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Indiana news - 10 September 2012

If you're in the central Indiana area next month, we hope you'll stop by and help out with our Hendricks County probate records project. The **Plainfield Public Library** (which will be the permanent storage site for the records once we're done with them) will host us on Saturday, October 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.

We call it a "work" session but really it's lots of fun - we'll be unfolding some documents from the 1840's and 1850's and placing them in folders, in preparation to be digitized and put online. WARNING: Past participants have been known to get so interested in what they're looking at that they forget to take a lunch break or even a bathroom break!

Not familiar with probate records? Harold Henderson has a nice article on Archives.com, **Probate Records: A Gift Many Genealogists Fail to Open**, which explains the value of these "loose papers."

Please register for the work session with the Plainfield library - sign up online through their **Events Calendar**, or by contacting their Indiana Room - phone (317) 839-6602 ext. 2114; e-mail **askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net**.

Read on for more news!

SAVE THE DATE: Bloomington - April 27, 2013

Josh Taylor

The southern half of the state should see an early spring, as the Indiana Genealogical Society will convene in Bloomington on **Saturday, April 27, 2013** for our annual conference. The **Monroe County Public Library** will host the conference, with featured speaker Josh Taylor.

You may recognize Josh from his appearances on the TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?", where

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IndianaAncestors

@IndGenSoc

IGS blog

he has helped celebrities with their research.

The complete conference schedule and registration form will be released shortly.

1940 Census Update

Last month, FamilySearch released their complete **1940 census index**, which is also available at the websites of their project partners, Archives.com and findmypast. Ancestry.com has their own free index, searchable at **http://www.ancestry.com/1940-census**. The advantage to having 2 separate indexes to search is that you get two diferent interpretations of handwriting, and thus the opportunity to find someone who might otherwise be missed.

Indianapolis High School Yearbooks Online

The Indianapolis Public Library, with assistance from The Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund, has added digital copies of its yearbook collection to **Internet Archive**:

--**Arsenal Technical High School** - 121 yearbooks spanning 1914 to 2011.
--**Broad Ripple High School** - 44 yearbooks spanning 1937 to 1989.
--**Emmerich Manual High School** - 119 yearbooks spanning 1896 to 2010.
--**George Washington High School** - 24 yearbooks spanning 1932 to 1988.
--**Thomas Carr Howe High School** - 23 yearbooks spanning 1941 to 1975.

The Indianapolis Public Library's website also has digital copies of its yearbooks for **Shortridge High School** spanning 1898 to 1968.

Indiana Marriage Indexing Project Update

certificate

FamilySearch has added entries from Steuben County to the **Indiana Marriages 1811-1959** index, bringing the number of counties online to 46. FamilySearch estimates that the project is 68% complete.

Indexers are currently working on marriage records from Jefferson, Orange, Parke, Perry and St. Joseph counties. You can help - sign up with **FamilySearch Indexing**.

IGS Database Additions

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

College Records:

--Directory of Faculty of Indiana University, Bloomington (1922)
--Directory of Students of Indiana University, Bloomington (1922)

County Records:
--Students of Frankfort High School, Clinton County, Indiana (1922)
--Teachers of Frankfort High School, Clinton County, Indiana (1922)
--Directory of Teachers for Hendricks County, Indiana (1945)
--Early Settlers of Newton County, Indiana (1831-1859)

Military Records
--Roster of Captain Gamelin's Company at Fort Vincennes (1790)
--Roster of 113th U.S. Engineers in World War I (1917-1918)

Miscellaneous Records:
--Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1877)

OTHER ADDITIONS
Haven't visited recently? We added premium databases in the past month for:
--Benton County (1860 mortality schedule)
--Dearborn County (1870 mortality schedule)
--Madison County (school records)
--Ohio County (1870 mortality schedule)
--Starke County (1860 mortality schedule)
--Switzerland County (1870 mortality schedule)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER? We also added free databases in the past month for:
--Allen County (cemetery index; school records; funeral home records)
--DeKalb County (cemetery index)
--Monroe County (1842 tax list; court records index 1818-1875)
--Wells County (cemetery index)

Allen County Library Celebrates Family History Month

The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne is celebrating October as Family History Month by offering genealogy programs every day. Topics will include cemetery research and symbolism, state and regional research, census, analyzing photographs, brick wall research and instruction in using subscription databases. The library will also offer extended research hours on Friday, October 26, with the opportunity to do family history research until midnight.

For more information, or to register for individual sessions, please see their **brochure**, or contact them - phone (260) 421-1225, e-mail **Genealogy@ACPL.Info**.

County Roundup

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

DELAWARE COUNTY
--The **Delaware County Historical Society** has added an online index of **Delaware County deed books 1827-1860**. The Muncie Public Library's website has **digital images** of these deed books.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
--The city of Madison is being **recognized for its role in the Underground Railroad**, with the National Park Service listing 8 sites that played a role in helping slaves to freedom.

KNOX COUNTY
--The Knox County Public Library in Vincennes has **digitized its collection of probate records from the 1790's to the 1820's**. Because Vincennes was the seat of Indiana Territory, and Knox County was the parent county from which all other counties in Indiana were formed, these probate records contain details of some of the earliest Indiana settlers.

LAKE COUNTY
--The grave of a Crown Point soldier who died in the Civil War **got a new tombstone** on the 150th anniversary of his death. Edwin Sprague served with the 20th Indiana Infantry and died in 1862 from typhoid fever.

MADISON COUNTY
--The **Anderson Public Library** has compiled a database of **Madison County's Civil War veterans**.

MARION COUNTY
--Indiana Landmarks is trying to find a buyer to **save a historic property in Indianapolis**. The Cotton-Ropkey House was built in 1848 and is said to be one of the oldest structures in the area.

MIAMI COUNTY
--A property believed to be the site of a pioneer cemetery known as Waisner-Rickard Cemetery is now **undergoing construction**. Officials from the Miami County Cemetery Board are **at odds with county officials** over the process.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
--A historic home in Yountsville **is being renovated by its new owners**. Abolitionist Abijah O'Neall II built the house in 1848 and reportedly used it as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

PARKE COUNTY
--Billie Creek Village, the living history park in Rockville, **will be sold at auction**. The property was built in the 1960's and includes 2 covered bridges.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
--Anthropologists are studying City Cemetery in South Bend to see if they can find evidence that slot machines were buried there in the 1950's. The cemetery was founded in 1832.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
--An Evansville newspaper recounts the history of the **Evansville Opera House**.

WHITLEY COUNTY
--The **Genealogical Society of Whitley County** has a **divorce index** on their website that covers 1845-2010.

IGS Adds 3 Indiana County Genealogists

At its August board meeting, the Indiana Genealogical Society welcomed 3 Indiana County Genealogists to help direct your research questions in southern Indiana:

Lynne Keasling

Lynne C. Morris Keasling of Corydon is the Indiana County Genealogist for **Harrison County**. Lynne has been the Registrar of a DAR chapter for 16 years, and also involved with local chapters of the United States Daughters of 1812 and the Daughters of the Union 1861-1865. She has assisted in compiling 14 genealogy record books about Harrison County, and is knowledgable about court records from her work in the Harrison County Archives building.

Elizabeth Schlemmer of Bloomington is the Indiana County Genealogist for **Monroe County**. Elizabeth has been the Manager of the Monroe County History Center's Genealogy Library since November 2010, where she helps patrons with their research and also directs them to where records are kept. She helps conserve Monroe County records and organizes and leads indexing projects of the county's historical records.

Kathy Knight Wade of Salem is the Indiana County Genealogist for **Washington County**. Kathy is a 50-year resident of Washington County, and a member of the local DAR chapter. For the past 8 years she has worked at The John Hay Center at the Stevens Memorial Museum, which is run by the Washington County Historical Society. Many county records are available at The John Hay Center, and she assists patrons with their research there, as well as directing them to outside resources.

State Archives Adds To Naturalizations Database

The Indiana State Archives has added an index of Grant County naturalization records to its **digital archives**. The index includes some 2,000 entries covering 1855 to 1960.

Grant County is the 37th county they have indexed; the other counties are: Adams, Blackford, Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Dubois, Elkhart, Floyd, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Kosciusko, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Owen, Parke, Pike, Putnam, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby, St. Joseph, Starke, Sullivan, Switzerland, Union, Wabash, Wayne, Wells and Whitley.

Spotlight On: Mortality Schedules

You may have noticed we've been adding indexes of some of Indiana's 1850-1880 mortality schedules to our Members-Only area. In fact, we've now got 25 of these databases online. The mortality schedules are a great (though under-used) resource. They are supplemental schedules that were taken at the time of the federal census in 1850,

1860, 1870 and 1880. The census taker was to record information on people who had died between 1 June and 31 May of the year prior to the census.

Because Indiana did not start recording deaths in 1882, the mortality schedules can help pin down some ancestors who died before vital records registration began. And even if you already knew the date of death, the schedules can provide more details, as depending on the schedule, the questions asked included the cause of death, the number of days ill, and the name of the doctor who attended them.

Unfortunately, in contrast to the federal census, the mortality schedules (and corresponding indexes for them) are not as widely available. The **Indiana State Library** in Indianapolis and the **Allen County Public Library** in Fort Wayne are the only places in Indiana that are known to have the microfilm of Indiana's mortality schedules - FamilySearch does not have it.

In 1971 Lowell M. Volkel published an 1850 Indiana mortality schedule index in a 3-volume set that is available in many local libraries. In 1976 the Indiana State Library compiled an index of Indiana's mortality schedules - it consists of only the person's first and last name, the county, the schedule year (i.e. 1860) and the schedule page.

FamilySearch is working on the 1850 mortality schedule - you can **browse the digital images** or search the **index that's in progress**.

Ancestry.com subscribers can browse the digital images in the **U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885** database - their coverage includes scattered pages from the 1880 mortality schedules of Gibson, Marion and Posey counties.

Ancestry subscribers can also search the **U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index** database - it claims to include Indiana 1850 and 1860; however, a search for deaths that occurred in Indiana (IN) instead lists counties like Anoka and Carver, which are actually in Minnesota (MN).

Indiana Plat Maps Online

Plat maps are a great resource for genealogists because they offer a graphical representation of who owned a piece of land at a particular period of time - and who their neighbors were. The Indiana State Library has about **300 historical maps** online in the **Indiana Memory** Project. The collection includes assorted plat maps from the early 1900's for these counties: Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Blackford, Daviess, Dubois, Fayette, Fountain, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Howard, Jay, Johnson, Kosciusko, Madison, Pike, Randolph, Rush, Scott, Shelby, Steuben, Switzerland and White.

Civil War in the News

Some news concerning Civil War history and research:

--The National Archives has compiled an **online research guide** about the different kinds of Civil War records that are available and

how to find them.

--Fold3 has added a **free database of Civil War photos**, including the famed collection of photographer Mathew Brady.

--The USCT Chronicle blog has a post about **African-American nurses who served in the Civil War**.

Did You Know: Indiana Civil War Units

Do you know the number of an infantry unit an ancestor served in, but aren't sure what war they actually fought in? Indiana's Civil War infantry units started with the 6th Indiana Infantry and were numbered up through the 156th Indiana Infantry. The Mexican War was the first where Indiana had numbered units - the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Indiana Infantry.

Indiana's cavalry units were another matter - in the Civil War had units numbered 1st through the 13th Indiana Cavalry. But they also had a corresponding number as an infantry unit:

1st Indiana Cavalry = 28th Indiana Infantry
2nd Indiana Cavalry = 41st Indiana Infantry
3rd Indiana Cavalry = 45th Indiana Infantry
4th Indiana Cavalry = 77th Indiana Infantry
5th Indiana Cavalry = 90th Indiana Infantry
6th Indiana Cavalry = 71st Indiana Infantry
7th Indiana Cavalry = 119th Indiana Infantry
8th Indiana Cavalry = 39th Indiana Infantry
9th Indiana Cavalry = 121st Indiana Infantry
10th Indiana Cavalry = 125th Indiana Infantry
11th Indiana Cavalry = 126th Indiana Infantry
12th Indiana Cavalry = 127th Indiana Infantry
13th Indiana Cavalry = 131st Indiana Infantry

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