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Indiana News - 2 August 2012

Thank you to all who stopped by the Indiana Genealogical Society's booth at the Midwestern Roots conference in Indianapolis last month! It's neat to see just how many people can claim roots in Indiana. We met some great people from near (central Indiana) and far (including Alabama and Nevada), and we're also grateful to all those who have recently joined. Welcome!

IGS members, look for a separate e-mail in your inbox when the August issue of our member publication, *IGS Newsletter*, is ready for download.

And now on to the news...

In This Issue

IndianaAncestors

@IndGenSoc

IGS blog

1940 Census Update

You know that FamilySearch released a free index of **Indiana in the 1940 census** in June. Last month Ancestry.com released their own free index for Indiana, searchable at **http://www.ancestry.com/1940-census**. Now you can compare and see if any "missing" ancestors show up thanks to someone else's interpretation of handwriting. It's worth noting that Ancestry.com has also indexed Kentucky and Ohio.

As we write this, no entity has released an index for Illinois yet.

Indiana Marriage Indexing Project

certificate

FamilySearch has added entries from Jefferson County, Jennings County and Randolph County to the **Indiana Marriages 1811-1959** index, bringing the number of counties online to 45. FamilySearch estimates that the project is 64% complete.

Indexers are currently working on records from St. Joseph County.

Work Session for Probate Records

Celebrate October being Family History Month by working on some early Indiana court records! On Saturday, October 13, we'll hold a work session at the **Plainfield Public Library** in Hendricks County for our ongoing project preserving **Hendricks County probate records**. Drop in any time from 10 am to 4 pm to help us unfold the documents from their packets and then place them in acid-free folders.

Please register with the library - you may register through the **Events Calendar** on their website, or by contacting the library's Indiana Room - phone (317) 839-6602 ext. 2114; e-mail **askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net**.

County Roundup

Some genealogical and local history news items from around the state:

ADAMS COUNTY
--Some historical records, which had been stored at the old Adams County Jail for the past 20 years, have now been moved to the Geneva Bank. No information has been given yet about how the public can obtain access to these records at their new site. If you have questions, you may direct them to the **Adams County Clerk**.

BOONE COUNTY
--The Boone County Courthouse has given some historical records books to the **Heritage Center of the Lebanon Public Library**. The records books, all pre-1930, are being permanently loaned to the library and include probate, wills, insane, criminal and marriage records.

CARROLL COUNTY
--Indiana Landmarks' blog remembers **the history of Delphi** and its part in the canal system.

DEKALB COUNTY
--The Willennar Genealogy Center held a **cemetery walk** at Big Run Cemetery in Butler. Re-enactors in costume detailed the lives of several area residents who are buried in the cemetery.
--The Willennar Genealogy Center in Auburn has received a **photo collection of Indiana covered bridges**, thanks to the late John Martin Smith. The photos will be digitized and put online.

ELKHART COUNTY
--Grace Lawn Cemetery in Elkhart has **re-opened to the public**, after **closing for repairs**. Part of the cemetery, which is near a river, had been damaged by erosion.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
--Indiana Landmarks' blog remembers **the town of Oldenburg and its German heritage**.

GIBSON COUNTY
--**Lyles Station**, the historic African-American settlement in Princeton, is loaning **"traveling trunks" to teachers** to help them teach students about slavery and the Civil War.

HAMILTON COUNTY
--Conner Prairie, the interactive history part in Fishers, has been given an **award** for its Civil War exhibit on the 1863 Morgan's Raid. The award is from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and will be formally presented in October.

HENDRICKS COUNTY
--The Hendricks County Government's **Archives** recently added to its digital collection of school records. Ledger books containing student enrollment records for the 1927-1928 school year were added for 10 of the 12 townships (Eel River Township and Guilford Township were not found).
--The Avon Public Library received a grant to **digitize the library's local history collection**, including photos, newspapers and high school yearbooks.
--The Plainfield Public Library has posted an **online index** of some Hendricks County Coroner's Inquests records dating from 1850 through 1905. The packets were part of a collection that was in the library's historical collection, and were recently unfolded and flattened to help preserve them longer. Names, dates, and causes of death are included in the index, but the inquest reports themselves are rich with additional information.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY
--Because of drought, the small town of Monument City, which was deliberately submerged in 1967, has **re-emerged from the bottom of a lake**. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has **scheduled some guided tours**.

PORTER COUNTY
--Descendants of Civil War veterans were on hand to **witness the new tombstones being erected** at their ancestors' graves in Valparaiso.

PUTNAM COUNTY
--The Civil War statue at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle has been **temporarily repaired**, with officials still seeking funding for the more expensive, permanent repairs that are needed.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
--Landscapers at a law office in Granger **unearthed artifacts** that may be from a burial ground. The artifacts, which include some monuments, may be 140 years old.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY
--Memory Gardens Cemetery in West Lafayette was the target of vandalism over the 4th of July weekend, with scrap metal thieves taking $17,000 worth of bronze vases from tombstones.
--The University of Southern Indiana received a grant from the National Parks Service to **conduct an archaeological excavation of Fort Ouiatenon**. The fort, which is near West Lafayette, dates back to 1717 and is owned by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.
--A mansion in Lafayette, which was built in 1865, is **scheduled to be demolished** by the city. The mansion was home to the George A. Bohrer family and later became the Soller-Baker Funeral Home.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
--An Evansville newspaper remembers the **Hebron school**.

VIGO COUNTY
--A Terre Haute newspaper **details the treasures of the Vigo County Historical Museum** and its need for a bigger building.

IGS Database Additions

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

College Records:
--Faculty of Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute (1916)
--Faculty of Taylor University, Upland (1898)
--Students of Taylor University, Upland (1898)

County Records:
--Index to Census of Males for Boone County, Indiana (1907)
--Seniors of Bedford High School, Lawrence County, Indiana (1933)
--Teachers of Bedford High School, Lawrence County, Indiana (1933)

Miscellaneous Records:
--Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1878)

OTHER ADDITIONS
Haven't visited recently? We added premium databases in the past month for:
--Boone County (teachers directory)
--DeKalb County (1860 mortality schedule)
--Grant County (school records)
--Hancock County (teachers directory)
--Johnson County (teachers directory)
--Morgan County (teachers directory)
--Shelby County (teachers directory)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER? We also added free databases in the past month for:
--DeKalb County (cemetery index)
--Monroe County (landowners index)
--Porter County (World War II indexes)
--Wells County (cemetery index)

War of 1812 in the news

- Ron Darrah will present a program, "The Do-Over War: Genealogy and the War of 1812," on Saturday, August 25 at the **Danville Public Library** in Hendricks County. The program will begin at 10 am in the library's program room. Darrah will review the origins and events of the war and explore the record types, sources, and repositories, especially the online sites. This is a free program, but space is limited and registration is required. Register using the Events link on the library's website or call (317) 745-2604.
- Archives.com has an article by Kathleen Brandt, **Researching Your 1812 Impressed Seamen**, about strategies for

researching American sailors who were imprisoned by the British.

- A Toronto newspaper **relives the events at the battle of Mackinac, Michigan** from the Canadian perspective.
- **TheWarof1812.net** is a compendium of news articles and video clips about the history of the war.
- The U.S. Navy, Marines and Coast Guard have set up a **website** commemorating the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the American Navy with articles, videos, etc.

State Library To Hold Genealogy After-Hours Event

The **Indiana State Library** in Indianapolis is holding "Genealogy for Night Owls" on Wednesday, August 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. This is a free event that includes orientation and collection tours as well as Ask-An-Expert. The State Library's conservator will be on hand to provide tips for preserving items such as letters, photos and family bibles, and you are welcome to bring items with you for feedback on how to properly preserve them.

Parking will be available in the New York Street Garage (across the street from the library) for $5 for the entire event. Registration is required by August 8. To reserve your spot, call (317) 232-3689 or e-mail **charlesh@library.IN.gov**

Did You Know: Indiana Vital Records Registration

When you start researching Indiana ancestors, you quickly learn the importance of 1882 - the year when Indiana law first required the recording of births and deaths. But did you know that if Indiana doctors had prevailed, births and deaths would have been recorded back in the 1850's? A report in *Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Indiana State Medical Society, held in the city of Lafayette, May, 1853* (Indianapolis: Elder & Harkness, 1853) asserts:

"Registration of births, deaths and marriages, has not received in our country the attention its importance deserve[s], when we consider all its bearings upon the personal and physical welfare, and the moral elevation of mankind. Among the many important purposes it is designed to accomplish, it may be assumed - 1st, to preserve facts concerning the personal history of individuals; 2nd, to preserve facts concerning the physical condition of communities; 3rd, to influence and improve the moral condition of the people; 4th, it will ultimately tend to the diminution of disease, and the extension of life; 5th, it will lead to a diminution of poverty, and an increase of the wealth of a people; 6th, it will lead to the diminution of crime, and to the elevation of the moral, physical, and civil condition of man."

Lesser-Known Indiana Records

Harold Henderson, CG, our own Indiana County Genealogist for LaPorte County, has an article on Archives.com, **Ten Little Known Indiana Records**, reminding you not to overlook some record

groups for your Indiana ancestors. School and agricultural enumerations, as well as chattel mortgages, are among the lesser-known records.

FamilySearch Discusses Digital Preservation Challenges

The FamilySearch blog has an insightful post, **Digital Preservation - Easy, right?**, detailing the challenges of their commitment to digitizing records, including the problems of data corruption and the changing of file formats. The post also reveals that they generate about 15 terabytes worth of digital files (representing 1-3 million pages) every day.

Free Tours of Historic Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks is offering **free tours of downtown Indianapolis** on Fridays and Saturdays through October. The guided tours include the Indiana Landmarks Center (formerly the Central Avenue Methodist Church), Monument Circle and the Morris-Butler House.

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