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Indiana news - 5 November 2012

Indiana librarians now have another reason to attend our **Conference** at the Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington on **Saturday, April 27, 2013**. The Indiana State Library has approved General LEUs for attending these sessions:

- "Forward Ho! Beginning Midwestern Research" with Josh Taylor
- "Mining the Mother Lode: Using Periodical Literature for Genealogical Research" with Curt Witcher
- "Probate Will Not Be the Death of You" with Harold Henderson
- "New Tools and Ideas in Research" with Josh Taylor
- "Land and Property: The Records No Genealogist Can Do Without" with Harold Henderson

Technology LEUs have been approved for attending these sessions:

- "Creating Your Personal Family History Website" with Josh Taylor
- "Online Resources for Colonial American Research" with Josh Taylor

Approval is pending for the other conference sessions.

And congratulations to Josh Taylor, our featured speaker - he was recently elected President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Membership Renewal Time

Indiana Genealogical Society membership runs until December 31st. If you are an IGS member who has not yet paid for a 2013 membership, we will be sending you an e-mail reminder in the next 7 days (you may need to check your spam filters).

Questions about your membership status? Please contact **membership@indgensoc.org**

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Hendricks County Probate Records Project

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our work session at Plainfield Public Library on October 13th. We worked on 150 probate files, which is a one-day record since we started the project! Among the items the volunteers discovered was an original land certificate from 1837 for the purchase of land from the federal government. Our next session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2013 (the week after Easter) at the Danville Public Library.

We've added 52 **digital files** in the past month - there are now 706 probate records files online. The newest files include these surnames: AYERS, BEREMAN, DOWNS, DRASING, DUCKWORTH, ESTES, FARMER, FOX, GENTRY, GOSSETT, GOWIN, GRAHAM, HADLEY, HAMPTON, HARVEY, HEAVEN/HEAVIN, HEDGE, HENLEY, HERBSTER, MADDOX, MAHAN, MAINES, MARTIN, MERRITT, MITCHELL, NEAVILLE, PEARCY, PHILLIPS, POUNDS, SELCH, SNODDY, SNODGRASS, SOPER, SPENCER, TOWLES, TUCKER, TURNER, VILES and WALKER.

Northwest Indiana Society Has New Website

The Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society, which represents Lake County and Porter County, recently launched a new website. The new address is **www.nwigs.org**. The society, which is a chapter of the Indiana Genealogical Society, has some free databases on its new site, as well as some that can only be viewed by their members. Online purchase of memberships is also an option.

Vanderburgh County Candidates Want To Digitize Records

On the eve of elections, here's one bit of good news: voters in southern Indiana appear to have more than one choice when it comes to the issue of preserving the county's records. As **reported** by the *Evansville Courier & Press*, both of the candidates for the position of Vanderburgh County Recorder recognize the importance of public access to the county's deed records and want to digitize them. An existing project to digitize the deed records from 1975 to 1998 is almost complete.

IGS Database Additions

For Indiana Genealogical Society members: We recently added 1938 rosters of Civilian Conservation Corps companies for 6 counties in southern Indiana: Brown County, Daviess County, Greene County, Jackson County, Lawrence County and Perry County.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a New Deal employment program that operated from 1933 to 1942. The aim, besides work relief, was to promote tree planting, park construction, flood control, forest fire prevention and similar environmental tasks. The United States and Indiana had numerous CCC companies. The company's members, called enrollees, were drawn from a wide area and were not necessarily from that county. Some may not even have been from Indiana.

Other premium databases we've added to the **Members-Only** area:

College Records:
--Faculty of Moores Hill College, Dearborn County, Indiana (1894)
--Students of Moores Hill College, Dearborn County, Indiana (1894)
[NOTE: Moores Hill College later became the University of Evansville]

County Records:
--Index to Mortality Schedule for Dearborn County, Indiana (1850)
--Index to Mortality Schedule for Ohio County, Indiana (1850)
--Index to Mortality Schedule for Switzerland County, Indiana (1850)
[NOTE: The 1850 mortality schedule was a special schedule to the federal census that listed those who had died between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850.]

--Residents of Hancock County, Indiana Who Served in World War I

--Alumni of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1922)
--Students of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1923)
--Teachers of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1923)

--Index to Census of Males for Clear Creek Township, Monroe County, Indiana (1919)

Miscellaneous Records:
--Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1853)

War of 1812 in the News

An **Indianapolis Star article** focuses on the re-enactment of the Battle of Mississinewa in Grant County, and the importance of the War of 1812 to Indiana Territory.

County Roundup

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

ALLEN COUNTY
--Congratulations to Melissa Shimkus of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne - she was recently elected as a director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

BOONE COUNTY
--Some historic cemeteries in Zionsville are mentioned in an Indianapolis Star **article** about hidden cemeteries.

DELAWARE COUNTY
--Delaware County Historian Norma Lasley has **compiled a book of historic photos of Delaware County**. The book is part of the *Images of America* series.

GIBSON COUNTY
--The Princeton Public Library is **digitizing** various items from their collection, including the original ledger books of Gibson County marriage supplements **1882-1890** and **1891-1895**.

HAMILTON COUNTY
--Some of the 117 cemeteries in the county are mentioned in an

Indianapolis Star **article** about hidden cemeteries.
--Indiana Landmarks **purchased the McShane Home in Carmel**, which was built in 1886 and traces back to settlers who arrived in 1825. The preservation group will perform extensive repairs before putting the property up for sale.
--Several Hamilton County groups, including the Hamilton East Public Library and the Hamilton County Historical Societ are collaborating to **digitize** items from their collections. Hamilton County school directories for various years are among the items they've put online.

HENDRICKS COUNTY
--Reann Poray, manager of the Indiana Room at Plainfield Public Library, has **compiled a book of historic photos of Plainfield**. The book is part of the *Images of America* series.

JACKSON COUNTY
--Some of the contact information for Charlotte Sellers, our Indiana County Genealogist for Jackson County, has changed. Be sure to visit our **Jackson County research page** to see the updated information. And congratulations to Charlotte on her upcoming retirement from the Jackson County Public Library in Seymour - that means more time for genealogy projects!

JOHNSON COUNTY
--A grave from 1831 **sits in the middle of a county road** near Amity. The grave of Nancy Kerlin Barnett was part of a larger cemetery that was eventually moved.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
--Indiana Landmark's blog shows **some examples** of the tombstone art at Green Hill Cemetery in Bedford.

MARION COUNTY
--The graves at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis include an **unusual monument** marking the 1904 death of Albertina Allen Forrest. The marker is of a style called "perpetual mourning," which arose during the Victorian era.

PARKE COUNTY
--The owner of Billie Creek Village, the living history park in Rockville, **has rejected all the bids received**. He still hopes to keep the park intact by finding an interested buyer.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
--**Local groups are working to safeguard** City Cemetery in South Bend, which has been the repeated victim of vandalism. Notre Dame is working to preserve the burial records of the cemetery, which contains almost 15,000 people.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
--Indiana Landmarks' website **spotlights** the Oak Hill Cemetery in Evansville (built in 1853) as an example of a movement in the 1800's to make cemeteries places for the living to congregate, as well as to honor the dead.
--An Evansville newspaper **item** recalls the enthusiasm for the Spanish-American War.

VIGO COUNTY
--The **Wabash Valley Genealogy Society** has **digitized** some of their great resources for Vigo County research, including 4 volumes of cemetery indexes, special censuses of white & colored males for various townships, and records of coal miners.

WHITLEY COUNTY
--With the help of photo expert Joan Hostetler, libraries in South Whitley and Pierceton are **digitizing their collections** of historic photos of Whitley County and Kosciusko County.

Save The Date: FGS 2013 Conference in Fort Wayne

It's not too soon to mark **August 21-24, 2013** on your calendar - that's when the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference will come to Fort Wayne. The **FGS conference page** has links to the Facebook, Twitter and blog accounts, which you'll want to bookmark, as well as the **preliminary flyer (PDF)** featuring the conference hotels.

Court Records: Docket, Fee and Order Books

There are various components that make up court records. As researchers, we naturally focus on getting the treasure trove - the packet of loose papers that make up the case from its beginning to its end. However, even when those papers are not available, there is still information that can be gleaned from other types of records:

- **Docket Books** contain a summary of the case: the plaintiff and defendant's names, the date it was filed, the type of case, the case number, the names of the attorneys and how it was disposed of. It may also contain notations of significant happenings (such as subpoenas filed or public notices published).
- **Fee Books** contain information about the various filing fees paid for the case. They include the name of the person paying the fee (which is often the attorney), the case number and the date.
- **Order Books** contain a brief summary of what happened each time the case was presented in court. Order books were filed by court term and year, so a case may be mentioned in several years' worth of order books.

Indiana's Normal School Phenomenon

Some of the College Records databases in our Members-Only area refer to a "normal school." A normal school was what was later called a teachers college - a place that taught teachers how to teach. Normal schools practiced pedagogy (the science of teaching) and often had model classrooms on campus where teachers-in-training could practice their craft with real students. It also offered continuing education opportunities, so even after they got their degrees and received their teaching licenses, teachers could come back in the summer and take a course or two.

Numerous normal schools sprung up in the Midwest, drawing

prospective teachers from across the country. Indiana was no exception - sometimes the schools only lasted a few years, but some exist to this day.

Allen County
--Fort Wayne Normal School - opened in 1867. Women-only.

Delaware County
--Indiana State Normal School's Eastern Division - opened in Muncie in 1918. Later became Ball State University.

Dubois County
--St. Benedict Normal School - opened in Ferdinand in 1914. Women-only.

Franklin County
--St. Francis' Normal School for Women - opened in Oldenburg in 1851. Later became Marian College in Indianapolis.

Grant County
--Marion Normal College/Marion Normal Institute - opened in Marion in 1890. It later relocated to Muncie.

Hendricks County
--Central Normal College - opened in Danville in 1878.

Lawrence County
--Southern Indiana Normal College - opened in Mitchell in ??.

Marion County
--Indianapolis Normal School - opened in Indianapolis in 1867. Run by city officials.
--Teachers College of Indianapolis - opened in Indianapolis in 1882. Women-only.

Porter County
--Northern Indiana Normal School - opened in Valparaiso in 1873. Later became Valparaiso University.

Steuben County
--Tri-State Normal College - opened in Angola in 1884. Later became Trine University.

Tipton County
--St. Joseph's Normal School - opened in Tipton in 1915. Women-only.

Vigo County
--Indiana State Normal School - opened in Terre Haute in 1865. Later became Indiana State University.

For further reading, see the **Official Directory of Normal Schools and Colleges in Indiana 1921-1922**, available on Internet Archive.

Genealogy How-To Videos

More and more education is being offered online:

--The National Archives has a **YouTube channel** - click on the "Know Your Records" icon to view some of their lectures.

--FamilySearch's **Learning Center** includes videos for researching various record types, as well as the records of specific countries.

Legal Terms Explained: Change of Venue

In court records, you may see the notation "change of venue" in reference to a particular court case. If an attorney files this motion, and it is subsequently approved by the judge, it means that the case will be transferred to a court in another jurisdiction.

Today we see this happening a lot with high-profile criminal trials, amid concerns about finding an impartial jury. However, change of venue was also a frequent occurrence among civil cases of yesteryear. With many counties only having one judge and a mere handful of attorneys, conflicts of interest could arise. Or there were judges who became known for their reluctance to grant divorces, so a lawyer might decide to try their luck in another county.

The good news for researchers is that change of venue increases the changes for finding some information about the case. Even if the records in one county are lost or otherwise inaccessible, there's the possibility of finding information in the records of the county that the case was transferred to.

So where to look for these cases? The immediate surrounding counties were the most likely culprits, as they often had agreements about turning over the fees they collected (and sometimes had special books to record the fees they received in these transferred cases). Usually one newspaper in the county was designated as the official newspaper for printing the public notices, etc., and this newspaper might also include a summary of what cases had been filed, dismissed, moved, etc.

What's In A (Man's) Name?

When we look at the first and middle names of our 19th century ancestors, it's evident that many male children were named after a president (particularly George Washington and Thomas Jefferson) or an American Revolution figure such as Benjamin Franklin. What's less evident is the other historical figures that influenced baby names:

--Isaac Newton - a scientist who died in 1727, he was famous for his theory of gravity.
--Francis Marion - a popular figure in the Revolutionary War, nicknamed the Swamp Fox.
--Oliver Perry - a famous naval commander in the War of 1812.
--Lorenzo Dow - a famous preacher who died in 1834.
--Winfield Scott - a famous general in the Mexican War.

Unlocking Clues To Women

It's often more difficult to find information on female ancestors - as the slogan goes, "Well behaved women seldom make history." So here are some resources to keep in mind:

--Fold3 focuses on **widow's pensions** and how they can provide information on the widow, as well as her husband who had the qualifying military service.

--The National Archives **blog** shows the information found about one Civil War widow through the pension process.

--GenealogyBlog has a **post** by William Dollarhide about the various records that can include a woman's maiden name.

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