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Indiana News

2 AUGUST 2013

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We're now just a few days away from the Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference in Fort Wayne - we can't wait! Hope to see you all there.

For Indiana Genealogical Society members: Did you see the e-mail about the August issue of the IGS Newsletter being available for download from the [IGS Records section](#) of Members-Only? This issue includes news items about 40 Indiana counties, plus neighboring Kentucky and Illinois.

Indiana Awards 3 Digitizing Grants

Indiana's State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) announced the recipients of its grants to digitize records:

- Huntington County Clerk's office - \$5,000 to help digitize their marriage records for 1958-2001 and 2008-2010.
- Monroe County Historical Society - \$4,480 to help digitize their deed books for 1817-1866.
- Shelby County Clerk's office - \$5,000 to help make an inventory and prepare their court records to be digitized.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

Thank you to everyone who came out to the work session on July 27th - we processed 200+ unique cases. Because of your help, we've been making steady progress - we're now 75% finished with the unfolding and organizing process. Upcoming work sessions are scheduled for Plainfield library on October 12 and February 22.

We have also been updating our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now almost 900 entries.

Periodical Source Index (PERSI) News

In 1986, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne began indexing the articles in various genealogy publications. The result is the constantly-updated Periodical Source Index (PERSI), which now has some 2.5 million entries.

Previously, PERSI was available to the public through libraries that had a subscription to Heritage Quest, as well as to researchers who visited the Allen County Public Library in person. Now the library has announced that [PERSI will be moving](#) to FindMyPast.com, a subscription site that is available to individuals as well as libraries. Plans are also underway to link the entries in the index to digital content from the actual periodical.

For more background on PERSI, you can read this [article](#) from a Fort Wayne newspaper.

Civil War in the News

--A [blog post](#) on Fold3 puts the staggering statistics of the Civil War into some perspective.

--A [blog post](#) on Ancestry.com details how a photo of unnamed children that was found on the battlefield at Gettysburg was reunited with the children's mother.

IGS Database Additions

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

[County Records:](#)

--Alumni of Rochester High School, Fulton County, Indiana (1878-1912)

--Students of Rochester High School, Fulton County, Indiana (1913)

--Teachers of Rochester High School, Fulton County, Indiana (1913)

--Graduates of Township High Schools in Jennings County, Indiana (1912)

--Students of Morton High School, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana (1928)

--Teachers of Morton High School, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana (1928)

[Miscellaneous Records:](#)

--Doctors in Indiana (1882)

In July, we added premium databases about:

- Blackford County - Hartford City High School students & teachers (1930)
- Jackson County - Shields High School students & teachers (1919)
- LaPorte County - LaPorte High School students & teachers (1939)
- Postmasters in Indiana (1835)

Not an IGS member? We also added a free database about deaths

listed in the *Bloomington Weekly Star* 1927-1930, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

African-American History in the News

--Researchers are [trying to prove](#) if the Lafayette area was a part of the underground railroad. Primary documents such as diaries and court documents are needed to substantiate the oral history.

--In July, Civil War re-enactors [marked the 150th anniversary](#) of the battle of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. The African-American soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts took part in the battle, as made famous by the film "Glory."

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 broken link.

CLAY COUNTY

--A Brazil newspaper has [details](#) of the various resources available at the Clay County Genealogical Society's [library](#).

CLINTON COUNTY

--The outside of the Clinton County courthouse in Frankfort is getting an [overhaul](#). The project has evolved from its original scope, which was to repair several bullet holes that had been discovered.

FLOYD COUNTY

--The New Albany-Floyd County Public Library has received a grant from the Indiana State Library to [digitize their historic photo collection](#). There are over 7,000 photos in the collection and when the project is complete, they will be placed online for public access.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

--The Plainfield Public Library's [Indiana Room](#) has added microfilm of Hendricks County's 1850-1880 mortality schedules to their collection. They are now in the process of acquiring the mortality schedules for all the other Indiana counties. This microfilm was previously available only at the Indiana State Library and a few other repositories.

LAPORTE COUNTY

--Pine Lake Cemetery in LaPorte has been [recognized by the state](#) as a historic cemetery. The cemetery dates back to 1858 and is listed in a state registry of cemeteries and burial grounds.

MARION COUNTY

--The Broad Ripple High School Alumni Association has a website (www.BRHSalumni.org) with listings and historic photos of students, teachers and buildings. The site also has links to their digitized yearbooks since 1937. Thanks to Ron Darrah for sharing this information on his [blog](#).

PARKE COUNTY

--Condolences to the family of Alberta Butler of Rockville. She was a charter member of the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society and also served

as the Indiana County Genealogist for Parke County. Memorial donations can be made to the Rockville United Methodist Church or the Parke County Food Pantry. Her [obituary](#) is in the Terre Haute *Tribune Star*.

SHELBY COUNTY

--When a Shelbyville business recently trimmed a dead branch from a 100-year-old tree, a pair of old pants was found [stuffed inside the trunk](#). Work is now underway to try to estimate the date the pants were made.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

--South Bend city officials have agreed to [maintain and restore](#) City Cemetery, which dates back to 1832. Several hundred tombstones have been damaged by vandalism in recent years.

WAYNE COUNTY

--Work to restore the 200-year-old King Cemetery in Richmond [continues](#), with plans to make it an active cemetery that is used for new burials.

--A historic building in Centerville that began as a hotel in 1845 is being [renovated](#). The former American House will be turned into several businesses, including an antique store.

National Archives Remembers 1973 Fire

The National Archives' publication *Prologue* has an extensive [article \(PDF\)](#) on the July 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. The article includes photos showing the extent of the damage, and how the records were temporarily placed in endless rows of milk crates.

Millions of World War I, World War II and Korean War-era military records were destroyed, but the National Archives staff [continues to restore](#) the 6.5 million fire-damaged records that were recovered from the site. You can read about how one preservation staff member [goes about this task](#). You can also read about how they [dealt with water-damaged records](#) using the new space-age technology.

Revolutionary War in the News

--Residents [honored a Revolutionary War battle site](#) in northwest Indiana. The battle of Le Petit Fort occurred in December 1780; the site is now part of the Indiana Dunes State Park in Chesterton.

--Dick Eastman's newsletter has a lengthy [article](#) explaining the various resources available to find out if your ancestor served in the Revolutionary War.

Wabash County Sheriffs Track Down Fugitive (1850)

According to information provided in the legislature's Acts of 1850, Chapter

189, Hugh M. Stevenson and James Wilson, "active and energetic officers of Wabash County", rode day and night for over 200 miles to Michigan to bring to justice a notorious horse thief and murderer who had killed one of their assistants. The men not only exposed themselves to great personal danger, they also incurred heavy expenses, having to hire fresh horses along the way. The legislature noted that it is the state's policy "to hunt out and bring to justice the abandoned villains who disturb the community with the assassin's knife or midnight burglaries" and authorized the state treasury to pay \$50 to each officer.

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: Soldiers Burial Law

As was poignantly shown in the Christina Applegate episode of "Who Do You Think You Are?", the burial of a poor person (pauper) often did not include a tombstone, making it harder to find evidence of when they died and where they were buried. But if the poor person you're researching was a veteran in Indiana from the 1890s until 1917, you have an extra set of records you can search.

In March 1889 (Acts of 1889, Chapter 78), the Indiana legislature passed a law authorizing township trustees to pay for the burials of Indiana residents who were honorably discharged veterans. The township trustee was to verify that the veteran's family did not have sufficient means to pay the funeral expenses, and then have a burial in a "decent and respectable manner". The burial costs were not to exceed \$50, with the trustee to be reimbursed by the county commissioners.

1898 soldiers burial

The county commissioners were to kept a record book with:

- the veteran's name, rank and regiment
- the date of death
- the place of burial
- their occupation
- their age
- an itemized list of the expenses incurred in the burial



The county commissioners also were responsible for applying to the federal government for a tombstone, as mandated by Congress.

A Hendricks County soldier's burial from May 1898 (see [full-size PDF](#)). The itemized expenses include embalming and the sexton's fee.

In March 1901 this law was repealed (Acts of 1901, Chapter 147), and replaced with one that provided for burials of poor veterans as well as their wives or widows. The law remained in effect until 1917, with the United States' entry in World War I.

Korean War in the News

--Indiana honored the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War by lowering the state government's flags to half-staff.
--A veteran is [making a return trip to North Korea](#) to find out what happened to his comrade, Jesse Brown, who was celebrated as the first black pilot in the Navy.

Legal Terms for Women Explained

Court records or property records sometimes used these terms when referring to a woman:

--Feme sole (from old French) - an unmarried woman. This can mean a woman who is widowed or divorced, not just one who has never been married.
--Feme covert (from old French) - a married woman.
--Dum sola (from Latin) - this translates as "a woman while unmarried" or "so long as single."
--Dum casta (from Latin) - "so long as chaste."
--Dum vidua (from Latin) - "so long as a widow."

Update: "Who Do You Think You Are?"

For those without access to the TLC network, you can view the full episodes of "Who Do You Think You Are?" for free in the [video section of their website](#).

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