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**To:** [mere\\_thom@runbox.com](mailto:mere_thom@runbox.com)  
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# Indiana News

10 OCTOBER 2013

## QUICK LINKS:

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

[Find A Grave Purchased By Ancestry.com](#)  
[Job Opening: IGS Newsletter Editor](#)  
[Hendricks Co. Probate Records Project](#)  
[Deadline Approaches for IGS Service Awards](#)  
[IGS Database Additions](#)  
[Mishawaka Couple Marries With Help From Italy \(1940\)](#)  
[County Roundup](#)  
[Celebrate Your Indiana Territory & Civil War Ancestors](#)  
[Indiana Legislature Rules On Divorces \(1850\)](#)  
[Watch National Archives Genealogy Webinar](#)  
[Indiana Genealogy Grants Available](#)  
[Wanted: 6 Counties](#)  
[Legal Terms Explained: Interlocutory](#)  
[Research Tip: 1880 Mortality Schedule's Supplementary Columns](#)  
[Legal Abbreviations: Ato. Genealogy on TV](#)  
[Civil War in the News](#)

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Welcome to another edition of Indiana News - we hope you're enjoying some events celebrating October as Family History Month!

**Attention, IGS members:** Did you receive our e-mail notifications about the newest issues of our publications? Our publications are electronic - not mailed to your home - so please login to the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members-Only area to download your copy.

- The October 2013 issue of *IGS Newsletter* includes news items from all over the state, plus an article about farm ownership case files at the National Archives-Chicago - a lesser-known resource.
- The September 2013 issue of *Indiana Genealogist* also includes articles about some lesser-known resources - military service information in Civil War envelopes; Indiana's Knights of Honor records; Jasper County's 1918 registration of civilian women - plus an explanation of Indiana's bastardy law and Harrison County cemetery restoration efforts.

For many of you, your membership will be expiring at the end of December - we will send you an e-mail reminder by the end of this month. You can renew your membership for 2014 at any time by visiting <http://www.indgensoc.org/membership.php>

Have a question, or are not sure about your membership status? Please contact [membership@indgensoc.org](mailto:membership@indgensoc.org)

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## Find A Grave Purchased By Ancestry.com

At the end of September, Ancestry.com announced it has purchased [Find A Grave](#), the free website for tombstone photos and cemeteries information. According to the official [press release](#), Find A Grave will remain free and will undergo some site enhancements.

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## Job Opening: IGS Newsletter Editor

Do you have page layout, editing and proofreading skills? We're looking

for someone to take over as editor of the IGS Newsletter effective January 1st. The editor should have experience working with page layout software and converting files to Adobe Acrobat. The newsletter is published 6 times a year and the editor is paid \$300 per issue. Indiana residency is not a requirement.

Questions? Please contact our departing editor, Linda Herrick Swisher - [newsletter@indgensoc.org](mailto:newsletter@indgensoc.org)

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## Hendricks County Probate Records Project

Our project to preserve and then digitize these court records from the 1800's continues to move forward - we're more than **80%** finished with the unfolding & organizing phase.



Our next Saturday work sessions will be on October 12, 2013 and February 22, 2014 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.

An 1883 flyer for the Richmond Normal School, found in the probate records (see [full-size PDF](#))

Register online via the library's [events calendar](#), or contact the library's Indiana Room - e-mail [askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net](mailto:askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net); phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

We have also been updating our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now 1,020 entries.

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## Deadline Approaches for IGS Service Awards

Do you know someone who's contributing to the genealogy world in Indiana? Let us know! IGS members are encouraged to nominate someone for Distinguished County Genealogical Service (10 years of service in a local area) or Outstanding County Genealogical Contribution (a singular, outstanding contribution). The people you nominate do not have to be IGS members in order to be recognized.

The deadline to send in your nominations is **January 15, 2014** - for more information, please visit our [Service Awards](#) page.

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## IGS Database Additions

Among the



A sample entry from the alumni directory, showing the detailed information that can be included (see [full-size PDF](#))

premium databases we've added to the [Members-Only](#) area recently was a database of some 8,000 alumni of Purdue University for 1875 through 1924.

The database includes a link to the digital file of each alumnus' entry (see example at left).

Other premium databases we've added:

- 1936 teacher directories for Pike, Putnam, Ripley, Rush, Steuben, Vermillion, Washington & White counties
- Databases for southern Indiana: Daviess, Dubois, Orange, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties
- Databases for northern Indiana: Jasper County and Starke County
- Databases for central Indiana: Marion, Morgan, Shelby and Warren counties

**Not an IGS member?** We also added a free database of alumni in Smithville schools in Monroe County, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

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## Mishawaka Couple Marries With Help From Italy (1940)

In February 1940, Francesco Rizzio, a captain in the Italian navy, married Nora Edna Maioli in St. Joseph County, Indiana. Maioli was a resident of Mishawaka whose parents had emigrated from Forli, Italy. She had met Rizzio in the summer of 1938 while crossing the Atlantic Ocean aboard the Italian ship Rex and they then corresponded.

When the couple wanted to marry, her parents wrote to Benito Mussolini, Italy's dictator, asking that he grant Rizzio a furlough from the military. He granted the request - it helped their cause that Mussolini had also grown up in the same Italian town. The couple also had an obstacle in their choice of marriage date - it was during the six-week period of Lent, when the Catholic church does not allow marriages. So the couple appealed to Pope Pius XII and received a special dispensation allowing them to get married on February 24, 1940.

Source: *Indianapolis Star* - issue of Sunday, February 11, 1940 - page 7, columns 3-4.

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## 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.

#### BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

Sandhill Cemetery in Columbus is [being restored](#) after vandals damaged several tombstones in 2012.

#### CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County newspapers going back to the 1800's are [being digitized](#), thanks to a collaboration of local libraries. The digitization project is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 2014, with almost 200,000 pages available online for free.

#### ELKHART COUNTY

The Elkhart County Genealogical Society has a new website address - [www.elkhartcogensoc.org](http://www.elkhartcogensoc.org)

#### LAKE COUNTY

The restoration of Oak Hill Cemetery in Hammond continues, as a Boy Scout [recently completed a project](#) to build a new flagpole and clean up the site.

#### MARION COUNTY

The Indianapolis Star has a [slideshow](#) of some of the lesser-known people buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

An 11-year-old is leading the effort to [clean up the graves](#) at Michael Cemetery. The cemetery includes the grave of a Revolutionary War veteran.

#### MORGAN COUNTY

The [Morgan County Public Library](#) in Martinsville has added a [Morgan County cemeteries index](#) to its online databases. The index is of burials that occurred before 1970. They also have an [obituaries index](#) for deaths before 2011.

#### VIGO COUNTY

Two soldiers from Terre Haute who died in Italy during World War II may finally be [coming home](#). Divers recently discovered wreckage believed to be from their truck, which sunk in a lake, and are hoping to locate the remains.

#### WAYNE COUNTY

Road crews working on U.S. 40 in Richmond [discovered a structure](#) that dates back to 1832, when it was part of the National Road. The structure is an archway for drainage that is made of limestone and will be covered up again once the construction is complete.

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## Celebrate Your Indiana Territory & Civil War Ancestors

Did your Indiana ancestor serve in the Civil War, or did they settle in the area before 1816? We encourage you to celebrate your ancestors by applying to our lineage society for [Indiana Civil War soldiers](#), or for [Indiana Territory settlers](#). If your application meets genealogical

proof standards, you'll be inducted into the lineage society, and honored at our annual conference in April. The deadline to apply for this year is **December 31, 2013**.

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## Indiana Legislature Rules On Divorces (1850)

Early in Indiana's statehood, the Indiana General Assembly had the power to grant waivers to Indiana's divorce law, particularly where it concerned the 1-year residency requirement and the specified causes for which a divorce could be granted. Among the divorce cases it ruled on in the spring of 1850:

**CASS COUNTY:** David Baker was allowed to file for divorce from Mary Baker without having to prove how long she had abandoned him.

**DEARBORN COUNTY:** Mary Huffman was allowed to file for divorce from John Huffman and file notice of publication in a Lawrenceburg newspaper in lieu of serving him with a summons.

**GIBSON COUNTY:** Sarah M. Emerson was allowed to file for divorce without having to comply with the requirement for length of residence in the state.

**HANCOCK COUNTY:** Jeremiah T. Draper was allowed to file for divorce from Martha Draper even though he had been absent from the state for a few months before filing.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY:** Nancy C. Barrow was allowed to file for divorce from Abraham Barrow, with the court authorized to accept without any other proof Abraham's admission that he had ill-treated his wife.

**JENNINGS COUNTY:** Presley A. Irwin was allowed to file for divorce from Rosett Irwin after submitting proof that a notice had been published in a newspaper.

**LAGRANGE COUNTY:** Betsy Ann Simpson was allowed to file for divorce without having to prove a 1-year residency in the state.

**MARION COUNTY:** Aaron Wright was allowed to file for divorce from Juliann Wright without having to prove a 1-year residency in the state. Charity Ann Wise was allowed to file for divorce from William Wise without having to prove she had resided in any county for any amount of time.

**MARTIN COUNTY:** Margaret Hurd was allowed to file for divorce from her non-resident husband without the court requiring proof of good character, especially of chastity since they had separated.

**MONROE COUNTY:** Peter Bollenbacher was allowed to file for divorce from Amelia Bollenbacher without having to prove a 1-year residency in the state.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY:** Hannah S. Martin was allowed to file for divorce from Richard C. Martin, even though she had not been a resident of the state for 1 year.

VERMILLION COUNTY: Susan Coleman was allowed to file for divorce from Samuel Coleman and when the divorce decree was issued, her name was to be changed to Susan Beers.

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

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## Watch National Archives Genealogy Webinar

In September, the National Archives held a 2-day webinar, known as its Virtual Genealogy Fair. Sessions focused on the records held at the National Archives and included Native American, military and African American records. To access the sessions, visit <http://www.ustream.tv/usnationalarchives> and scroll through the videos on the right to all those that are labeled either "Virtual Genealogy Fair Day 1" or "Virtual Genealogy Fair Day 2". You can also access [the handouts](#) from some of the sessions.

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## Indiana Genealogy Grants Available

Tax-exempt organizations in Indiana are welcome to apply for \$500 grants from the Indiana Genealogical Society. Grants are available for cemetery restoration, or for development of a printed or electronic genealogy resource. If your organization is an IGS chapter, you're also eligible for our chapter resource grant.

December 31st is the deadline to send in your grant application - to download an application form, or for more information, please visit <http://www.indgensoc.org/grants.php>

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## Wanted: 6 Counties

We're almost to our goal of having at least 5 databases for all 92 counties in Indiana. Can you help? We're looking for databases concerning these 6 counties:

- Crawford County
- Floyd County
- Harrison County
- Martin County
- Newton County
- Pulaski County

If you would like to contribute something, please contact our webmaster ([webmaster@indgensoc.org](mailto:webmaster@indgensoc.org)).

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## Legal Terms Explained: Interlocutory

If you see a reference in court records to an interlocutory judgment or order, it means it is a temporary or preliminary one, not final.

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## Research Tip: 1880 Mortality Schedule's Supplementary Columns

The [July 2013](#) issue of Indiana News discussed Indiana's 1850-1880 mortality schedules. When looking at the entries on the 1880 mortality schedule, don't forget to also look at the bottom of each page - there are 2 supplemental columns of information.



The first column is for those deaths that occurred within that enumeration district, but as of the official date of the 1880 federal census (June 1, 1880), the deceased was actually a resident of another enumeration.

Supplemental column 1 on a page from the 1880 Hendricks County mortality schedule (see [full-size PDF](#))

In the example at left, there were 2 people on this page of the 1880 Hendricks County mortality schedule who

were residents of Indianapolis, Marion County and Lebanon, Boone County respectively. So even if you know your ancestor lived in one county, you might also want to check the mortality schedules of surrounding counties, particularly if you know they may have had relatives or business interests in that area.



Supplemental column 2 on a page from the 1880 Hendricks County mortality schedule (see [full-size PDF](#))

The second column is for those deaths which occurred outside of the enumeration district, but as of the date of the 1880 federal census, their families belonged to that enumeration district. This is a great way to find out if they had children or close relatives who died while on a trip or visiting someone. In the example above, a Hendricks County family reported the death of a family member in Des Moines, Iowa.

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## Legal Abbreviations: Ats.

Court cases are usually referred to with a "vs." (an abbreviation for "versus"), in the style of Plaintiff vs. Defendant. But if you see a court case that uses an "ats." between the two parties, that is an abbreviation for "at the suit of", which means it is an action of the defendant. So if a case is referred to as Mary Jones ats. State of Indiana, Mary Jones is the defendant and the State of Indiana is the plaintiff. Often an "ats." case is one where the defendant is counter-suing or appealing.

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## Genealogy on TV

--Episodes from this season of "Genealogy Roadshow" are available for

[free streaming](#) on the PBS website.

--The TLC network announced that they have renewed "[Who Do You Think You Are?](#)" for another season. All the episodes from this season are available for free streaming on the TLC website.

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## Civil War in the News

--An [article](#) at Business Insider shows how photo enthusiasts have taken some digital copies from the Library of Congress' Civil War collection and colorized them, with stunning results (see example at left).



--An [article](#) at Archives.com discusses the key to finding a Civil War ancestor - discovering what regiment they served in.

--An [article](#) at Fold3 talks about a lesser-known part of history - the Confederate plot to plant a bomb at the White House.

--An [article](#) at Fold3 details the effort by a Union soldier to publish a "death roll" of 12,000 soldiers who died at

Andersonville Prison in Georgia.

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