

From: [Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc.](http://IndianaGenealogicalSociety.org)  
To: [mere\\_thom@runbox.com](mailto:mere_thom@runbox.com)  
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## Indiana news - 5 December 2012

**Employees of Indiana libraries** are eligible for an Indiana Genealogical Society scholarship to attend a major genealogy conference in 2013. The scholarship is a \$500 credit that will be applied towards their conference registration, food and travel expenses.

There are several national-level genealogy conference in 2013 to choose from. In May, the National Genealogical Society will hold their Family History Conference in Las Vegas. In August, the Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their conference right here in Fort Wayne, while Brigham Young University will hold their Family History and Genealogy Conference in Provo, Utah.

The deadline to apply for the IGS scholarship is December 31 - application forms and more information is available at [http://www.indgensoc.org/awards/library\\_scholarship.php](http://www.indgensoc.org/awards/library_scholarship.php)

**Indiana non-profit organizations** are encouraged to apply for one of the Indiana Genealogical Society's [genealogy grants](#). The grants are \$500 each and are given to Indiana genealogy and history-related groups that have been certified as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS. The deadline to apply for the grants is December 31, 2012.

### 2012 New Memberships Extended To 2013

Not a member of the Indiana Genealogical Society? If you [purchase a new membership](#) during the remainder of 2012, your membership will be extended until December 31, 2013.

Thank you to all our members who've already renewed for 2013 - we look forward to serving you!

### FamilySearch Adds Digital Images of 6 Counties to Indiana Marriage Index

Last month we sent a separate announcement about the major update FamilySearch made to the [Indiana marriage index 1811-1959](#), including the addition of 1.5 million digital images for the 49 counties that were already searchable, and digital images (browseable only) for 12 other counties that are not yet searchable.

FamilySearch has just added digital images ([browseable only](#)) for 6 more counties: Vigo County, Wabash County, Warrick County, Washington County, Wayne County and Whitley County. That means that digital images are now available for a total of 67 of the 92 counties.



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## Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. To Speak in Kokomo



Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard professor, author and host of the PBS television show, "Finding Your Roots," will speak in Kokomo in January. Gates will headline Ivy Tech Community College's 50th anniversary celebration on Friday, January 25, 2013 at the Kokomo Event & Conference Center.

The event begins at 7 pm and includes dinner. For more information, including how to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.ivytech.edu/kokomo/gates.html>

## Mocavo Digitizes Indiana Yearbooks

Genealogy search engine Mocavo recently announced it has digitized various yearbooks and put them on its website. These [digital images](#) can be browsed; if you wish to use their search feature, you must register for a free account.

Thanks to the participation of the Allen County Public Library and other organizations, Mocavo's digitized yearbook collection includes several schools from Indiana. Mocavo's browse feature filters the collection by state and then by town; we've created a [reference sheet](#) (PDF) that shows the collection by Indiana county and then by town.

## IGS Appoints Owen County Genealogist

Jana Beth Wells-Trace

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Jana Beth Wells-Trace of Bloomington as the Indiana County Genealogist for Owen County. She was appointed at our October 27 board meeting.



Jana has been doing genealogy for over 10 years in and around Owen County and is the author of "Excerpts from James K. Wells Journal," which appeared in the *Owen County, Indiana Magazine of History and Genealogy*. She will be a great help to other genealogists and historians researching their family history in the county.

Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) is a program of the Indiana Genealogical Society to appoint qualified individuals to represent each of the 92 counties in Indiana. The ICG promotes genealogical and historical research and education in the area and directs you to resources that can help answer your research questions. If you would like to apply to be an Indiana County Genealogist for your area, please visit [http://www.indgensoc.org/county\\_genealogists.php](http://www.indgensoc.org/county_genealogists.php)

## Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We added another example to our [Facebook photo album](#) of the documents we're finding in the probate packets. The latest example is [an order placed with an Ohio nursery in 1893](#) for trees to be delivered to Brownsburg, Indiana.

We've also added to our database of the [dates of death](#) mentioned in the estate cases - there are now 770+ entries in it.

## IGS Database Additions

### CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS RECORDS

We recently added rosters of several counties' Civilian Conservation Corps companies in 1938 (Allen County; Madison County; St. Joseph County; Wabash

County; Wells 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.

The National Archives has a great [article](#) explaining what CCC employment records contain and where to find them. The article also explains that one of the questions they asked on the 1940 census identified if the person was working in the Civilian Conservation Corps or other federal programs.

Other premium databases we've added to the [Members-Only](#) area:

#### [College Records:](#)

- Faculty of Indiana Central College, Indianapolis (1923)
  - Students of Indiana Central College, Indianapolis (1923)
- NOTE: Indiana Central College later became University of Indianapolis.

#### [County Records:](#)

- Voters of Clark County, Indiana Territory (1802)
- Residents of Fountain County, Indiana Who Served in the Mexican War (1846-1848)
- Students of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1928)
- Pioneer Settlers of Rush County, Indiana
- Taxpayers of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana (1837-1838)

#### [Military Records:](#)

- Residents of Indiana Who Received Military Pensions (1840)

#### [Miscellaneous Records:](#)

- Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1867)

#### OTHER ADDITIONS

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

- Tippecanoe County (school records)
- Wells County (school records)

**NOT AN IGS MEMBER?** We also added free databases in the past month for 3 Noble County cemeteries.

### Research Tip: Check in Illinois for Indiana Marriages

If you're having trouble finding a marriage record for an Indiana ancestor, you may want to expand your search to the bordering counties in eastern Illinois. Depending on the time period, a county in Illinois may have had more lax requirements when it came to getting a marriage license (such as no waiting period), and also offered more anonymity - which was helpful if the couple was underage and/or facing family disapproval.

One of the more popular destinations for Indiana couples was Vermilion County, Illinois. Its county seat, Danville, was just inside the state line and the road that today is US 36 offered a direct link to Indianapolis. Vermilion County marriages for 1826-1899 are included in the [Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763-1900](#); for marriages after 1899, you can request a search from the [Vermilion County Clerk](#).

### War of 1812 in the News

The Federation of Genealogical Societies has announced that they recently received a [\\$250,000 donation](#) from FamilySearch towards their [project](#) to digitize the War of 1812 pensions held at the National Archives. Over 400,000 pages - representing about 6% of the total - have been digitized and are online for free at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>.

## Civil War in the News

--Fold3 recently [spotlighted](#) the last soldier to officially die during the Civil War. John Jefferson Williams was a private in Company B of the 34th Indiana Infantry and was from Jay County, Indiana. He was killed May 13, 1865 in the battle of Palmito Ranch, Texas - a full month after Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending the war.

--The Library of Congress has posted a [slideshow](#) of rare tintypes taken during the Civil War. The collection was donated by the Liljenquist family and includes women and children, as well as portraits of soldiers.

## County Roundup

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

### CARROLL COUNTY

--A historic home in Delphi was [destroyed by fire](#). The home was built in 1872 by the Speece-Neff family.

### CLARK COUNTY

--A historic home in Jeffersonville was [put on wheels](#) and painstakingly moved one block to make way for a new park. The home dates back to the 1860's and was originally home to Reuben Wells.

### KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

--Volunteers with the Kosciusko County Historical Society have [almost completed a project](#) to put Oakwood Cemetery in Warsaw online. With the cooperation of the cemetery, the volunteers have taken photos of tombstones and mapped the locations of 95% of the approximately 18,000 graves.

### LAPORTE COUNTY

--Local resident Patricia Stoops is [compiling a history](#) of her LaPorte roots.

### MONROE COUNTY

--The Monroe County Courthouse in Bloomington recently unveiled its new look. The courthouse, built in 1907, underwent a \$5 million renovation project. The project included structural work as well as preservation of some of the historic features.

### SHELBY COUNTY

--Researchers planning to visit the Shelby County Courthouse and annex in Shelbyville should be prepared for security measures. The Shelby County Council [approved](#) a plan to implement metal detectors and x-ray machines to screen all visitors.

### VANDERBURGH COUNTY

--Local resident Joe Engler has [compiled a pictorial history](#) of old Evansville buildings and businesses. The photos come from historic postcards in Engler's personal collection, as well as postcards from the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Public Library's digital collection.

### WAYNE COUNTY

--Local resident Steve Martin has authored a book [detailing the history](#) of the railroad depot in Richmond, including famous travelers. The depot was built in 1902; proceeds from the book will go towards restoration of the building.

## Legal Terms Explained: By Next Friend

In a court case, you may see the notation "by next friend, "BNF" or "b/n/f" next to someone's name. For example, a case could be referred to as:

Jane Doe (b/n/f John Jones) vs. John Doe

This refers to the fact that Jane Doe is someone not legally capable of representing their interests. Thus, a third party - an adult without a direct interest in this case - would be entrusted to represent Jane. The "next friend" concept is different than an attorney or a legal guardian, because those are people that would have a vested interest in the outcome of the case. Being a minor (in legal terms, someone under the age of 21) or having a mental incapacity are among the most common reasons for someone having a "next friend" to represent their interests.

## FamilySearch Digitizes Indiana WWI Draft Cards

FamilySearch has been digitizing and indexing [World War I draft registration cards](#). These cards have lots of genealogical information on them, including birthdate, address and occupation, as well as a physical description. [Digital images of the Indiana registration cards](#) were recently added - they can be browsed; eventually they will be indexed. The cards are also available on Ancestry.com with a subscription.

## Court Records: It's All About The Case Number

When you go to a courthouse in Indiana to look for court records, you usually have a particular person/persons you're looking to find. But to a courthouse employee, the name is not the key to a successful search - the case number is. That's because court records are organized not by the individual's name, but on the number that was assigned to their court case. And because the case number is often based (at least in part) on the year and month the case was first filed, it helps the courthouse employee in their search if you can give them a year, so they can look for a mention of the case in docket books or order books and get the case number from those entries.

Not sure when your ancestor's court case occurred? Remember last month's tip - try looking for a mention of the case in the local newspaper. A courthouse would designate a local newspaper - often a newspaper located in the county seat - as their "paper of record," which meant they would be the one responsible for publishing all the official court notices and also a listing summarizing the activity in the court (such as cases that had been filed, dismissed, etc.). Look for this listing in the newspaper under a section sometimes called "Court Notes" or "Public Records."

The Indiana State Library has an extensive [microfilm collection of newspapers](#) from various Indiana counties. If you can't visit the library in person, your local library can request the microfilm via inter-library loan - if within Indiana, it will be shipped for free; to libraries outside Indiana, there is a small fee to cover the shipping.

## Digitizing in the News

--The genealogy search engine Mocavo announced a [\\$25,000 grant](#) to digitize and put online a genealogy records collection. Genealogy organizations, as well as government agencies and academic institutions, are eligible. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2013.

--The National Archives has a [YouTube video](#) that shows their digitization lab and how they are digitizing various items from the National Archives collections.

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Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc. | P.O. Box 10507 | Fort Wayne | IN | 46852