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Indiana News

3 JUNE 2013

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Received this e-mail from a friend?



We hope you are enjoying this monthly e-mail. Now you can browse archived issues of it going back to 2010, through the [Publications](#) section of our website. The archived issues are in PDF format and include the regular features such as research tips and explanations of legal terms.

For IGS members: June brings a plethora of genealogy information to your e-mail. You should have received notification of the June issue of IGS Newsletter being ready to download from the [IGS Records section](#) of Members-Only. Later on this month, you'll receive an e-mail when the June issue of our quarterly *Indiana Genealogist* is ready for download.

IGS Welcomes New At-Large Director

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Lisa Swanson Ellam of Granger, Indiana as our new At-Large District Director. As At-Large Director, she will represent the interests of all our members who live outside Indiana. Ellam serves on the board of the South Bend Area Genealogical Society. She also volunteers for Find A Grave, and writes a blog, [The Faces of My Family](#).

Registration Open For 2014 IGS Conference

photo of J. Mark Lowe



Registration is now open for the Indiana Genealogical Society [Conference](#) on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the [Allen County Public Library](#) in Fort Wayne. Featured speaker J. Mark Lowe will offer sessions on:

- Pioneers of the Frontier: Using Online Newspapers to Find Early Settlers
- Quick, Complete and Accurate: Document Analysis for Researchers
- Finding Freedmen Marriage Records

--Out On A Limb: Trapped by Bad Research

Other sessions at the conference:

- Apps & Programs for Genealogy - Dawne Slater-Putt
- Cousin Bait: Using the Internet to Reel In Family Treasures - Tina Lyons
- Writing & Publishing Family History, from a Technological Perspective - Rachel Popma
- Scanning, Digitizing and Records Preservation: High Tech Results on a Low Tech Budget - Diana Biddle

For IGS members: Remember to login to receive your \$10 discount on conference registration.

For full schedule and registration options, please visit <http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.php>

Indiana Marriage Index Update

FamilySearch has updated the [Indiana marriage index 1811-1959](#) that is in progress. Entries from Scott County and Spencer County have been added to the index, bringing to 59 the total number of Indiana counties that are searchable. There are 8 other counties that have digital images of their records available for browsing, but are not yet indexed.

Allen County Naturalizations Index Online

The [Indiana State Digital Archives](#) has added a [searchable index](#) of Allen County naturalization records spanning 1844 to 1930. The index contains 19,000 entries but does not include the naturalizations that were done in Fort Wayne's federal court. Allen County represents the 41st county in Indiana to be included in this database. You can read the full [press release](#) from the Indiana State Archives.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

One of the reasons probate records are so interesting is that they contain bills and receipts. One estate case we unfolded recently included this 1868 bill (pictured at left) for medicines purchased. The company apparently sold medicines for both humans and animals - notice the hair oil and the "Sure Death to Rats" item.

We keep adding to our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the Hendricks County estate cases - there are now over 815 entries, spanning 1837 through 1898.

An 1868 bill for medicines purchased from a Cincinnati company (see [full size PDF](#))

Don't forget to stop by our next work session! It will be held on **Saturday, July 27** from 10 am to 4 pm Eastern at [Plainfield Public Library](#). We'll be working on probate records from the 1860's and 1870's.

Please sign up for this work session via the Plainfield library's [events calendar](#) or contact their Indiana Room - phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

FGS Conference in Fort Wayne

July 1 is the deadline for early registration for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' mega-conference in Fort Wayne, to be held August 21-14, 2013 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center. There will be a variety of sessions, national vendors and special lectures, plus the lure of extended hours for research at the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center.

The Indiana Genealogical Society will be among those with tables at the society showcase, and Curt Witcher will be speaking about IGS during a special luncheon on Friday, August 23.

For more information, including online registration, visit the [conference website](#). You can also download the [conference brochure](#) (PDF) and visit the [conference blog](#) for all the latest updates, including hotels that have filled up.

IGS Database Additions

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

[College Records:](#)

--Graduates of Purdue University, West Lafayette (1929)

[County Records:](#)

--Employees of Indianapolis Police Department (1915)

--Selected Arrests Made by Indianapolis Police Department (1915)

--Index to Mortality Schedule for Carroll County, Indiana (1860)
--Index to Mortality Schedule for Cass County, Indiana (1860)

Miscellaneous Records:

--Doctors Who Received A License in Indiana (1899)

--Deaths at Indiana Masonic Home, Franklin, Indiana (1930-1931)
--Residents of Indiana Masonic Home, Franklin, Indiana (1930)

In May, we added premium databases about:

- Indiana Territory - Dearborn County selected residents (1806) and voters (1809)
- Indiana doctors (1854)
- Indiana veterans living in Nebraska (1895)
- Lake County - East Chicago school records (1929)
- Marion County - Indianapolis teachers 1883 & 1886
- Methodist Episcopal ministers' deaths (1917-1956)
- Monroe County - 1860 mortality schedule
- Wabash & Erie Canal officers (1851)

Not an IGS member? We also added some free databases, courtesy of Randi Richardson:

--Index to History of Harrodsburg, Monroe County, Indiana (1964)
--Index to History of Stinesville, Monroe County, Indiana (1955)

County Roundup

Here are some genealogical and local history news items from around the state. NOTE: Links at news sites often change or are removed without notice - we apologize if you find a bad link.

BOONE COUNTY

--The Boone County Genealogical Society has changed their [website address](#).

MARION COUNTY

--An Indianapolis Star [article](#) about Indianapolis high school yearbooks that have been digitized includes examples of Indiana celebrities found within their pages, such as David Letterman and Senator Richard Lugar.
--A Beech Grove soldier who died during the Korean War was [finally laid to rest](#) last month after his remains were identified.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

--The Montgomery County Jail in Crawfordsville, which operated from 1882 until 1973, may be [designated as a national landmark](#) because of its unusual architectural feature. The structure was known as a rotary jail, which allowed limited access to the cells (which were pie-shaped) thanks to a turntable.

MORGAN COUNTY

--A 90-year-old Mooresville woman was [given a 60-year old gift](#) - the diary of her boyfriend who died in World War II. The diary is on display at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

PUTNAM COUNTY

--The Putnam County Public Library in Greencastle celebrated Heritage Preservation Month by [collecting oral histories](#) of people who have lived in Putnam County.

RUSH COUNTY

--A cemetery statue that was vandalized 17 years ago has finally been [restored](#). The statue of John Owen, who died in 1895, was restored by John "Walt" Walters and then returned to its rightful place in Moscow Cemetery in Rushville.

SHELBY COUNTY

--Shelby County government officials have [applied for a grant from the state](#) to help them digitize some of the county's records. The Shelby County Auditor is also contributing funds towards the digitization effort.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

--Greenbush Cemetery in Lafayette, which dates back to before 1850 and contains graves for over 400 veterans, [has been abandoned](#) by its cemetery association. The Fairfield Township Trustee is preparing to take over control of the cemetery, as provided by state law. The county recently [sent work release volunteers](#) to start the cleanup of the cemetery, and locals such as L.A. Clugh are [trying to cut down the tall grass](#) that has engulfed the tombstones.

Research Tip: Delayed Birth Records

When states implemented the provisions of the Social Security Act in 1937, it also resulted in a need to produce documentation of your birthdate, in order to prove you were old enough to receive Social Security benefits. Even though in Indiana it had been law since 1882 requiring a birth to be recorded, there was still many of that generation - patients and doctors alike - who had not complied with the law, particularly since most births had occurred at home instead of in hospitals.

On February 19, 1941, the Indiana General Assembly passed House Bill 47 (enacted as Acts of 1941, Chapter 24), titled "An act authorizing the circuit courts of the state to hear and determine the time and place of birth of a person on petition." Under the law - which went into effect immediately - anyone who had been a resident of their county for at least a year could petition their local court to certify their birth. At least 2 residents were needed to vouch for their residency, and evidence of the petitioner's birth also had to be presented to the court. If the court granted the petition, they would issue a decree that had the legal authority of a birth record. Even though these delayed birth records did not begin until 1941, the births they referred to were actually from many years earlier - in some cases as early as the 1850's and 1860's.

For IGS members: More details about this subject - including an example of a delayed birth record - are available in an article in the June 2010 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, which can be downloaded in the [IGS Records section](#) of the Members Only area. The article also lists 69 Indiana counties whose delayed birth records are known to have been microfilmed.

Indiana Legislature Grants

Divorce (1830)

Early in Indiana's statehood, the Indiana General Assembly had the power to grant divorces. One act they passed on January 28, 1830 was to grant a divorce for a Dubois County woman. According to the legislature's Acts of 1830, Chapter 31, Martha McBride is divorced from husband Daniel McBride "as fully as if the said banns of matrimony had never been entered into."

Source: *Laws of the State of Indiana, passed and published at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly* (Indianapolis: Smith and Bolton, 1830).

Civil War in the News

--Two Civil War veterans from Connersville and Indianapolis who died in 1908 and 1912 were [finally buried](#) last month at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. The veterans' remains had been unclaimed and kept in an Indianapolis funeral home since their deaths.

--Dick Eastman's blog has a link to a [haunting slideshow of Civil War photos](#), including several photos from the battlefield.

Revolutionary War in the News

Archaeologists have [found the remains of Carr's Fort](#) in Georgia, which was the site of a 1779 battle with British forces. The site, which was located thanks to a grant from the National Parks Service, still had musket balls and rifle parts, as well as frying pans and horse shoes.

Indiana Territory in the News

Officials from Indiana and Kentucky [are seeking federal government assistance](#) to repair the erosion at historic Clarksville, which marked the starting point of the Lewis & Clark expedition in 1803. Historic Clarksville is on the list of the top 10 endangered sites in Indiana; the cost to fix the erosion is estimated at \$17 million.

Research Tip: Doctors & Midwives Licenses

Do you have an ancestor in the medical field? In March 1897, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law requiring doctors and midwives who wished to practice medicine to procure a license. As set out in Acts of 1897, Chapter 169 ("An Act Regulating The Practice of Medicine"), a State Board of Medical Registration and Examination was created. Prospective doctors were to pay a \$6 application fee and submit certain credentials to their county clerk, namely their medical school diploma as well as the affidavit of 2 people in the county verifying their identity and residence. If the application was approved, the county clerk would issue (in exchange for a recording fee of 50 cents) the physician a license to practice medicine in the county. This law exempted dentists and optometrists, as well as physicians who were serving in the military.

1899 physician's license



An 1899 physician's license from Hendricks County, Indiana
(see [full size PDF](#))

The physician's license from the county clerk would include the physician's name, age, residence, birth, address and system of medicine they practiced (regular, eclectic, homeopathic, etc.). If the physician moved to another county, they were to turn over their existing license to the new county clerk in order to get a new license issued. A similar application system was set up for those wishing to practice midwifery, with the application fee set at \$3. The county clerks were to keep a record book of the licenses they had issued (see example at left).

The law imposed a penalty for practicing medicine or obstetrics without a license - a fine of between \$25 and \$200. Licenses were also subject to being revoked if the person was "guilty of felony or gross immorality, or addicted to the liquor or drug habit to such a degree as to render him unfit to practice medicine or surgery."

In an April 1907 letter, the state board warned county clerks that there were some "unscrupulous charlatans who seek illegally to obtain licenses to practice medicine in Indiana" and that they should be on their guard for traveling doctors who had not established residency in their county. The clerks were to especially be on their guard if they were presented paperwork from Charles Beecher Potter or Joseph S. Ewers, as fraudulent licenses had been issued to them in 1906.

For IGS members: The [IGS Records](#) section of Members-Only contains a database of doctors who received licenses in 1899, and midwives who received licenses from 1897-1899. These databases were compiled from annual reports of the State Board of Medical Registration and Examination.

Legal Terms Explained: A Mensa Et Thoro

"A mensa et thoro" is a Latin term that translates as "from board and bed" or "from board and hearth." The legal term "divorce a mensa et thoro" is a synonym for "separation from bed and board" - often shortened to "legal separation". Legal separation signifies that the parties are not divorced, and thus not able to remarry, but they have come to a temporary agreement regarding living arrangements or custody of children. Legal separation was also an option when there were religious or cultural objections to divorce.

Researching Catholic Ancestors

Church records can be an untapped resource for many genealogists. If you have ancestors who belonged to the Catholic Church, Archives.com has a good [article](#) explaining about the various types of Catholic records that you may want to look for.

FamilySearch Behind The Scenes: Digitizing Records

A [blog post](#) by FamilySearch gives a glimpse into how they digitize records that are not already on microfilm. Among the details: they use digital cameras and save the images to an external hard drive, which is then shipped back to Salt Lake City for approval. They also have clamps and other tools to keep the record book in place while they take the photos.

Genealogy on TV

--Ancestry.com announced that the new season of "Who Do You Think You Are?" will premiere on Tuesday, July 23 on TLC. No word yet on whether episodes will also be available online.

--PBS issued a [press release](#) for their fall schedule, which includes a description of its new show, "Genealogy Roadshow," which will premiere on Monday, September 23 at 9 pm Eastern.

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