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Indiana News - July 2012

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Genealogy Friends,

Hopefully you're sitting somewhere cool when you read this! After a month of desert-like weather, we're relieved to finally have a return to some normalcy, especially for those in Fort Wayne and other areas that suffered prolonged power outages. Read on to find out how the genealogy world has been turning in recent weeks.

We also hope to see you at the Midwestern Roots conference July 20-21 at the Indianapolis Marriott East - stop by the IGS table to say hello!

1940 Census Update

As we reported to you in a special alert a couple weeks ago, the Indiana portion of the 1940 census index is now online, thanks to the 1940 census project. FamilySearch has it at:

https://familysearch.org/1940census/1940-census-indiana/

We've already heard from several people who have found themselves and their loved ones in the index. We appreciate the tips about not being too specific in your search, especially if someone intreprets the handwriting differently than you might. We also know that Ancestry.com will be releasing their own index for Indiana, and their indexers might have interpreted the handwriting differently, too. And we also know that there were some people who were missed by the census takers back in 1940.

Drilling Under Cemeteries?

The search to tap more natural resources has now expanded to include cemeteries. A **USA Today article** notes that in recent years, some cemeteries in the United States have entered into agreements to drill for natural gas and minerals, with the money they

receive being used to help maintain the grounds (thanks to Dick Eastman's newsletter for mentioning this article).

Indiana Orphans' Home Resources

Various orphanages operated on the local level in Indiana, but from 1865 to 2009 the state operated one specifically for children and grandchildren of those with military service. At one time, the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home (later the the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home) in Knightstown, Rush County, Indiana was home to over 1,000 children from across the state.

For Indiana Genealogical Society members, we've compiled a listing of some online resources for Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home records. To view it, login to the **IGS Records** section of Members Only and go to Research Topics.

Public Access Issues

--Among the new laws that took effect in Indiana on July 1st is one that adds fines for officials who are found to be in violation of the open records laws. The Association of Indiana Counties believes **there will never be a fine issued**, but is nonetheless educating local government officials.

--A Fort Wayne newspaper **editorial** details some of the problems with the position of Indiana Public Access Counselor, who issues rulings in response to complaints about access to public records or meetings.

--An Evansville newspaper **documents its problems** in requesting access to some court records.

--The Indiana Commission on Public Records, led by State Archivist Jim Corridan, will be **meeting to establish a policy** for county officials to implement regarding the growing use of electronic (instead of paper-based) records and how they should be retained.

Civil War in the News

More than 150 years later, we're still learning about the Civil War:

- An event held at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis **highlighted the role of African-American soldiers**.
- Morgan's Raid and the 1863 Battle of Corydon are being remembered this month with a **re-enactment in southern Indiana**.
- The Porter County Museum displayed a **piece of paper currency** issued in Valparaiso in 1862. At the time, its value was 25 cents; it was purchased for $250.
- Fold3 **highlighted the role of drummer boys** in military service, including 8-year-old Edward Black who served in the 21st Indiana Infantry during the Civil War and is **buried at Crown Hill Cemetery** in Indianapolis.
- Several tombstones from the cemetery of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, DC are **missing**. The hospital was a

psychiatric institute that cared for Civil War veterans.
- The National Archives recently announced a project to **digitize Confederate records**.
- The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia is seeking the public's help in identifying some **mystery photos** that were found among the bodies on a battlefield during the Civil War. The photos include some children.
- Randy Seaver's Genea-Musings blog has a **post** about how to use the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers & Sailors database. The **Part 1 follow-up** discusses other resources for finding sailors; the **Part 2 follow-up** discusses other resources for finding soldiers. The **Part 3 follow-up** discusses the challenges of finding Confederate records.

War of 1812 in the News

The War of 1812 continues to make news, with last month marking the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the war between the United States and Great Britain:

- The American military newspaper *Stars and Stripes* discusses **the importance of the war in U.S. history** and how much more interested Canadians are in the bicentennial than Americans.
- Archives.com has a great **article** about the kinds of records that are available for tracing the service of War of 1812 soldiers.

Revolutionary War in the News

In honor of Independence Day, Fold3 is offering free access to its collection of **Revolutionary War records** until July 15th.

Archives.com has an always-free database, **Patriots of Color**, that was launched in February to highlight the service of African-Americans during the Revolutionary War.

Dick Eastman's newsletter has a great **article** explaining how to look for your ancestor's possible Revolutionary War service, including the laws regarding eligibility for military pensions.

IGS Database Additions

For Indiana Genealogical Society members: These are the newest premium databases we've added to the Members-Only area.

College Records:
--Graduates of Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute (1916)

NOTE: Indiana State Normal School later became Indiana State University.

County Records:
--Residents of Marion County, Indiana Who Died in World War I

Military Records:
--Roster of 139th Field Artillery in World War I (1917-1918)
--Veterans Who Died At Indiana State Soldiers Home, Lafayette, Indiana (1916-1917)

OTHER ADDITIONS
Haven't visited recently? We added premium databases in the past month for:
--Civil War rosters (Military Records)
--Indiana Boys' School inmates (Miscellaneous Records)
--Hamilton County (teachers directory)
--Hendricks County (school records & teachers directory)
--Randolph County (teachers directory)
--Scott County (teachers directory)
--Spencer County (teachers directory)
--Starke County (teachers directory)
--Steuben County (1860 mortality schedule)
--Tippecanoe County (teachers directory)
--Tipton County (teachers directory)
--Vanderburgh County (teachers directory)
--Warren County (teachers directory)
--Warrick County (teachers directory)

Not an IGS member? We also added free databases in the past month for:
--Adams County (cemetery index)
--Noble County (cemetery index)
--Sullivan County (obituary index)

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

CARROLL COUNTY:
--Cemetery restoration specialist John "Walt" Walters worked his magic recently on the tombstones at some **Carroll County cemeteries** - be sure to look at the photos of the work as it progressed.

DELAWARE COUNTY:
--Good news for researchers planning to visit Muncie: the Delaware County commissioners have reversed course and **plan to re-open the Delaware County Building** on Fridays, beginning later this month. The building is home to many government agencies, including the county clerk and the county health department.

--Last month's GenFest in Muncie **featured the records and culture** of eastern Indiana.

KNOX COUNTY:
--Work on the roof of the Knox County courthouse in Vincennes is **continuing**. The building dates to 1876.

LAKE COUNTY:
--The grave of a Civil War veteran who survived Gettysburg was among those receiving **new tombstones**, part of the continuing efforts of the Calumet Region Civil War Preservation Project.

--Indiana Landmarks' blog **remembers when Crown Point was known as a "marriage mill"** because it had no waiting period to get a marriage license, allowing residents of other states and celebrities such as Joe DiMaggio to get married quickly.

--A foundation is **trying to raise $2 million** to repair and restore the old Lake County Courthouse in Crown Point. The building dates back to 1878.

LAPORTE COUNTY:
--Scrap metal thieves have **vandalized another Indiana cemetery** - this time stealing the bronze markers placed on veterans' graves at Rolling Prairie Cemetery.

MARION COUNTY:
--The Genealogical Society of Marion County has added **cemetery records** of Catholic cemeteries in and around Indianapolis to its website, including over 35,000 records for Calvary Cemetery. The records come from Flanner & Buchanan and are a work-in-progress.

MONROE COUNTY:
--Thanks to local knowledge, a **pioneer cemetery in Bloomington** has been rediscovered.

PORTER COUNTY:
--A Munster newspaper **article** details the influence of railroads on the history of towns in northwest Indiana.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY:
--An Evansville newspaper remembers the **Vendome Hotel** that was part of downtown from 1890 to 1972.

WAYNE COUNTY:
--Thanks to a grant from the Wayne County Foundation, the **Wayne County Genealogical Society** in Richmond was able to purchase 2 new computers and archival materials to help them with their storage needs.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

SAVE THE DATE! On Saturday, October 13 at the **Plainfield Public Library**, we'll have a work session where you can drop in anytime from 10 am to 4 pm and help unfold the documents and place them in folders. Please **pre-register** through the library's website.

Good news! A recent trip to the basement of the Hendricks County courthouse unearthed 2 extra boxes of probate records, dating from the 1840's and 1850's.

We've also added to our database of the **dates of death** mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 730+ entries in it.

Grants for Indiana's Historic Structures

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources's Division of Historical Preservation and Archaeology **recently awarded over $375,000 in grants**. The grants will help with projects in Allen, Blackford, Carroll, Dearborn, Hamilton, Jefferson and Morgan counties.

August Events

Some of the genealogy opportunities around the state during August:

- Monday, August 6 - The Porter County Public Library is offering a genealogy workshop from 6:15 pm to 8:45 pm at the South Haven Public Library (403 West 700 North, Valparaiso, IN 46355). The workshop is for people just starting to trace their family history, as well as for those more experienced in genealogy who want to get better acquainted with the resources available at the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso. FREE. Registration is required - call (219) 759-4474.
- Saturday, August 11 - The Indiana African American Genealogy Group is holding a genealogy workshop from 9 am to 3 pm at the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Sessions will be offered on "Analyzing Census Records," "Researching in Libraries and Archives" and "How to Verify Oral History." Registration is $20 for IAAGG members, $25 for non-members - register at **www.IAAGG.org**
- Wednesday, August 15 - The Indiana State Library in Indianapolis will hold a "Genealogy for Night Owls" after-hours event from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. You will be able to work on your genealogy research, use the library's access to subscription databases such as Ancestry.com Library Edition, and get tips from Indiana State Library and Indiana State Archives' staff. FREE; registration is required (the deadline to register is August 8). To register, phone (317) 232-3689 or e-mail **charlesh@library.in.gov**

Indiana's Courthouse Squares

Did you know that all 92 of Indiana's courthouse squares can be traced to 3 distinct architectural styles from the 1700's and 1800's? Indiana Landmarks **explains each style**, including the "Shelbyville" style that is used in a majority of Indiana's squares. There is also a link if you want to take virtual tours of some of Indiana's courthouses (the landscapes look a lot more green in the virtual tours than they do today!).

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