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Indiana News

3 APRIL 2013

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Registration closes on April 24th

for our annual conference and pre-conference seminar!

- **Friday, April 26** is our all-day [Seminar](#) at the [Lawrence County Museum of History](#) in Bedford. Topics will include how to preserve photos & documents and a behind-the-scenes look at a digital project about Monroe County. Indiana librarians can receive 3 LEU credits for attending. Registration is \$5 per person, \$7 at the door.
- **Saturday, April 27** is our all-day [Conference](#) with featured speaker Josh Taylor at the [Monroe County Public Library](#) in Bloomington. Topics will include Midwestern research, probate records, land & property research and cemeteries & maps. Indiana librarians can receive 4 LEU credits for attending. Registration is \$30 for IGS members, \$40 for non-members. If paying at the door, it will be \$45 per person, regardless of membership. Free parking will be available at the nearby IU parking garage.

IGS Members: Publications Available

To Indiana Genealogical Society members: You should have received e-mail notifications that the March 2013 issue of our quarterly, *Indiana Genealogist*, as well as the April 2013 issue of our newsletter, *IGS Newsletter*, are now online. Login to the [IGS Records](#) section of Members-Only to download your copy.

Access to Public Records

The Indiana General Assembly is considering a bill, House Bill 1175, that would permit state and county agencies to [charge a fee](#) to the public for searching for a record, in addition to the standard copying fee. If the search takes less than 2 hours, no search fee would be imposed; if the search takes over 2 hours, the agency could charge the public up to \$20 an hour. The Senate has [amended the House bill](#) to allow the public to take digital photos only of their own property records while in the county recorder's office, allaying the concerns of county recorders that they could

lose some revenue. The amended bill does not place restrictions on the public taking digital photos while at other agencies.

On the national level, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, which has taken the lead on issues of records preservation and access, has joined a [coalition of non-genealogical entities](#) who are concerned with recent legislative attempts to restrict access to public records.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

We continue to have fun unfolding and organizing Hendricks County probate records from the 1800's. Currently we're working on estate & guardianship cases from the 1850's and 1860's.



If you can't make it to our **Saturday, April 6** work session at the [Danville Public Library](#), check your calendar for these upcoming work sessions in central Indiana:

--**Saturday, July 27** from 10 am to 4 pm at [Plainfield Public Library](#)

--**Saturday, October 12** from 10 am to 4 pm at [Plainfield Public Library](#)

IGS Appoints Marshall County Genealogist

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Judith McCullough as the Indiana County Genealogist for Marshall County. She was appointed at our February board meeting and becomes our 47th county genealogist. A lifelong Marshall County resident, she has worked for almost 20 years at the Marshall County Historical Society Museum, organizing old county records as their Historical Archives Manager and assisting visitors with their research. McCullough is a charter member of the Marshall County Genealogical Society and also belongs to the Indiana Historical Society.

Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) is a program of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Its goal is to appoint qualified individuals to represent each of the 92 counties in Indiana. The ICG promotes genealogical and historical research and education within the county, is familiar with the genealogical records and repositories in the county, keeps up to date on record retention policies and issues and acts as a resource person for all those with a research interest in the county.

If you would like to apply to be an Indiana County Genealogist for your area, please visit

http://www.indgensoc.org/county_genealogists.php

IGS Database Additions

We recently added these premium databases to the [Members-Only](#) area, putting us over 1,000 total databases:

[College Records:](#)

- Faculty of Purdue University, West Lafayette (1889)
- Students of Purdue University, West Lafayette (1889)

[County Records:](#)

Madison County:

- Students of Pendleton Junior-Senior High School, Madison County, Indiana (1942)
- Teachers of Pendleton Junior-Senior High School, Madison County, Indiana (1942)

Montgomery County:

- Students of Crawfordsville Junior-Senior High School, Montgomery County, Indiana (1929)
- Teachers of Crawfordsville Junior-Senior High School, Montgomery County, Indiana (1929)

[Military Records:](#)

- Officers of the Indiana National Guard (1879)
- Officers of the Indiana National Guard (1882)
- Officers of the Indiana National Guard (1886)
- Officers of the Indiana National Guard (1893)
- Officers of the Indiana National Guard (1895)

[Miscellaneous Records:](#)

- Children at Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Indiana (1889)
- Children at Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Indiana (1890)
- Children at Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Indiana (1893)

In March, we added premium databases for:

- 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 agricultural censuses for Dearborn County, Ohio County and Switzerland County
- 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 manufacturing censuses for Dearborn County, Ohio County and Switzerland County
- Indiana University
- Wabash College
- Indiana midwives licenses
- Indiana School for the Deaf
- Indiana Territory (Clark County, Harrison County & Randolph County)
- Battle of Tippecanoe (1811)
- Allen County (a Fort Wayne fraternal organization)
- Jay County (pioneer settlers)
- Marion County (an Indianapolis newspaper workers union)
- Miami County (Peru High School)

Willard Library To Expand

[Willard Library](#) in Evansville plans to break ground this fall on a

[construction project](#) that will add 8,000 square feet. The addition will enable the library's Archives - which contain collections for Evansville and surrounding counties in southern Indiana - to be more accessible to the public.

County Roundup

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

ALLEN COUNTY

--In our March e-mail, we mentioned plans to increase the fees to order copies of birth and death records from the Fort-Wayne Allen County Health Department. A [newspaper article](#) details exactly what the new fees are, including when requesting multiple searches at the same time. The new fees took effect on April 1.

BOONE COUNTY

--The Boone County Courthouse (built in 1912) was among several buildings in Lebanon to be [vandalized](#) recently. Graffiti was spray-painted on the courthouse, as well as the Lebanon Public Library (built in 1904). A female suspect has been [arrested and charged](#).

JEFFERSON COUNTY

--Researchers planning to visit the Jefferson County Courthouse in Madison should be prepared for security measures. County officials recently approved a [plan to install metal detectors and hire security officers](#). Visitors will now have to enter through the west entrance.

LAPORTE COUNTY

--The LaPorte County Public Library is [considering digitizing](#) its entire collection of microfilm, which includes newspapers.

MARION COUNTY

--The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library has added a [digital collection](#) of Emerich Manual High School's yearbooks for 1896 through 2010. An *Indianapolis Star* [article](#) has details of the history of the school and the digitizing project. NOTE: These yearbooks are also available at [Internet Archive](#), along with those from Arsenal Technical, Broad Ripple, George Washington and Thomas Carr Howe high schools.

POSEY COUNTY

--Artifacts from the Golden Troupe of Historic New Harmony are [now on display](#). The theater group performed at Thrall's Opera House from 1875 to 1889, and the artifacts include costumes and props.

PUTNAM COUNTY

--The Heritage Preservation Society recently [discussed the challenges they face](#) in restoring the Civil War monument at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle. The monument, which was dedicated in 1870, memorializes the 321 Putnam County soldiers who died in the Civil War. The society has been raising funds to pay for the restoration, which is projected to cost over \$60,000.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

--The old Vanderburgh County Courthouse in Evansville was built in 1888

and has not been used as a courthouse since the 1960's. However, it continues to be [preserved as a historic building](#) and it generates revenue for its upkeep with rentals of its office space.

VIGO COUNTY

--The original clock from the Vigo County Courthouse in Terre Haute (which was built in 1888) has been [put on display to the public](#). The mechanism, which was in a tower of the courthouse, was moved to the ground floor and encased in glass.

Guide For Doing Research at Allen County Public Library

The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne is home to huge amounts of material from across Indiana, as well as the United States, so planning ahead is a must. Certified Genealogist (SM) Harold Henderson has authored a free guide explaining the various collections and suggesting how to make more efficient use of your time there. *Finding Ancestors: The Genealogist's Unofficial One-Stop Guide to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center* is a 26-page PDF and can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.midwestroots.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/ACPLGC-April-2013.pdf>

For information on the thinking behind the guide and what the guide contains, see Harold's [post](#) on his Midwestern Microhistory blog.

Indiana Remembers 1913 Flood

1913 flood in Patriot, Indiana



Organizations across Indiana are marking the 100th anniversary of the devastating flooding in Indiana in March 1913. On the Indiana Genealogical Society blog we have a [guest post](#) showing some before & after photos of the flooding in Indiana. Some other good reads:

--An Indianapolis newspaper

[documents the effects](#) it had on the Indianapolis area, as well as [across the state](#).

--A Lafayette newspaper [discusses the evidence of the damage](#) in Tippecanoe County that is still visible in 2013.

--A Richmond newspaper [details the destruction it caused](#) in eastern Indiana as well as western Ohio.

The Indiana Historical Society has also opened a new exhibit about the aftermath of the flood, part of their "You Are There" series. You can watch a [news video](#) previewing part of the exhibit.

Vanderburgh County Marriage Index

Vanderburgh County (county seat Evansville) 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 Vanderburgh County. But Willard Library has a [Vanderburgh County marriage index 1920-1979](#) that can be searched.

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

Indiana's African-American History

A Wabash College professor has been [investigating and documenting sites of African-American history](#) across Indiana, thanks to a grant. Historic sites were found in 53 counties.

Lutheran Church Records Digitized

For those who have a subscription to Archives.com, they recently added [over 4 million digitized records](#) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Lutheran churches in the United States were often founded by families whose roots were in Norway, Sweden and Germany. In Indiana, there were significant Lutheran churches established in Evansville, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis, among others.

Research Tip: Indiana Magazine of History

The *Indiana Magazine of History* (published by Indiana University in Bloomington) is a great source of information about Indiana's history, as well as a genealogical resource. You can search the [online index to the 1905-2010 issues](#) and view/save the articles, as well as browse entire issues, all free of charge. You can search by a subject (such as orphans or a particular county) or by a person's name to see where they are mentioned. NOTE: The articles from around 1916, when Indiana was celebrating its centennial, are particularly fascinating.

Revolutionary War in the News

Author and photo expert Maureen Taylor is putting together a documentary that brings the American Revolution to life through focusing on the photos and stories of some Revolutionary War veterans. The documentary is seeking funding to help in the production. For more information, see Dick Eastman's [newsletter item](#).

Civil War in the News

--The Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond, Lake County will be [home to a Civil War exhibit through May 3](#). The free exhibit will focus on how northwest Indiana was affected and will include living re-enactments as well as photos and artifacts. Some of the materials are from a traveling exhibit that is on loan from the Indiana Historical Society.

--A [letter written in 1864](#) by an African-American soldier from Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana was auctioned in New York last month. The letter by Morgan W. Carter mentioned his willingness to die and that later generations would benefit. The letter, which was appraised

at \$6,000 to \$8,000, [actually sold for \\$38,000](#). Carter's whereabouts after his post-war return to Madison are unknown.
--A London newspaper has an [article](#) with photos and stories of some of the women who disguised themselves as men during the Civil War and served as soldiers.

Research Tip: Non-Population Censuses

Last month in our Members-Only area we added indexes of the 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 agricultural and manufacturing censuses for some counties in southeastern Indiana, courtesy of Tina Lyons. Researchers should take advantage of these so-called "non-population schedules," which were taken at the same time as the federal census in 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880.

If your ancestor was a farmer, the agricultural schedule will provide details about their farm, including the number of animals they had and the amount of crops they produced. NOTE: Farms that were under a certain threshold were not included in the agricultural schedules.

If your ancestor was engaged in any sort of business that made things - whether as a shoemaker or a mill owner - the manufacturing schedule will provide you with details of how many people were involved in the production and what kind of machines and raw materials they used. NOTE: Businesses that were under a certain threshold were not included in the manufacturing schedules.

The National Archives has a [guide to the non-population schedules](#). The Census Bureau has a [PDF](#) explaining what's on the agricultural schedules.

Unlike the federal census, the non-population schedules were not microfilmed by the National Archives and thus are not widely available. Instead they were kept on the state level, with the Indiana State Archives in charge of the originals and microfilm of them being given to the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis and the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

Legal Terms Explained: Escheat

When someone dies and they didn't have a will, their estate goes through probate to settle their debts with creditors and then any remaining assets are distributed among their heirs. However, if no legal heirs can be found and the deceased owned real estate, that land reverts back to the government - a legal process known as escheat.

Long-Distance Travel in the 1800's

An [article at Mother Nature Network](#) gives some perspective on how long it used to take our ancestors to travel long distances. It has a series of maps showing how many days/weeks it took to travel west from New York City. In 1830, for example, it took 2 weeks to reach Indiana. With the popularity of the railroad, by 1857 it only took 2 days to get from

New York City to Indiana.

Digital Archiving How-To Guide Published

The Library of Congress has published a free [PDE](#) that guides individuals in how to digitize their own paper documents and old photos, as well as how to safely store materials that are already electronic, such as digital photos and e-mails.

Archives.com Adds Free Weekly Videos

Archives.com is posting free 20-minute videos each Wednesday at 1 pm Eastern (10 am Pacific) at [Ancestry's Livestream channel](#). The videos will also be available at a later date on YouTube. Upcoming topics (with presenter Amy Johnson Crow, CG) are:

--Wednesday, April 10 - Finding Your Mr. Right: Working With Common Names

--Wednesday, April 17 - What Are You Missing in Death Records?

--Wednesday, April 24 - What Happened To the Names? Making The Jump Backwards To The 1840 Census

For more information, visit Archives.com [Facebook page](#).

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