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Indiana News

4 SEPTEMBER 2013

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IGS booth at FGS conference



Thanks to all who stopped by the IGS booth at the Federation of Genealogical Societies' conference in Fort Wayne last month. It was wonderful to meet you all!

Now our focus turns to our own [conference](#) in Fort Wayne, on April 5, 2014.

IGS district directors Connie Conrad and Randi Richardson helped answer questions [photo courtesy of Marge Graham].

Update: Access to Evansville Death Records

In May 2012, our [blog post](#) noted that the Vanderburgh County Health Department had started removing the cause of death on copies of death records that were requested by the public. This affected requests that were made by genealogists, as well as newspapers. In August 2012, a local resident as well as the *Evansville Courier & Press* jointly sued the health department, citing a decision by the Indiana Public Access Counselor as well as some conflicting state laws.

In January 2013, a Vanderburgh County judge ruled in favor of the health department. An Indiana appeals court recently [upheld](#) this ruling. The newspaper has stated they may appeal to the state's Supreme Court.

For more background on the history of this case, you can read our [February 2013](#) e-mail (PDF format).

FamilySearch Adds Indiana Naturalization Index

naturalization card from 1936



A sample card for a naturalization filed at Hammond in 1936 (see [full-size PDF](#))

Hammond, Indianapolis, Lafayette and South Bend.

The information that is contained on the cards varies - some only reference a certificate number, others include some biographical information and the federal district court where the naturalization petition was filed.

REMEMBER, naturalization petitions did not have to be filed in federal courts - they were often filed in Indiana's county and state courts.

FamilySearch has added a database of [browseable images](#) of a Indiana naturalization card file that is at the National Archives' Great Lakes region in Chicago. The card file covers the years 1848 to 1992 and references the naturalization records of the federal district courts in Fort Wayne,

Hendricks County Probate Records Project



Our project to preserve and then digitize these court records from the 1800's is gathering momentum, as we're more than 75% finished with the unfolding & organizing phase.

Our last work session of the year will be on Saturday, October 12 at the [Plainfield Public Library](#) from 10 am to 4 pm - come at your convenience and stay for as little or long as you want.

Register online via the library's [events calendar](#), or contact the library's Indiana Room - phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

An 1883 flyer for the Richmond Normal School, found in the Hendricks County

probate records (see [full-size PDF](#))

We have also been updating our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now almost 975 entries.

Indiana Adds FamilySearch Affiliate Libraries

The [Indiana State Library](#) and the [Genealogical Society of Marion County Library](#) (both in Indianapolis) are the latest Indiana libraries to become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. The designation means that the public can order microfilm from the FamilySearch catalog and have it sent directly to the library for viewing.

There are now 24 counties in Indiana that have a FamilySearch Affiliate Library - see our [updated list](#) (PDF).

IGS Database Additions

Among the premium databases we've added to the [Members-Only](#) area recently:

[College Records:](#)

- Indiana State Normal School alumni 1872-1881 (later became Indiana State University in Terre Haute)
- Rose Polytechnic Institute alumni 1885-1908 (later became Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute)

[County Records:](#)

- 1936 teacher directories for 11 counties: Decatur, Fayette, Fountain, Gibson, Jefferson, Knox, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Owen, Parke & Perry
- Members of a Masonic lodge in Indianapolis (1868-1968)

[Miscellaneous Records:](#)

- Indiana Boys' School deaths (1869-1932)
- Indiana Horticultural Society members (1872)

Not an IGS member? We also added free databases of soldiers' discharge records for Civil War and World War I veterans in Monroe County, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

Parole of Indiana Prisoners (1940)

In February 1940, the State Clemency Commission ruled on various parole requests:

--**Robert Leaming** - Serving a 25-year sentence after being convicted in 1930 for taking part in the holdup of a general store proprietor in Tracy, LaPorte County (his partner was killed by a county sheriff). Parole was

denied.

--[Steve Manos](#) - Sentenced in Marshall County in 1934 for bank robbery. Parole was denied.

--[Gabriel Moffitt](#) - Serving a life sentence after being convicted in Lake County as a habitual criminal. Parole was denied.

--[Henry Moore](#) - Sentenced in Parke County in 1931 to serve 35 years for being a bank bandit. Parole was granted on the condition he be sent to a mental hospital in Illinois.

--[John Siler](#) - Convicted in Henry County for robbery of a bank at Summit on December 18, 1931. Sentenced to 25 years. His sentence was commuted to 17 years.

--[Otto Walker](#) - Age 65, he was in Indiana State Prison since 1908, serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife in Montgomery County. Parole was denied.

Source: *Indianapolis Star* - issue of Saturday, February 10, 1940 - page 25, column 4.

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.

ALLEN COUNTY

A newspaper discusses some of the [early history](#) of Fort Wayne.

CLARK COUNTY

Construction crews have [unearthed artifacts](#) from the Indiana State Prison at Jeffersonville, which opened in 1822. They also discovered some Revolutionary-War era artifacts that date back to the founding of Jeffersonville.

DECATUR COUNTY

A Decatur County family was [recognized](#) for its long-term commitment to the family farm. The Miers family farm encompasses 2,000 acres and has been held by the family for 6 generations, dating back to 1824.

DELAWARE COUNTY

The Delaware County Historical Society in Muncie has [shared](#) some of its long-term goals, including more access to its genealogy collection.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

Franklin Cemetery, which dates back to 1843, was recently [restored](#) thanks to the efforts of the Seward Township Trustee. The cemetery had been previously damaged by vandalism.

MARION COUNTY

--The Genealogical Society of Marion County's library has completed its move to a new home in Indianapolis. Previously housed at Crown Hill Cemetery's Waiting Station, the library is in a newly-remodeled building at Memorial Park Cemetery (9350 E. Washington St., 1 mile east of Post Rd.). The library has new, expanded hours - Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9 am to 4 pm.

--An Indianapolis man who died in World War II was buried recently after his remains were finally identified. Manly Winkley [died in the Pacific](#) in

1943. A [joint burial service](#) was held with his nephew Lyman Winkley, a World War II and Korean War veteran.

MONROE COUNTY

--Clover Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg was a victim of [vandalism](#), with some 20 stones damaged.

RANDOLPH COUNTY

A newspaper talks about the [historic site](#) of the Union Literary Institute in Spartanburg, including how it provided education to African-American children in the 1800's.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

--Local residents are concerned about the [deteriorating condition](#) of Battle Ground Cemetery. The cemetery dates back to 1829.

--County officials are considering [buying a nearby building](#) to ease the overcrowding at the courthouse.

Indiana Legislature Grants Divorce (1833)

Early in Indiana's statehood, the Indiana General Assembly had the power to grant divorces. One act they passed on February 2, 1833 was to grant a divorce for a Fayette County woman. According to the legislature's Acts of 1833, Chapter 50, the marriage tie between Ann M. Smith and husband James Smith "is hereby dissolved." The divorce was to go into effect as of March 1st.

Source: *Laws of the State of Indiana, passed and published at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly* (Indianapolis: Douglas and Maguire, 1833).

1800's Tombstone Found in Children's Museum

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis recently contacted our queries editor about a tombstone from the 1800's that they have in their possession.

It was donated to them by the Marion County Sheriff's Department in 1990 and it is of a Datee Ballinger, daughter of E. & M. Ballinger,

died May 1, 1870 at
age 20 years, 6
months, 21 days.

Datee Ballinger - died May 1, 1870 age 20 years, 6
months, 21 days, daughter of E. & M. Ballinger

Through our
sleuthing, we were
able to tell the
museum that her
grave is at Round

Hill Cemetery on the south side of Indianapolis (perhaps this is a duplicate
stone?). Her parents were Edward and Margaret Ballenger/Ballinger and
the family lived in Marion County and Johnson County, with a connection
to Hendricks County as well.

Birth Affidavits of Coal Miners (1885)

In March 1879 the Indiana legislature passed an act regulating coal mines,
which said in part: "No boy under fourteen years of age shall be employed
to work in any of the mines in this State." Some coal mines in Daviess
County took affidavits to verify the birthdates:

Unspecified coal mine:

--[John D. Cochran](#), born March 4, 1870 (affidavit made by his father
Michael Cochran on January 5, 1885).

--[Charles Dant](#), born January 8 or 10, 1870 (affidavit made by Ellen
O'Brien on January 6, 1885)

--[Edmond J. Girard](#), born July 29, 1869 (affidavit made by his father
Frank Girard on January 6, 1885)

--[Henry Kocher](#), born September 11, 1870 (affidavit made by his father
Anthony Kocher on January 6, 1885)

Coal mines run by Cabel, Wilson & Co.:

--[Alexander Abbott](#), born August 17, 1870 (affidavit made by Mahala
Abbott on January 6, 1885)

--[Charles Mason Boyles](#), born February 10, 1869 (affidavit made by
his cousin Isaac Wheeler on January 6, 1885)

--[James Cain](#), born November 6, 1870 (affidavit made by his father
William Cain on January 6, 1885)

--[Mayfield Carr](#), born January 10, 1870 (affidavit made by Elizabeth
Carr on January 6, 1885)

--Clinton Dazier, born January 3, 1871 (affidavit made by Conrad Dazier on January 5, 1885)
--Daniel Haley, born December 10, 1869 (affidavit made by Catherine Haley on January 7, 1885)
--Peter Keller, born June 29, 1870 (affidavit made by his father John Keller on January 6, 1885)
--Charles Robinson, born November 20, 1870 (affidavit made by his father William Robinson on January 8, 1885)
--George P. Trowbridge, born April 16, 1871 (affidavit made by George M. Trowbridge on January 5, 1885)
--Joseph L. Trowbridge, born February 24, 1868 (affidavit made by George M. Trowbridge on January 5, 1885)
--Frank Watson, born January 7, 1870 (affidavit made by his mother Jane Watson on January 6, 1885)

Source: *Fifth annual report of the mine inspector of the State of Indiana, for the year ending October 31, 1884.*

Indianapolis to Host Archivists' Workshop

The [Society of Indiana Archivists](#) will hold their fall workshop on Friday, October 4 at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. If you work with an archival collection, this workshop is geared towards you. Gaby Kienitz, head conservator of the Indiana State Museum, and Sally Childs-Helton, Butler University archivist, will discuss how to care for and make accessible various kinds of artifacts. Topics will include cleaning, storing, exhibiting, accessioning, cataloging and more.

To register, or for more information, visit the [workshop page](#) on their website.

Research Tip: Court Docket Books

Today when someone refers to a court docket, they mean the calendar of when each case will appear before the judge. Don't confuse it with a docket book, though.

Each division of court - circuit court, superior court, court of common pleas - had their own set of docket books.

Docket books were used to keep a summary of each case and how they were disposed of. Entries might include the names



A page from a Hendricks County Circuit Court docket book for 1851 includes a divorce case (see [full-size PDF](#)).

of attorneys and witnesses, and provide references to other records about the case, such as order books and fee books.



Probate cases - particularly guardianships and estates - had a separate set of docket books. If the ward in a guardianship case was a minor (under age 21), the entry in the docket book would list their age, and sometimes give their date of birth.

A page from a Hendricks County guardianship docket book for 1906 (see [full-size PDF](#)).

At a minimum, docket books can be a finding aid to tracking down the "loose papers" of a court

case; if the loose papers are gone/unavailable, the docket entries provide a substitute for some of that detailed information.

Several of Indiana's counties have had some of their docket books microfilmed - this microfilm is available at the Indiana State Library and through FamilySearch. Other local repositories may have copies of this microfilm.

Legal Terms Explained: Partition

Partition is a term that is often found in probate records, particularly when it comes to settling an estate. If the person who died owned any land, their heirs can either agree to jointly sell the property and then divide up the profits, or else they can petition the judge for a partition - to physically divide up that land into separate parcels for each heir. Thus a partition record (which may be kept separate from the rest of an estate record) can include a diagram of the land dotted with various lines indicating the boundaries of each heir's allotment.

Resources for Southeastern Indiana

If your interest lies in southeastern Indiana, particularly the counties of Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Randolph, Switzerland, Union and Wayne, be sure to visit www.IndianasGore.com. This free website is run by Tina Lyons and includes detailed explanations of the various resources (both online and offline) that are available for each county, along with some indexes and newspaper abstracts.

Civil War in the News

--A Fold3 [blog post](#) discusses the effort after the war to re-bury Union soldiers and the creation of national cemeteries.

--A Fold3 [blog post](#) discusses the history of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) regiments.



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