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Indiana News

2 JULY 2013

QUICK LINKS:

[Indiana News - Past Issues](#)
[IGS - Facebook](#)
[IGS - Blog](#)
[IGS - Twitter](#)
[IGS website](#)

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Last Call: FGS Conference in Fort Wayne](#)
[Update: Illinois Marriage Indexes](#)

[FOUND: Jasper County Family Photo](#)
[2014 IGS Conference in Fort Wayne](#)

[FOUND: Madison County Autograph Album](#)
[Clues Found in Guardianship Records](#)
[Civil War in the News](#)
[IGS Database Additions](#)
[African-American History in the News](#)
[County Roundup](#)

[FOUND: 1910 Postcard of Clay & Vigo County Family](#)

[Research Tip: Mortality Schedules](#)

[FOUND: Photo of Fort Wayne Family](#)
[Indiana Legislature Settles Estate \(1850\)](#)

[Research Tip: Veterans Enumerations \(1913\)](#)

[Update: "Who Do You Think You Are?"](#)

[Legal Terms Explained: Pro Se](#)
[Researching Naturalization Records](#)

Received this e-mail from a friend?



Welcome to a particularly newsy issue of our monthly e-mail! If you are new to our mailing list, you can browse archived issues going back to 2010. The archived issues are in PDF format and are available through the [Publications](#) section of our website.

For Indiana Genealogical Society members: Did you see the e-mail about the June issue of the quarterly being available for download from the [IGS Records section](#) of Members-Only? This issue includes:

- Meredith Thompson's explanation of Indiana's old-age pension law in the 1930's and the records it generated
- David C. Bailey, Sr.'s compilation of Oregon's Grand Army of the Republic members who served in Indiana units during the Civil War
- Ron Darrah's wrap-up of the various Civil War and Indiana Territory ancestors who were inducted into our lineage societies at our April conference
- Prisoners pardoned by the Governor of Indiana from 1900 to 1902
- Miami County adoptions in the 1880's, and other brief items from across the state

Last Call: FGS Conference in Fort Wayne

If you were thinking of registering for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference August 21-24, 2013 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, don't delay - certain sessions are already sold out.

And as we write this, there are still some tickets available for the Indiana Genealogical Society luncheon on Friday, August 23, with Curt Witcher as speaker.

FGS Conference resources:

- [conference website](#)
- [conference brochure](#) (PDF)
- [conference blog](#)



Update: Illinois Marriage Indexes

In our December 2012 e-mail, we talked about how Indiana residents are sometimes found in Illinois marriage records. We mentioned that an important resource to check is the Illinois State Archives' [Illinois Statewide Marriage Index \(1763-1900\)](#), which includes 90 of the 102 counties in Illinois. Now FamilySearch has added a database, [Illinois County Marriages, 1810-1934](#), which covers 57 of the 102 counties and includes some digital images of the marriage records.

FOUND: Jasper County Family Photo

Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Kearns

Shelly Cardiel (e-mail cardiels@comcast.net) is seeking descendants of a Jasper County family for a photo she has found. The photo is identified only as "with compliments of Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Kearns" and was taken at the Beasley Studio in Remington, Indiana.



The photograph appears to be from the 1880's, with the couple perhaps in their 30's. If you recognize anyone in this photo, or are a Kearns descendant, please contact her.

Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Kearns
(See [full size PDF](#))

2014 IGS Conference in Fort Wayne

photo of J. Mark Lowe

When making your travel plans for next spring, don't forget 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: To receive your \$10 discount on conference registration, use your Members-Only login on the Conference page.

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

FOUND: Madison County Autograph Album

Shelley Cardiel (e-mail cardiels@comcast.net) is seeking descendants of a Madison County family for an autograph album she has found. The autograph album belongs to Mary (Sigler) Scott of Frankton, Madison County, Indiana and includes entries from her sister, Ella Sigler, and her brother, Francis M. Sigler (1862-1905), as well as a number of friends. Please see our [blog post](#) for details on this Sigler family.

Clues Found in Guardianship Records

1866 guardianship application



An 1866 application for guardianship of minors (see [full size PDF](#))

(known as minors), particularly when they are among the legal heirs to an estate. Indiana's inheritance laws varied over time, but the children and grandchildren of someone who died were usually considered as being among those entitled to a share of an estate. That means finding a guardianship for your ancestor when they were a child can take you back 1-2 generations.

Guardianships, particularly the application, can also be a great source for learning the birthdates and full names of the children - information which

For many researchers, probate records are synonymous with estates. And while probate records can be great ways to find information on people who died, don't forget to look for guardianships, too.

Guardianships can be for an adult - when someone is judged to be of unsound mind/incapable of taking care of their own affairs. But often overlooked are the guardianships for children

you may not find in other records. And it can also be where you learn the existence of siblings for your ancestor - siblings who were born and died in between censuses, or who disappeared.

Guardians were required to submit a report to the court once every 2 years on their "wards", and the guardianship usually lasted until the wards became of legal age (21 years old). Through the receipts the guardian submitted to the court as evidence, you can get great details of your ancestor's daily life - everything from the clothing and schoolbooks purchased to the private tuition and music lessons. And when the guardianship ended, there was a receipt signed by the ward acknowledging they had received the money they were due. If a female ward married before she turned 21, the receipt she signed for her share had to include her husband's signature.

Want to learn more? Stop by our next work session on **Saturday, July 27** from 10 am to 4 pm Eastern at [Plainfield Public Library](#). We'll be unfolding Hendricks County 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.

Civil War in the News

--A [re-enactment](#) is one of several events marking the 150th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg.

--The states of Minnesota and Virginia [are fighting](#) over who has the legal rights to a Confederate flag captured during the battle of Gettysburg.

--Lessons learned in treating injuries during the battle of Gettysburg [are still helpful today](#), both in treating battlefield injuries and dealing with natural disasters.

--An author researching the life of an African-American slave who became a Union spy has [debunked a famous photo](#) said to be of the spy.

IGS Database Additions

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

[College Records:](#)

--Graduates of Indiana University, Bloomington (1897)

[County Records:](#)

--Members of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Oxford, Benton County, Indiana (1857-1900)

--Alumni of Huntington High School, Huntington County, Indiana (1877-1888)

--Teachers in Huntington, Huntington County, Indiana (1888)

--Students of Bloomington High School, Monroe County, Indiana (1913)

--Teachers of Bloomington High School, Monroe County, Indiana (1913)

--Students of Chesterton Junior-Senior High School, Porter County, Indiana (1952)

--Teachers of Chesterton Junior-Senior High School, Porter County, Indiana (1952)

[Miscellaneous Records:](#)

--Deaths at Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Knightstown, Indiana (1888-1920)

In June, we added premium databases about:

- Elkhart County - Elkhart High School students (1937)
- Fraternal records - Indiana Masons (1817-1845) and Eastern Star members (1874-1898)

Not an IGS member? We also added a free database, courtesy of the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso:

--Veterans in Porter County, Indiana (1894)

African-American History in the News

--The Indiana Historical Bureau recently [dedicated a historical marker](#) in Pendleton, Madison County, Indiana. The marker commemorated the area in 1843 where Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists spoke out against slavery, resulting in injuries.

--Lyles Station - a Gibson County town that was founded in 1849 by a freed slave - [held several events](#) to mark the anniversary of Juneteenth, the day in 1865 that Union soldiers freed slaves in Galveston Texas.

County Roundup

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

HENDRICKS COUNTY

--The [Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library](#) has [digitized their collection](#) of the senior class photos of Plainfield High School 1922-1964 and placed them online. This online collection also includes an every-name index that can be browsed.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY

--The sleuthing skills of the Huntington City-Township Public Library's Indiana Room staff, including Joan Keefer, are highlighted in a [news article](#). The article points out the important of utilizing local libraries and courthouses, instead of just relying on what you may find on the Internet.

KNOX COUNTY

--The Knox County Commissioners are planning a survey of the former county poor farm in Vincennes, after several unmarked graves were identified from burial records. The county poor farm dates back to the 1870's.

LAPORTE COUNTY

--The [LaPorte County, Indiana Genealogical Society](#) has a new meeting place as of their July 9th meeting. They will now meet at the LaPorte City Parks and Recreation Department Building (250 Pine Lake

Avenue, LaPorte). The society previously met at the Swanson Center for Older Adults.

MADISON COUNTY

--Perkinsville Cemetery, which dates back to 1821, [recently dedicated a monument sign](#). Its cemetery association hopes to raise enough money to also repair some of the headstones.

MARION COUNTY

--The [Genealogical Society of Marion County](#) is in the process of moving their library to a new home at Memorial Park Cemetery (9350 East Washington St., Indianapolis). For the past 15 years, the society's library had been located in the basement of Crown Hill Cemetery's Waiting Station.

MIAMI COUNTY

--A collector was able to track down the family of World War II soldier Joseph E. Brough and [return a postcard](#) written by him before his death in 1944.

MONROE COUNTY

--The Monroe County Public Library, Monroe County History Center and the Bloomington City Clerk are partnering on a project to digitize some record books from the 1800's ([see PDF](#)). County commissioner records, Bloomington city council records and city directories are among the 60 books planned for digitization.

NEWTON COUNTY

--Joanne Iwinski Miller has a [Facebook page](#) where she is posting [historic photos](#) of Lake Village and the surrounding areas. NOTE: No Facebook account is necessary to view the photos.

PORTER COUNTY

--Volunteers with the Portage Township Historical Society, in conjunction with the Portage Township cemetery director, are working to [document and preserve James Cemetery](#) in Portage, which dates back to 1838.

RIPLEY COUNTY

--A plat map of the town of Batesville dating from 1850-1870 [was discovered recently](#) at a local business. It is the earliest known map of the area.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

--The South Bend city government is [considering a plan](#) to fund some repairs and preservation of City Cemetery. The cemetery dates to 1831 and has been the victim of vandalism.

FOUND: 1910 Postcard of Clay & Vigo County Family

Lewis Lamson (e-mail lewlamson@roadrunner.com) has found a postcard with an October 1910 postcard written to Mrs. Ed McCullough in Knightsville, Clay County, Indiana. He would like to return the postcard to a descendant of the family. Research has found that she is a Samantha

Decamp (1866-1951) who married William Ed McCullough and lived in Clay County and Vigo County (Terre Haute area). Please see our [blog post](#) for details.

Research Tip: Mortality Schedules

In our April 2013 e-mail, we talked about the agricultural and manufacturing censuses that were taken at the same time as the federal census, part of the "non-population schedules". Another important component of the non-population schedules is mortality schedules, which were taken for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Because Indiana did not require deaths to be recorded until 1882, mortality schedules can help fill in some of the gaps of pre-1882 ancestors.

The mortality schedule recorded information on people who had died between 1 June and 31 May of the year prior to the census:

- 1850 mortality schedule: deaths between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850
- 1860 mortality schedule: deaths between 1 June 1859 and 31 May 1860
- 1870 mortality schedule: deaths between 1 June 1869 and 31 May 1870
- 1880 mortality schedule: deaths between 1 June 1879 and 31 May 1880

1880 mortality schedule - sample page



Sample page from 1880 mortality schedule for Lincoln Township, Hendricks County, Indiana (see [full size PDF](#))

The 1850, 1860 & 1870 mortality schedules recorded the deceased's name, age, sex, race, marital status, birthplace, month of death, occupation, cause of death and the number of days ill.

The 1880 mortality schedules added columns for the birthplace of the deceased's father and mother, as well as the name of the attending physician.

The non-population schedules were not as widely distributed as the federal census. The Indiana State Archives was given the originals of the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules for Indiana; microfilm copies are available locally at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne and the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso. If you have a Family History Center or Family History Affiliate Library in your area, you can now order the microfilm through FamilySearch (see the corresponding entries in their catalog for [1850](#) [1860](#) [1870](#) [1880](#)).

Subscribers to Ancestry.com can access their database, [U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index, 1850-1880](#). It includes entries from the 1850 & 1860 mortality schedules for some Indiana counties. They also have a database, [U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885](#). Indiana is not one of the states included.

In 1971 Lowell M. Voelkel published a 3-volume index of Indiana's 1850 mortality schedules. These books are available at many Indiana libraries, including the Allen County Public Library and the Indiana State Library.

In 1976 the Indiana State Library's Genealogy Division compiled a 3-volume index of Indiana's 1850-1880 mortality schedules - see a [sample page](#) (PDF). Copies of these books are also available at the Allen County Public Library.

1850 mortality schedule

FamilySearch is creating a [searchable database](#) of the 1850 mortality schedule for Indiana and several other states. The database is in progress; you can also browse the images by state and then county.

For IGS members: The [County Records section](#) of the Members-Only area has indexes of the 1860 mortality schedules for 21 Indiana counties. There are also indexes of the 1850, 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules for Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland counties, courtesy of Tina Lyons.



Sample image of 1850 mortality schedule for Clinton Township, Decatur County, Indiana (see [full size PDF](#) - courtesy of FamilySearch website)

FOUND: Photo of Fort Wayne Family

Shelley Cardiel (e-mail)

Baker family photo

John Seymore Baker, II and family of Fort Wayne (see [full size PDF](#))

cardiels@comcast.net) is seeking descendants of a Fort Wayne family to give this photo that she has found.

The photo is of John Seymore Baker II (born 6 April 1864, died 13 July 1943) and wife Sophia Johnson (born 30 January 1864, died 17 October 1948). Their children were: Mertie (born 1884); Alrick C. (born 7 March 1885); Minnie (born 1886); Zola Marie (born about 1898).

If you are a Baker family descendant, please contact her.

Indiana Legislature Settles Estate (1850)

Early in Indiana's statehood, the Indiana General Assembly had the power to settle judicial questions. One act they passed on January 3, 1850 was in relation to the estate of a Tippecanoe County man. According to information provided in the legislature's Acts of 1850, Chapter 21, William Shultze had died in Tippecanoe County on April 1, 1849. He was a native of Germany but a naturalized citizen of the United States. Robert Jones, Jr. had been appointed administrator of Shultze's estate, which included some real estate.

Shultze's heirs were his parents, brothers and sisters, all of whom were still in Germany. Because they lived outside the United States, they were not permitted to inherit his real estate, so his assets would otherwise revert to the state of Indiana. But the Indiana General Assembly deemed it "equitable and just" that his family should receive the proceeds, therefore they ordered the administrator to sell Shultze's real estate and then send them the profits. The act included the proviso that no sale was permitted if it was less than 2/3 of the appraised value of the land.

Source: *Local laws of The State of Indiana, passed at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly* (Indianapolis: John D. Defrees, 1850).

Research Tip: Veterans Enumerations (1913)

In February 1913, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law requiring that when township trustees did their annual enumeration of school-age children, they also do a supplemental enumeration of all residents as of May 1st who were soldiers or sailors in the Mexican War, Civil War or Spanish-American War, or who had served in the Army, Navy or National Guard in peacetime.

As set out in Acts of 1913, Chapter 46, the enumeration was to note:

- their full name
- their age
- the company they had served in
- the regiment or battery they had served in
- the state from which they had enlisted

The trustee was to make 2 copies of this enumeration - one copy was to be given to the county clerk, the other was to be mailed to the Indiana State Library, for future deposit in the Indiana State Archives. These veterans enumerations were stopped in 1922 - the later years included information on veterans of World War I.

According to Ron Darrah, the Indiana State Archives has these veterans enumerations on microfilm - 17 rolls total.



For IGS members: The [County Records](#) section of the Members-Only area contains indexes of the 1913 enumeration of veterans for Kosciusko, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Miami, Owen, Putnam and Starke counties. These databases are courtesy of Ron Darrah.

A sample page from the 1913 enumeration of veterans in Center Township, Marion County, Indiana (see [full size PDF](#) - courtesy of Ron Darrah)

Update: "Who Do You Think You Are?"

--"Who Do You Think You Are?", which will premiere on Tuesday, July 23 on TLC, recently [announced](#) which celebrities will be featured this season.

Legal Terms Explained: Pro Se

In court records, you may see the designation that something is a "pro se"

case, or in reference to a defendant (e.g. "State of Indiana vs. John Doe, pro se"). This is a Latin term that translates as "for himself". It means that the person is acting on their own behalf, without an attorney to represent them.

Researching Naturalization Records

If you are researching ancestors who immigrated to the United States, Archives.com has a good [article](#) explaining about the changing laws regarding becoming naturalized and what kind of records to look for.

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