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Indiana News

3 MARCH 2013

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We're less than 60 days away

from our annual conference and pre-conference seminar. Have you registered and made your travel plans yet?

- **Friday, April 26** - The [Lawrence County Museum of History](#) in Bedford will host our all-day [Seminar](#). Topics will include how to preserve photos & documents and a behind-the-scenes look at a digital project about Monroe County. Registration is only \$5 per person.
- **Saturday, April 27** - Josh Taylor of "Who Do You Think You Are?" is the featured speaker at our [Conference](#) at the [Monroe County Public Library](#) in Bloomington. Pre-registration is \$40 per person. Free parking will be available at the nearby IU parking garage.

Indiana librarians, did you know our seminar and conference have both been approved for LEU credits? And if you're an Indiana Genealogical Society member, you also get a \$10 discount on the conference registration.

State Library Adds Digital Microfilm Readers

If you're planning for your next research trip to the [Indiana State Library](#), be aware that they have begun switching over to digital microfilm readers (photo courtesy of Ron Darrah), which enable you to save an image to your flash drive in addition to making a print copy.

digital microfilm reader

Thanks to Ron Darrah

for passing along this information!

Indiana Public Land Records Index Online

The [Indiana State Digital Archives](#) has added a [searchable index](#) of public land records from the Crawfordsville district spanning 1820-1853. The index contains 38,000 entries and comprises land purchased from the federal government in present-day Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Hendricks, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Warren and White counties.

You can read the Archives' [press release](#) for more information on the index and how it can be used in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management's database of land patents.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" To Return

"Who Do You Think You Are?", the television show featuring celebrities learning about their ancestors, is set to return with new episodes. According to Dick Eastman's newsletter, [the TLC network has picked up the show](#) (it had previously aired on NBC). No dates have been announced for when the new episodes will air, but singer Kelly Clarkson is among those scheduled to appear.

Social Security Death Index Update

Last month we told you about a bill in Congress, H.R. 295, that would close public access to information in the Social Security Death Index for 3 years after a person's death. IGS President Michael Maben passed along information on another bill, [H.R. 466](#), the Social Security Death Master File Privacy Act of 2013, which would permanently close public access to the SSDI.

Meanwhile, Dick Eastman's newsletter provides [commentary](#) on why public access to the Social Security Death index should be maintained - including quotes from the Social Security Administration's own website about how allowing access to the SSDI actually helps prevent fraud and

identity theft.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

Volunteers have now spent over 1,000 hours unfolding and digitizing the Hendricks County probate packets!

Have you signed up for our **Saturday, April 6** work session at the Danville Public Library? You can drop in any time from 9 am to 4 pm to help unfold and organize some of the documents. [Register online](#) through the library's events calendar or by calling (317) 745-2604.



More Saturday work sessions in Hendricks County are being planned for the rest of

the year.

IGS Database Additions

We recently added these premium databases to the [Members-Only](#) area:

[College Records:](#)

- Directory of Faculty of Indiana University, Bloomington (1932)
- Directory of Students of Indiana University, Bloomington (1932)
- Graduates of Purdue University, West Lafayette (1932)

[County Records:](#)

Clark County:

- Selected Residents of Clark County, Indiana Territory (1809)

Harrison County:

- Selected Residents of Harrison County, Indiana Territory (1809)

Jay County:

- Pioneer Settlers of Jay County, Indiana

Marion County:

- Members of Indianapolis Electrotypers and Stereotypers Union (1930)

Miami County:

- Students of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1927)
- Teachers of Peru High School, Miami County, Indiana (1927)

Randolph County:

- Selected Residents of Randolph County, Indiana Territory (1808)

[Military Records:](#)

- Indiana Veterans Living in Nebraska (1887)

[Miscellaneous Records:](#)

Blind:

--Students at Indiana School For The Blind, Indianapolis (1846-1851)

Teachers:

--County School Superintendents in Indiana (1884)

--Faculty of Indiana's State Colleges and Institutions (1884)

--Teachers in Indiana Who Received State Teaching Licenses (1867-1884)

Land:

--Indiana Land Purchased for Right of Way Along The Michigan Road (1841)

Loans:

--Mortgages of Lawrenceburg & Indianapolis Railroad (1841)

--Residents Who Borrowed From Indiana's College Fund and Saline Fund (1836)

--Residents Who Borrowed From Indiana's Sinking Fund (1837)

Transportation:

--Selected Workers for The Michigan Road (1836)

--Selected Workers for The Wabash & Erie Canal (1838)

PBS To Show Indiana History Documentary

A documentary about the life of Mary Bateman Clark, an African-American woman from Vincennes who sued the state of Indiana in 1821 to end her indentured servitude, recently [premiered in Bloomington](#) and will begin airing on other PBS stations in Indiana. The documentary was made with the help of Dona Stokes-Lucas, the Indiana Genealogical Society's Central District Director.

You can also read more about Clark's [Vincennes connection](#).

County Roundup

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

ALLEN COUNTY

--In our February e-mail, we mentioned that the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department wanted to drastically increase the fee for searching for birth and death records, citing the staff time involved in finding a record. The county commissioners have now [voted to increase the fee](#) for a birth or death record search to \$20 (previously \$10 for birth, \$12 for death). Health department officials had sought to increase those fees to \$50 per search.

BROWN COUNTY

--Thanks to a partnership with the Brown County Genealogical Society, patrons of the [Brown County Public Library](#) in Nashville can now use Ancestry.com Library Edition. Access is via the library's public computers, or with your own laptop or mobile device while within the library. The library will be holding free workshops (led by Diana Biddle) to demonstrate

how to use Ancestry.com - Tuesdays (March 5, 12, 19 & 26) from 1 to 3 pm or Thursdays (March 7, 14 & 21) from 6 to 8 pm.

DELAWARE COUNTY

--Originally scheduled for demolition, the J.C. Johnson house in Muncie, which dates back to the 1890's, has been [given a reprieve](#).

GREENE COUNTY

--Visitors to the [Linton Public Library](#) can now access Ancestry.com Library Edition and HeritageQuest.

JASPER COUNTY

--The Jasper County Surveyor recently [completed a project](#) to fix erosion problems at the Welsh Cemetery on Egypt Road in Jordan Township.

KNOX COUNTY

--A southwest Indiana man [found an issue of The Western Sun](#) (a Vincennes newspaper) dated 1841 in his home. Among the items in the news: the inaugural address of President William Henry Harrison.

LAKE COUNTY

--Work continues to restore Oak Hill Cemetery in Hammond and improve its condition. [A new manager](#) has been hired, and volunteers plan to digitize their burial records. According to the Oak Hill Cemetery Restoration Project's [Facebook page](#), there are 13,500 tombstones and 27,540 burial records.

MARION COUNTY

--The *Indianapolis Star* has a new section of their website, [RetroIndy](#), which features historical "then & now" photos of Indianapolis as well as items about Indianapolis-area people, places & businesses.

POSEY COUNTY

--Indiana Landmarks has a [blog post](#) about the history of the Workingmen's Institute in New Harmony. It lays claim to being Indiana's oldest public library.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

--The former Union Literary Institute, which was a school in Spartanburg for free African-American children beginning in the 1840's, [was heavily damaged by a storm](#) and now needs funds to save it.

SHELBY COUNTY

--The Genealogy Department of the Shelbyville-Shelby County Public Library has [begun digitizing](#) their collection, and may become the home of some courthouse records in the future.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

--The South Bend Area Genealogical Society has added a blog to their online presence - visit it at <http://www.sbags1.blogspot.com>

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

--Home Hospital in Lafayette, which was built in 1898, is being [demolished](#).

VIGO COUNTY

--During construction for a new residence hall at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, [workers unearthed part of a gas plant](#) that dated back to the Civil War.

WAYNE COUNTY

--King Cemetery in Richmond, which dates back to 1813, will [become an active cemetery again](#). Volunteers will also begin cleaning & repairing it.

Civil War in the News

Archives.com has a helpful [article](#) explaining how to identify and research Civil War soldiers (including African-American soldiers). The article includes an explanation of the various types of records available and what information they contain.

Research Tip: Township Poor Relief

poor relief claim 1894



Do you have some ancestors who didn't own property, who don't appear in directories and who seem to otherwise "disappear" for large stretches of time? If so, you may want to look for them in poor relief records.

One of the legal responsibilities of the township trustee was as "overseer of the poor." Residents could apply for a one-time payment for a specific need, and trustees would then file these claims with the county commissioners

(usually quarterly) for reimbursement. In later years, pre-printed forms were used for these claims, and they can provide some details about the resident.

The example shown above (see the [PDF](#)) is from the records of the trustee for Liberty Township, Hendricks County, Indiana in September 1894 (found in the Archives of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library). Lucy Elmore age 37 of Clayton is a widow with a son age 10 and 2 daughters, ages 7 and 16. She owns no property and is dependent because of the deaths of her husband and father. She seeks money to "furnish the two youngest children [with] clothing this winter."

If these poor relief records survived, they may be found in the township trustee's office, or in the county auditor's office (who was in charge of accounting for the county commissioners).

Tippecanoe County Marriage Index

Tippecanoe County (county seat Lafayette) is not one of the counties indexed in FamilySearch's [Indiana marriage index 1811-1959](#), and the digital images available for browsing in this database do not include Tippecanoe County. But FamilySearch has digitized a Tippecanoe County marriage index 1921-1941 that was compiled by the Works Progress Administration (view the [A-L volume](#) and the [M-Z volume](#)).

Copies of marriage records can be requested from the [Tippecanoe County Clerk](#).

Snippets of Indiana History

Indiana public radio station WFIU, in partnership with the Indiana Historical Society, and with research help from the *Indiana Magazine of History* staff, produces [Moment of Indiana History](#), a segment on lesser-known parts of Indiana's history. Recent segments featured the tradition of teachers having to give their students treats in order to physically enter the schoolhouse and the problems of mail delivery in the Indiana Territory.

Research Tip: Indenture Records

If you're researching a family where some of the children seem to disappear in between censuses, and you don't find evidence that they subsequently died, you may want to look for them in indenture records.

Indentured servitude is often thought of as being a phenomenon of the 1700's, where adults financed their emigration to the American colonies by serving a term of 7 years and in return were taught a trade. But in the 1800's, it was children who entered into indentured servitude (also known as an apprenticeship) - particularly poor children. And the term of indenture could be much longer - for girls the standard term was until they turned 18; for boys until they turned 21.

The indenture was made by the township's overseers of the poor, and the agreement usually specified what the master would give to the servant, and what the servant would receive from the master when they had completed their term of service (for example, a set of clothes or a cow).

In an [example \(PDF\)](#) from Hendricks County, dated 10 March 1842, Caroline Arington, age 1 year, 1 month and 4 days, is bound to Solomon Garr by the Center Township overseers of the poor until she is 18. Solomon agrees to "learn her to read reasonably well and to [...] furnish her sufficient food, clothing and washing." At the end of her term of service, he is to give her one bed and bedding.

If these indenture records survived, they may be found in miscellaneous court records or in the county recorder's office, because they were considered deeds.

Legal Terms Explained: Administrator de bonis non

In probate records, you may see a notation in an estate that someone has been appointed as an administrator "de bonis non" (or DBN). If someone is appointed as an administrator, and they resign or die while the estate is open (or an estate is later reopened because someone has filed a claim against it), a second administrator must be appointed to complete the task. De bonis non is a Latin term that translates to "goods not administered."

National Archives Works To Increase Access

A recent blog post, [Hiding in public: How the National Archives wants to open up its data to Americans](#), spotlighted the daunting task facing the National Archives - how to increase public access to their 4.5 million cubic feet of documents and 500 terabytes of electronic files, particularly when everything's not in the same format. You can also read about the various partnerships they've formed.

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