 5-7 were recognized with [Hoosier Rising Star awards](#) for their work on Greendale Cemetery in Lawrenceburg. The students worked to map the cemetery and record its burials - particularly helpful since all known records had been lost.

### DELAWARE COUNTY:

--Officials have scrapped plans to [re-open the Delaware County Building on Fridays](#), citing continuing budget problems as well as employee opposition to the plan. Last fall the county building (home to the county clerk and county health department, among other government agencies) was closed to the public on Fridays due to budget cuts.

--The first hospital in Muncie (built circa 1900), was [destroyed in a fire](#). Ironically, the building had just recently been filmed by some historic preservation students.

### DUBOIS COUNTY:

--The [Dubois County Museum](#) in Jasper has lots of local history on display, as mentioned in this [review](#).

### HAMILTON COUNTY:

--The McShane House in Carmel is in danger of [being demolished](#). The house was built in 1886 and sits on land that was purchased in 1825, by the first white settler in the township.

### HOWARD COUNTY:

--The Kokomo-Howard County Public Library is [seeking information on War of 1812 veterans](#) who settled in the area, in honor of 2012 being the bicentennial of the beginning of the war. They have compiled a partial listing of area residents known to have served in the war - if you have any information on them, or know of any additional veterans, please contact them.

#### KOSCIUSKO COUNTY:

--Burials from Kosciusko County cemeteries are being added to an [online database](#), thanks to the work of the Kosciusko County Historical Society. To access the information, visitors to the website should select "Kosciusko County, IN" from the dropdown menu, then select "Cemetery Search" and click the Enter button.

#### LAKE COUNTY:

--Oak Hill Cemetery Restoration Project in Hammond is heading a [campaign to raise \\$1,000](#) to support the Calumet Regional Civil War project's efforts to honor Civil War veterans' tombstones in Lake and Porter counties.

--Last month we told you about a plan by Lake County Recorder Michelle Fajman to digitize the county's 6,000+ deed books. However, Fajman was defeated in the May primary, ensuring that there will be a different official in place beginning in January. It's unclear what will happen to the digitizing project.

--James Glass of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources wrote a [column in the Indianapolis Star](#) about the history of the town of Whiting.

#### MARION COUNTY:

--Butler University's [Special Collections Department](#) has digitized their collection of yearbooks dating back to 1891, as well as their collection of the alumni quarterly (Thank you to Ron Darrah for alerting us to this resource).

#### MONROE COUNTY:

--A website for Richmond, Virginia commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with an [item about David Van Buskirk](#), who served in the 27th Indiana Infantry. While imprisoned at Libby Prison, he became known as the "tallest Yankee in the world", as he was 6 foot 10 inches tall. His [FindAGrave entry](#) has more information.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

--Crawfordsville will host [several events in June](#) to commemorate the Civil War.

#### NOBLE COUNTY:

--Internet Archive recently added a digitized copy of [Illustrated Historical Atlas of Noble County, Indiana \(1874\)](#), thanks to the Allen County Public Library. The 1874 atlas contains biographical entries as well as plat maps showing locations of properties.

#### PORTER COUNTY:

--A Civil War preservation project in Lake County and Porter County recently received a [\\$10,000 grant](#). The money will be used to add more special markers at the graves of Civil War veterans and also to promote a cultural trail.

--A recent [program](#) held at the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso allowed residents to explore the 1940 census and to prove/disprove some family lore.

#### POSEY COUNTY:

--Archaeology students have been [excavating](#) part of the town of New Harmony, which was founded in 1814.

#### PUTNAM COUNTY:

--Last month we mentioned how DePauw University had begun digitizing Putnam County newspapers from the 1800's. An [article](#) has more details about the project, which involves 120 rolls of microfilm and issues from 1837 all the way through 1979.

--The Civil War Soldier monument in Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle (built in 1869) needs [restoration work](#) to remove some of the wear and tear of time. Indiana Landmarks recently presented a [check for \\$6,250](#) to the Heritage Preservation Society to begin the fundraising campaign.

#### RANDOLPH COUNTY:

--The Randolph County Courthouse in Winchester has finally completed its [renovation project](#). Built in 1875, the renovation restored some original elements of the courthouse and also added square footage with an annex. The courthouse was originally slated to be demolished in 2005.

#### STEBEN COUNTY:

--The Steuben County Public Library in Angola has a [blog](#) where they periodically post items from their local history collection. A recent post contains information on a Civil War veteran.

#### ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

--Do you have ancestors from the North Liberty area? Here is a [1908 postcard](#) sent to a Ray Reamer of North Liberty, Indiana.

#### VANDEBURGH COUNTY:

--Oak Hill Cemetery and Locust Hill Cemetery in Evansville may be owned and maintained by the city, but according to an [article](#), families of those buried there are responsible for upkeep of the tombstones.

--According to an [editorial](#) in the *Evansville Courier & Press*, the Vanderburgh County Health Department will no longer be including the cause of death in the death records that are released to the public. They cite as their legal basis a 2007 ruling by the Indiana Public Access Counselor on what pieces of information must be included on a death record.

--Oak Hill Cemetery was the focus of a [walking tour](#) celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Evansville.

#### VIGO COUNTY:

--The Vigo County Public Library's Archives contains many genealogy gems of the area, as [mentioned in a Terre Haute newspaper column](#).

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## Indiana City Directories

If you've had to browse through several pages of the 1940 census trying to find an ancestor, you appreciate the value of city directories.

City directories are great at pinning down an ancestor's exact location (especially if they move in between censuses). They can also give you additional pieces of information not found in other resources.

For Indiana Genealogical Society members, we've compiled a listing of some 225 city directories for various Indiana cities and counties that can be accessed online. To view it, login to the [IGS Records](#) section of Members Only and then select Research Topics.

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## Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We've added to our database of the [dates of death](#) mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 705 entries in it.

We added more examples to our [Facebook photo album](#):  
--An 1880 order for a tombstone to be placed on James Davis' grave, including a diagram of how the tombstone should look.  
--An 1872 listing of businesses in Indianapolis.

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## Midwest Events

Genealogy events abound in the Midwest:

--[Palatines to America national conference](#) - June 14-16 at the Indianapolis Marriott East.  
--[GenFest2012](#) genealogy festival - June 22-23 at the Muncie Public Library.  
--[Midwestern Roots](#) conference - July 20-21 at the Indianapolis Marriott East.  
--[Kentucky Genealogical Society](#) seminar - August 4 at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, KY.  
--[Illinois State Genealogical Society](#) conference - October 19-20 at the Best Western Clock Tower Resort Conference Center in Rockford, IL.

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## State Archives Adds Correctional Institution Databases

The Indiana State Archives has added a pair of databases about correctional institutions to its [online collection](#):

--The Indiana Boys' School in Plainfield, Hendricks County was a correctional institution that sought to reform juvenile offenders from across the state by education. The Indiana State Archives' database includes 12,700 boys who were committed there from 1867 to 1937.

--The Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis, Marion County was the first correctional institution in the country built expressly for women. The Indiana State Archives' database includes 20,000 women who were committed there between 1873 and 1969.

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## Indiana County Genealogists Update

At its May board meeting, the Indiana Genealogical Society appointed 2 more [Indiana County Genealogists](#):

--Janet M. Kult for Benton County. Janet has been doing genealogy since 1983. She volunteers with the Benton County Historical Society, indexing vital records and adding information to the historical society's collection.

--Cynthia L. Stover for Howard County. Cynthia is 2nd Vice-President of the Howard County Historical Society and has been doing genealogy for over 20 years. She has also been a member of the General James Cox Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and volunteers on that organization's Genealogist Committee and their Genealogical Records Committee.

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) is a program of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Its goal is to appoint qualified individuals to represent each of the 92 counties in Indiana. The ICG promotes genealogical and historical research and education within the county, is familiar with the genealogical records and repositories in the county, is aware of record retention policies and issues and acts as a resource person for those doing research in the county.

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## African-American History Collection To Be Auctioned

CNN recently featured a [story about the Montague collection](#), a priceless collection of artifacts about African-American history (including items about slavery). Because the collector has declared personal bankruptcy, the collection may be dismantled and sold in pieces to pay the debt.

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